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Push to produce more STEM students

Sarawak targets over 60 per cent Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics participation in upper secondary by 2030



Sandra Jaboh

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To cultivate a deeper interest in STEM, exposure must begin at the primary school level.

Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn

KUCHING: Sarawak hopes to achieve more than 60 per cent participation in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) stream at the upper secondary level by 2030, said Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn.

The caretaker Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development said data from the state Education Department showed an encouraging participation in STEM among Form 4 students.

"This is encouraging progress, but efforts must continue to achieve the target of more than 60 per cent in STEM participation at the upper secondary level by 2030. To cultivate a deeper interest in STEM, exposure must begin at the primary school level.

"Pupils need not only to understand the importance of STEM, but also to have opportunities to observe, experiment and experience firsthand how STEM concepts are applied in real life," he said.

He was speaking at the Discover Petronas, School Outreach: Mathematics Camp held in Tarat yesterday.

Sagah said Sarawak's economic direction had shifted towards developing various industries to increase income for the state and its people, while contributing to national income.

He said the state's Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES) also provides Sarawakian students with opportunities to pursue higher education at state-owned universities in 64 fields, most of which were related to STEM.

He added that initiatives

such as the Sarawak Science Kit (KITSS) played an important role in cultivating pupils' interest in STEM.

"Through hands-on learning, concepts that may seem difficult or abstract in textbooks can be translated into experiences that are easier to understand and more relatable to pupils.

"In Sarawak, this is particularly important. We want more pupils to have opportunities to explore STEM, regardless of where they attend school," he said.

"By bringing learning resources closer to pupils and teachers, we not only broaden access but also provide fairer opportunities for pupils to discover their respective interests and abilities."

Meanwhile, Petronas Sarawak general manager Norazibah Md Rabu said the initiative aimed to broaden access to practical science education among primary school pupils throughout the state.

She said since the initiative was announced in November 2025, Petronas has committed 60 KITSS sets worth RM1.2 million to expand access to science learning in schools across Sarawak.

"Each kit is equipped with various science learning tools, including microscopes, test tubes and experiment materials, allowing pupils to explore scientific concepts through observation and hands-on activities," she said.



Abang Johari performs the SUF 2.0 officiating gimmick. — Bernama photo

Abg Johari: Tanjung Embang eyed for billion-dollar AI, new tech investment

Desiree David

KUCHING: Tanjung Embang could be among the locations considered for a proposed billion-dollar investment in artificial intelligence (AI), new technology and data centres in Sarawak, said Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The caretaker Premier said the state had proposals for investments in intelligent data centres, but declined to disclose the names of the prospective investors.

He said the proposed

investment could be worth around US\$50 billion, although he could not confirm the exact amount.

"As part of the planning framework, there are indeed proposals to invest in the state in intelligent data centres.

"However, we cannot disclose the investors' names yet because they are leading international companies," he told reporters after officiating at the opening ceremony for the Sarawak Urban Forum 2.0 (SUF 2.0) here yesterday.

Abang Johari also said he was unaware of the suggested

locations in Peninsular Malaysia. "I don't know about Peninsular Malaysia. What I know is Sarawak."

On Tanjung Embang being considered as a location for the investment, he said it was a possibility.

On Oct 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that a global investor planned to invest US\$50 billion (RM204 billion) in AI, new technology, and data centres in Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

According to reports by The Edge Malaysia and The

Business Times, Anwar said the investor had conveyed the intention during a video conference on Oct 20, identifying Kuching and Peninsular Malaysia as locations for the proposed investment.

The Business Times identified the investor as SoftBank Group founder and chief executive officer Masayoshi Son.

Anwar said the investment could create new and better job opportunities for Malaysians, particularly the younger generation, including students in schools and institutions of higher learning.

RM50 mln spun pile, pole plant to boost state's manufacturing capabilities

KUCHING: The RM50.25 million spun pile and pole factory in Tanjung Manis is expected to create jobs, expand opportunities for local businesses.

Speaking at the project's groundbreaking ceremony in Tanjung Manis yesterday, caretaker Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan said this would also strengthen Sarawak's industrial supply chain.

He said the investment reflects

the confidence in Sarawak's economic potential, and also supports efforts to strengthen the manufacturing sector and expand downstream industries.

"The success of an investment should not be measured by its value or production capacity alone, but also by its ability to create economic value, employment and business opportunities for local companies," he said.

Developed by PMW Winabumi (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd on a 29-acre

site along the Rajang River, the factory will manufacture pre-stressed concrete products for the construction, infrastructure and utilities sectors.

It is designed to produce 10,683 tonnes of spun piles and poles monthly, with operations targeted to begin in the fourth quarter of next year, and full production expected by early 2028.

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Bankruptcy discharge to take less than 36 days in 2027

KUALA LUMPUR: The government aims to further shorten the processing time for bankruptcy discharges to less than 36 days next year to accelerate the financial recovery of individuals eligible for a second chance.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said said the initiative under the Fast Track Discharge Programme would be implemented through the Malaysian Insolvency Department (MDI).

She said the move was a continuation of the existing fast-track discharge programme, which enables eligible applications to be processed within 36 days, subject to conditions being met and no objections being raised.

Azalina said the government had also strengthened its recovery efforts through the Second Chance Policy, which recorded 253,457 bankruptcy discharges from 2023 to September 2026.

"These efforts will continue through the 2026 Fast Track Discharge Programme, which prioritises certain groups, including single mothers or fathers, micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) borrowers, fraud victims, and purchasers of homes in abandoned housing projects," she said. — Bernama

Grave-robbing five jailed for looting Riam cemetery

Rosemaria Buma

MIRI: Three brothers were among five men sentenced to one year and eight months' imprisonment by the Magistrate's Court here yesterday for vandalising a woman's grave at the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Riam.

A sixth accused, a 16-year-old who is the younger brother of the three siblings, was released on RM1,000 bail with his parents as sureties pending the hearing of his probation officer's report on Nov 25.

All six accused had pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 426 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to five years' imprisonment or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

The five adult accused are Mat Abdul Rahman, 34, and his younger brothers Muhammad

Iwan, 33, and Bujang, 28, from Kampung Sebalik, Sibuti; Mohammad Shajiry Abdullah, 21, from Kampung Masjid Lama, Belawai; and Muhammad Khairul Abdullah, 23, from Pujut Adong 1 here.

According to the facts of the case, a 30-year-old man lodged a police report on Sept 3 after his late mother's grave at the Roman Catholic Cemetery 2 in Riam had been broken into and damaged by unknown persons.

The complainant said he learned of the incident at about 1.30pm that day after receiving a phone call from his uncle.

The grave had been damaged at the lower part of the wall on the left corner, where ceramic tiles had been smashed to create a hole in an apparent search for valuables.

The deceased's clothing were

also found scattered on top of the grave.

Acting on information and intelligence gathered, police arrested all six accused and seized a torchlight, a hammer, a sledgehammer, and a screwdriver as exhibits.

Further investigations revealed that the act was committed at about 3.30am on Sept 2.

Police also found that the group had been involved in similar incidents at other cemeteries here, namely the Methodist Cemetery Riam, the Bahai Cemetery Riam, and the BEM Cemetery Riam.

Deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Farhan Mohd Pauzi prosecuted the case before Magistrate Nursyaheeqa Nazwa Radzali.

All the accused were unrepresented by counsel.



Police officers escort the accused at the court compound.

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Abg Johari: ART project is not wasteful spending



KUCHING: The Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) project is a strategic investment aimed at empowering public mobility and modernising urban living rather than a waste of public funds, said Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The caretaker Premier dismissed claims that questioned the necessity and financial prudence of implementing the high-tech transit system in Sarawak.

"This is not a waste of money. It is an investment for the free movement of our citizens and also for the state," he said in his keynote address at the Sarawak Urban Forum, here yesterday.

Abang Johari emphasised that the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) government actively seeks ways to increase state revenue specifically to reinvest those funds back into high-impact infrastructure and public amenities for the people.

"What the government is doing now is getting money. We have to think to increase our revenue and give it back to the people."

He further highlighted that modernising the public



Abang Johari speaks to the press after officiating at the event. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

transportation network is essential for creating future-ready, resilient, and connected cities across the state.

"During a briefing, I was informed that the ART will arrive at stations precisely every 15 minutes. This allows us to properly plan our commutes through an efficient public

transport system," he said. Abang Johari noted that the central ART station is deliberately sited at a historic location to revive and preserve Sarawak's original railway heritage, blending modern technology like hydrogen-powered transit with the state's cultural identity.

Sarawak Legislative Assembly dissolved, paving way for 13th state election

KUCHING: The Sarawak Legislative Assembly (DUN) was officially dissolved yesterday, paving the way for the 13th state election.

Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg announced the dissolution last Friday after receiving the consent of Sarawak Governor Tun Pehin Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

Article 21(4) of the State Constitution stipulates that the state election must be held within 60 days of the dissolution.

Attention now turns to the Election Commission (EC) to set a date for a special meeting to discuss key dates for the Sarawak polls.

EC secretary Datuk Khairul

Shahril Idrus said last Friday that the commission would determine the special meeting date after receiving formal notification of the dissolution from the DUN Speaker.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari, who is also Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) chairman, said the state government would carry out its duties as a caretaker government during this period in accordance with all applicable constitutional requirements and conventions.

"Public administration and essential services will continue to ensure the needs and welfare of the people are safeguarded," he said.

The current term of the 82-seat Sarawak DUN is due to expire in February 2027.

In the 2021 state election, GPS won 76 of the 82 seats contested, while Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) took four seats and DAP secured two.

The state's political landscape changed after PSB dissolved in 2024, when three of its former state assemblymen joined Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), a component party of GPS.

Another former PSB assemblyman, See Chee How, who represents Batu Lintang, subsequently left the party to sit as an Independent.

GPS comprises Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS), and PDP. — Bernama

'Hard to predict weather ahead of state election'

KUCHING: It is difficult to predict whether haze or rain will have an impact on the 13th Sarawak Election, said caretaker Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

"We cannot predict the weather. Whether it will rain or the haze will worsen during the election, I do not know," the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) chairman told reporters after officiating at the Sarawak Urban Forum 2.0 here.

Addressing concerns over logistical challenges, including past delays in delivering ballot boxes, Abang Johari said the previous incident was linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He indicated that similar disruptions were not expected to be a major concern for PRN13, including potential flooding in rural and interior areas.

Sarawak has been afflicted by transboundary haze since August this year.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari emphasised that Sarawak would maintain its policy of not accepting Rohingya refugees.

He said Sarawak did not face the Rohingya issue because the state had rejected their entry.

"If they were here, then it would become a problem," he said.

Asked whether the policy would remain in place indefinitely, he said Sarawak had immigration powers and would continue to exercise them to regulate the entry of foreign nationals.

He said those entering for economic purposes or to work as foreign workers would be regulated accordingly, while the state would exercise its

immigration powers in cases where individuals arrived without a clear purpose.

In his officiating address earlier, Abang Johari said Sarawak had made the right decision in rejecting the entry of Rohingya refugees into the state.

Despite facing criticism from various quarters over the decision, he said he was glad Sarawak was not facing the Rohingya issue experienced by other states.

"They asked us to accept Rohingya refugees to be placed in Serian. But I firmly rejected the proposal to safeguard the sovereignty of our state," he said.

He said the matter had also been raised during a meeting with Pertubuhan Kebajikan Islam Malaysia earlier yesterday, which touched on the Rohingya situation in the peninsula.

Sarawak to propose comprehensive waqf management approach to Putrajaya

KUCHING: Sarawak intends to propose more proactive and comprehensive approaches to waqf (charitable endowment) asset management to the federal government, said Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The caretaker Premier, who is Malaysian Islamic Welfare Organisation (Perkim) president, said the state had amended the Sarawak Land Code in 2025 to require waqf land donated to the relevant body to be registered under the name of the waqf trust, strengthening governance over waqf assets.

He said waqf should extend beyond land and physical assets to include ideas that could strengthen the economic position of the Muslim community.

"In this regard, Sarawak will use this strength to carry out da'wah (Islamic outreach) and provide the

right direction through Islamic teachings, while continuing to strive to strengthen the economy of the Muslim community," he said during Perkim's 65th National Annual General Meeting dinner here on Sunday.

He said Sarawak also shared ideas with its non-Muslim communities to encourage their participation in efforts to strengthen the state's position in the new economy.

Abang Johari also expressed his appreciation to Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, for officiating at the International Waqf Da'wah Convention 2026 and offering valuable suggestions to strengthen da'wah through waqf.

Abang Johari said he had pursued the Sultan's suggestions and referred them to the Prime Minister's Department (Religious

Affairs) for evaluation and possible implementation.

He described the convention as an important step in expanding Perkim's role, particularly in exploring waqf's potential as an instrument for community development.

Waqf, he said, had significant potential to support dakwah and welfare initiatives on a sustainable basis.

"With proper management, the benefits of waqf can be extended to education, skills development, and welfare support for Muslim converts, as well as programmes that help improve living standards," he said.

"What is important is for Perkim to explore how these new approaches can strengthen the organisation's and the country's capacity to continue serving the community."

'Tanjung Manis has strong potential as industrial and economic centre'

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Awang Tengah said the project could create around 160 direct jobs, with priority given to the surrounding communities.

"More than 50 per cent of materials are also targeted to be sourced locally, creating potential opportunities for Sarawakian suppliers, contractors and supporting businesses," he added.

He pointed out Tanjung Manis' strong potential for further development as an industrial and economic centre supporting central Sarawak.

He also noted that Sarawak recorded RM11.2 billion in approved investments across the primary, manufacturing and services sectors in the first half of this year, with domestic investments accounting for 61 per cent.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) general manager Datu Zainal Abidin Abdullah, who was also present, said the factory would strengthen Tanjung Manis' manufacturing capabilities while creating opportunities for local businesses to participate in the industrial supply chain.

Edu Dept: Tebedu schools reopen today after API assessment

KUCHING: All primary and secondary schools under the Sarawak State Education Department (JPNS) in Tebedu district will resume normal operations today following a review of the latest Air Pollutant Index (API) readings.

JPNS said any changes or further updates would be announced from time to time.

The department also advised parents and guardians that they could choose not to send their children to school if they had concerns about their children's health due to the haze still affecting several locations in Sarawak.

"However, parents and guardians must inform the respective schools of their decision," it said in a statement.

JPNS said it remained committed to safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of all members of the school community, particularly during hot weather or other unexpected weather conditions.



The reconstruction of Sri Maha Mariamman Temple in Kuching has been completed.

Kuching's Sri Maha Mariamman Temple reconstruction complete, consecration set for Oct 27-30

KUCHING: The reconstruction of the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple here has been completed, with its Maha Kumbhabhishegam (temple consecration ceremony) scheduled from Oct 27 to 30.

Sri Maha Mariamman Temple Association Kuching president Dato Shankar Ram Pohumall Asnani said the celebrations will begin with a chariot procession on Oct 27 at 7.30pm, departing from Sri Srinivasagar Temple in Jalan Ban Hock and proceeding to Sri Maha Mariamman Temple.

On Oct 30, sacred rituals will begin at 7.30am, followed by the main consecration ceremony at 9am.

"Devotees and members of the public are warmly invited to join this devotional occasion, bringing the community together in prayer as we prepare for the consecration," he said in a statement.

Shankar said for devotees, the completion of the temple fulfilled a long-held collective aspiration.

"It renews a sacred place of worship that holds deep spiritual, cultural and historical significance for the Hindu community in Sarawak and provides a home

for our religious traditions for generations to come," he added.

Following the main consecration ceremony, the temple will observe a 48-day Mandala period of continued prayers and religious observances.

During this period, devotees will have the opportunity to participate in Chandi Homa, a sacred fire ritual dedicated to Goddess Chandi, a manifestation of the Divine Mother associated with protection, courage and overcoming difficulties.

On behalf of the association, Shankar expressed gratitude to Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, Deputy Premiers Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas and Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, as well as Unit for Other Religions director Dato Georgina Apphia Ngau, for their support in bringing the temple reconstruction to fruition.

"Under the Premier's leadership, we are witnessing a 'Zaman Kegemilangan Sarawak', an era of progress and shared opportunity in which people truly enjoy freedom of religion, as enshrined in Article 11 of the Federal Constitution," he said.



Fatimah (fifth right) and other guests with the aid recipients.

Sejambak Kasih Deepavali brings festive relief for needy folks

KUCHING: A total of 60 recipients received assistance from the 'Sejambak Kasih Deepavali' programme to support those in need during the festive season.

Caretaker Minister for Women, Childhood and Community Wellbeing Development Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah said a total of RM2.46 million has been allocated for the programme as of April this year.

"Today, a total of 60 recipients are present, comprising 55 recipients of monthly welfare assistance and five recipients of assistance under the Sarawak

government's initiatives, through the Social Welfare Department (JKM).

"This marks the fifth year of collaboration between the JKM and Petronas Sarawak to reach out to Hindu recipients of Indian ethnicity who receive welfare assistance," she said during the programme here yesterday.

Each recipient received RM100 in cash from JKM along with a hamper containing essential food items worth RM250 from Petronas Sarawak.

Fatimah said an official report in May this year recorded 23,037

monthly welfare assistance recipients across Sarawak as having benefitted from the Sejambak Kasih programme.

She also acknowledged the role of the Sarawak Indian Women Association (Siwa) in providing a platform for Indian women in Sarawak to contribute to society, strengthen their capabilities, and participate in community development.

The Sejambak Kasih programme is a state government initiative implemented by the JKM for more than two decades to support those in need during major festive celebrations.



Dr Cassidy Morris, director of JKR Sarawak, delivers the welcoming remarks during the pre-launch ceremony of Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara (HPTN) Sarawak 2026 on 24 September 2026 in Kuching, Sarawak.



Deputy Works Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Maslan officiates the pre-launch ceremony of HPTN 2026 at the Kompleks Kerja Raya, Kuala Lumpur on 8 September 2026.

HPTN 2026 Heads to Sarawak in December

By NURIN ABDULLAH

KUCHING: Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara 2026 (HPTN 2026) will bring together technical professionals, government agencies, industry players, educational institutions and the public at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK), Sarawak, on 1-2 December 2026, to celebrate technical expertise and highlight its role in driving sustainable national development. Carrying the theme “Profesion Teknikal Pemacu Kelestarian”, this year’s event aims to recognise the contributions of technical professionals while promoting innovation, knowledge sharing and collaboration across industries.

The theme emphasises the integration of skills, technology and sustainability in supporting development that is innovative, resilient and beneficial to present and future generations.

As Malaysia continues to develop its infrastructure and embrace technological advancements, technical professionals remain essential to ensuring that roads, bridges, buildings, transport systems and public facilities are planned, constructed and maintained to meet quality, safety and sustainability standards.

HPTN 2026 seeks to raise public awareness of these contributions while encouraging greater participation in technical fields, particularly among young people who will form the next generation of engineers, scientists, technologists and other skilled professionals.

The 2026 edition marks a milestone for HPTN as the national celebration moves to Sarawak for the first time, extending its reach to Borneo following previous editions in Penang and Johor. HPTN was established to recognise the expertise, dedication and contributions of technical professionals to the country’s development and modernisation.

The initiative was first proposed by the Public Works Department (JKR) to the Public Service Department on 19 June 2012, before receiving further attention at parliamentary level in 2017.

On 3 October 2018, the Cabinet agreed to declare Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara, to be observed on the first Saturday of December each year. The inaugural celebration was held at JKR Malaysia headquarters in Kuala Lumpur in December 2018, under the theme “Profesion Teknikal Pelopor Pembangunan”.

In 2024, HPTN expanded beyond the Klang Valley for the first time, with Penang hosting the event, followed by Johor in 2025.

The Penang edition recorded 10,000 attendees, while the Johor edition attracted 15,000. HPTN 2026 is targeting an even higher attendance as organisers seek to reach more Malaysians and strengthen appreciation of the technical professions.

Sarawak’s selection as host aligns with the 2026 theme and its development

aspirations, including the state’s Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030).

The event will provide a platform for technical practitioners and stakeholders from across the country to exchange expertise, explore new technologies and strengthen partnerships in support of sustainable development.

Visitors can look forward to a range of activities, including technical talks, industry networking sessions, technology and innovation exhibitions, career opportunities and interactive programmes for students.

A total of 11 technical talks will be held, featuring speakers who will share insights into developments across science, technology and innovation.

Among the featured sessions are Beyond the Atmosphere: Inspiring the Next Generation, delivered by National Astronaut Dr. Sheikh Muszaphar, and Placing Sarawak as a Regional Digital Leader with AI, presented by Sarawak AI Centre chief executive officer Prof Dr Patrick Then.

The sessions will offer opportunities for participants to explore emerging

developments and understand how technical expertise can contribute to addressing future challenges.

Industry networking will also be a key component, bringing together government agencies, higher education institutions and industry partners to exchange ideas, share knowledge and explore potential collaborations.

Through these engagements, visitors can gain a better understanding of industry requirements, technical capabilities and the opportunities available across different professional fields.

The exhibition component will feature 211 booths involving agencies and companies from across Malaysia, showcasing products, technological developments and technical expertise. The displays will provide visitors with opportunities to learn more about innovations and solutions across the technical sector, while allowing participating organisations to share their capabilities with a wider audience.

HPTN 2026 will also feature a career carnival with interviews and career talks, providing opportunities for

jobseekers to explore employment prospects and connect with prospective employers.

Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), PERKESO Sarawak and JKR Sarawak, the carnival will target 650 job vacancies involving 12 employers.

The initiative is intended to help participants gain insights into career pathways and workforce requirements while strengthening connections between employers and potential candidates.

For students and young people, the event will offer exposure to technical careers through programmes centred on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Planned activities include science exploration, Steam Challenge, The Crucible Challenge, interactive STEM exhibitions, technology and robotics stations, Robosphero Challenge, science demonstrations, trivia quizzes and Robot Challenge.

These activities aim to make technical learning more engaging by allowing students to explore scientific concepts, interact with technology and develop problem-solving skills.

The programmes also seek to broaden perceptions of technical professions beyond calculations, technical drawings and construction. Creativity, digital technology, innovation and environmental problem-solving are equally important aspects of the sector.

By introducing students to these possibilities, HPTN 2026 hopes to inspire more young Malaysians to pursue careers as engineers,

architects, scientists, technologists and other technical professionals who can contribute to the country’s progress. Beyond the technical programmes, visitors can also explore small and medium enterprise sales booths and food stalls offering local products and food. Lucky draws will be held throughout the event, with free registration required on the day.

The selection of BCKK as the venue provides a setting for technical professionals, industry representatives, educational institutions and the public to come together to discuss innovation and sustainable development.

As Malaysia faces evolving development needs and environmental challenges, collaboration between technical professionals, government agencies, industry and educational institutions will be important in developing practical, sustainable solutions.

HPTN 2026 aims to strengthen these connections while highlighting the importance of technical skills, technological advancement and sustainability in shaping the country’s future.

Ultimately, sustainable development requires more than building infrastructure. It involves ensuring that projects are safe, resilient, environmentally responsible and capable of delivering long-term benefits to communities.

Through its technical discussions, exhibitions, networking opportunities and youth-focused activities, HPTN 2026 seeks to promote greater understanding of the technical professions and encourage more Malaysians to contribute to the sector.



Ahmad (centre) during the pre-launch ceremony of HPTN 2026 in Kuala Lumpur on 8 September 2026.

Fire damages fuel tanker trucks, no casualties

LAWAS: Two fuel tanker trucks parked at Kampung Serdang, Jalan Kuala here were badly damaged after catching fire early yesterday.

The Fire and Rescue Department (Bomba) in a statement said no casualties were reported in the incident, which was reported at 4.09am.

"One tanker laden with diesel was 50 per cent damaged, while the other which was empty sustained about 80 per cent damage," it said.

Bomba said in addition to using water from the fire engine, the responders utilised three gallons of foam concentrate to extinguish the blaze.

The situation was brought under control at 4.34am, and the operation was ended at 5.44am after checks found no risk of reignition.

"The cause of the fire is under



Bomba photo shows the two tanker trucks engulfed in flames.

investigation and losses have yet to be determined," said Bomba.

Separately, three unoccupied houses and a store at Rumah Empani in Lubuk Putan, Sungai Meradong, Bintangor were razed to the ground yesterday.

Bintangor fire station chief

Mahmudin Narudin said the blaze, reported at 8.56am, did not affect the main structure of the longhouse.

"The fire involved separate structures situated close to one another, which allowed the flames to spread quickly," he said

One tanker laden with diesel was 50 per cent damaged, while the other which was empty sustained about 80 per cent damage.

Bomba

in a statement.

A total of 13 personnel from the Bintangor and Sarikei fire stations were involved in the firefighting operation.

Mahmudin said no injuries were reported, with the cause of the fire under investigation.

He also reminded the public to prioritise fire safety in residential areas to minimise the risk of similar incidents.



Chok is escorted by a police officer at the court. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

Online gambling: Man pleads guilty, fined RM2,700

KUCHING: A man was fined RM2,700 in default three months' jail by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday for engaging in online gambling in public.

Bryan Chok, 24, pleaded guilty before Magistrate Nureina Syafika Mohd Najib to a charge under Section 7(2) of the Common Gaming Houses Act 1953, which provides for a fine not exceeding RM5,000 or up to six months' jail, or both, upon conviction.

He committed the offence at a convenience store on Lorong Lee Ling 1D, Matang here at about 9pm on Sept 20, 2026.

According to the facts of the case, police raided the premises and spotted Chok allegedly engaging in online gambling.

A check of his mobile phone found it contained evidence of online gambling, leading to his arrest.

Seized during the raid were items suspected to have been used for the activity, including a mobile phone, a piece of paper bearing an ID and password, and RM40 in cash.

Deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Aidil Akmal Sharidan prosecuted the case, while Chok was unrepresented.

Man jailed 10 months for using fake QR payment code in bid to cheat

KOTA KINABALU: A man who used a fake QR code receipt during a purchase was sentenced by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday to 10 months' imprisonment.

Mohd Sobrie Eddie, 32, changed his plea to guilty after initially claiming trial to a charge under Section 471 of the Penal Code, punishable under Section 465 of the same Code.

The prosecution had so far

called one witness to testify against the accused.

Mohd Sobrie was charged with using a fake QR receipt as genuine in front of a convenience store in Inanam on Oct 19, 2024.

The facts of the case stated that he had agreed to purchase a set of audio equipment worth RM1,100 from the complainant.

The accused showed a QR receipt indicating the successful

transfer of funds into the account of the complainant's wife.

However upon checking, the complainant found no such transfer of funds and filed a police report which led to Mohd Sobrie's arrest.

Prosecuting before Magistrate Dzul Elmy Yunus was deputy public prosecutor Akaash Singh, while the accused was unrepresented by counsel.

Mosti warns against impersonation, fraudulent use of ministry, officers' name, identity

PUTRAJAYA: The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) has received several complaints regarding the ministry's name and identity being misused, as well as those of its officers, by parties seeking to collect payments and conduct unauthorised transactions.

In a statement, Mosti said it views the matter seriously and stressed that the use of the ministry's name, logo or official

identity without authorisation does not imply that any matter has received approval or involves the ministry.

"All official dealings must be conducted through the channels and procedures established by the Ministry," the statement read.

Mosti advised the public and industry players to verify matters through the ministry's official channels before making any payment or taking

action based on suspicious communications.

The ministry also reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the public service and protecting the interests of the public and industry players against all forms of fraud and identity misuse.

Those with enquiries may contact Mosti's Procurement Section, Finance Division on 03-8885-8164/8072/8373/8506/8208. — Bernama

Govt retiree claims trial to sexually assaulting 2 girls

KANGAR: A government retiree pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court here yesterday to three charges of committing physical sexual assault and criminal force against two girls about two months ago.

Annuar Abdullah, 72, entered the plea after the charges were read out to him before Judge Sharifah Norazlita Syed Salim Iddid.

The first two charges alleged that Annuar committed physical sexual assault against an 11-year-and-five-month-old girl at a house here at 6.30pm on Aug 11, 2026.

The third charge alleges that

he used criminal force against a 10-year-and-11-month-old girl by pulling both her legs with the intention of outraging her modesty at the same place, time and date.

The first two charges were brought under Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, which provides for a maximum prison sentence of 20 years and whipping, upon conviction.

The third charge, under Section 354 of the Penal Code, carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years or a fine or whipping, or any two of the punishments, upon conviction.

The court granted Annuar bail of RM10,000 with one surety and ordered him to report to a nearby police station on the first day of every month.

He was also prohibited from approaching or disturbing the victims and prosecution witnesses until the disposal of the case. The court fixed Nov 24 for mention for submission of relevant documents.

Deputy public prosecutor Mohd Alif Farhan Hassan appeared for the prosecution, while Annuar was represented by lawyers Zuhair Ahmad Zakuan and Mohamad Alif Farhan Mohamad Supian. — Bernama

Man charged with murdering AKPS officer wife at KLIA quarters

SEREMBAN: A man was charged at the Magistrates' Court here yesterday with murdering his wife, an officer with the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS), at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) quarters on Oct 15.

Mohd Khairudin Safi'ai, 37,

noded to indicate he understood the charge read before Magistrate Nurul Saqinah Rosli.

However, no plea was recorded as murder cases fall under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

Mohd Khairudin is accused of murdering Norhazwani Ibrahim, 35, at a house in the KLIA Civil Servants' Housing Complex in

Nilai at about 7pm.

The charge was framed under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which carries the death penalty or imprisonment of between 30 and 40 years and, if the death penalty is not imposed, at least 12 strokes of the cane, upon conviction. — Bernama

Mukah cops seize motorcycles used for illegal racing

MUKAH: Police here seized three motorcycles suspected of being involved in illegal racing during an anti-street racing operation in Mukah town early Sunday.

Mukah police chief DSP Muhamad Rizal Alias said the operation was conducted by the district's Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Division at 12.30am following public information about illegal racing in the area.

"The three motorcycles were ordered to be brought to the Mukah District Police Headquarters and seized under Section 60 of the Road Transport Act 1987 for inspection and further investigation.

"The riders, all local men aged between 17 and 20, were also issued summonses for various traffic offences and warned against participating in illegal racing," he said.

Muhamad Rizal said stricter action could be taken against

anyone found involved in such activities in accordance with the law.

During the same operation, police also inspected seven other motorcycles.

"A total of 10 summonses were issued for various traffic offences, including vehicle structural modifications, modified exhaust systems, absence of side mirrors, missing registration numbers, fancy registration plates, expired road tax, and lack of insurance coverage," he said.

Muhamad Rizal said Mukah police would continue enforcement operations to curb illegal racing and street hooliganism, particularly activities that endangered the safety of road users and disturbed public order.

Members of the public with information on illegal racing or street hooliganism are encouraged to contact the police for further action.

Man fined RM500 for having contraband ciggies, alcohol

KUCHING: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday fined a man RM500 in default one week in prison for possessing untaxed cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan convicted Liew Tao Siang, 31, on his guilty plea to a charge under Section 37(1) of the Sarawak Minor Offences Ordinance 1958, which provides for up to three months' jail or a fine of RM500.

The offence was committed at a grocery store at Tapah Bazaar, Mile 22 Jalan Kuching-Serian at about 1pm on Sept 26, 2026.

According to the facts of the case, General Operations Force personnel conducted an Op Taring Alpha operation at the premises on suspicion that

untaxed goods were being stored and sold there.

Liew, who was present at the premises, identified himself as the person in charge of the store.

During the inspection conducted in Liew's presence, the team found various brands of cigarettes and alcoholic drinks suspected of being untaxed.

Liew admitted that the items belonged to the store but failed to produce valid documents proving their lawful ownership.

The seizure comprised 192 cans of alcoholic drinks and 153 cartons of cigarettes.

Deputy public prosecutor Nurul Aqila Morsalin prosecuted, while the accused was unrepresented.



Dr Muhamad Akmal arrives at the court with his wife Datin Dr Fatin Nadhirah Idrus. — Bernama photo

Prosecution rejects Akmal's representation to drop public alarm charge

BUKIT MERTAJAM: The Magistrates' Court here was told yesterday that the prosecution has rejected a representation by Umno Youth chief Datuk Dr Muhamad Akmal Saleh seeking to drop his charge of causing alarm to public safety through his social media account last year.

Penang prosecution director Muna Mohamed Jaafar conveyed the matter during proceedings before Magistrate Roshayati Radellah.

However, lawyer Aizat Azam, representing Dr Muhamad Akmal alongside 10 other lawyers, said the defence will apply to submit a second representation after the earlier one was rejected.

Muna said the prosecution had no objection to the second application and would forward

it to the Attorney-General's Chambers.

"We have no objection if the lawyers wish to submit another representation," she said.

The court fixed Jan 4, 2027 as the next mention date for developments regarding the second representation.

In August 2025, Dr Muhamad Akmal claimed trial to a charge of issuing a statement likely to cause public alarm and public unrest.

He was alleged to have issued the statement through a social media post at about 3pm on Aug 11, 2025.

The charge was framed under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which provides for imprisonment of up to two years or a fine, or both, upon conviction. — Bernama

GISBH granted extension of time to file records of appeal

PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal yesterday granted GISB Holdings Sdn Bhd (GISBH) an extension of time to file the records of appeal in its appeal against the Selangor state fatwa.

GISBH's lawyer Zulkikri Ulul Azmi applied for the extension during proceedings, telling the court that the records of appeal were filed 27 days late.

He said his side had been unaware that the draft index had

not been submitted, an error that has since been rectified.

A three-judge panel comprising Justices Datuk Mohamed Zaini Mazlan, Datuk Ong Chee Kwan and Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Harun allowed the application and awarded RM5,000 in legal costs to the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC).

"The appellant must pay RM5,000 to the AGC immediately because you made a mistake," he

said.

Senior federal counsel Mohammad Sallehuddin Md Ali, appearing for the AGC, said the prosecution maintained its objection to the application.

He said, however, that if the court were minded to allow the extension of time, the AGC would seek costs. The application follows the Shah Alam High Court's rejection on Jan 9 this year of GISBH's bid for leave to

commence a judicial review.

High Court Judge S. Narkunavathy dismissed the leave application after allowing a preliminary objection by the AGC that the fatwa is not amenable to judicial review by virtue of Article 121(1A) of the Federal Constitution.

Narkunavathy said that under Article 121(1A), civil courts are expressly precluded from exercising jurisdiction over any

matter within the exclusive purview of the Syariah Courts.

She further said the case involved a dispute over Islamic tenets, which is not a matter for the civil courts.

In its judicial review application, GISBH sought a certiorari order to quash the fatwa published on Oct 14, 2024 and gazetted on Oct 16, 2024, which declared GISBH as deviating from the teachings

of Islam and prohibited its followers from practising its beliefs, teachings and doctrines.

GISBH also sought a declaration that the fatwa does not apply to the company, which is incorporated under the Companies Act 1965.

It named the Selangor State Fatwa Committee and the Selangor Islamic Religious Council as respondents. — Bernama

Sarawak Regatta offers international visitors more than boat-racing



Aliah Abdullah
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KUCHING: From the thrilling dragon boat races to unique traditional handcrafts, the Sarawak Regatta 2026 is giving visitors from around the world plenty to dive into beyond the excitement on the water.

The celebrations are offering international visitors a chance to soak up the lively atmosphere, discover Sarawak's rich cultural heritage, and create memories that go beyond the races.

For Italian couple Daniele Coldebella, 49, and Vanessa Moro, 49, a weekend getaway from Singapore turned into an opportunity to experience the thrill of the International Dragon Boat Regatta 2026 on Sunday after they discovered the event while searching online.

Visiting Kuching for the third time, the couple booked their trip about six months ago before stumbling upon the races and deciding to include them in their itinerary.

"We booked a weekend here a long time ago, something like six months ago, and then we discovered this exciting race.

"This is the reason why today (Oct 25) we decided to stay here to watch the race," Coldebella said.

Having arrived last Friday for a three-day visit, the couple said the atmosphere surrounding the competition was among the highlights of their experience.

For Coldebella, it was not just about the races, but also about the people coming together to enjoy the occasion.

"It's the vibes. People are happy, people are here to watch the race, to enjoy, gathering together, so it's very nice," he said.

Moro agreed, describing the races as interesting and the atmosphere as exciting, with the crowds adding to the festive spirit.

"Although Singapore has dragon boat teams that train regularly, we have yet to attend any event similar to this there," she said.

Their visit also gave them another opportunity to explore Sarawak's culture, having previously visited natural attractions such as Bako National Park and the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre.

While the Singapore-based couple were drawn to the sporting action, Danish students Louise Thomsen, 26, and Oskar Joergensen, 23, found themselves exploring another side of the celebrations at the Borneo Craft Festival.



Coldebella (right) and Moro arrived in Kuching last Friday for a three-day visit. — Photo by Roystein Emmor



Thomsen (left) and Joergensen met while browsing through the handcrafts on display at the Borneo Craft Festival.

The pair, who has been staying in Kuching since early September and will remain until December for their studies, were browsing the festival's stalls and admiring the traditional crafts on display after learning about the event from locals.

Having spent quite some time in Sarawak, Thomsen said the ease of striking up conversations with locals had made her experience enjoyable, while the cultural differences between Sarawak and Denmark had given her an opportunity to experience a different way of life.

"It's nice to know some other sides and other cultures. It's very cool," she said.

The craft festival also introduced the pair to traditional items they had not encountered in person before.

While Thomsen had previously seen pictures of traditional Iban clothing, she said seeing the garments and handmade crafts up close was a different experience.

Joergensen, meanwhile, admitted that some of the items on display, including pearl-related crafts, were new to him.

For both visitors, the festival provided a closer look at



Sarawak's cultural heritage beyond what they could learn from pictures or hear from others.

Their experiences reflect how the Sarawak Regatta 2026 offers more than sporting action, it provides opportunities for visitors to engage with the state's diverse heritage.

The 10-day Sarawak Regatta 2026 began from Oct 23 and will end on Nov 1, featuring the International Dragon Boat Regatta, Borneo Craft Festival, cultural performances and activities showcasing local entrepreneurs.

'Local authorities enforce noise regulations beyond office hours'

KUALA LUMPUR: Local authorities have enforcement schedules extending beyond office hours to address noise complaints arising from entertainment activities at residential premises and outdoor venues, including at night and on weekends, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Aiman Athirah Sabu said local councils also monitored complaints in real time and conducted joint operations with the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) to ensure action against offenders.

"Local council enforcement officers have structured on-call and shift schedules outside office hours to address complaints," she said in reply to Wan Razali Wan Nor (PN-Kuantan) on measures to strengthen enforcement at night and on weekends.

Aiman Athirah said Section 82 of the Local Government Act 1976 allowed authorities to issue immediate notices to stop nuisances, while cooperation

with police enabled action under Section 13 of the Minor Offences Act 1955.

She said entertainment activities near sensitive locations, including hospitals, schools, residential areas and places of worship, were generally restricted to operating until 11pm or midnight.

Buffer zones of between 100 and 300 metres are also imposed to regulate entertainment activities near such locations, she added.

Addressing concerns over buffer zones near hospitals, Aiman Athirah said enforcement action could be taken following complaints, subject to existing laws.

She said local councils could also immediately seize audio equipment or karaoke systems and issue compounds for breaches of permit conditions or unauthorised events.

"Homestay operators who violate business licence conditions or repeatedly attract public nuisance complaints could face licence revocation or court prosecution," she added. — Bernama

KUCHING: Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus and Hainan Normal University (HNU) have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) set on exploring academic programme collaboration, joint research and staff and student exchanges.

The signing ceremony at Swinburne Sarawak here recently saw the campus represented by its pro vice-chancellor and chief executive officer Dato Prof Lau Hieng Ho, and HNU by its vice-president Prof Xu Jiliang.

"The partnership establishes a framework for both universities to draw on their respective academic strengths, broaden access to international learning experiences, and develop research initiatives in areas of shared interest," said Swinburne Sarawak in a statement.

According to Lau, international collaboration creates opportunities for Swinburne Sarawak students and academics to learn from different perspectives and work together on shared challenges.

"Through this partnership



Hasnol Zam Zam (second left) greets Miri Hospital staff. At left is Dr Wong. — Photo from Facebook / Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

MoH sec-gen checks on Miri Hospital's issues, challenges

MIRI: Ministry of Health (MoH) secretary-general Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad paid a working visit to Miri Hospital on Sunday.

The visit sought to assess issues, challenges, and needs affecting healthcare delivery at the facility.

According to an MoH Facebook post, the visit began with a dialogue and briefing on Miri Hospital, aimed at gathering feedback, views, and suggestions from hospital staff.

Hasnol Zam Zam then toured the hospital's facilities and

services, including the vacuum insulated evaporator tank, male medical ward, and the proposed site for the development of Block C.

Miri Hospital began operating on May 6, 1995, and serves as the referral centre for northern Sarawak, receiving patients from Marudi, Limbang, and Lawas hospitals, covering a population of about 600,000.

The hospital provides more than 30 specialist and sub-specialist services, as well as a medical evacuation (Medevac) service to support emergency

referrals from interior areas.

With the opening of Block B in 2024, the hospital's capacity rose from 349 beds to 677 beds to meet the growing demand for healthcare services in the area.

Among those present were MoH deputy secretary-general (finance and development) Datuk Seri Zahrul Hakim Abdullah, Sarawak Health deputy director (management) Banges Munga, Miri Health officer Dr P Raviwharman Packierisamy, and Miri Hospital director Dr Jack Wong.

Support for family with financial hardship, caregiving demands

KUCHING: Hope Place Kuching is providing basic food aid and school supplies for a family facing financial constraints in Asajaya, near here.

The non-governmental organisation (NGO) handed over the assistance during a simple ceremony at the family's home.

According to Hope Place, Radiah Rebi, 37, lives under one roof with her husband, their three children, her elder sister, and her 90-year-old mother.

"Radiah has two children with disabilities, who require considerable attention, as well as a three-year-old toddler. Her eldest Haikal, 17, has multiple disabilities. He can barely walk and is unable to speak properly.

"Haikal mostly mumbles to himself. His younger brother, Aidil, 11, has a learning disability and is very hyperactive," the NGO said in a statement.

Radiah said Aidil has to watch video clips on a mobile device to keep him occupied and prevent him from disturbing his siblings or making them cry.

Her husband Khamis, 48, is the family's sole breadwinner. He works as a daily-paid labourer and also plants and sells coconuts to supplement the family's income.



Hope Place representative Griffin Deng (right) delivers the assistance to Radiah (centre) and her family during a recent home visit.

Even with two sources of income, Hope Place said Khamis could barely keep his whole family financially afloat.

"At home, Radiah's nanogenarian mother Nion is also living with them. She is blind but is otherwise relatively healthy. Although her memory is not as good, Nion is still able to walk steadily," it added.

Radiah's elder sister, 68, looks after their mother at home as Radiah is occupied caring for her three children.

Hope Place said Radiah was

grateful that both her children with disabilities receive special allowances of RM150 per month.

"Nion, too, receives financial aid of RM600 from the Social Welfare Department," it added.

The NGO welcomes public donations to reach out to communities in need. Donations can be deposited directly to its Maybank account (51289001160) or by scanning the S Pay Global QR code on its Facebook page.

For further enquiries, call Hope Place on 082-505 987 or 013-567 2775.

Swinburne Sarawak partners with Chinese varsity to explore academic, research tie-ups



Lau (second left) and Xu sign the MoU documents.

with HNU, Swinburne Sarawak aims to develop meaningful academic pathways, build research connections and expand opportunities for cross-cultural learning.

"As a university rooted in Sarawak and connected to the world, we want these relationships to bring lasting value to our students, our staff, and the communities we serve.

"We look forward to translating this shared intention into practical initiatives that draw on the strengths of both institutions," he said in the

statement.

Under the MoU, both universities will explore potential credit transfer arrangements and study pathways to provide students with more diverse learning opportunities and international educational experiences.

"Specific arrangements will be subject to curriculum assessment and further agreements. The partnership also provides a foundation for research collaboration, innovation and the commercialisation of research outcomes.

"Potential activities include identifying common research priorities, developing joint research grant applications, and co-supervising doctoral students," said Swinburne Sarawak.

Meanwhile, academic exchanges could enable staff to share teaching practices, discuss educational innovation and build sustained research networks, it added.

"For HNU, the partnership supports its internationalisation plans and efforts to strengthen connections with universities in Southeast Asia.

"Drawing on its location within the Hainan Free Trade Port, the university seeks to expand access to international education and research resources to support talent development, disciplinary advancement, and innovation," Swinburne Sarawak said.

It added that the three-year MoU would pave the way for continued discussions, with both institutions working towards detailed arrangements for individual projects and exchanges.



Tiang (third left) symbolically hands over the completed covered walkway project to Kolej Vokasional Sibu director Ederin Amid. — Photo by Maxwell Atan

Vocational college's RM100,000 covered walkway completed

Maxwell Atan

SIBU: A RM100,000 Rural Transformation Programme (RTP) allocation has funded Phase 1 of the completed covered walkway project at Kolej Vokasional Sibu.

Caretaker Deputy Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government Datuk Michael Tiang said covered walkways were particularly important in Sarawak's tropical climate, providing shelter for students and the public from rain and hot weather.

"In our tropical weather, we need infrastructure like this, covered walkways for students and schools. I will do my best in my position."

"Hopefully, in the future, I will still have the opportunity to serve the community by proposing or constructing more covered walkways," he told reporters after the

In our tropical weather, we need infrastructure like this, covered walkways for students and schools. I will do my best in my position.

Datuk Michael Tiang

project's handover to the college yesterday.

The Pelawan incumbent said the proposal would also complement Sibu's planned introduction of 13 zero-fare electric buses, which are expected to begin operations in the first quarter of 2027.

He said the Sibu Municipal Council (SMC) and the Sarawak Transport Ministry would work together to install bus stops at strategic locations around the town to support the new service.

"Covered walkways connecting bus stops to surrounding areas will make public transport more convenient, particularly during rainy weather."

"If I am still the assemblyman for Pelawan, I have told the Transport Ministry that I would contribute towards building covered walkways leading to bus stops in my constituency.

"This would allow people to get on or off the bus during rainy weather while remaining under shelter," he said.

Tiang said he had drawn inspiration from Singapore, where extensive covered walkways had been developed to improve pedestrian accessibility.

He said Sarawak could adopt similar measures to make public spaces and public transport facilities more accessible to the community.

Pedestrian bridge for SMK Rosli Dhoby, Kolej Vokasional Sibu proposed

SIBU: A pedestrian bridge serving SMK Rosli Dhoby and Kolej Vokasional Sibu has been proposed in view of road safety concerns in the area, said Datuk Michael Tiang.

The Pelawan incumbent said this was being planned with the Public Works Department (JKR) Sibu following an incident involving a teacher crossing the road in the early morning when visibility was poor.

"Unfortunately, not long ago, a teacher wanted to cross the road here in the early morning.

"The lighting condition was a bit dim during the early hours," he said when met after the handover ceremony for the Phase 1 covered walkway project at Kolej Vokasional Sibu

yesterday.

Tiang said the proposed pedestrian bridge would provide a safer crossing facility for students, teachers and other road users accessing the two educational institutions.

He added he hoped to work with JKR and relevant authorities to identify other locations where pedestrian bridges were needed.

Among the areas he highlighted were SMK Ulu Sungai Merah, where the road is being widened into a dual carriageway, and SMK Bandar Sibu along Jalan Ling Kai Cheng.

Tiang noted pedestrian bridges were increasingly necessary as roads became busier, particularly near schools where students and

teachers regularly crossed the road.

"If I have the opportunity to continue serving as the state assemblyman, these are some of the proposals I want to pursue for schools in Pelawan," he said.

He said pedestrian bridges near schools were already common along major roads in Kuching and Miri, and believed similar facilities should be incorporated into road infrastructure projects in Sibu.

"I have seen pedestrian bridges in Kuching and Miri, where they are already standard features along main roads near schools.

"They are part of the road package, and I think what we do not have in Sibu is something we need to rectify," he said.

Ora Et Labora Run 9.0 records 1,300 participants

KUCHING: An estimated 1,300 people including students from the St Joseph's family of schools contributed to the success of the ninth edition of Ora Et Labora Run held here last Saturday.

Organised by the The Old Josephians Association (OJA) Kuching, the run aimed to raise funds for running students' extra-curricular activities.

It also served as a reunion for alumni.

Among those present at the flag-off ceremony were caretaker Deputy Premier cum OJA president Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, caretaker Minister of Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Dato Sri Abdul

Karim Rahman Hamzah, and Senator Dato Ahmad Ibrahim.

In an address, Dr Sim commended the three schools: SMK St Joseph, St Joseph Private School, and St Joseph International School; as well as their alumni for coming together in the 'Back-to-School Games' held earlier in July to mark Sarawak Day 2026 and also the annual run.

He also highlighted the significant contribution of the St Joseph schools to Sarawak's development over the years.

"We have a proud history of producing thousands of successful individuals and professionals whereby four out

of the six premier/chief ministers graduated from SMK St Joseph," he said.

Dr Sim also said the school was currently embarking on the Phase 1 of its masterplan, focusing on upgrading key infrastructures including the amphitheatre, as well as designated leisure spaces to provide students with a comfortable environment for rest and informal interactions.

He said the masterplan requires RM1.6 million and is expected to be completed by April next year, in preparation for the school's 145th anniversary celebration.

Dr Sim thus urged successful Josephians to come forward to donate or sponsor to the cause.



(From left) Abdul Karim, Dr Sim, Ahmad and other guests get ready to flag off the run.

Sign language programme out to empower deaf youths

KUCHING: Thirty youths came together to learn Malaysian Sign Language (BIM) and foster mutual understanding through an inclusive communication programme.

Organised by Azam Young Souls (AYS) in collaboration with Sarawak Deaf Community Services Association and with support from Angkatan Zaman Mansang Sarawak (Azam), the 'Sign With Impact: Building Bridges of Communication, Empowering Inclusive Youth' programme aimed to raise awareness of inclusive communication and also to introduce basic BIM to the youths.

The participants comprised 15 deaf youths and 15 of those with normal hearing.

Azam Sarawak Youth

Engagement Committee deputy chairman Muhammad Afiq Hariz Khatem said the initiative reflected the growing awareness of the communication needs of the deaf community and the importance of fostering mutual understanding.

"Communication is not merely the ability to speak or convey information, but also the willingness to understand others and ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in society.

"Through this programme, we want to nurture youths who not only possess communication skills, but are also able to demonstrate empathy, respect differences and are willing to play a role in building a more inclusive society," he said in a statement.

Muhammad Afiq also stressed

that empowering youths was not just about giving them space to speak, but also shaping a generation that was sensitive to others and strove to ensure that their communication needs could be understood and valued.

During the programme, the participants learned basic BIM including greetings, self-introductions, the alphabet and numbers, as well as everyday phrases, through guided lessons and practical exercises.

The sessions also gave participants the opportunity to practise their new skills and gain a better understanding of the importance of accessible communication in everyday interactions.

The programme was also supported by the Sarawak AI Association.



Programme participants gather for a group photo after the event.

Nadi programme connects JPN with local Chinese community

SIBU: Some 30 community leaders attended a briefing on the Malaysian identity card (MyKad) application procedures at the National Information Dissemination Centre (Nadi) Jalan Pahlawan here yesterday.

Organised by the Pelawan State Constituency Service Centre in collaboration with the National Registration Department (JPN) branch at the Sibu Urban Transformation Centre (UTC), the session was held for the first time specifically involving the local Chinese community.

UTC Sibu assistant registration officer Dayang Noraliza Awang Abdul Rahman described the programme as an excellent initiative to introduce the roles and functions of JPN throughout the state.

"Given the positive response, it is suggested that follow-up programmes with the community leaders be continued here in the future," she said.

Apart from explaining application procedures, the briefing also highlighted the



Dayang Noraliza delivers a briefing to the community leaders at Nadi Jalan Pahlawan. — Photo by Peter Boon

'Program Menyemai Kasih Rakyat' (Mekar) services such as 'Mekar Komuniti' and 'Mekar Ehsan'.

"Through the Mekar programme, our team has the opportunity to visit the homes of those residents who are unable to apply for MyKad on their own and assist them with the application process," said Dayang Noraliza.

At the same time, JPN also provided insights into the latest online MyKad renewal facility, which could be completed within 30 minutes, while discussing issues regarding birth registration in Sarawak.

Earlier, Dayang Noraliza conducted a comprehensive presentation on Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976, Marriage (Act 164), and evolution

of identity card.

In his remarks, Penghulu Stephen Yong spoke about undocumented individuals seeking assistance from the community leaders in applying for proper identification documents.

"They came to Pelawan service centre seeking for help on the applications of such documents from JPN," he said.

Nurture children's emotional resilience from young, parents advised

SIBU: Equipping parents and caregivers with practical knowledge and skills to support children's emotional well-being and resilience in an increasingly digital world took centre stage during the World Mental Health Day 2026 and Literacy Week here.

Held under the theme 'Big Feelings, Small Hearts' at Pustaka Negeri Sarawak Sibu on Oct 24, the programme aimed to raise mental health awareness and promote digital literacy among people of all ages.

Sibu Hospital management assistant director Tiong Hwa Nguong officiated at the event, which was also attended by Sarawak Health Department public health specialist Dr Nur Azimah Azman and Pustaka Negeri Sarawak Sibu manager Nurfarathul Aqma Julani.

Event chairperson and Sibu Hospital psychiatrist Dr Hii Kae Lih said developing emotional literacy and

resilience from an early age was crucial in building healthier communities.

"By pairing mental health promotion with digital literacy, we aim to give families the tools to navigate both modern challenges and modern technology safely and constructively," she said.

The joint effort highlighted the role of healthcare providers, local authorities and library services in promoting mental health awareness, strengthening digital literacy and fostering a more informed and resilient community here.

The programme was organised by Sibu Hospital's Psychiatry Department in collaboration with Pustaka Negeri Sarawak Sibu, Sibu Divisional Health Office, and Sibu Municipal Council.

Also present was the hospital's Psychiatry Department head Dr John Chieng.



Yii (centre) accepts the award certificates from MCC Tourism and Business Events Permanent Committee chairman Councillor Sean Huang.

Unfair to criticise Miri’s Asean clean city award — Mayor



Rachel Purai
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MIRI: Criticisms hurled at Miri City Council (MCC) over the city's eligibility for the Asean Clean Tourist City Standard Award are 'unfortunate, unfair and disappointing', said mayor Adam Yii.

Yii said the criticisms not only undermined the achievement but also the efforts made by the council in attaining the recognition.

"It's as if they (critics) want to belittle Miri's achievement and claim that the city did not deserve the award," he told a press conference after chairing the monthly full council meeting yesterday.

Yii said the award, presented on Oct 15, was part of an Asean-level programme administered in Malaysia by the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (Motac).

The assessment involved submitting documents and

supporting evidence, followed by site inspections and audits by Motac officers.

"Eleven cities in Malaysia received the recognition, including Kuching South, Sandakan, Labuan and Kota Kinabalu.

"If you have visited these cities, I believe you can judge for yourself how Miri compares with the other recipients of the same recognition," he said, while noting that major cities including Penang, Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Melaka and Johor Bahru were not listed.

However, Yii was quick to state that he could not confirm whether these cities had taken part in the assessment process.

Responding to the criticisms, the mayor questioned the basis or standards used to challenge the recognition accorded to Miri.

"No city is perfect; its performance should be assessed against other cities and the criteria outlined in the award's eligibility."

Nevertheless, he hailed the accomplishment as reflecting the efforts of the MCC, government

agencies, tourism-related businesses and the public in keeping the city clean.

"This award belongs to the entire Miri community, whose cooperation and sense of responsibility play an important role in keeping our city clean and beautiful," he said.

On a separate matter, Yii hailed the Miri City Green Loft as a platform to promote local literature and cultural heritage, supporting MCC's work towards joining the Unesco Creative Cities Network.

This initiative is now being run at the Miri Handicraft Centre.

"The Miri City Green Loft aims to provide a welcoming space for the community, writers, artists, students and visitors to read, write, exchange ideas and appreciate Miri's rich cultural diversity," he said.

The Green Loft was launched on Sept 24 this year by Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah during the Sarawak Literature Festival at Miri Indoor Stadium.

Public toilets at three major areas in Miri closed for upgrading works

MIRI: Miri City Council (MCC) has announced the temporary closure of three public toilets here to facilitate renovation and upgrading works, which are expected to take about three months.

The affected facilities are at Luak Esplanade 1, Jalan Brooke and Wireless Walk.

"We hope to complete the upgrading works earlier than the scheduled time to minimise inconvenience to the public," mayor Adam Yii told a press conference after chairing a monthly full council meeting.

It was informed that alternative facilities are available near all three locations, pending works on the three affected public toilets.

Visitors to Luak Esplanade 1 can use the public toilet at Luak Esplanade 2, while those affected by the closure at Jalan Brooke can use the Miri Chinese Chamber of Commerce public toilet at High Street.

At Wireless Walk, members of the public can use facilities at the nearby establishments, including Madli's Restaurant, Wong Café, Taiwan Restaurant, Nagaliar

Restaurant, Café Hee Bing Leau and 63 Café.

Yii advised the public to use the alternative facilities responsibly and to maintain cleanliness at all times.

Separately, the mayor reminded property owners and ratepayers to settle their assessment rates for the second half of 2026 by this Oct 31 to avoid late payment surcharges.

He said overdue payments will be subject to a surcharge of 1 per cent per month or part thereof until the outstanding amount is paid.

To avoid missing payment

Illegal dumping: MCC mulls publishing names of offenders

MIRI: The Miri City Council (MCC) is considering publicising the names of illegal dumpers as well as introducing incentives to members of the public who report such activities.

Mayor Adam Yii said the two proposals are aimed at curbing illegal dumping through stronger enforcement and greater community involvement.

"We want to encourage the public to help identify illegal dumping activities and other unlawful acts.

"The information from the public will help the council identify offenders, take enforcement action, and prevent new illegal dumping hotspots from emerging," he told reporters after chairing a monthly full council meeting.

He added the matter would be discussed further to determine suitable measures for implementation.

According to Yii, the council has to date issued 21 warning notices and six compounds for illegal dumping.

He said since the implementation of its Illegal Dumping Action Plan, 12 of the 17 illegal dumping hotspots identified by the council had either undergone improvements or were closed.

"The remaining five locations are undergoing improvements and continued to be monitored," he said, adding that all reports would be kept confidential and the identities of complainants protected.

On another matter, Yii said the MCC is offering a lorry rental service at rates starting from RM80 per trip to help residents dispose of bulky household items, domestic waste, and other unwanted materials.

According to him, each vehicle has a loading capacity of up to five tonnes.

"The rental rate excludes labour costs, with an additional RM150 charged if manpower assistance is required.

"The council will continue to monitor identified hotspots, improve affected areas and strengthen enforcement where necessary.

"However, the long-term success of these efforts depends on responsible behaviour and community cooperation," he said.

Bridge opening boosts connectivity for 15 Long Urun villages

BELAGA: Residents of 15 villages in the Long Urun area are expected to benefit from improved connectivity, road safety and access to essential services following the opening of the Sungai Penyuan iron bridge, said Murum incumbent Kennedy Chukpai Ugon.

He said the bridge was built under the Premier's 'Projek Rakyat' initiative, with the Kapit Divisional Public Works Department (JKR) as the implementing agency.

"The new bridge is expected to reduce travel time and ease the movement of residents, while supporting local economic activities, particularly the transportation of agricultural produce and operations in the oil palm plantation sector.

"It is also expected to improve

access to schools and healthcare facilities for communities in the area," he said following the opening ceremony of the iron bridge on Sunday.

Chukpai urged plantation companies and relevant agencies to work together to maintain the bridge and the approximately 30 kilometres main road connecting Long Urun.

He stressed that regular maintenance was crucial to ensuring the safety of road users and keeping the infrastructure in good condition.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to pursuing basic infrastructure development throughout the constituency, particularly in rural and interior areas, to ensure local communities benefit from continued development.



Ayu is flanked by Felicia (left) and Miss Universe Malaysia 2026 first runner-up Sapphire Wong during the gathering. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

Mrs of Malaysia Borneo pageant eyes Kuching for greater participation

KUCHING: Kuching is being considered to host the next Mrs of Malaysia Borneo pageant in 2027, with organisers hoping the city's accessibility will encourage wider participation from women in Sarawak and Sabah.

Mrs of Malaysia director and brand owner Ayu Omar said the decision was still being considered, with Kuching seen as a strategic venue for attracting more participants and expanding media coverage.

"If we organise it in Kuching, I believe the media coverage will be wider. It is also easier for women from places such as Miri and Sabah to come here to participate," she told reporters at the Mrs Cosmo 2026 homecoming dinner here on Saturday.

The 2027 edition will be the second for the Mrs of Malaysia Borneo franchise following its inaugural edition in Sibiu.

Ayu also announced the appointment of Felicia Pamella Francis, who won the Mrs Cosmo 2026 title in Myanmar last August as state director for Mrs of Malaysia Borneo 2027.

She said Felicia was chosen for her potential to inspire women, particularly single mothers and those seeking to rebuild their lives after facing hardships.

As state director, Felicia will oversee the organisation of the Borneo-level pageant, which brings together women from Sarawak and Sabah.

Five winners from Mrs of Malaysia Borneo will qualify to compete in Mrs of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in 2027, with the opportunity to advance to the international stage.

Ayu said the pageant was not focused solely on physical beauty but also on empowering women to become role models and voices for others. Applications for the 2027 edition are expected to open at the end of October, with auditions tentatively scheduled for December.

The programme will run for three months and include charity activities, photoshoots and assigned tasks before the final gala or high tea event.

The organisers are targeting April 2027 for the final ahead of Gawai Dayak, after which the winners are expected to proceed to Kuala Lumpur to compete in Mrs of Malaysia.

Ayu said the state director's franchise would be renewed annually based on commitment and performance.

She added that Ratu Prestigious Event Management would guide Felicia throughout the process and provide support for organising the pageant.

Although Felicia was relatively new to the industry, Ayu expressed confidence that the partnership would help develop the pageant and create more opportunities for women in Borneo.

Curtin M'sia celebrates resilience, mentorship behind students' academic standing transformation

MIRI: Six Curtin University Malaysia students who transformed their academic standing through determination, perseverance and the support of dedicated mentors were recognised at the 4th Curtin Malaysia Student Learning Awards (CMSLA) 2026.

The annual awards celebrate students who successfully progressed from Conditional to Good standing during the 2026 academic year, recognising not only their improved academic performance but their commitment to active learning, consistent attendance, workshop participation and close engagement with lecturers.

The awards also honour the lecturers whose mentorship played a pivotal role in helping these students regain confidence and succeed academically.

Curtin Malaysia pro vice chancellor, president and chief executive Prof Vincent Lee presented the award to the students and their mentors.

The recipients were Brian Chong Yew Teck (Diploma of Media Studies), mentored by Fifi Liew Ee En; Mary Ann Usin Alphonsus Raymond (Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Audit Analytics), mentored by Christie Liaw Shin Liang; Reyes Malcolm Lazarious Mawat (Foundation in Engineering



Lee (right) and Tang (back row, left) take a group photo with the recipients and their mentors.

and Science), mentored by Dr Fong Ai Ling; Tiong King Ho (Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering), mentored by Dr Tan Yin Ling; Mapalo Gregory Mwansa (Foundation in Engineering and Science), mentored by Jameson Malang; and Clement Liew Zi Chong (Bachelor of Applied Geology), mentored by Dr Syed Bilawal Ali Shah.

One of the driving forces behind this success is the CARE Programme, an initiative introduced by Jameson as part of the Conditional Student Working Group.

The programme reimagined the university's approach to supporting conditional students, replacing a process that could feel

intimidating with one centred on encouragement, regular check-ins and approachable mentoring.

"It is important that they feel welcomed and cared for, rather than seeing the meetings as an obligation. Motivation is another key element, as it supports them through the semester; we may not always know when they are feeling stressed or stuck on their assignments," said Jameson.

Syed Bilawal echoed the importance of personalised guidance, saying that every student has the potential to succeed when given the right support.

"Every student can succeed with the right guidance and encouragement. Through personalised mentoring,

constructive feedback and continuous support, I strive to help students overcome challenges, build confidence and achieve their full potential," he said.

Curtin Malaysia Learning and Teaching dean Prof Tang Fu Ee said the awards reflect the university's commitment to fostering student success through meaningful partnerships between students and academics.

"It is deeply gratifying to witness how effectively our lecturers support students in transforming their academic performance.

"I am proud of the high quality of learning and teaching demonstrated by our academics, as well as the excellent engagement shown by our students," he said.

'Donate a potato' drive promotes charitable community giving

MIRI: The Miri Domino Charity Association has launched a charity campaign to encourage public donations of sweet potatoes for people in need.

The campaign, themed 'Donate a Potato', was launched on Sunday by Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Datuk Sebastian Ting at the Domino Potato booth in Bintang Megamall here.

Under the initiative, customers can purchase extra packs of sweet potatoes for donation, which the association will collect and distribute to those in need in

the community.

"The campaign aims to make charitable giving simple, accessible and meaningful by inviting customers to purchase sweet potatoes and donate them to people in need," the association said in a statement.

The association also expressed appreciation to Bintang Megamall for their support, including providing the venue for the booth.

Guided by its motto, 'Blessed to Be a Blessing', it hoped the campaign would encourage more people and businesses to help the people in need.

Johor schools reopen in stages after 10-day haze closure

BATU PAHAT: Face-to-face classes in Johor resumed in stages yesterday after being suspended for 10 days due to the haze.

The reopening of schools is in line with an improvement in air quality in the state, with checks through the Air Pollutant Index Management System (APIMS) portal showing that no areas in Johor recorded unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings as of 8am yesterday.

A Bernama survey at SK Bindu here found that pupils began arriving as early as 6am, with most of them taking precautions by wearing face masks.

Year 6 pupil Muhd Qayyum Rayyan Mohd Najib, 12, said he could hardly hide his excitement upon learning that home-based teaching and learning (PdPR) had ended.

"I packed my books and stationery yesterday. I was so excited to meet my friends and teachers again that I prepared my school uniform and went to bed early," said the youngest of three siblings.

Qayyum acknowledged that learning in the classroom was far more effective than PdPR, saying direct interaction with teachers made it easier for him to understand the subjects.

His father Mohd Najib Paiman shared the same sentiment, expressing relief that physical classes were more structured and allowed pupils to concentrate



Students in Johor Bahru make their way to school for their first physical classes in 10 days. — Bernama photo

better. "Primary school pupils find it easier to concentrate in the classroom than when looking at device screens at home.

"PdPR also faces various constraints, such as unstable Internet access, battery issues and the need to share devices with siblings," he said.

In Johor Bahru, private sector employee Mohd Farhaan expressed relief that his child could return to school to sit for the year-end examinations.

"My child completed the year-end examinations at the religious school last week. I hope the haze does not worsen again as there is only about a month left before the current school term ends," he told Bernama.

Housewife Nabillah Salleh shared a similar view, saying

she had packed face masks in her children's schoolbags as a precaution in case air quality deteriorated again.

"We are worried about our children's health, especially during this examination week. Although the haze has gradually improved, we must still take precautions," she said when met at SMK Sri Rahmat.

Meanwhile in Mersing, a survey at SMK Ungku Husin found students arriving enthusiastically as early as 7am despite the drizzle.

The reopening of secondary schools in the district saw Form 5 students sitting for the Bahasa Melayu oral test for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination, while Form 1 students took the End-of-Academic-Session Assessment and Form 4

students sat for their year-end examinations.

State Education and Information Committee chairman Dr Muhammad Naqib Md Ghazali had previously announced that schools in Johor would reopen in stages, with the first phase on Monday and Tuesday for students required to sit for examinations according to the stipulated schedule.

He said the second phase would begin on Oct 28, with all schools in the state scheduled to resume normal operations, subject to prevailing air quality conditions.

Previously, all schools in Johor were closed for 10 days due to the haze and worsening air quality, affecting over 1,000 schools and about 600,000 students. — Bernama



Workers lay canvas over the affected slope to prevent further collapse. — Bernama photo

Paya Terubong landslide: Slope stable for now, says MBPP

GEORGE TOWN: The slope at Taman Seri Permai in Paya Terubong, which collapsed and claimed the life of a doctor, has shown no signs of further instability since the rain stopped Sunday night.

Penang Island City Council (MBPP) mayor Datuk A. Rajendran said however that close monitoring remained necessary as continuous rainfall could weaken the soil structure and increase the risk of another incident.

"The developer has rerouted a water pipe to a safer location because water flowing down from the hill had not been channelled through the proper drainage system and was entering an area near the site.

"So far, the slope has shown no signs of instability, but we must remain cautious as prolonged rain could further weaken it," he told reporters after chairing an MBPP meeting yesterday.

The landslide, which occurred at 8.36am on Sunday, claimed the life of Dr Wong Kar Lin, 73, who was buried under debris when the slope behind his house collapsed.

His wife Chang Mei Nuo, 68, and mother-in-law Wong Poh Lim, in her 80s, managed to escape.

Rajendran said MBPP had also instructed the developer of the project to carry out mitigation works to improve safety at the site.

"MBPP engineers also inspected the site with consultants to assess slope safety, particularly amid continuous rainfall," he added.

He said an investigation into the incident would be conducted by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) together with the Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB), with the process expected to take at least three months, depending on conditions and the findings of the inspections.

On residents' claims that they had previously lodged complaints with MBPP about the slope, he said the council had a WhatsApp group with residents to facilitate the forwarding of complaints to the developer for prompt action.

He said the developer had so far complied with the instructions and advice given, adding that MBPP had issued warning letters to the developer and contractor in September to step up safety measures at the construction site ahead of the transition into the Northeast Monsoon season. — Bernama

Nuclear technology quietly powering Malaysia's push for better crops

MACHANG: Few people know that nuclear technology is being used to develop tapioca varieties with the potential for higher yields and faster maturity.

The Malaysian Nuclear Agency is using gamma radiation to research crops with improved traits, including tapioca with shorter harvesting times compared to conventional varieties.

According to the agency's Agrotechnology and Biosciences Division director Dr Zaiton Ahmad, the technology induces genetic changes in plants before they undergo a screening process to identify varieties with the desired traits.

She said besides tapioca, the research also covers padi, bananas, Napier grass, taro, kenaf, and various types of flowers.

"For tapioca, we aim to achieve high yields and a shorter maturity period, while for padi, the target is high yields as well as resistance to disease, floods and drought," she said.

"For Napier grass, we want



The agency is aiming to achieve high yields and a shorter maturity period through nuclear tapioca. — Bernama photo

to increase biomass production substantially and raise the protein content for livestock," she told Bernama.

Zaiton said a screening process is carried out to select plants showing the desired genetic changes, while varieties that fail

to meet the criteria are not carried forward for breeding.

Tackling public perceptions of the safety of food produced through nuclear technology, she said irradiated plants do not become radioactive as the process merely exposes them to ionising

radiation.

The method does not make crops radioactive, she emphasised, clarifying a misunderstanding among some members of the public who assume that agricultural produce developed using nuclear technology is unsafe to eat.

"Many people are confused when they hear the term 'nuclear tapioca' because they assume the crop has become radioactive, when in fact it has only been exposed to radiation to induce genetic changes," she said.

She said research and development of new crop varieties also faces hurdles, most notably public stigma and the substantial funding needed to carry out studies.

According to her, the tapioca now under research has the potential to be registered as a new variety in Malaysia, while the genetically modified Napier grass is undergoing field trials with a local livestock company. — Bernama

Selangor will not tolerate misuse of places of worship — Exco

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor government will not tolerate the use of any place of worship for criminal purposes, regardless of the religion, race or background of those involved.

Human Resources and Poverty Eradication Committee chairman V. Papparaidu said he took seriously media reports about drugs being found at an unregistered place of worship in Klang during an operation by the Selangor Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department from Oct 13 to 19.

"This case underscores the need for strict enforcement to combat drug distribution and the misuse of premises.

"Places of worship should be respected, kept sacred and

provide peace to their respective congregations, not be used to store prohibited substances or facilitate criminal activities," he said in a statement.

Papparaidu, also co-chairman of the Special Committee on Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Sikh and Taoist Affairs, stressed that there would be no compromise on using places of worship for criminal purposes.

"However, we must distinguish between the criminal actions of individuals and the religious institutions and communities they belong to.

"The actions of a few individuals should not be used as a reason to vilify or stigmatise an entire religious community," he said. — Bernama

Five maiden cruise call to boost Penang's tourism economy with 11,012 passenger capacity

GEORGE TOWN: Penang is poised to gain fresh economic opportunities from five international cruise ships scheduled to make their maiden calls at Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) here between October and December this year, bringing a combined passenger capacity of 11,012.

Penang Port Commission Chairman Datuk Yeoh Soon Hin said the arrivals are expected to benefit a wide range of local businesses, including restaurants, food and beverage operators, retailers, transport providers,

tour guides and tourism service operators, while reinforcing Penang's position as a regional cruise tourism destination.

"Penang's cruise industry is accelerating into a new phase of high-quality growth, unlocking consumer spending and providing strong impetus for the state's economic development.

"The arrivals present fresh opportunities, reinforcing Penang's role as an important port of call on international cruise itineraries and as a gateway for international visitors to discover Malaysia, experience

Asia's diverse cultures and forge friendships across borders," he said in a statement.

Yeoh, who is also Tourism Malaysia Deputy chairman, said closer cooperation between the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (Motac) is helping to create favourable conditions for the development of Penang's cruise industry.

He said Transport Minister Anthony Loke recognises the development potential of SPCT and has outlined a direction that includes upgrading the

surrounding waterfront, enhancing terminal facilities and improving connections with George Town's tourism areas, with the vision of developing Penang into an international cruise homeport.

Meanwhile, under Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing's leadership, Yeoh noted that Motac is focusing on enhancing international visitors' experiences through Visit Malaysia 2026 and the Mesra Malaysia hospitality programme.

"Tourism Malaysia has also

expanded the scope of its relevant matching grant programme this year to include the cruise sector, supporting industry players in attracting visitors by sea and further developing the cruise tourism market.

"We will strengthen coordination among the PPC, Penang Port Sdn Bhd, Tourism Malaysia and tourism industry players to make the most of the cruise arrivals between October and December, enhance the quality of our welcome and encourage more cruise lines to include Penang in their

itineraries," he said.

Last week, Tiong said five international cruise ships are scheduled to make their maiden calls at the SPCT between this month and December this year, with a combined passenger capacity of more than 10,000.

The vessels were Navigator of the Seas, Villa Vie Odyssey, Adora Mediterranean, Star Seeker, and Celebrity Solstice.

Navigator of the Seas is scheduled to be the first to arrive, berthing at 2.30pm on Oct 30. — Bernama

M'sia strengthens maritime preparedness amid regional security uncertainties

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is strengthening its maritime preparedness through continuous surveillance, information sharing and regional cooperation to ensure the Strait of Melaka remains safe, stable and open to international trade.

Deputy Defence Minister Adly Zahari said the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), through the Royal Malaysian Navy and Royal Malaysian Air Force, conducts continuous surveillance and patrols to safeguard the strategic shipping lane.

He said Malaysia was also strengthening regional cooperation with littoral states

through the Melaka Strait Patrol, involving Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, to enhance the effectiveness of patrols, information sharing and maritime domain awareness.

"The Defence Ministry's approach is to ensure that preparedness remains at an appropriate level in line with current security developments.

"Efforts in surveillance, information sharing, regional cooperation and diplomacy will continue to be strengthened to ensure the Strait of Melaka remains safe," he said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat.

He was replying to a question from Datuk Seri Hasni Mohammad (BN-Simpang Renggam) on Malaysia's preparedness for the possibility of the Strait of Melaka becoming a geopolitical flashpoint and experiencing maritime disruptions similar to those in the Strait of Hormuz.

In reply to a supplementary question from Hasni on threats from external powers, Adly said Malaysia used the Asean Defence Ministers Meeting as a platform to share information and views on regional security.

He said political developments in West Asia that had disrupted shipping through the Strait

of Hormuz were also being monitored, as conflicts in the region could affect security and defence, as well as the energy sector.

Meanwhile, responding to a supplementary question from Datuk Seri Ikmal Hisham Abdul Aziz (PN-Tanah Merah) on the ageing defence assets and the importance of maintaining MAF readiness without active involvement in overseas conflicts, Adly said the country's defence planning was guided by the Defence White Paper, which was reviewed every five years.

He said the review completed last year took into account

emerging security challenges, including cyber threats.

"If we look at each of our defence domains, we already have plans extending to 2050. The maritime, land and air domains each have their respective plans," he said, adding that these covered asset procurement and the development of defence capabilities, including cyber defence.

Adly said the government-to-government procurement process adopted by the government, including the acquisition of littoral mission ships and FA-50 aircraft from South Korea, was progressing according to plan. — Bernama

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Brazil's Lula clinches historic victory

Leftist president defies projection to secure fourth term, Bolsonaro seeks to annul election

BRASÍLIA: Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was re-elected against all expectations on Sunday, but his conservative rival Flavio Bolsonaro refused to accept the loss and said he would seek to have the vote annulled.

Lula's dramatic comeback meant Brazil had not followed Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru, all backed by US President Donald Trump, in swinging to the right.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen hailed Lula's re-election as a triumph for "democracy and multilateralism", joining a slew of world leaders who welcomed the leftist figurehead's return for an unprecedented fourth term.

Lula, who turns 81 on Tuesday, defied projections to defeat Bolsonaro, a senator and the son of jailed former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, and win an unprecedented fourth term.

According to official results, he won 51.8 percent of the votes to 48.2 percent for Flavio Bolsonaro, with Lula pulling around 4.4 million more votes.

Lula was warmly congratulated by the leaders of left-wing governments across Central America, including Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela.

"Long live democracy, the people of Brazil won," Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on X.

Right-wing governments in



Lula waves to supporters after winning the presidential runoff. Sunday's vote was marked by confusion after a Supreme Court ruling extended voting by two hours as some polling stations had already closed. — AFP photo

Chile, Ecuador and Peru said they wanted to work towards common goals with the region's economic powerhouse.

China echoed that sentiment, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered his friend Lula his "heartiest congratulations."

Ensuring democracy

Fireworks and vuvuzelas

rang out in Rio de Janeiro, while thousands of people dressed in red, the color of Lula's Workers' Party, streamed into the streets of Sao Paulo to celebrate.

"People went to vote because we managed to convince them that voting was very important for ensuring democracy in the country," Lula said in his first comments after the win.

Sunday's vote was marked

by confusion after a Supreme Court ruling extended voting by two hours because some polling stations had already closed.

The move came at the request of Lula, who complained that buses had been pulled from circulation in various cities, barring citizens from voting.

Flavio Bolsonaro also requested an extension in some regions due to heavy rains, but he described

the decision as "unacceptable" and a "dirty trick."

"It is impossible to recognize the results. I am going to request the annulment of these elections," he said, stone-faced, in a brief speech in Brasilia.

Bolsonaro's father is serving a 27-year jail term for attempting a coup after his loss to Lula in the country's last election in 2022.

No candidate who lost the first round has gone on to win the second in Brazil since 1989, the first direct election after the end of the country's military dictatorship.

Lula's fight back

Brazil's left swung into action with massive rallies after Lula's first-round defeat, declaring "Never Again Bolsonaro" and revamping their social media strategy.

Julio Canelo, 42, a lawyer celebrating in Rio de Janeiro hailed a victory for "the entire democratic spectrum."

"It was the result of the people mobilizing, in the streets and online," he told AFP.

A fierce social media battle drew in Meta, parent company of WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, which Lula's campaign accused of favouring his opponent with "algorithmic manipulation."

Meta denied this but acknowledged that some of Lula's campaign ads had been

mistakenly deactivated due to technical errors.

"We are going to have to regulate them," Lula said of social media companies after his win.

A bitter campaign marred by scandals and mudslinging laid bare the deep divisions that have plagued Brazil over the past decade.

In a deep hole

Lula heads into a fourth term with almost half of the nation having rejected him, desperate for change.

He rose from poverty to become president in 2003 and was re-elected in 2006.

Lula made a dramatic return to office in 2022 elections after a corruption scandal saw him jailed for over 18 months before the charges were annulled on procedural grounds.

Lula oversaw a drop in inflation and unemployment in his third term, and lifted millions out of hunger, but many voters felt gloomy about the high cost of living and crime.

Flavio Bolsonaro, 45, pitched himself as more moderate and jovial than his father and galvanized conservatives, as well as less ideological voters wanting something new.

Lula, already one of the world's oldest leaders, will be 85 by the end of his new term in 2030.

He also faces a hostile Congress dominated by the right. — AFP



Sadiq Khan attends the opening ceremony for a section of one of Britain's most famous shopping streets, Oxford Street, as it goes permanently traffic-free for the first time in central London. — AFP photo

London Mayor hails new era as Oxford Street goes traffic-free

LONDON: London Mayor Sadiq Khan has hailed the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street as "a truly momentous occasion for the capital."

From Monday, almost a kilometre of the busy central London shopping street, between Orchard Street and Great Portland Street, will be traffic-free with vehicles being diverted onto nearby roads, reported PA Media/dpa.

Oxford Street, which produces an annual spend of around US\$4.1 billion, is one of the world's busiest shopping areas, with

around half a million visitors each day and the overhaul comes in time for the run-up to Christmas.

Buses, taxis, private hire vehicles, private motorised vehicles, cycles, scooters and pedicabs can no longer enter while deliveries can be made from midnight to 7am.

Emergency services will have access to the street at all times.

The area has become increasingly popular as an office location thanks to the Elizabeth line and Khan believes the scheme will help revitalise the

site, boost economic growth and attract visitors.

Describing it as "a new vibrant destination", he said: "I'm hugely excited to see my bold vision for Oxford Street coming to life from today. It is a truly momentous occasion for the capital."

The move marks the first phase of a pedestrianisation and wider regeneration project aimed at putting Oxford Street among top global shopping destinations including Times Square, the Champs-Élysées and La Rambla. — Bernama-pa media/dpa

Nonagenarian in Japan outwits suspected scammer

TOKYO: A 93-year-old woman in western Japan outsmarted a suspected scammer by pretending to fall for the scheme and helping police arrest him at her home, an officer told AFP on Monday.

Japan has the second-oldest population in the world after Monaco, and senior citizens are often targeted by fraudsters, who last year collectively stole around 325.7 billion yen (US\$2.0 billion) from their victims.

The woman received telephone calls from Wednesday through Thursday last week from a man who claimed to be a police officer. The caller falsely informed her that her bank account had experienced an unauthorised withdrawal.

The woman was told to hand over her ATM card to a man, posing as a police officer, who would visit her so that authorities could verify her account.

Suspecting a scam, the woman consulted her son and the police as she waited for the scammer to visit her house.

"The person's family reached out to the police on Wednesday evening, and we were able to have officers at her house" before the scammer arrived on Thursday, a local police official said. When a 47-year-old man appeared at her doorstep, waiting officers arrested him on the spot, he said.

"The person (the woman) is someone in good health and highly articulate," the official said. — AFP

China condemns US designation of Confucius Institutes as threat

BEIJING: China accused the United States on Monday of "targeted smearing" over Washington's designation of Beijing-funded Confucius Institute cultural centres as national security threats.

Washington considers the centres on American university campuses as propaganda tools of the Chinese Communist Party and has imposed funding restrictions on the institutes since 2025.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday his department had dismantled dozens of similar organisations over two months that had reappeared in disguise, "using different names... but with the same mission" and deemed them a threat to national security.

China's foreign ministry

criticised the move on Monday.

"We oppose the targeted smearing and stigmatisation of Confucius Institutes," ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a news conference.

"China-US educational exchanges and cooperation are beneficial to enhancing mutual understanding between the people of both countries," he said, adding that such ties "should not be interfered with or undermined".

China has set up hundreds of Confucius Institutes in more than 150 countries over the last two decades, according to the body that oversees them.

Dozens of them have closed down in several countries following similar accusations of foreign interference. — AFP

China's Communist Party elite hold key talks on governance

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping opened a key meeting of Communist Party elites in Beijing on Monday, state media said, which observers will be closely watching for clues as to the country's direction and future leadership.

Roughly 300 members of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee in attendance at the meeting, called the fifth plenum, will be looking to tighten discipline within their ranks, according to state media.

That includes measures to reduce corruption and make cadres more effective and loyal.

Xi opened the session on Monday, presenting a draft

decision by the Central Committee that "sets out strategic plans for strengthening full and rigorous Party self-governance", state news agency Xinhua reported.

Few details from the closed-door gathering, held under tight security, will be made known until it concludes on Thursday, but the timing of the meeting is crucial.

The fifth plenum comes ahead of a major party congress next year, where 73-year-old Xi is almost certain to secure a historic fourth term and oversee a leadership reshuffle.

Previous plenums have represented key moments for Xi

to cement his authority.

The Chinese leader has waged a 14-year campaign against corruption that has purged thousands of officials, including dozens of the Central Committee.

Yet he remains frustrated with cadres he deems are not implementing his orders.

State media published an article ahead of the plenum, based on a speech Xi gave in January in which he railed against "two-faced" officials who appear to comply with central directives but "inwardly resist", pursue "individualism" and are "politically opportunistic".

Analysts told AFP that Xi is

trying to maximise efficiency and loyalty among cadres by imposing more supervision and rules.

But as a result of his expansive purges, this year's plenum is expected to have the lowest turnout since former leader Mao Zedong's death in 1976.

Eight of the Central Committee's seats lie vacant, with another 15 members under investigation and at risk of being replaced.

Xi's anti-corruption drive has also targeted the military, toppling five of the seven members of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the party's top armed forces body. — AFP



Paramilitary police stand guard at an entrance to the Tiananmen Square during the plenary session of the Communist Party's Central Committee. — AFP photo

Indonesia fire hotspots fall by more than half

JAKARTA: Indonesia recorded a sharp decline in forest and land fire hotspots on Sunday, with the nationwide tally falling by more than half to 147 as rainfall brought some relief to firefighting operations.

The Forestry Ministry said yesterday that satellite monitoring data recorded at 9 pm local time on Sunday showed that high-confidence hotspots in six priority provinces had plunged from 226 to just 26, signalling an improvement in fire conditions.

"The decline continues the positive trend observed over the past several days. However, we must reiterate that hotspots are indications of surface temperature anomalies detected by NASA Terra/Aqua, SNPP and NOAA-20 satellites," the ministry said in a social media post yesterday.

Among the six priority provinces, West Kalimantan recorded 15 hotspots, followed by Central Kalimantan with five and South Kalimantan with four.

In Sumatra, two hotspots were recorded in South Sumatra, while Jambi and Riau reported none.

The ministry said rainfall in parts of South Sumatra,

The decline continues the positive trend observed over the past several days. However, we must reiterate that hotspots are indications of surface temperature anomalies detected by NASA Terra/Aqua, SNPP and NOAA-20 satellites.

Indonesia's Forestry Ministry

Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan on Sunday helped dampen fire-affected areas and support firefighting operations.

However, it stressed the need for continued monitoring, particularly in peatland areas where underground embers could persist despite rainfall.

Despite the decline in hotspot numbers and improving weather conditions, firefighting operations remained active in several affected areas, according to the ministry.

These included Tanjung Jabung Timur in Jambi; Muara Enim, Ogan Komering Ilir, Banyuasin and Musi Banyuasin in South Sumatra; Pulang Pisau in Central Kalimantan; and Banjarbaru in South Kalimantan.

The ministry said 49 aircraft remained deployed to support firefighting operations, comprising 32 for water bombing and 17 for aerial patrols and weather modification operations.

Across the border in Malaysia, clearer skies returned to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday after days of reduced visibility caused by transboundary haze linked to Indonesia's forest and land fires.

Kuala Lumpur recorded moderate air quality at 7 pm on Sunday. However, seven areas in Sarawak registered unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings above 100 at 9 am yesterday, according to Malaysia's Department of Environment's API Management System portal. — Bernama



A man dressed in a tiger costume stands at a traffic light to busk amid thick haze from forest and land fires in the region in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. — AFP photo



A passenger poses with an oversized boarding pass before boarding Jetstar's inaugural flight from the newly-opened Western Sydney International Airport.



Albanese speaks as he inaugurates the Western Sydney International Airport. — AFP photos

First international flight takes off from new Sydney airport

SYDNEY: The first international flight took off yesterday from a new, multi-billion-dollar airport in the fast-growing western suburbs of Sydney.

After more than four decades of planning, Western Sydney International Airport offers the first alternative to the city's main airport, which has been operating for more than a century.

An Air New Zealand plane from Auckland landed and soon afterwards flew out of the airport in the morning, launching a three-flights-a-week service to Sydney's largely working-class western suburbs.

"It's not every day you get to be part of opening a brand-new international airport," said Air New Zealand chief operations officer Kate Boyer.

"Western Sydney is home to more than 2.5 million people and it's a further gateway for Australian visitors to discover everything our country has to offer."

The new single-runway airport, Australia's first new major aviation hub in more than five decades, began domestic flights on Sunday, and freight operations in July.

Sydney's main airport, Kingsford Smith, is Australia's busiest, its three runways handling more than 42 million passengers last year.

Lying in Botany Bay just nine kilometres (six miles) from the city centre, planes using the airport roar over many city homes, and a curfew bars passenger aircraft from operating

during the night.

The new airport in western Sydney has no such restrictions.

"Through our 24-hour operations, Western Sydney International Airport gives airlines greater flexibility to connect into global hubs and travellers more choice in how they reach the world," said airport chief executive Simon Hickey.

Qantas' budget carrier Jetstar is now the main domestic carrier, flying to the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The airport says other international carriers are coming, including Qatar Airways from December 2027, Fiji Airways from March 2027, and Vietjet Air from January 2027.

Built at a cost of Aus\$5.3

billion (US\$3.7 billion), excluding surrounding transport works, the airport is reachable by road but is not expected to have a direct rail link until at least December 2027.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the new airport marked a "wonderful new chapter" for Australia.

It would also drive economic and jobs into western Sydney, an area often overshadowed by the city's famed harbour and central business district (CBD), he said at the weekend.

"For too long, Sydney has looked towards the harbour and the CBD. What this does is turn it around to where people live, to where jobs occur, to where investment occurs in western Sydney." — AFP

Singapore sets new retirement age at 65 from 2029

SINGAPORE: Singapore will raise retirement age to 65 and re-employment age to 70 from Jan 1, 2029, a year ahead of the 2030 timeline, as part of six recommendations to help seniors remain in the workforce longer, according to AsiaOne news portal.

Announced yesterday by the Tripartite Workgroup on Senior Employment (TWG-SE), the recommendations aim to help more seniors remain in meaningful, sustainable employment, while promoting age-diverse, multi-generational workplaces.

This comes amid an ageing workforce, with the proportion of Singapore's resident labour force aged 50 and above rising from 34 per cent to 40 per cent over the past decade, according to the Ministry of Manpower.

Speaking at the launch conference yesterday, Minister of State for Manpower Dinesh Vasu Dash said employers should adapt jobs and workplaces to give older workers more options to remain in the workforce.

"We hope for our seniors to also upskill themselves to be able to deal with jobs and look at careers as a multi-staged perspective," said Dinesh, adding that creating age-inclusive workplaces would benefit both employers and workers.

"Ultimately, we want to create age inclusive workplaces in Singapore where we are able to then extract the maximum we can for our business and at the same time to support our workers."

The event was also attended by NTUC deputy secretary-general Desmond Tan, and other guests, who were invited to a walkthrough of the digital booths and NTUC's e2i career

pulse workshop.

To expand flexible employment opportunities for older workers, the workgroup recommended introducing a new Flexi-Load Programme (FLP) to help employers create and expand part-time and fractional roles.

The programme will help employers defray the transitional costs of introducing such arrangements, including redesigning jobs, systems and policies traditionally structured around full-time work.

The FLP will also replace the existing part-time re-employment grant when it expires at the end of 2027.

While the current grant is available only to employees aged 60 and above, the FLP will be open to those aged 50 and above.

The workgroup also proposed setting up a programme office for career longevity under the skills and workforce development agency, in collaboration with NTUC and Singapore National Employers Federation, to support career transitions and promote age-inclusive hiring practices.

To provide greater financial support to seniors who are unable to secure re-employment, the workgroup also recommended raising the minimum and maximum employment assistance payment amounts.

The revised amounts will take into account wage growth since the last update in 2022, helping affected workers manage their expenses while seeking new employment opportunities.

Additionally, it also proposed enhancing earned income relief for seniors working beyond the statutory retirement and re-employment ages to reduce their tax burden, boost take-home pay. — Malay Mail

Former Japan PM Yasuo Fukuda dies at 90

TOKYO: Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, known for trying to build stable ties with China, has died at the age of 90, a ruling party official said yesterday.

Fukuda passed away on October 22, the official from the Liberal Democratic Party told AFP.

He led Japan for a year from September 2007 after replacing the late premier Shinzo Abe, who's first term ended after just 12 months.

During his stint in power, he sought to improve relations with China and invited then-Chinese president Hu Jintao to visit Japan.

Hu's trip in May 2008 made him the first Chinese head of state to visit the country in a decade.

The two leaders issued a joint statement committing to a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests".

Fukuda resigned in September 2008 as his approval ratings dropped. He retired as a politician in 2012. — AFP

N. Korea brings spat over landmine blast to UN

SEOUL: North Korea sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council accusing Seoul of fabricating a landmine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers, its state media reported yesterday.

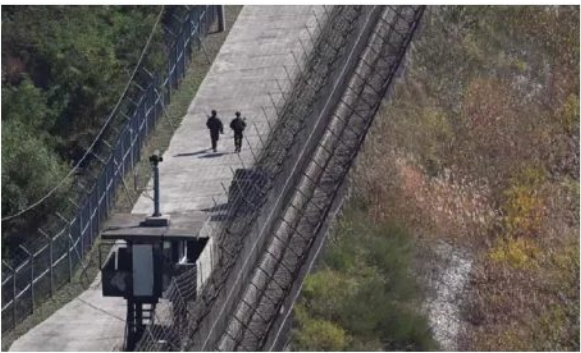
Tensions between the two Koreas have soared since the South last month blamed the blast inside the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that separates the countries on landmines laid by the North, an accusation it has fiercely rejected.

The North Korean permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) sent a letter on Sunday to the UN Security Council regarding the "provocation of the ROK committed by groundlessly shifting the blame for the dubious 'mine explosion incident'".

The letter said that the landmine incident "fabricated by the ROK, is a sinister obstructive move to brand as a 'military invasion', delay and impede the DPRK's fortification of its southern border," using the acronyms for both countries' official names.

The incident was a "farce to evade the responsibility for the ever-escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula," it added.

It went on to say its ongoing border fortification efforts were



South Korean soldiers patrol along a military fence on the south side of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, as seen from a South Korean observatory in the border city of Paju. — AFP file photo

"a legitimate and just exercise of its sovereignty going in strict conformity with the UN Charter," while blasting South Korea for firing warning shots at soldiers involved in the work.

"This is a wanton violation of Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter which stresses the need to refrain from the use of force or threat against territorial integrity of any country in international relations," said the official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA).

South Korea's foreign ministry sent its own letter to the president of the UN Security Council last week, again blaming

the explosion on a North Korean landmine and calling it a "clear violation of the armistice agreement".

The statement comes days after South Korea proposed military talks with North Korea to "mutually confirm the precise location" of their border and discuss restoring communication channels.

The proposal was announced after Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader, announced that Pyongyang had moved new troop units into "firing position" along the border. — AFP

Japan indicts US Marine on murder charge in Okinawa

TOKYO: Japanese prosecutors have indicted a US Marine on suspicion of murdering a woman on Okinawa, a court spokesman told AFP yesterday, in a case that prompted public outrage.

The alleged killing of the 39-year-old Japanese woman caused Japan's premier to slam the "heinous crime" and reignited controversy over the heavy US military presence on the southern island.

"The case was indicted on October 25," said the spokesman for the court in Naha, confirming media reports that the suspect had been indicted on charges of murder and robbery.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported that, according to the indictment document, the 20-year-old suspect allegedly strangled the woman from Naha in a hotel with a telephone cord on October 3.

He is also accused of stealing a backpack containing the woman's wallet and other

belongings, the newspaper said.

The Marine denied the allegations at the time of his arrest but has now made statements that imply some involvement in the case, the Yomiuri and other media said, citing investigative sources.

Crimes including rapes, assaults, hit-and-runs and drunk driving by US military personnel have long triggered protests on the southern Japanese island, which has for years urged other regions in the country to share the burden of hosting US troops.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi has said that officials were reviewing the off-base code of conduct for US troops in Japan following the alleged killing.

The high-level bilateral consultations will examine off-duty conduct and the "liberty" policy governing off-base private activities of US military personnel, he said. — AFP



Supporters of the Students' List gather to celebrate their victory in the Serbian parliamentary elections, in downtown Belgrade. — AFP photo

Serbia's student movement ousts longtime leader

BELGRADE: Serbia's student-led movement declared victory in parliamentary elections Sunday ending 14 years in power for Aleksandar Vucic's right-wing populist party.

The victory in the snap vote comes after nearly two years of anti-government protests sparked by the 2024 collapse of a canopy at Novi Sad railway station that killed 16 people.

The disaster has been widely blamed on corruption and triggered some of Serbia's largest protests since the fall of strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 2000.

"Preliminary results show that students are convincingly leading in almost all polling stations," Radomir Saicic, a candidate for the Students' List, said in a speech at the movement's election HQ.

"Students won and with them also a hope that Serbia can be a country of justice, freedom and dignity."

Voters cast ballots in huge numbers on Sunday, with the country recording its highest

parliamentary election turnout in more than three decades.

Vucic conceded defeat less than two hours after polls closed, triggering raucous scenes in the capital as supporters of the movement celebrated the defeat of a government they blamed for deep-rooted corruption.

"I feel incredible," student Mila Martic told AFP from the List's headquarters. "I feel as though I am finally living in a free country."

Thousands poured into the capital's streets to celebrate the victory, with passing cars honking, crowds chanting, and fireworks lighting up the skyline.

According to the country's election officials, nearly 65 percent of its 6.4 million registered voters had cast their ballots by 6:00 pm (1700 GMT), two hours before polls closed.

The figure surpassed the 1993 parliamentary election, when just over 61 percent voted.

During his speech to supporters, Vucic said preliminary figures suggested the student movement could

win between 135 and 140 seats, handing it an outright majority in the 250-seat parliament.

The 56-year-old statesman, who has maintained close ties with Russia throughout his tenure, blamed foreign powers for the result.

"I want people to know, this was the validation of a revolution carried out with the direct support of various European countries and the US deep state, the one that is also against President Trump," he said.

For nearly two years, students have staged rallies and marched across the Balkan nation to reach voters directly and counter the media machine of Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party.

Their protests have drawn huge crowds, a final pre-election rally in Belgrade on Thursday attracting around 150,000 people, according to an independent protest monitor.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar congratulated the Students' List on their victory. — AFP

Saudi coalition says struck Houthi missile facilities after Riyadh airport attack

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia: The Saudi-led military coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis struck several of its missile launchers and storage facilities, a spokesman said on Monday, while the Iran-backed group claimed a new attack on Riyadh's international airport.

The coalition's operation came a day after explosions rattled Saudi Arabia's capital and authorities sent text messages to residents warning them of a 'hostile aerial threat' to the city, which has been heavily targeted by the Houthis in recent weeks.

The Saudi-led military coalition's spokesman Turki al-Maliki posted on X on Monday that the operation had destroyed four ballistic missile launchers, as well as a missile depot and tunnels used by the Houthis, who control a large part of Yemen.

The operation "focused on cutting off Houthi militia supply lines between areas under their control," he added.

The group have carried out waves of strikes on the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, including an attack this month that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade.

"Air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward Riyadh," al-Maliki also said on Monday.

The airport re-opened and fights resumed on Sunday with the Houthis warning travellers to avoid the facility, calling it a "military target."

On Monday, the Houthis said once again they had attacked the airport 'with a ballistic missile, striking the target with precision', according to a post by Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree on social media.

He said the Houthis had also struck oil pumping stations with



A member of the Civil Defence assesses damage in southwestern Saudi Arabia reportedly caused by debris from the interception of two ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthis. — AFP Photo

drone.

On Sunday, the Houthis had said they launched an attack on the airport in Riyadh, after the kingdom announced flights were resuming. The airport closure had been a major blow for Saudi Arabia, forcing the postponement of the kingdom's flagship investment conference until 2027 and disrupting travel plans for thousands of passengers.

The Dakar Rally also joined a growing list of events that were cancelled, postponed or relocated in the fallout from the war.

Saree had warned that Riyadh airport was still "unsafe" and a "military target".

The Saudi regime shall bear the consequences of any operations at the airport," the spokesman said.

Saudi Arabia and the

government it backs in Yemen have come under sustained attack in recent weeks from the Houthis as a years-long truce broke down in the summer, shifting the focus of the wider US-Iran war that erupted in February.

As operations resumed at Riyadh airport, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and discussed a key air defence system. Mitsotakis "responded favourably to the kingdom's request to keep the Patriot system in Saudi Arabia, given the current challenging circumstances", his office said.

Greece has deployed a battery to operate the US-made Patriot air defence system in Yanbu, a major oil export hub on the Red Sea coast. — AFP

Spanish police make 128 overnight arrests in Barcelona for 'looting'

MADRID: Police made 128 arrests overnight in Barcelona for acts of 'vandalism', 'damage to public property' and 'looting', the regional Catalan police said on Sunday.

Seventy-three of those arrested were minors, with the reports due to be sent "to the juvenile prosecutor's office", Catalan police chief Silvia Cata told Spain's 3CatInfo media outlet.

Footage on social media showed

groups of young people, many clad in all-black, attacking businesses in Barcelona after gathering in the city centre for a rally that had not been declared to the authorities.

The scenes come at a time when countries across Europe have been grappling with unrest, with France, Italy and Albania all seeing protests give way to incidents of looting and violence.

Cata said that only two of the 128 people detained in Barcelona

had prior criminal records, and said that a total of 15 officers had been injured during the night.

"This is gratuitous violence," the police chief said, noting 23 premises were vandalised.

While the movement was 'completely disorganised', the call to rally had spread "on social media", Cata added.

The police were attempting to "study the profile" of those in custody, she said. — AFP



A flood warning sign is seen beside the River Eden in Carlisle in north-west England. — AFP photo

Storms batter Europe hitting power supplies, flights and phones

LONDON: Storms battered northern Europe Sunday, killing a man, cutting power to more than 150,000 homes and disrupting travel and phone networks.

A man died when a tree fell on him in southwestern Scotland, while a runner in a marathon in northern France was injured when a tree was felled by strong winds during the race.

More than 82,000 homes in Britain, nearly 60,000 in France and at least 10,000 in Germany had power cuts inflicted by the passage of storms Boelo and Austen within 24 hours of each other, authorities in the countries said.

In the Argyll and Bute region of western Scotland, winds of up to 84 miles (135 km) an hour were recorded. Trees and power cables brought down by the storm blocked roads and rail lines across Scotland and northern England.

Britain's Energy Networks Association said more than 400,000 homes had lost power at some stage during the storms.

Part of the pier at Brighton on the southern England coast, unused since a fire in 2003, blew

away in Storm Austen on Friday.

The powerful winds also battered northern France across the Channel as Europe battled its first big autumn storms of the year. Experts have warned of more extreme weather events because of global warming.

Authorities warned of flood risk in regions in Scotland and England.

A runner was lightly injured in the northern French city of Lille near the start of the city's marathon, which was being staged for the first time in 31 years.

French energy company Enedis said that at the peak of storm Austen on Saturday, some 288,000 homes had no electricity.

In Germany, Austen cut power to 10,000 homes in and around the southwestern town of Freiburg-Brisgau on Sunday. The town's main hospital said it had had to limit service to emergency cases because of the blackout that also cut the mobile phone network.

The storms also hit the Netherlands and Belgium, where falling trees injured four people in Brussels on Saturday. — AFP

'Marine has to win': Le Pen supporters fear for France's future

ORLÉANS, France: Wrapped in the French tricolour, Loic Le Tourneau was among thousands of supporters who flocked on Sunday to see far-right leader Marine Le Pen officially launch her presidential campaign.

Outside the arena in the city of Orleans, fans milled about, tucking into hot dogs and French fries and snapping up Le Pen-branded T-shirts and scarves before heading inside.

But behind the festive atmosphere lay deep-seated anxieties about France's future among the roughly 8,500 people who turned out to hear the leader of the nationalist, anti-immigration party.

Le Tourneau, who travelled nearly an hour to attend the rally, said he was increasingly worried about insecurity in France — even though he said he had not experienced it firsthand in the countryside where he lives.

"I'm afraid because things have been deteriorating enormously for about ten years now," the 25-year-old told AFP.

"I'm worried things will keep



Le Pen, flanked by RN president Jordan Bardella (right), acknowledges the audience after her speech at the end of her campaign kickoff rally as part of the party congress in Orleans, central France. — AFP photo

getting worse if the National Rally doesn't come to power next year."

Polls show Le Pen — who has already made three unsuccessful presidential bids — is the frontrunner in the race to succeed centrist President Emmanuel Macron in next year's election.

But critics accuse her Eurosceptic party of remaining

fundamentally racist despite her efforts to distance it from the legacy of her father, who co-founded what was then called the National Front and was convicted over racist and antisemitic remarks.

Her campaign launch came after weeks of unrest across France, where largely peaceful mass demonstrations have at

times descended into violence and looting not seen in years.

Accusing Macron's centrist government of being soft on violent protesters, Le Pen vowed on Sunday to "restore the rule of law".

For Jacques Olivier, 65, a longtime supporter of the National Front then the National Rally, the stakes could hardly be higher.

"Marine has to win, otherwise France will collapse," said Olivier, who came from the Paris region.

He blamed immigration in part for what he saw as rising crime and violence.

"When you open the borders to the entire world, you get some not very nice people coming into our country to take advantage of us and to loot," he said, calling for 'radical change'.

"We have nothing to lose and everything to gain," he added.

Le Pen is running for the top job after an appeals court earlier this year upheld a graft conviction against her, but shortened a ban on her holding public office. — AFP

Palestinian Authority says 2,670 displaced in Israel's Hebron operation

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: The Palestinian Authority said Sunday that nearly 2,700 people had been displaced by an Israeli military operation in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron launched after two soldiers were killed in an attack nearby.

Following Friday's attack, Israeli forces entered the Hebron neighbourhood of Ein Deir Baha, where the assailants lived, and ordered residents to pack up and leave after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged a major operation in the occupied territory.

More than 2,670 Palestinians

have been forcibly displaced from their homes in Hebron by Israeli occupation forces, the majority of them women, children, and elderly people, according to data from Hebron Municipality," the Palestinian prime minister's office said on X.

A convoy of Israeli military and police vehicles accompanied by soldiers was seen in Hebron on Sunday, making its way down a street blocked to civilian traffic by parked cars and motorbikes, AFP images showed.

Local shopkeeper Higazi al-Tamimi, who also plays a leadership role in the evacuated neighbourhood, accused Israeli

soldiers of beating him as he attempted to go to his home.

"I remember one or two people starting to strike my legs, chest and shoulders. One of them even hit me on the head," he said from a hospital bed, with his leg thickly bandaged.

"They then pushed me backwards, and I kept moving until I reached a safe area." — AFP

Khaled Shawer AL Tamimi, 68, who was evicted alongside his family from Ein Deir Baha neighbourhood by Israeli forces, poses for a picture with his grandson in Hebron, in the occupied West Bank. — AFP photo



Antonelli looks to seal F1 title after US GP win

AUSTIN: Kimi Antonelli said his mindset will not change as he heads to next week's race in Mexico seeking the two points he needs to become Formula One's youngest world champion.

The 20-year-old Italian delivered a well-executed and dominant drive to claim his ninth victory this year for Mercedes in Sunday's United States Grand Prix and move within reach of the title.

Antonelli is on the brink of smashing the previous record for youngest champion, held by Sebastian Vettel who was 23 years and 133 days old when he won his first title in 2010. He is also set to become the first Italian to win the title since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

"The best way, the perfect way, would be to finish off in style and then just enjoy the rest of the season," he said.

"I'm very aware that it's very close but the mindset doesn't change. I want to finish the season on a high in order to then go with high hopes into 2027. But we'll first focus and worry about finishing this well, and then we'll see."

After Sunday's triumph at the Circuit of the Americas he leads with 365 points ahead of nearest rival and team-mate George Russell on 242 and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari on 241.

He will be champion if he finishes in the top nine or, if he doesn't score, Russell or Hamilton fail to win. But on current form, after winning again for the first time in four races, he looks certain to take the title in his own happy, generous and infectious style.



Antonelli (centre) stands on the podium with Leclerc (left), Mercedes Chief of Aerodynamic Technology Pierluigi Orsi (second right) and Verstappen at the conclusion of the United States Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. — AFP photo

The best way, the perfect way, would be to finish off in style and then just enjoy the rest of the season.

Kimi Antonelli

"That was the perfect way to end the weekend," he said.

"It was an incredible team effort, especially from strategy, to believe in me and go for one stop because I wasn't sure whether one or two stop was the quickest."

"But I'm really happy that we made it stick. Today was a really important victory for me and for the team, especially after having a couple of difficult races, so being back on top feels very good."

Antonelli's ability on the track and infectious attitude off it have landed him numerous admirers around the paddock, including 1996 world champion Damon

Hill.

"The team love him, he's enjoying everything he's got in F1 and he's very grateful for all the breaks they've given him at Mercedes," Hill said on the BBC.

"But he delivers. He's such a nice kid. It's incredible. Twenty years old and he's on the verge of winning his first championship, which I'm sure will be the first of many."

Russell needed to finish in the top eight to remain notionally in the title race and he did indeed finish eighth after taking an early five-second penalty.

"My pace was just rubbish today. That's the long and short

of it," he said.

"Of course, the five seconds didn't help things and probably cost me two or three positions, but nevertheless, the pace was not good enough when it needed to be."

Hamilton is the only other driver who still has a mathematical chance of catching Antonelli but the seven-time champion was left to rue missed opportunities in Sunday's race.

"I felt the race was lost in my first two stints," said Hamilton. "I lost so much time. I couldn't turn the car in the lower speed corners particularly."

"I was adjusting my settings and by the last stint I was closer to the right balance."

"I think I've lost a lot of points in the last five races or so and I think it's really come from set-up or just not perfecting the set-up. It's something I've really got to get on top of."

— AFP



(From left) Esponda and Pease celebrate on the podium after the Women's Floor Exercise Final during the 54th FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, in Rotterdam. — AFP photo

Pease spins to floor gold, US top medal table

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands: American teenagers Claire Pease and Reese Esponda reaped the reward of high-difficulty routines to take the top two places in the women's floor exercise Sunday on the final day of the World Gymnastics Championships in Rotterdam.

Their medals allowed the United States, who collected eight medals, three of them gold, to edge China for the top spot in the medal count.

China finished with seven medals including three golds, the last of them earlier Sunday when Zou Jingyuan continued his domination of the men's parallel bars.

In the women's floor event, the 17-year-old Pease scored 13.866. Esponda, also 17, was second 13.566, 0.010 off French 16-year-old Maiana Prat and Britain's Abigail Martin, the oldest of the quartet at 18, on a tiebreak.

Prat, who had the lowest degree of difficulty, was awarded bronze because her execution score was better than Martin's.

The American women put on a spectacular show in Rotterdam, led by Skye Blakely, who won gold in the all-around and bronze on the uneven bars and vault. The

Texan, a model of resilience, was the feel-good story of this week in the Netherlands.

She was forced to withdraw from the 2020 Olympic Games, held in 2021 in Tokyo, and the 2024 Paris Games, with injuries.

Zou was again untouchable on the bars. The 28-year-old finished on 15.733 for his fifth world title in the event.

Illia Kovtun, who left his native Ukraine after the Russian invasion and represents Croatia, was a distant second on 14.900, just ahead of Russian Daniel Marinov, representing World Gymnastics, on 14.866.

On the beam, Algeria's Kaylia Nemour claimed her second gold in two days as she edged China's Zhang Qingying a tiebreak.

Brazil's Flavia Saraiva was third.

The 19-year-old Nemour finished tied with Zhang on 14.566 points. Nemour rebounded with two golds after finishing fourth in Friday's all-around after errors on the vault and the uneven Bars.

After finishing close to tears on Friday, Nemour beamed as she received a standing ovation on Sunday. She said she was happy 'even if it doesn't make up for the all-around competition.' — AFP



Doncic works the ball against Darryn Peterson of the Utah Jazz during the second half of their game at the Delta Centre in Salt Lake City, Utah. — AFP photo

Lakers off to 3-0 start, Sixers lose season's first

LOS ANGELES, United States: Luka Dončić scored a monster 52 points as the Los Angeles Lakers maintained their perfect start to life after LeBron James with a 132-123 defeat of the Utah Jazz.

Now the undisputed superstar of the Lakers since James departed this summer for Philadelphia, Dončić also provided 10 assists and eight rebounds in a masterful performance, with eight three-pointers and two steals.

Dončić was supported by Austin Reaves, who had 29 points, as the visitors pulled decisively clear in the last four minutes of a game they had trailed for long periods.

"It's one of the best feelings — down the stretch, tight game, hitting those threes. Played the basketball we know how to play. We are learning our lesson...we cannot start games like this any more," said Dončić.

It was the first 50-point game by an NBA player this season. Slovenian point guard Dončić was the league's top scorer last season.

After cruising to comfortable opening wins against the Golden State Warriors and city rival Clippers, the Lakers overcame their first real adversity of the nascent season in Salt Lake City.

Utah led nearly the entire first half, pulling as many as 18 points clear, with Finland's Lauri Markkanen on scintillating form.

But the Lakers rallied. A Dončić three-point pullup shot with seconds remaining in the second quarter gave Los Angeles a slender lead at the interval.

The Jazz had inched back in front with just over four minutes remaining, when another Dončić trey tied up the score 116-116.

From there Dončić and Reaves were relentless, outscoring the entire Jazz offense in the final quarter between them, as the new-look Lakers moved to a perfect 3-0 start.

"We have a tight group. I think everybody new that came, they feel very welcome here. That's what we want," said Dončić.

Meanwhile James' Philadelphia 76ers, who had won all three of their opening games, fell 106-93 to the Detroit Pistons.

Detroit — who topped the Eastern Conference last season — led wire-to-wire, pulling 21 points clear in the second quarter.

Tyrese Maxey tried his best to drag the Sixers back into the contest with 18 points in the fourth quarter, but the Pistons weathered the storm and also moved to 3-0.

Elsewhere, the New York Knicks lost their third straight game, falling 111-102 to the Orlando Magic despite Jalen Brunson's 28 points. It is the worst start to a season by defending NBA champions since the Dallas Mavericks in 2011.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander top-scored with 34 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Clippers 108-101.

And Anthony Edwards scored a game-high 26 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves secured a third straight comfortable win, 117-94 over the Toronto Raptors. — AFP

Pakistan 'shadab' England to reach tri-series final

LAHORE, Pakistan: Shadab Khan's maiden century rescued Pakistan from a dire situation and took them to a stunning one-wicket victory over England in the one-day international in Lahore on Sunday, booking the hosts' spot in the final of the tri-series.

Defending a modest 242-run target, England were on the cusp of victory with the home team reduced to 154-9, but Shadab's unbeaten 113 condemned Harry Brook's side to a third defeat in five days in the series, which also involves Sri Lanka.

England, who failed to defend a 430-run target against Sri Lanka on Thursday, were left stunned as number 11 Haris Rauf cracked the winning boundary with 17 balls to spare, sparking huge celebrations in the Pakistan dug-out.

Haris, who scored an unbeaten seven, ably played his part in a match-winning 89-run partnership with Shadab for the last wicket.

Shadab, who cracked five sixes and 13 boundaries, was lucky to survive a leg-before decision off Gus Atkinson with 20 needed. But while trudging off distraught, he took a review which overturned the decision.

Restored to the crease, the 28-year-old guided Pakistan to victory and a spot in next Saturday's final — his score now is the highest batting at number eight in all ODIs. It was a stunning turnaround which left Pakistan skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi struggling for words.

"I can't say much, Shadab and Haris, the way they finished the game, 89-runs partnership is amazing," said Shaheen.

Brook refused to blame his bowlers in spite of their inability to close out the game, just days after their nightmare against Sri Lanka.

"I don't think we went wrong with the ball, to be honest. I thought we did an exceptional job but maybe didn't quite get enough runs on the board," said Brook.

Pakistan lost opener Fakhar Zaman and Babar Azam for 10 each and Saim Ayub for six in a poor start before Saad Baig (32) and Salman Agha (26) briefly revived the innings.

Match-winner Shadab then entered the fray in the 24th over with Pakistan on 103-6. — AFP



The mascot Ayo, a young lion representing the energy, pride, and joy of African youth is seen in dakar ahead of the fourth Summer Youth Olympic Games. — AFP photo

Senegal to host Africa's first Youth Olympics

DAKAR: Signs across the Senegalese capital proclaim 'Africa welcomes, Dakar celebrates' ahead of the Youth Olympic Games, which will mark the continent's first time to hold an Olympic event when they kick off on Saturday.

Over the course of two weeks some 2,700 athletes aged 17 or younger are expected to compete across 25 sports, including Russians who are returning to the Games following a ban.

Events ranging from athletics to beach wrestling, rugby sevens to breaking will be held across eight venues in three locations.

Dakar, the nearby suburb of Diamniadio and the beach town of Saly, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital, will all host events. In total, 136 Senegalese athletes will participate.

The fourth edition of the YOG opens with Senegal mired in debt amid a severe economic crisis.

While a sense of excitement is beginning to stir in the capital, the Youth Olympics have struggled to stoke wild enthusiasm across Senegal, where many are more concerned with the high cost of living, unemployment and economic hardship.

Senegalese authorities, who have overseen extensive infrastructure projects, view their efforts as an investment in the future as well as an occasion for training and long-term skill development.

They also hope the event

will highlight Dakar as a major African destination.

Upon welcoming the Youth Olympic flame to Dakar on September 12, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye told the country that 'all of Africa's youth is watching (you) with confidence and pride.'

He said he wanted those who attended "to take away from the experience that Africa's youth is brimming with energy, that they are standing tall and determined, and that they are proud."

The flame then travelled 3,600 kilometres (2,200 miles), touring all 14 regions of Senegal.

Return of Russian athletes

The Games will mark the return of Russians to Olympic competition under their own colours following a ban.

In July, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) effectively lifted the Russian Olympic Committee's (ROC) suspension.

According to the ROC, 13 Russian athletes will participate and 10 coaches will accompany them to Senegal.

During a meeting in Moscow a week ago, Russian Sports Minister Mikhail Degtyarev, who also heads the ROC, told the young athletes that "after your victories — and I'm sure there will be some — the Russian anthem will be played and the Russian flag will be raised".

Cyclist Angelina Novolodskaya shared her excitement with AFP.

"When I was told that there would be Youth Olympic Games and that I could go, it was just 'Wow'. It's so cool and extraordinary", she said.

However, it is up to each sport's international federation whether to authorise the Russian athletes' participation.

The international athletics governing body, World Athletics, is maintaining a ban, while the judo and swimming federations have allowed the Russians' return with their flag and national anthem.

The Dakar Youth Games will also welcome a refugee Olympic team, composed primarily of athletes based in Africa.

Milestone

The IOC has called the Dakar YOG an important milestone for the continent and an opportunity to showcase Senegal's cultural richness and Africa's growing role within the Olympics. That said, Senegal has recently doubled its maximum penalty for same-sex relations, amid a wave of homophobia in the conservative, predominantly Muslim nation.

As the Games approached, Human Rights Watch called on Senegalese authorities to halt what it said was a 'brutal crackdown' on LGBTQ people.

"The Olympic Charter prohibits discrimination on any grounds and commits host countries to respect human rights and human dignity", it said. — AFP

Kane primed to pip Yamal, Mbappe to Ballon d’Or glory

LONDON: England captain Harry Kane is the favourite to win a wide open race to be crowned Ballon d’Or winner at a glitzy London ceremony on Monday, with Lamine Yamal and Kylian Mbappe also in the running to be named the world’s best footballer.

The 70th edition of the award, established by the magazine France Football, will be hosted in England for the first time in recognition of the first winner Stanley Matthews and fittingly could have a first English winner for 25 years.

Bayern Munich striker Kane struck a remarkable 73 goals in 65 games for club and country last season, leading the German giants to a league and cup double and England to the semi-finals of the World Cup.

“I’d love to be able to achieve something like that. I would be a massive milestone in my career,” said the 33-year-old.

But semi-final exits in both the Champions League and World Cup for Kane means the outcome is far from certain.

“I think my wife would prefer to know and my family ... it’s very stressful for everyone. I can see why they don’t tell people. They want everyone to go, all the big names, and there will be more people watching it if they don’t know,” he added.

Yamal finished second to Paris Saint-Germain’s Ousmane Dembele last year and the 19-year-old Barcelona superstar seems destined to be a Ballon d’Or winner one day.

However, after a hamstring injury ended his club season



I’d love to be able to achieve something like that. I would be a massive milestone in my career.

Harry Kane

early, he was far from the shining light of Spain’s World Cup triumph that was built on being the best collective unit.

Yamal was pipped to both the player and young player of the tournament by his Barcelona team-mates Rodri and Pau Cubarsi. That has not diminished his bullish confidence ahead of the ceremony.

“For me, Mbappe and me, we’re the two best players in the world. I honestly think that, as the best in the world, maybe there are two of us, and this year I would deserve it because of what I’ve won,” Yamal said last month.

Mbappe, by contrast, boasts plenty of personal milestones without medals for either Real Madrid or France.

The 27-year-old was top goalscorer in La Liga, the Champions League and the World Cup without winning any of those trophies. His 10 World Cup goals made him the top goalscorer in the competition’s history on 22.

“Being the all-time top scorer in World Cup history, overtaking all the great legends in the history of the sport in the most important tournament there is, is something that really stands out,” said Mbappe.

“Who am I voting for? Myself.”

One football journalist from each of the 100 top nations in FIFA’s rankings is invited to cast votes for their top 10 players from a 30-man shortlist, allocating a maximum of 15 points down to one based on their ranking.

The Ballon d’Or goes to the player who accrued the most points. Although the award carries no cash prize, it can generate huge bonuses from clubs and commercial partners as well as increasing a player’s overall marketing value.

Alexia Putellas is the frontrunner to win the women’s award for the third time with Aitana Bonmati’s three-year reign to come to an end after an injury-hit year.

Putellas, winner in 2021 and 2022, was part of the Barcelona side that regained the Champions League last season before moving to London City Lionesses.

Her former club team-mate, Poland’s Ewa Pajor is the main challenger to Putellas after she netted 11 Champions League goals in Barca’s latest triumph. — AFP



Mbappe celebrates scoring his team’s second goal during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF at Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona. — AFP photo

Mbappe-led Real Madrid stun Barca in Clasico

BARCELONA: Kylian Mbappe struck twice to earn Jose Mourinho’s Real Madrid a 2-1 Clasico victory over La Liga leaders Barcelona on Sunday at Camp Nou, cutting the gap to three points.

French superstar Mbappe opened the scoring before the interval and then slotted home late on to inflict Barca’s first domestic defeat of the campaign after Raphinha had equalised for the champions.

Real Madrid remain third, behind Atletico Madrid and Hansi Flick’s Barca, who had won their first nine games before a chastening week. The Catalans suffered a second straight defeat after losing on Tuesday against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

Mourinho was delighted with his team’s display in his first Clasico back at the helm of Madrid.

“My team had an extraordinary game, very organised, good concentration, with courage to play out from the back against a team that presses you a lot,” Mourinho told reporters.

“We had chances for the second goal... obviously Barca had a strong reaction but we were calm and organised and at 1-1 we never lost our tranquility.”

Barca had won six of the seven previous Clasicos since Flick arrived but were surprisingly subdued against Mourinho’s side.

“You saw today, we lacked freshness. It’s the first defeat in La Liga, we won nine in a row. This is what we have to see,” said Flick of his team’s performance.

“Defeats are a part of the game. We have to analyse, we

have to make things better. Now it’s important that we make a reaction.”

Los Blancos, without suspended winger Vinicius Junior, won their fifth straight game across all competitions and are finding their footing under veteran Portuguese coach Mourinho.

After two trophyless seasons Madrid turned back to Mourinho to try and stop Barca’s dominance, and this result will give them hope they are on the right track.

The opening period of the game was cagey, with few opportunities. Barca defender Pau Cubarsi twice reacted well to shut down Mbappe, while Real Madrid’s Marc Cucurella took a rapid liking for Lamine Yamal’s shirt, constantly grabbing at the 19-year-old winger.

Anthony Gordon, playing in his first Clasico since joining Barcelona from Newcastle, backheeled the ball to Raphinha, who fired narrowly wide as Barca threatened.

The hosts were dealt a setback when young defender Xavi Espart pulled up hurt and needed to be replaced by Alejandro Balde before the half-hour mark.

Andriy Lunin, playing in goal for Madrid after Thibaut Courtois pulled out of the squad with flu, saved at his near post from Gordon before the visitors took the lead.

Mbappe scored his 10th league goal of the season and also his easiest, with Barca’s Gerard Martin clearing a cross straight at the Frenchman, who deflected it into the net.

Barca responded by carving out a glorious chance for an equaliser but teenage sensation Yamal for

once miscued in front of goal, firing wide when poised to level. The game opened up and Yan Diomande came close to doubling Madrid’s lead before half-time, drilling into the side-netting.

Martin redeemed himself early in the second half as he held off Jude Bellingham, who could neither beat the defender nor find a free Mbappe.

Raphinha, who had a quiet first half, pulled Barcelona level just after the hour mark. Pedri fed the Brazilian, La Liga’s top goalscorer with 13, who fired through Bellingham’s legs and Lunin could not keep the shot out.

The Ukrainian goalkeeper did make a superb save to deny Martin at a corner, as Barcelona flowed forward with the wind finally in their sails.

Yamal bent an effort wide with Lunin at full stretch and Barca substitute Frenkie de Jong had a shot desperately blocked by Dean Huijsen.

There was a sting in the tail for the Catalans though as substitute Gabriel Jesus lost possession and Madrid raced through on goal.

Eduardo Camavinga beat Cubarsi and unselfishly cut the ball back for Mbappe to tuck home his second of the night into an empty net with Joan Garcia drawn out of position.

It brought up a century of goals since Mbappe joined Madrid from PSG in 2024, although the trophies to match have not yet followed.

“(Winning) is a good message today, but we can’t think the season is done – next week (at Racing) Santander we have to put in the same intensity,” Mbappe told Real Madrid TV. — AFP

Bayern beat Freiburg to reclaim top spot

BERLIN: Bayern Munich reclaimed top spot in the Bundesliga with a 3-1 win at Freiburg on Sunday, days after coach Vincent Kompany was hospitalised when he collapsed at training.

Bayern were missing several first-team players and Kompany, but cruised to a two-goal lead at half-time with Dayot Upamecano and Serge Gnabry scoring.

Freiburg pulled one back and were pushing for a point in stoppage time when goalkeeper Mio Backhaus was caught out up the field, allowing Michael Olise to slide the ball into an empty net.

Kompany remains in hospital and is being treated for a mystery virus, with Bayern saying Saturday the coach is likely to be out for ‘days, not

weeks.’

With victory Bayern leapfrogged Borussia Dortmund to top the table ahead of the duo’s clash in Munich next week.

Harry Kane had a close-range effort saved late in the second half but failed to find the net a day before the Ballon d’Or ceremony in London, with the England captain among the favourites. — AFP



Isak (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Brighton and Hove Albion at Anfield. — AFP photo

Isak back to his best, says Liverpool boss

LIVERPOOL: Andoni Iraola said Alexander Isak is back to his deadly best after the Liverpool star extended his hot streak in a 2-0 win against Brighton on Sunday.

Iraola’s side netted twice in quick succession in the first half at Anfield, with Pascal Gross’s own goal followed by Isak’s latest strike. Isak has scored six times in seven league games this season and has three goals in his last four matches.

After a turbulent debut season following his acrimonious move from Newcastle, the Sweden striker is finally beginning to repay his £125 million (US\$167 million) fee.

“If we can put him in those positions, we can provide him good crosses, good situations, he will score the goals,” Iraola said.

“I think it’s a matter of, in this case, Bradley (Barcola) winning

the duel, going one v one, being faster than the opposition and finding good spots.”

It was a welcome first taste of top-flight success at Anfield for Iraola, who had failed to win his first three league games on Merseyside since arriving from Bournemouth in the close season.

The Spaniard, who had won Champions League and League Cup games at Anfield, has led Liverpool to four successive victories in all competitions since the chastening 3-0 home defeat against Manchester City.

Liverpool have climbed to fourth place, just one point behind third-placed Brighton after inflicting the high-flying Seagulls’ second league loss this term. The Reds are six points behind leaders City as they eye a potential title challenge.

“Very happy for today, very

happy overall for this fourth win,” Iraola said.

“We faced a very good opposition and it was key how we started today. We needed a strong start, be aggressive, recover balls, win our duels, be dangerous in transitions. I think we’ve done that and it has been a different game from the last ones, where we’ve conceded first.

“After, you need the comeback. Today we’ve started better and the game has gone differently.”

Liverpool playmaker Florian Wirtz was forced off with an injury but Iraola is hopeful it will not be a significant issue.

“Unfortunately, he had to leave the pitch with a small twist of the ankle. It doesn’t look very big but we are playing every three days so we need to see where he is,” he said.

Brighton had 64 per cent

possession and 17 shots but although Yasin Ayari hit a post, only one effort was on target as the Seagulls’ defence was breached after more than nine hours without conceding.

Albion boss Fabian Hurler claimed his side deserved more for an attacking approach that contrasted with Liverpool’s more conservative style.

“I think everyone in the stadium saw that there was one team who really tried to create and try to win this game and therefore I have to praise my players,” he said.

“There was a missed opportunity for us. Before they scored, we had one, two big chances and I think it was just the difference that they scored, we didn’t score. They kept a clean sheet because they defended well. They blocked a lot of shots.” — AFP

Carrick unsure over Man United future after Bournemouth loss

MANCHESTER, United Kingdom: Michael Carrick said he will do what is best for Manchester United after a 3-0 demolition by Bournemouth plunged his future as manager into doubt on Sunday.

Winless in eight games in all competitions, the 20-time English champions slipped to within one point of the relegation zone after a damaging defeat at Old Trafford.

“It’s a tough situation. What is next? I don’t know. I’ll always do what’s best for this football club. I’ve said it all along, I don’t change that now. I love what I do. I love the responsibility,

but we’ll have to wait and see,” Carrick told Sky Sports.

Asked in a post-match press conference if he expects to be sacked in the coming days, Carrick replied: “I totally understand the situation. I’m not expecting anything in particular, to be honest. I’m carrying on as normal. I love this place.”

Despite a dismal run of results, the United fans largely supported the former midfielder as he made his way off the field at full-time before they turned on the club’s players.

“I have mixed emotions to have that connection with the supporters in the moment we’re



Michael Carrick

in. I need time to digest that. I appreciate their support but the situation is where it’s at. We haven’t been good enough,” added Carrick.

Carrick’s decision to drop

captain Bruno Fernandes to the bench and not even introduce the Portuguese international as a substitute backfired.

Fernandes, last season’s Premier League player of the year, had criticised Carrick’s tactics after a 4-1 thrashing by Como on Wednesday.

Carrick said before the game that call was a “pure football” decision, but it was hard to believe Fernandes was not being punished as he was left on the bench for the entire match.

“There’s always times in games when you are trying to change the course of the game and to make a difference,” said Carrick

as he swerved questions on Fernandes’s absence. “Those were the decisions we made today.”

Carrick was only appointed on a two-year deal in May after a successful caretaker spell in charge led United to third place in the Premier League last season. However, he has been unable to arrest the club’s steep decline since his former boss Alex Ferguson retired as manager in 2013.

United were outspent by many of their rivals in the transfer market as they added just three midfielders – Youri Tielemans, Andrey Santos and Carlos

Baleba.

But Carrick said a lack of investment did not justify such a decline in results.

“Last season to finish third was a really good achievement in the circumstances,” added Carrick.

“We understood where that left us, what was next, what needed to be done and how we needed to improve, and where we were at as a team and as a group at that stage.

“I definitely knew that we hadn’t cracked it and there was a lot of work to be done, but that doesn’t mean to say that it should have gone this way.” — AFP



Wei Chong and Kai Wun in action during the 2026 Malaysia Masters Open. — Bernama file photo

Wei Chong and Kai Wun bag first title of season

KUALA LUMPUR: Men's doubles pair Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun clinched their first title of the season after staging a superb comeback to see off professional compatriots Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani in an all-Malaysian final at the French Open 2026 on Sunday.

The unseeded Wei Chong-Kai Wun bounced back from a 13-21 opening-game defeat and came out tops against the sixth seeds in the second game 21-15 to force a decider. The current world No. 11 duo then wrapped up the tie 21-7 in the decider of the match that lasted 44-minutes at the Arena Grand Paris.

The victory marked their first title since winning the Malaysia Masters last year, while denying sixth seeds Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin a third crown of the season.

The world No. 5 Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin had previously won the Indonesia Masters in January

and Indonesia Open in June this year.

As champions, Wei Chong-Kai Wun pocketed US\$70,300 (about RM287,196) while Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin received US\$33,250 (about RM135,836) as runners-up.

The triumph also ended the country's 22-year wait for the French Open men's doubles title with Gan Teik Chai-Koo Kien Keat the last Malaysian pair to win the crown in 2004.

Earlier in the evening, women's doubles pair Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah squandered a one-game lead to miss out on the French Open 2026 title after going down to Japan's Yuki Fukushima-Mayu Matsumoto in the final at the Arena Grand Paris today.

The second-seeded Malaysians looked on course for the title after taking the first game 21-10.

However, the momentum shifted as the top-seeded Japanese pair fought back to

win the second game 21-17 before sealing the deciding game 21-16 to successfully defend their crown in 64 minutes.

The defeat denied the current world No. 4 pair a second French Open title after their triumph in 2022, as well as their third title of the season following victories at the Indonesia Masters in January and the Denmark Open last week.

Meanwhile, professional mixed doubles pair Hoo Pang Ron-Lai Pei Jing's bid to end Malaysia's 26-year wait for the title in the category fell short after they lost to and defending champions and top seeds Feng Yan Zhe-Huang Dong Ping of China.

Pang Ron-Pei Jing went down 10-21, 13-21 in 37 minutes, leaving Malaysia still waiting for its next French Open mixed doubles champions since Chan Chong Ming-Joanne Quay won the title in 2000. — Bernama

Unfazed Wei Chong, Kai Wun celebrate reunion

KUALA LUMPUR: Not burdened by the pressure of winning, Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun focused on just doing their best and taking it one game at a time – an approach that ultimately brought them the French Open men's doubles title on Sunday.

The unseeded Malaysians showed a remarkable resilience to overcome compatriots and sixth seeds Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Mohd Rumsani 13-21, 21-15, 21-7 in the final at the Grand Paris Arena, fighting back after dropping the opening game to claim a memorable victory.

Wei Chong said they never made winning their main focus, knowing they were not among the favourites to lift the title.

Instead, they focused on delivering their best performance and fighting for every point, without letting the outcome weigh on their minds.

"We did not think too much about winning or losing because we knew we were not the favourites. We just wanted to play our best and try to win every point," he said in an interview shared by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

The triumph was particularly sweet for the pair, who had never progressed beyond the quarter-finals of the French Open before and only reunited in August as part of a restructuring of the national men's doubles squad in preparation for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games (LA28).

Wei Chong and Kai Wun, whose more than five-year partnership was split up for about five months before being reunited in August, showed that the chemistry they had developed over the years remained intact.

Meanwhile, Wei Chong said his knee injury was almost healed after it previously hampered his preparations.

He believes that having no lofty targets at several tournaments following his return from injury allowed them to play with greater freedom and less pressure.

And now they can stand tall after ending Malaysia's 22-year wait for a French Open men's doubles title, with Gan Teik Chai-Koo Kien Keat the last Malaysian pair to win the crown in 2004. — Bernama



Hii speaking to reporters as Dzulkornain (left) and Mu'azamir (right) look on. — Ukas photo

Workshop held to prep coordination for SEA Games

KUCHING: Coordination that ensures all units can function as a tightly-knit team is key to strengthening Sarawak's preparations for the 2027 SEA Games, said Datu Hii Chang Kee.

The Deputy State Secretary (Operations) and Sarawak Cluster Local Organising Committee (LOC) Working Committee chairman said this was among the key outcomes of a three-day coordination workshop involving 21 committees and more than 100 members on Sunday.

The workshop reviewed initial plans, identified areas for improvement and clarified the responsibilities of each committee ahead of the Games in September next year.

"Over the three days, we were satisfied with the outcomes. Each committee now has a clearer understanding of its terms of reference, flow charts and organisational structure...."

Another working committee meeting would be held in the near future, followed by a main committee meeting chaired by caretaker Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah before the end of the year.

Also present during the event were Sports and Entrepreneur Development Ministry permanent secretary Datu Dzulkornain Masron and Sarawak Sports Council director Mu'azamir Jili.

Over the three days, we were satisfied with the outcomes. Each committee now has a clearer understanding of its terms of reference, flow charts and organisational structure....

Datu Hii Chang Kee

to its respective scope, including transportation, athletes' catering and accommodation. The committees were also engaging relevant stakeholders to ensure their plans could be implemented smoothly, Hii revealed.



Some participants gather for a group photo during the TL Athletics Meet 2026 at Miri Outdoor Stadium.

Over 300 aged 10 to 55 try out athletics in Miri

Rachel Purai Lihan

MIRI: A total of 309 participants took part in the TL Athletics Meet (TLAM) 2026 at Miri Outdoor Stadium, aimed at encouraging greater participation in track and field. Organisers said the meet provided a platform for participants to explore their interest in athletics and discover their potential in the sport.

"Our goal is to encourage more people to take an interest in track and field and discover their

potential in the sport," they said in a statement.

Participants from Limbang, Belaga, Kuching and Miri competed in six age categories, from Under-10, 12, 14 and 17, open events for 18 to 34 and masters for 35 to 55. The meet featured the four events of 60m, 100m, 1500m and 4x100m relay with an electronic timing system used.

Organisers thanked the National Sports Council (MSN) coaches, volunteers, participating schools and clubs for their support in making the meet a success.

BPHB Esports players take part in M'sian ports trial

BINTULU: Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad (BPHB) secured four podium finishes at the Malaysia Ports Level Player Selection for the 15th APA Sport Meets (E-Sports) held in Kuantan, Pahang, from Oct 23 to 25.

Led by Mustaqim Yusri, the BPHB contingent competed in the three categories of Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB), EA SPORTS FC (EAFC) and TEKKEN 8. The team's best results came in TEKKEN 8 with Ishmier Gustero Ikhwan emerging as champion and Awg Shahrul Syazwan as runner-up. BPHB also secured third place in the MLBB team event while Mohd Haziq Anuar claimed third place in EAFC.

BPHB was represented by Mohd Ishak Abdul Ghani, Mohd Danial Luqman Khan, Muaz Ali, Awang Azriel Awang Bulhasani and Mohd Izzulhazwan Mohdar (MLBB), Mohd Haziq and Mohd Farhan Ismail (EAFC); Ishmier and Awg Shahrul Syazwan (TEKKEN 8).

The selected players are set to prepare for the next stage in Thailand, where they will represent Malaysia on the international stage.



The Esports players who represented BPHB.

SIC set to propose F1 M'sia comeback to Cabinet

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sepang International Circuit (SIC) is drafting a feasibility study on bringing back the Formula One (F1) Grand Prix (GP) to Malaysia, to be presented to the Cabinet in November.

SIC chief executive officer Azhan Shafriman Hanif said it was currently holding engagement sessions with the government, relevant agencies and industry players to obtain accurate information and data

for inclusion in the study.

He said the findings would serve as one of the factors for the government to consider before deciding whether Malaysia should return as host of the prestigious race.

"We are in the process of preparing a feasibility study of bringing F1 racing back to Malaysia. In November, we will present a proposal paper to the Cabinet for the government to decide whether to agree to the

proposal. During this period, we expect to hold engagement sessions with the government, relevant agencies and industry players to ensure that the data presented is accurate," he told Bernama recently.

Azhan Shafriman said the study would emphasise the economic impact of hosting F1, in addition to assessing the country's level of preparedness, especially in terms of traffic congestion management and public transport facilities.

On the prospects of Malaysia returning as host of F1, he described the country's chances as 50-50, as the final decision would depend on the government's consideration of the study's findings.

"For now, it is still 50-50. It's difficult for me to say yes or no (whether it will happen or not). But, insya-Allah, we will provide verified data or information to help the government come to a decision," he added. — Bernama

Sibu SEZ: Better air links, high-tech infrastructure

SIBU: Improved air connectivity and high-tech infrastructure must be prioritised under the proposed Sibu Economic Zone (SEZ) to attract investment, skilled talent and high-value industries to central Sarawak, says local entrepreneur Dr Gregory Hii Sui Cheng.

The executive chairman of Delta Leasing Bhd said expanding Sibu Airport and upgrading its facilities would be crucial to strengthening the town's accessibility and attracting professionals, researchers and industry experts to collaborate with local higher education institutions and industries.

He said the SEZ should also focus on developing advanced digital and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure to meet the future energy demands of data centres and other technology-driven industries.

"Sibu, being in the central region of Sarawak, should concentrate on building high-value digital and AI infrastructure to meet the future energy needs of data centres and other industries," the former banker told Bernama.

Hii also proposed establishing a new small and medium enterprise (SME) industrial park specialising in robotics development through collaboration with China and technologically advanced European countries.

Another priority, he said, should be the development of a modern agricultural park equipped with advanced farming technologies to produce high-value agricultural products.

Welcoming Putrajaya's involvement in the Sibu SEZ, Hii said federal financial support would be an important component in turning the proposed development into reality.

His proposals come as the federal and Sarawak governments prepare to hold formal negotiations on the establishment of the economic zone, following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement during the tabling of Budget 2027 on Oct 9.

The negotiations will focus on investment incentives, the establishment of a one-stop investment facilitation centre and strategic infrastructure requirements to support the SEZ.

Hii had earlier described the Sarawak government's initial RM1.5 billion allocation for the SEZ as a much-needed economic boost for Sibu, which he said had lagged behind Kuching, Bintulu



Welcoming Putrajaya's involvement in the Sibu SEZ, Hii said federal financial support would be an important component in turning the proposed development into reality. — Bernama photo

Sibu, being in the central region of Sarawak, should concentrate on building high-value digital and AI infrastructure to meet the future energy needs of data centres and other industries.

Dr Gregory Hii Sui Cheng

and Miri in development over the past two decades.

He had also called for stronger air connectivity, including direct flights between Sibu and Singapore and the restoration of the Sibu-Kota Kinabalu route through Sarawak's own airline, AirBorneo.

Meanwhile, Bawang Assan assemblyman Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh has stressed that the success of the Sibu SEZ must be measured by actual investments, sustainable businesses, better-paying jobs and higher incomes rather than the size of its development allocation.

"We must therefore move quickly from announcement to planning, from planning to implementation, and from implementation to measurable results," he said when debating the Sarawak Budget 2027 at the State Legislative Assembly on Oct 15.

Wong proposed a five-year roadmap from 2027 to 2031, beginning with the establishment of governance mechanisms, infrastructure planning and investor engagement.

Under the roadmap, the SEZ should begin delivering tangible results by 2029, including operational businesses, industrial facilities and new employment opportunities.

He also proposed setting up a development consultative council comprising government representatives, business chambers, private sector players, educational institutions and community stakeholders to ensure coordinated implementation and greater local participation.

Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg has identified high-value manufacturing, downstream processing, agro-industry, logistics and the green economy as the key sectors that will drive the Sibu SEZ.

Envisioned as a new economic growth engine for central Sarawak and the Rajang Basin, the initiative aims to attract domestic and foreign investment, create skilled and better-paying jobs and open new markets and supply chains for local SMEs. — Bernama

Propel Global unit inks MoU to explore Sabah oil and gas engineering projects



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KUCHING: Propel Global Bhd's (PGB) subsidiary Best Wide Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd (BWE) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Labuan Shipyard & Engineering Sdn Bhd (LSE) and Teguh Energy Sdn Bhd (Teguh Energy) to establish a framework for strategic collaboration in oil and gas engineering projects.

PGB in a filing said the MoU, signed on Oct 23, would see the parties explore opportunities relating to oil and gas engineering projects and such other infrastructure, energy or industrial projects.

Under the MoU, the parties intend to jointly identify and evaluate project opportunities, as well as prepare and submit tenders, proposals or expressions of interest. They will also share relevant expertise, technical

knowledge and resources, engage with government authorities, regulators and relevant stakeholders, and develop project implementation strategies and operational frameworks.

The MoU will remain in force for two years from the date of signing unless otherwise terminated in accordance with its terms.

The collaboration is non-exclusive, with any party free to independently pursue the projects with any third party.

"The MoU provides an opportunity for the Parties to combine their respective expertise and resources in exploring potential opportunities in oil and gas engineering projects," it said.

The MoU is non-binding and is intended to be an outline of the basic principles of the collaboration.

It covers oil and gas engineering projects including but not limited to engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) projects, offshore and onshore works, fabrication, maintenance and related engineering services within the maritime area of Sabah only.

BWE, incorporated in 1994, provides engineering and technical works for the oil and gas industry, mainly EPCC of new plants and plant modification works, design and supply of skidded process systems and engineered equipment for onshore plants and offshore platforms, as well as project management and engineering consultancy services.

Meanwhile, LSE, incorporated in 2005, is principally involved in shipbuilding, ship repair and oil and gas offshore facility fabrication.

Teguh Energy, incorporated on 2023, is involved in oil and gas extraction service activities, provision of manpower, and repair and maintenance of industry machinery and equipment.

The group said the MoU will not have any financial effects until the signing of definitive or binding agreements.

Singapore-Malaysia energy regulators renew partnership to boost sector cooperation

SINGAPORE: Singapore's Energy Market Authority (EMA) and Malaysia's Energy Commission (ST) today renewed their partnership to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector during the 19th Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW).

In a joint statement, the regulators said the renewed memorandum of understanding (MoU) provides a framework for both regulators to strengthen technical cooperation, regulatory exchanges and knowledge sharing.

"The areas of cooperation include the planning and reliability of electricity and piped gas systems, regulation of wholesale and retail electricity markets, implementation of cross-border electricity trading projects, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), and interconnection capacity.

"The MoU will also strengthen collaboration on solar and energy storage systems," they said.

The exchange of the MoU between EMA and ST was witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister, and Singapore Energy, Trade and Industry Minister (Energy and Industry) Dr Tan See Leng at the opening of SIEW 2026 yesterday.



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof delivers his ministerial keynote address at the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2026 on Monday.

Meanwhile, EMA has granted conditional approval to Sembcorp Utilities Pte Ltd to import 1.3 gigawatts (GW) of electricity to Singapore with its consortium partners, MY Energy Consortium (MYEC), comprising Petrolim Nasional Bhd (Petronas), Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), and PetroVietnam Technical Services Corporation (PTSC).

The approval came following a joint development agreement signed on the sidelines of the 46th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2025.

The approval will allow Singapore to source and integrate

EXIM Bank allocates over RM1 bln to boost export competitiveness under Budget 2027



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KUCHING: Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Bhd (EXIM Bank) will implement strategic initiatives worth more than RM1 billion under the National Budget 2027 to strengthen Malaysian businesses' international competitiveness and support their transition

towards sustainable operations.

The initiatives will provide financing, export credit protection and support for businesses seeking to expand their capacity, enter new markets and manage international trade risks.

EXIM Bank, a subsidiary of Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd (BPMB) Group, said the allocation would complement the group's broader mandate of more than RM7 billion in strategic initiatives entrusted by

the government.

As Malaysia's official export credit agency, EXIM Bank will draw on its expertise and that of the group to strengthen exporters' competitiveness and resilience, while prioritising measurable development impact and effective delivery.

Under the initiatives, the Local Acceleration and Growth Programme, worth RM300 million, will provide affordable financing to manufacturers, service providers and local

vendors to expand capacity, improve productivity and strengthen competitiveness.

The programme will also support businesses participating in the value and supply chains of multinational corporations and leading local companies, including those in strategic sectors under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030.

Meanwhile, the RM500 million Export Leap Scheme will help Malaysian entrepreneurs and exporters develop the capabilities

and skills needed to enter new international markets or expand their presence in existing markets, including frontier and non-traditional destinations.

The scheme will also support businesses in responding to heightened competition and rising costs amid global economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

To complement these efforts, the Malaysia Global Connect (MGC) GoExport Cover, a RM5 million grant, will provide aspiring and existing exporters





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Business

IMT-GT study to strengthen rubber city network

KUALA LUMPUR: A study on rubber city network collaboration under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) is underway to strengthen ties between producers and suppliers and expand Kedah Rubber City's (KRC) global market reach.

Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shahar Abdullah said the study conducted under the Working Group on Trade Investment Facilitation (WGTI) will assess the common challenges faced by rubber cities in the three countries.

He said the study will also analyse global rubber price fluctuations, the technology gap, and differences in quality standards among the three countries.

"Most importantly, we must strengthen the alignment of quality standards among these three countries to ensure that the integration of downstream products yields high value," he said during the Questions for Oral Answers session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was replying to a supplementary question from Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap) about the ministry's measures to elevate KRC into a world-class rubber industry hub and a preferred choice for investors, following the 32nd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting held in Indonesia last month.

On the study's status, Mohd Shahar said the appointed consultant has signed the letter of acceptance, and the study will take six months to complete, expected to finish by the second quarter of 2027.

He expressed confidence



The federal government has allocated an investment of RM613 million for the development of the KRC, covering land acquisition and the provision of infrastructure. — Bernama photo

that the study's findings will strengthen the synergy of the rubber city network among the three countries.

Meanwhile, replying to Nurul Amin's original question regarding the long-term planning for the Kedah Rubber City project in Padang Terap in relation to the industrial support ecosystem, such as the downstream rubber industry and industrial traffic, Mohd Shahar said the federal government has allocated an investment of RM613 million for the development of the KRC, covering land acquisition and the provision of infrastructure.

"KRC encompasses approximately 1,250 hectares of land owned by the Federal Lands Commissioner, which has been leased to the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) for long-term industrial development.

"To facilitate matters for investors at KRC, the NCIA

has established an Integrated Business Centre (IBC) with an allocation of RM15 million, which will serve as a centralised service and reference hub," he added.

Mohd Shahar said investor entry into KRC is now aligned with developing local supply chains, while business matching and vendor development programmes are being implemented in packaging, logistics, and maintenance services.

"Meanwhile, a preliminary study for the road upgrading project connecting KRC to the town of Kuala Nerang, Kedah, has been approved under the Second Rolling Plan for 2027, as part of the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP).

"The scope of the study encompasses land surveying, soil investigation, and technical reports, including a traffic impact assessment and a road safety audit," he said. — Bernama

Govt to implement NDI approach in 2027 for aid eligibility assessment

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will implement the Net Disposable Income (NDI) approach in 2027 to ensure that the assessment of eligibility for aid takes into account demographic factors and liabilities, in addition to income.

Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shahar Abdullah said this approach is more equitable, as it considers basic expenditures and sociodemographic factors when evaluating a household's financial standing.

"The government will ensure that everything we implement takes into account not only the lower-income group but also encompasses the entire spectrum of Malaysian society," he said during a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday in reply to a supplementary question from Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias (BN-Jelebu) on whether the government intends to implement a specific action plan to strengthen the economic position of the middle class, covering income growth, the alleviation of financial pressure from basic commitments, and the

expansion of social protection.

Earlier, in response to Jalaluddin's question regarding the government's assessment of the true status of the middle class, Mohd Shahar said policy-making cannot rely solely on gross income estimates.

"The Economy Ministry is currently in discussions with relevant agencies to implement a pilot project aimed at understanding the impact of adopting the NDI approach on the nation's fiscal position," he added.

He noted that based on the 2024 Household Income Survey conducted by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), the M40 group has a monthly gross income ranging from RM5,860 to RM12,679, with an average of RM8,744 per month.

Meanwhile, regarding expenditure, he noted that data from the DOSM indicates that nearly 70 per cent of the M40 group's income is spent on basic costs comprising 22.7 per cent for housing and utilities, 34.1 per cent for food, and 10.6 per cent for transportation.

"After accounting for medical protection commitments, the

remaining income at the end of the month is very little," he said.

While awaiting the finalisation of the new measurement methodology, Mohd Shahar said the government, through Budget 2027, has introduced measures to alleviate the burden on the public, including the middle class, covering areas such as housing, education, healthcare, taxation and wages.

He said some government aid has begun shifting toward a wider approach, such as BUDI95 and the Early Schooling Assistance, which benefits Malaysians in general, including the middle class.

Regarding the income thresholds for the B40, M40, and T20 categories, he explained that these limits are adjusted based on household income and expenditure surveys, which are conducted twice during each Malaysia Plan.

For instance, Mohd Shahar noted that the income range for the M40 group increased from RM5,250–RM11,819 in 2022 to RM5,860–RM12,679 in 2024.

The next survey will be carried out in 2027, with the results to be published in 2028, he added. — Bernama



Industry leaders and HLB senior management convened at the Business Matters with HLB SME customer forum to unpack the Budget 2027 beyond the headlines.

HLB forecasts Malaysia's GDP growth at 5.0pc in 2027



KUCHING: Hong Leong Bank (HLB) has forecast Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 5.0 per cent in 2027, maintaining a positive outlook on the country's economic prospects.

The bank considers the government's GDP growth projection of 4.2 to 5.2 per cent for 2027 realistic and achievable, supported by Malaysia's economic fundamentals, manageable inflation and sustained capital inflows.

The outlook was shared at HLB's recent small and medium enterprise (SME) customer forum, Business Matters with HLB: Budget 2027 Unpacked, which examined the budget's implications for businesses and the country's economic outlook.

HLB also expects the ringgit

to appreciate gradually to 3.97 against the US dollar over the next 12 months, supported by the country's economic fundamentals and capital inflows.

In his opening remarks, HLB managing director of Business and Corporate Banking Yow Kuan Tuck said Budget 2027's focus on productivity, workforce development and targeted support could help businesses strengthen their operations and competitiveness.

"We recognise the Government's decisive push to help Malaysian businesses sharpen their capabilities, elevate productivity, and build lasting resilience.

"Between shifts in global supply chains, rising overheads, and evolving workforce dynamics, the core challenge for businesses extends beyond merely absorbing cost adjustments like higher minimum wages, and now includes strengthening operations to deliver higher-value output and top-line growth," he said.

Yow said HLB remained committed to supporting its clients with capital and advisory services to help them build long-term competitiveness.

The bank said targeted financing guarantees, tax measures and support for artificial intelligence (AI) and automation could provide businesses, particularly SMEs, with opportunities to improve productivity and access new markets.

The forum featured insights from Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Johan Mahmood Merican, Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Malaysia (SAMENTA) president Datuk William Ng, PwC tax partner Ang Wei Liang and HLB economist Choong Yin Pheng.

Budget 2027 outlines measures aimed at accelerating high-value economic growth while maintaining fiscal discipline and improving Malaysians' wellbeing, with an emphasis on productivity, workforce development and targeted business support.

Matrade: Pahang Export Day showcases 70 entrepreneurs, MSME companies

KUANTAN: The second edition of Pahang Export Day 2026 today brought together nearly 70 entrepreneurs and companies – specifically micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) – from various industrial sectors in the state.

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) chief executive officer Datuk Abu Bakar Yusof said local entrepreneurs have great potential to penetrate international markets through their diverse products.

He said that although most MSMEs in Pahang are in the food and beverage (F&B) sector, some also produce high value-added industrial products, including construction materials.

"For example, one of the award recipients at today's event produces a silicone sealant product used in the construction industry.

"This shows that MSME products are not limited to F&B, but also encompass industrial products with high value-added," he said during the event's press conference.

Abu Bakar said F&B entrepreneurs must also focus on research and development, innovation, and digitalisation to boost product value and

competitiveness in the global market.

He said Matrade, through the Matrade Academy, will guide local entrepreneurs to enhance their products' value, including packaging, certification, and labelling, to meet international regulations and standards.

"What needs to be done is to ensure that the product has added value and appeal for global buyers and importers," he said.

He said Pahang recorded a trade surplus of approximately RM5 billion to RM6 billion last year, and efforts to boost exports are expected to continue contributing to the state's economic growth.

Meanwhile, Pahang Investment, Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee chairman Datuk Mohamad Nizar Najib welcomed Matrade's initiative to help local entrepreneurs enhance their capabilities and competitiveness to penetrate international markets.

He said the state has an advantage in its transport and logistics network, which can open more opportunities for local exporters to expand their businesses internationally.

"The advantages include the development of the East Coast

Rail Link (ECRL), which connects Kuantan Port with Port Klang, and is expected to enhance logistics capacity and open up access to global markets," he said.

He said exporters can utilise Kuantan Port to ship products to markets in East Asia and North Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan, while Phase 2 of the ECRL (Gombak-Port Klang) has the potential to facilitate the transport of goods to Port Klang for export to the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

Mohamad Nizar said the shipping sector at Kuantan Port also benefits exporters, following the commencement of operations by Konsortium Perkapalan Timur Sdn Bhd, which provides vehicle shipping services to Kuching using Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) vessels.

"This is still in the initial stage, and we hope the relevant shipping company will be able to expand its services to include container shipping, as well as open up more routes to other destinations, including China and Asean countries," he said.

He said the service expansion could boost regional trade and give local entrepreneurs more logistics options to market their products abroad. — Bernama

KEB IPO priced at 35 sen, set to raise RM48.49 million

KUCHING: Property developer KEB Bhd (KEB) is set to raise RM48.49 million from its initial public offering (IPO) after launching its prospectus for a listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia.

The group in a statement on Friday said the IPO involves the issuance of 138.54 million new shares at an issue price of RM0.35 per share.

Of the proceeds, RM19 million will go towards the acquisition of landbank for development, while RM14.89 million is for working capital for project development.

Another RM8.50 million is for repayment of bank borrowings, and RM6.10 million for defraying listing expenses.

Applications for the public issue will close on November 2, and KEB is scheduled to be listed on the ACE Market on November



Lim (third left) with M&A Equity Holdings Bhd Datuk Bill Tan (second left) and Khoo (right) at the group's prospectus launch on Friday.

16. KEB, which ventured into property development in 2004, focuses on residential, industrial, commercial and mixed-use developments in Malaysia.

It is supported by its in-house construction arm, KEB Utama Sdn Bhd, a CIDB Grade G7 registered contractor, which the group said lets it keep greater control over project execution,

quality and delivery timelines.

To date, KEB has completed 14 property development projects. Its current pipeline comprises four ongoing developments with a combined estimated

gross development value (GDV) of about RM1.36 billion, along with two future projects with an estimated total GDV of about RM382.73 million.

Together, the six projects represent an estimated GDV of about RM1.74 billion.

The group also has a total landbank of about 60.01 acres, including one joint venture arrangement with landowners, to support its future development plans.

"Over the years, we have built our property development business on a combination of development experience, disciplined execution and a focus on delivering projects that meet market demand," said managing director Datuk Lim Kim Chong.

He said the IPO will strengthen the group's financial position and give it more resources to expand

its landbank, support project development activities and enhance its capacity to pursue future growth opportunities.

Eco Asia Capital Advisory Sdn Bhd group chief executive officer Datuk Kelvin Khoo said the prospectus launch is an important step for KEB as it prepares to access the capital market.

"With a clear project pipeline, available landbank and proceeds earmarked for expansion and balance sheet strengthening, KEB is well positioned to reinforce its presence in the domestic property development landscape and execute its medium-term plans," he said.

M&A Securities Sdn Bhd is the principal adviser, sponsor, placement agent and underwriter for the IPO, while Eco Asia Capital Advisory is the financial adviser.

Subang, Ipoh, Penang airports record passenger growth

KUALA LUMPUR: Subang, Ipoh and Penang airports recorded year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in international passenger traffic in September 2026, despite a decline in overall passenger movements across Malaysia Airports' local network.

In a statement yesterday, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) said its Malaysian network handled 7.8 million passengers during the month, down 12 per cent from a year ago, with international traffic falling 2.2 per cent to 4.3 million and domestic movements declining 21.8 per cent to 3.4 million, although the three regional airports saw increases in international traffic.

"Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang recorded 59,000 international passenger movements, an increase of 24.1 per cent y-o-y, while Sultan Azlan Shah Airport in Ipoh registered 31,000, up 16.6 per cent.

"Penang International Airport also recorded a 5.3 per cent increase in international traffic to 348,000 passengers, accounting for approximately 57 per cent of its total September movement," it said.

MAHB said Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Kota Bharu handled 5,000 international passengers in September, following the introduction of new international services in June.

"The airport's expanded terminal, which opened in April, has increased its annual handling capacity from 1.5 million to 4.0 million passengers," it said.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) handled about 4.9 million passengers in September, MAHB said.

"Its international network expanded with Sun PhuQuoc Airways beginning services to Phu Quoc on Sept 1, while Gulf Air introduced direct flights from Bahrain on Sept 30, becoming the 10th West Asian carrier to serve



In a statement yesterday, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) said its Malaysian network handled 7.8 million passengers during the month. — Bernama photo

Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang recorded 59,000 international passenger movements, an increase of 24.1 per cent y-o-y, while Sultan Azlan Shah Airport in Ipoh registered 31,000, up 16.6 per cent.

Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd

KLIA," it said.

MAHB also said its Malaysian operations handled 75.2 million passengers in the first nine months of 2026, down 2.4 per cent y-o-y, while international passenger traffic rose 4.5 per cent to 41.3 million.

MAHB managing director Datuk Mohd Izani Ghani said the results highlighted the importance of strengthening regional connectivity while maintaining reliable airport services.

"Airports such as Subang, Ipoh and Penang have an important role in expanding Malaysia's international connectivity.

"We want to build on this momentum by working closely with airlines and tourism stakeholders to develop

routes that create more travel opportunities and support the country's tourism ambitions," he said.

Mohd Izani added that expanding the network must go hand in hand with improving the passenger experience.

According to KLIA's September Monthly Performance Report, passenger satisfaction stood at 98.8 per cent at Terminal 1 and 99.4 per cent at Terminal 2, while satisfaction with terminal cleanliness exceeded 99 per cent at both terminals, MAHB said.

"The monthly report will provide a consistent view of performance across key passenger touchpoints and help focus further service improvements at both terminals," it added. — Bernama

TNB, Sinohydro conclude arbitration matters via consent judgement

KUALA LUMPUR: Sinohydro Corporation Ltd and its Malaysian unit, Sinohydro Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd, have reached an amicable settlement with Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) regarding previous arbitration proceedings related to the Connaught Bridge power plant project in Klang, Selangor.

In a statement yesterday, Sinohydro said the settlement was formalised through a

consent judgement recorded at the Appeal Court in Putrajaya on April 23, 2026, bringing a full and final resolution to all outstanding arbitration matters between the parties.

"Both parties confirmed that the consent judgement was reached on mutually agreed terms, without admission of liability by any party, reflecting a shared commitment to resolve commercial differences

constructively," it added.

According to the PowerChina subsidiary, TNB has confirmed that the resolution of this matter brings closure to the dispute.

"This settlement does not affect TNB's rights, positions, or future engagements, which will continue to be assessed in accordance with its internal policies and commercial considerations," it added. — Bernama

New financial sector blueprint eyes bigger role for Islamic finance in Malaysia's economic transformation

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) wants Islamic financial institutions to play a greater role in financing the country's next phase of economic transformation, an aspiration that would be reflected in the financial sector blueprint planned in 2027.

Speaking to Bernama, governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said the blueprint would focus on scaling the impact of Islamic finance, accelerating innovation, strengthening the financial ecosystem and expanding Malaysia's international linkages.

"Islamic finance must play a central role in supporting Malaysia's economic transformation.

This includes mobilising capital and delivering solutions for strategic growth areas such as the green transition, the halal economy and the expansion of high-value industries, including the electrical and electronics (E&E) ecosystem.

"Innovation must be purposeful.

The true measure of Islamic finance is not the number of products introduced, but the meaningful impact those

solutions deliver to businesses, communities and the broader economy," Abdul Rasheed said.

Second, Islamic finance should strive to improve societal outcomes.

"The next phase of Islamic finance is not just about scale, but about impact.

Its success should be reflected in stronger livelihoods, greater financial security, a more inclusive economy, more resilient businesses and a greener future," he said.

He noted BNM believed Islamic finance could fulfil this role and demonstrate its value through purposeful action and real-world impact.

Among the other priorities are positioning Malaysia as an international gateway for Islamic finance, mainstreaming value-based finance, strengthening impact measurement, deepening Islamic financial markets and liquidity as well as encouraging the application of diverse Shariah contracts.

Malaysia remains open to foreign Islamic banks

On the possibility of allowing more foreign Islamic banks to operate in Malaysia, Abdul Rasheed said the country



Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour

remains open to new entrants, provided they could contribute meaningful value to the economy.

"We never close our door. Any new entrant would therefore be considered based on their ability to introduce additional capabilities and support emerging economic needs," he said.

On banking consolidation, the governor said BNM would continue to adopt a market-driven approach.

The central bank would facilitate consolidation where it could create stronger financial institutions capable of supporting businesses, individuals and the broader economy.

"Especially in terms of economic transformation, including the green economy,

NGC Energy eyes growth through stronger shareholder partnership, infrastructure opportunities

KUALA LUMPUR: Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) solutions provider, NGC Energy Sdn Bhd aims to venture abroad while strengthening its presence in the domestic market, supported by its evolving shareholder structure and potential infrastructure opportunities.

Chief executive officer Julianna Kamaruddin said the change in Perangsang Oil & Gas Sdn Bhd's (POGSB) ownership could bring together industry expertise, logistics and infrastructure capabilities to support NGC Energy's growth.

She said the arrangement would also enable NGC Energy to strengthen its core business, improve supply-chain efficiency and explore related opportunities, including potential LPG landing facilities to enhance its competitiveness and support expansion both locally and overseas.

"This brings renewed strength and vigour to NGC, with the support of both our existing and new shareholders, enabling us to expand our horizons.

"We want to focus on our strengths and what we do best at the moment.

With the support from all parties and our business partners, I truly believe we can take this to the next level," she told Bernama.

The recent change in ownership of POGSB, previously owned by Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Bhd, followed an acquisition involving Manjaran Sdn Bhd and a new shareholder group associated with Rasmadi Corporation and Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd.

The transaction leaves POGSB's 40 per cent stake in NGC Energy unchanged, while transferring ownership and control of POGSB to the new buyers.

Oman-based National Gas Company SAOG, NGC Energy's partner for the past 14 years, holds the remaining 60 per cent stake.

National Gas Company SAOG chairman Sheikh Abdulla Suleiman Hamed Al Harthy said the new shareholder brings capabilities that could contribute to NGC Energy's growth beyond financial investment, particularly through its logistics expertise and commitment to developing the business.

"We wanted a partner who could contribute to the business more than just injecting money.

They have expertise in logistics, while we specialise in LPG, so we thought combining these strengths would help improve NGC Energy's performance as we move forward," he said.

Perlis infrastructure to open new growth opportunities

Julianna said supply-chain capabilities would be a key factor in strengthening NGC Energy's



Shabaruddin said LPG landing facilities would be a key component of the seaport development, potentially providing a more integrated supply chain and enhancing its competitiveness in the domestic market.

competitiveness, particularly through potential collaboration with partners involved in logistics and infrastructure development projects.

"Supply chain is important to us.

Through our partnership with POGSB and potential opportunities arising from infrastructure projects, we believe we have good leverage and a strong starting point to become more competitive and solidify our current market position," she said.

Meanwhile, POGSB chairman Datuk Shabaruddin Ibrahim said Mutiara Perlis' planned seaport project, Perlis Sanglang Port (PSP) could open up opportunities for NGC Energy to participate in the development of LPG landing facilities and strengthen its supply chain.

Mutiara Perlis is the master developer of the RM27.8 billion Perlis Maritime Corridor (PMC) – a major logistics infrastructure project comprising PSP, Perlis Inland Port (PIP) and Perlis Power Hub.

The PSP project is scheduled to be launched on Oct 28.

Shabaruddin said LPG landing facilities would be a key component of the seaport development, potentially providing a more integrated supply chain and enhancing its competitiveness in the domestic market.

"We would like to see if we can have an integrated supply chain in our company to strengthen our competitiveness, moving forward, and take NGC Energy's LPG business to the next level in Malaysia," he said.

NGC Energy could also consider establishing a presence at PIP, a 202.34-hectare facility connected to the rail network and designated as a free commercial zone, he noted.

Shabaruddin said the infrastructure could complement NGC Energy's LPG operations by supporting the movement of supplies and cylinders, while providing a potential base for

the company to strengthen its supply chain and pursue market development opportunities.

Supply security key as LPG industry faces challenging 2027

Julianna said supply security would remain a major priority for NGC Energy as geopolitical tensions and changing global trade flows continued to affect the LPG industry.

She said Malaysia still has access to domestic refineries, which helped cushion the impact of disruptions affecting imported supplies, although the company continued to face challenges from higher freight and insurance costs.

"These are very uncertain times.

"It's unfortunate what has happened over the past few months, both within the industry and globally, and how it has affected our country.

"I believe this uncertainty will continue for now," she said.

She added that the effects of recent geopolitical developments would take time to subside, with 2027 expected to be a particularly challenging year for the industry.

"Next year will be very challenging for us, and that's why supply security will be critical for the country and we have to work with all parties to take on this challenge together," she said.

Julianna said LPG is sourced through regional traders, with supplies originating from different parts of the world, including West Asia and the United States.

However, sourcing from more distant markets has resulted in increased transportation costs due to longer shipping routes, higher freight charges and insurance premiums.

She added that cooperation among industry players, government agencies and business partners would be essential to ensure a reliable supply of LPG to Malaysian households and businesses. — Bernama

Highlights

Bursa Malaysia ends lower on selling in utilities, banking heavyweights

BURSA Malaysia closed lower yesterday, weighed down by selling pressure in selected heavyweights, mainly utilities and banking stocks, alongside weaker performances across regional markets.

At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) dropped 7.20 points, or 0.45 per cent, to 1,604.36 from last Friday's close of 1,611.56.

The benchmark index opened 0.44 of a point firmer at 1,612.00, its highest level today, before hitting its lowest level of 1,600.45 during the late afternoon session.

However, the broader market was slightly positive, with gainers edging losers 549 to 514, while 508 counters were unchanged, 1,330 untraded, and 59 suspended.

Turnover fell to 2.90 billion units worth RM2.15 billion from last Friday's 3.18 billion units worth RM2.69 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said selling pressure persisted in utility and banking heavyweights amid thin trading volume.

He noted that regional markets ended broadly lower, weighed down by weakness in technology stocks as investors questioned the sustainability of substantial spending on artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and the potential returns on such investments.

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA)

Average Retail Prices Of Selected Commodities In Kuching (26 October 2026)

COMMODITIES

VEGETABLES

Prices (RM/Kg)

Round Cabbage 6.00
Spinach 6.00
Chinese Mustard 10.00
Chinese Kale 10.00
Bean Sprout 3.00
Cucumber 6.50
Brinjal 7.50
Local Tomato 6.50
Highland Tomato 10.87
Long Bean 10.33
French Bean 13.00
Lady's Finger 11.17
Lentil 6.00
Pumpkin 6.00
Bitter Melon 10.00
Lentil (Midin) 10.00
Old Ginger 8.23
Young Ginger 8.90
Red Chili (Kulai) 26.00
Red Chili (Local) 22.00
Shallot 8.60
Onion (Bombay) 4.50
Onion (Holland) 4.30
Garlic 7.75
Imported Potato 3.33
Imported Carrot 4.33
Grind Coconut 10.00
Seed Coconut 3.00
Santam 9.00

POULTRY

Crossbreed Male/Female TU
Kampung Male/Female TU
Standard Chicken 11.13
Super Chicken 12.50
Fresh Meat Local 65.90
Imported Meat 40.00

EGGS(* RM/BJI)

Chicken Egg - Grade A* 0.55
- Grade B* 0.52
- Grade C* 0.50
- Salted Egg* 1.20

FRUITS(* RM/KG)/(* RM/BJI)

Papaya 5.33
Exotica Papaya 5.25
Watermelon 4.90
Guava 6.83
Starfruits 10 4.88
Orange (Local) 4.68
Mas Bananas 6.33
Emban Bananas 2.50
Rastali Bananas 4.38
Honey Dew 6.85
Sarawak Pineapple 3.50

* Prices collected at Medan Niaga Sotok

MyDCD IPO to raise RM268.8 mln ahead of ACE Market listing



KUCHING: MyDCD Bhd is expected to raise RM268.8 million through its initial public offering (IPO) ahead of its planned listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd on Nov 17, 2026.

The engineering services provider specialising in mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection (MEPF) systems for critical infrastructure, particularly data centres, launched its IPO prospectus on Oct 26, 2026.

The IPO involves the issuance and offering of 480 million ordinary shares at RM0.56 each, comprising 335 million new shares expected to raise RM187.60 million for the company and an offer for sale of 145 million existing shares through private placement, expected to raise RM81.20 million for the selling shareholders.

Based on its enlarged share capital of 1.794 billion shares, MyDCD is expected to have a market capitalisation of RM1.00464 billion upon listing.

Its shares have also been classified as Shariah-compliant by the Shariah Advisory Council of the Securities Commission Malaysia.

Of the proceeds from the public issue, RM134 million, or 71.43 per cent, will be allocated



MyDCD prospectus launch.

for working capital, primarily to support project execution and fund performance bonds.

Another RM39.90 million, representing 21.27 per cent, will fund business expansion through additional recruitment, new office space rental and staff training, while RM5 million will be used to enhance its information technology systems. The balance will cover listing expenses.

For the financial year ended June 30, 2026 (FYE2026), MyDCD recorded revenue of RM666.03 million and profit after tax of RM66.80 million, representing three-year compound annual growth rates of 52.80 per cent and 58.48 per cent, respectively, from FYE2023 to FYE2026.

As at Sept 30, 2026, the group had an outstanding order book of RM1.32 billion, comprising approximately RM1.27 billion from data centre MEPF integration projects and RM53.08 million from maintenance services.

The order book is expected to be progressively recognised as revenue up to FYE2032.

The group also had 76 active maintenance contracts as at

Sept 30, 2026, with contract durations typically ranging from one to five years.

MyDCD chief executive officer Chris Ow Yong said the company's experience covered data centre projects across Tier I to Tier IV classifications, with services spanning engineering support, supply and installation, testing and commissioning.

"As project requirements become more demanding, having the right technical capabilities, experienced personnel and working capital is essential.

"The IPO proceeds will help us meet these needs by supporting project execution, including performance bonds, as well as strengthening our teams and enhancing our systems to support our continued growth," he said.

According to the independent market research report in the prospectus, Malaysia's MEPF construction work grew at a compound annual growth rate of 15% between 2023 and 2025, reaching RM10.40 billion in 2025. The sector recorded further growth of

18.1 per cent in the first half of 2026 compared with the corresponding period a year earlier.

Malaysia also recorded RM385.70 billion in data centre-related investments from 2021 to the first half of 2026.

Ow Yong said growing artificial intelligence adoption was increasing data centres' requirements for computing power, cooling and energy management, making MEPF systems increasingly important.

He added that MyDCD would focus on strengthening its execution capabilities to meet evolving customer requirements as the industry developed.

TA Securities Holdings Bhd head of corporate finance Ku Mun Fong said the listing would provide MyDCD with access to capital to support its next phase of development.

"The company's technical capabilities and experience serving enterprise, co-location and hyperscale data centres would position it to pursue opportunities in the specialised market segment," he said.

Analysis: Astro deal could lift Maxis home base by 22 pct

KUCHING: Maxis Bhd's (Maxis) proposed acquisition of Astro's broadband business is seen as giving the group an avenue to execute its convergence strategy, though the immediate impact upon completion may be limited.

The research arm of MBSB Investment Bank Bhd (MBSB Research) in a note on Monday said the deal would help Maxis increase customer stickiness while utilising little funding given its existing war chest of more than RM800 million.

To recap, Maxis' wholly owned subsidiary Maxis Broadband Sdn Bhd had entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with MEASAT Broadcast Network Systems Sdn Bhd (MBNS), a wholly owned unit of Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd, to acquire MBNS' broadband business assets for up to RM83 million in cash.

Under the agreement, Maxis Broadband will acquire MBNS' entire broadband subscriber base, which stood at 178,631

active subscribers as of end-February 2026, alongside associated contracts, software, equipment and inventories.

The transaction excludes MBNS' brand name, trademarks and goodwill.

The research house said the final purchase price is subject to a tiered downward adjustment mechanism based on the actual number of subscribers transferred at completion, which is expected in the second quarter of 2027.

The acquisition will be funded through internally generated funds, with Maxis' cash reserves standing at RM804 million as at the second quarter of financial year 2026 (2QFY26).

Based on the 178,600 subscribers, the research house said Maxis' home connections could potentially increase by 22 per cent to 991,600.

It added that the average revenue per user (ARPU) of the acquired base could be similar to Maxis' current blended home ARPU of RM109.10 per

month.

Astro stopped new sales and subscriber acquisitions for Astro Fibre on February 1 this year, with its fibre packages previously ranging from RM99 per month for 100Mbps to RM189 per month for 800Mbps.

Based on Maxis' average monthly consumer home revenue of RM84 million as at 2QFY26, MBSB Research said the inorganic growth could potentially lift the segment's topline by slightly over 20 per cent.

However, it said this may only translate into around two per cent growth at the service revenue level.

"This, nonetheless, provides Maxis an opportunity to cross-sell and up-sell its existing services via its convergence strategy. We made no changes to our earnings estimates at this juncture pending completion of the transaction," it said.

The house has maintained its 'buy' call on Maxis with an unchanged target price of RM4.31.

Money Market

SHORT-TERM interbank rates remained stable today after Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) conducted operations in the financial system.

Liquidity in the conventional system rose to RM41.10 billion from RM40.94 billion yesterday morning, while liquidity in the Islamic system increased to RM30.50 billion from RM28.53 billion earlier.

Earlier, BNM conducted reverse repo tenders and an Islamic reverse repo tender.

Rubber

THE Kuala Lumpur rubber market closed mixed amid declining oil prices and supply disruptions in major rubber-producing countries, a dealer said.

She said market sentiment was also influenced by China's slower economic performance, especially weaker-than-expected domestic car sales in 2026.

Oil prices fell on yesterday as diplomatic efforts to ease the US-Israeli war with Iran tempered fears of further supply disruptions, although continued Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia kept geopolitical risks elevated.

TOP 20 GAINERS					
STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
NESTLE	20,200	9,038.0	8,910.0	9,026.0	+ 72.0
MPI	31,200	4,058.0	3,952.0	4,058.0	+ 58.0
CARLSBG	561,900	1,320.0	1,264.0	1,298.0	+ 34.0
STRATUS	8,315,000	267.0	230.0	260.0	+ 26.0
VITROX	2,146,200	1,080.0	1,032.0	1,072.0	+ 26.0
PPB	380,500	910.0	870.0	902.0	+ 24.0
SLVEST	9,596,300	428.0	400.0	423.0	+ 23.0
ALLIANZ	138,600	1,928.0	1,894.0	1,928.0	+ 22.0
MNHLDG-WA55.600	370.0	350.0	370.0	370.0	+ 20.0
HUND	56,300	1,658.0	1,626.0	1,650.0	+ 20.0
SAMAIDEN	2,583,000	301.0	280.0	300.0	+ 18.0
CYPARK-WA34.250.500	20.0	12.5	16.0	15.5	+ 15.5
MNHLDG	3,939,000	392.0	367.0	388.0	+ 15.0
SCGBHD-WA 84.100	265.0	246.0	265.0	265.0	+ 15.0
BAT	133,100	431.0	412.0	431.0	+ 14.0
MI	2,255,900	666.0	635.0	665.0	+ 14.0
MULPHA	1,700	270.0	258.0	270.0	+ 14.0
PENTA	2,477,100	565.0	542.0	562.0	+ 12.0
GESHEN	951,000	144.0	126.0	137.0	+ 12.0
SCGBHD	4,675,600	290.0	276.0	290.0	+ 12.0

TOP 20 LOSERS					
STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
UTDPLT	156,900	3,086.0	2,990.0	2,990.0	- 50.0
YTLPOWR	43,219,500	532.0	483.0	496.0	- 36.0
CVIEW	14,700	286.0	266.0	266.0	- 20.0
EG-CO	26,600	29.0	29.0	29.0	- 18.5
SWKPLNT	386,200	435.0	412.0	415.0	- 14.0
FAREAST	6,200	400.0	390.0	395.0	- 14.0
KGB	1,769,000	850.0	835.0	840.0	- 13.0
YTLPOWR-C189.791.90056.0	39.5	44.5	39.5	44.5	- 13.0
KLK	1,776,100	2,056.0	1,970.0	2,040.0	- 12.0
BMGREEN-CA10.000	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	- 11.5
YTL	25,783,800	208.0	194.0	196.0	- 11.0
UMSINT	1,000	720.0	720.0	720.0	- 10.0
APM	8,000	245.0	242.0	242.0	- 10.0
YTLPOWR-C2C14.141.141.900	40.5	30.0	32.5	32.5	- 10.0
- 10.0					
BNASTRA	501,800	274.0	265.0	265.0	- 10.0
BKAWAN	16,200	1,918.0	1,884.0	1,918.0	- 10.0
DUFU-C16	90,000	34.0	31.0	34.0	- 8.5
MAYBANK	3,462,300	1,006.0	998.0	998.0	- 8.0
GOHUB	188,200	106.0	101.0	101.0	- 8.0

Closing Indices

KLSE

FBMEMAS 11,977.00 (-16.45)
FBMKLCI 1,604.36 (-7.20)
CONSUMER PRODUCTS 441.41 (+2.71)
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS 175.41 (+0.01)
CONSTRUCTION 312.78 (+0.59)
FINANCIAL SERVICES 18,573.86 (-80.46)
ENERGY 848.73 (+14.06)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS 380.31 (+5.09)
HEALTH CARE 1,555.38 (+13.74)
TRANSPORTATION 1,025.17 (+1.06)
PROPERTY 979.52 (-1.41)
PLANTATION 8,623.97 (-53.51)
FBMSHA 11,974.79 (+31.22)
FBMACE 5,393.66 (+47.52)
TECHNOLOGY 74.52 (+1.11)

S'PORE

SI 5,412.38 -9.78

TOKYO

NIKKEI 62,189.65 -503.51
TOPIX 3,972.98 +7.17

HK

HANG SENG 23,211.81 +118.44

AUST

ALL ORDS 8,926.60 +20.80

Commodities

PEPPER

Date: 26.10.2026

* Average Pepper price (RM/tonne)

SOUTHERN REGION

KUCHING SERIAN SRI AMAN BETONG
24,460 24,710 24,000 24,980
35,820 35,480 34,500 36,300

NORTHERN REGION

SARIKEI BINTANGOR SIBU KAPIT BINTULU MRR
BLACK G1 24,180 25,250 23,960 23,960 21,750 21,380
WHITE G1 35,500 36,250 34,400 34,400 31,500 31,250

Source: Malaysian Pepper Board
http://www.mpb.gov.my

COCOA

Dealer's buying prices of dry cocoa beans (RM/MT)

Centres in Sabah & Sarawak

SMC 1 SMC 2

High Low Avg High Low Avg

KUCHING 13,500 13,500 13,500 13,300 13,300 13,300
SARIKEI 13,500 13,500 13,500 13,300 13,300 13,300
SIBU 13,500 13,500 13,500 13,300 13,300 13,300
TAWAU 14,000 14,000 14,000 13,800 13,800 13,800
TENOM 14,000 14,000 14,000 13,800 13,800 13,800

* Not Graded
Source : Malaysian Cocoa Board

Exchange Rates

EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: OCI 26

SELLING

BUYING

BUYING

TT/OD

TT

OD

1 US Dollar 4.1560 4.0080 3.9980

1 Australian Dollar 2.9310 2.8120 2.7960

1 Brunei Dollar 3.2440 3.1420 3.1340

1 Canadian Dollar 2.9580 2.8740 2.8620

1 Euro 4.6560 4.5030 4.4830

1 New Zealand Dollar 2.3720 2.2830 2.2670

1 Papua N Guinea Kina N/A N/A N/A

1 Singapore Dollar 3.2440 3.1420 3.1340

1 Sterling Pound 5.5530 5.3740 5.3540

1 Swiss Franc 5.0620 4.8440 4.8290

100 UAE Dirham 114.180 108.200 108.000

100 Bangladesh Taka 3.4390 3.1830 2.9830

100 Chinese Renminbi 62.5600 59.8800 N/A

100 Danish Krone 63.8500 58.7100 58.5100

100 Hongkong Dollar 53.4200 50.7200 50.5200

100 Indian Rupee 4.4600 4.1400 3.9400

100 Indonesian Rupiah 0.0240 0.0212 0.0162

100 Japanese Yen 2.6610 2.5370 2.5270

100 New Taiwan Dollar N/A N/A N/A

100 Norwegian Krone 45.6500 41.9700 41.7700

100 Pakistan Rupee 1.5600 1.3900 1.1900

100 Philippine Peso 6.6200 6.2200 6.0200

100 Qatar Riyal 114.940 109.120 108.920

100 Saudi Riyal 111.620 105.970 105.770

100 South Africa Rand 25.8500 23.3400 23.1400

100 Sri Lanka Rupee 1.3100 1.1500 0.9500

100 Swedish Krona 43.0700 39.2000 39.0000

100 Thai Baht 12.8200 11.3600 10.9600

Scoreboard

CONSUMER PRIC & SERV 60 37 60 157

IND-PROD & SERVICES 66 50 72 188

CONSTRUCTION 21 16 17 54

TECHNOLOGY 25 18 14 57

FINANCIAL SERVICES 6 15 9 30

PROPERTY 27 22 28 77

PLANTATION 10 19 7 36

REIT 7 7 6 20

CLOSED END FUND 1 0 0 1

ENERGY 16 11 12 39

HEALTH CARE 12 5 4 21

TELECOMMUNICATIONS 10 3 4 17

TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS 6 10 6 22

UTILITIES 4 4 4 12

BUSINESS TRUST 1 0 0 1

STRCWARR 199 218 167 584

ACE-MKT 72 77 94 243

BONDBLOAN 0 1 2 3

ETF 5 1 2 8

LEAP-MKT 1 0 0 1

TOTAL 549 514 508 1,571

MRB Prices

SMR CLOSING PRICES (SEN/KG): OCT 26

NOVEMBER

SEN PER KG/CENTS PER KG

SMR CV 1,351.50 / 337.40

SMR L 1,341.50 / 335.10

SMR 5 1,057.00 / 264.05

SMR GP 1,052.00 / 262.80

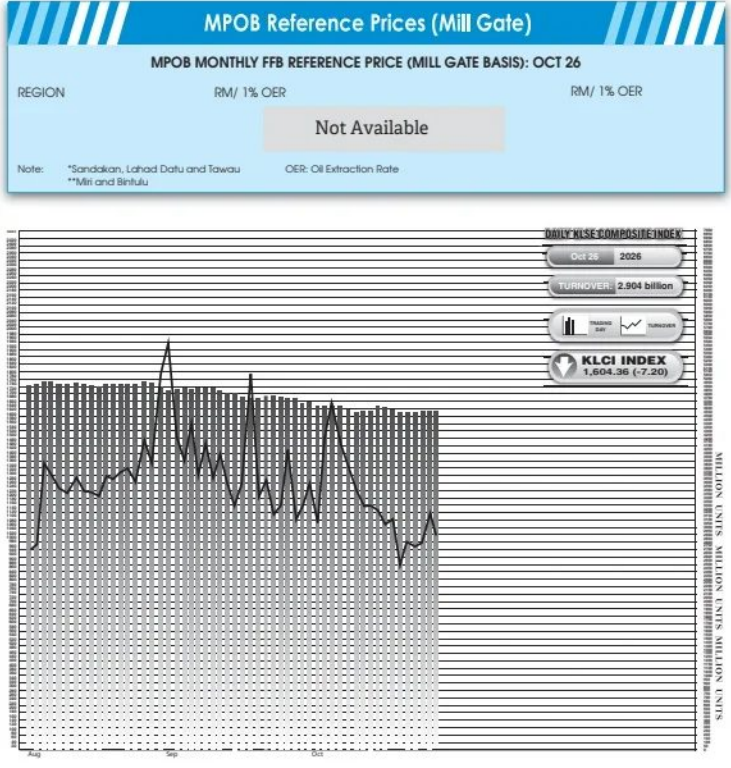
SMR 10 1,042.00 / 260.30

SMR 20 1,037.00 / 259.05

CENTRIFUGED LATEX: LOCAL PRICE(ISO 2004) IN SEN/KG (60% DRC)

LATEX IN BULK 799.00

TONE OF MARKET : STEADY



Ten Most Active

COUNTER (MI) VOL (SEN) HI (SEN) LO (SEN) L/DONE +/-

HSI-CWU4 161,020,400 8.5 7.0 8.5 unch

ZETRX 156,552,500 7.5 6.5 7.5 unch

AXTERIA 84,218,200 20.0 15.5 19.5 + 5.5

HSI-CWWP 62,519,200 13.0 11.5 12.5 unch

NIHSIN 56,042,700 49.0 46.5 47.5 - 1.5

NEXGRAM 55,027,500 6.0 5.0 6.0 + 0.5

HSI-PWXN 49,505,100 16.0 14.5 14.5 - 1.5

JAKS 47,145,200 16.5 14.5 15.0 - 1.5

YTLPOWR 43,219,500 532.0 483.0 496.0 - 36.0

HSI-CWWL 35,031,000 19.0 16.5 19.0 + 1.0

Interbank Rates

KUALA LUMPUR INTERBANK OFFER RATES: OCT 26

1M 3.02 HIBOR(HK\$)

2M 3.35 1M 2.75000

3M 3.55 2M 2.91037

6M 3.58 3M 3.25167

12M 3.79 6M 3.50143

12M 3.79 12M 3.97441

Gold

THE PHYSICAL PRICE OF GOLD AS AT 5 PM STOOD AT RM510.42 PER GRAMME, DOWN 77 SEN FROM RM511.19 AT 5 PM LAST FRIDAY.

MING MING TRAVEL SERVICES SDN BHD

(KCH) 082-419953/ 016-8789963 | (SERIAN) 082-891235/ 010-2519953 | (MATANG) 082-648909

Kuching Main Office: Lot 173, Ground Floor, Jalan Chan Chin Ann Road, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

ENGLISH SPEAKING TOUR

(CO.NO.91332-D) KKCP /PL 1856

Updated: 221026

[5D] Jakarta + Bandung (AK)

6/2

RM 3,788 all in -200

[6D] Surabaya + Yogyakarta (MH)

30/5, 8/7

RM 3,988 all in -200

[6D] Beijing (BI)

21/2, 21/3

RM 3,588 all in -200

[9D] Harbin + Snow Village (TR)

9/1

RM 7,988 all in -300

[6D] Korea (BI)

27/2, 27/3

RM 3,688 all in -200

[7D] Japan Tokyo + Osaka (Sakura)

In Kansai, Narita Out (MH)

23/3

RM 8,988 all in -200

[7D] Taiwan (MH)

21/2

RM 3,988 all in -200

[9D] Turkey (SQ)

5/3

RM 8,988 all in -300

[10D] Central Europe 5 Countries (MH)

7/4 RM 17,988 all in -700

19/12 RM 17,988 all in -500

1/6 RM 17,988 all in -1000

4/2, 5/3 RM 16,988 all in -1000

[12D] Eastern Europe (SQ)

13/4

RM 17,988 all in -700

[11D] Spain + Portugal (QR)

19/11 RM 17,988 all in -700

16/4 RM 17,988 all in -1000

[10D] Italy (SQ)

6/3, 6/4

RM 15,988 all in -1000

[10D] Mono Switzerland (SQ)

7/3, 8/4

RM 18,988 all in -700

[11D] Caucasus

17/4

RM 15,988 all in -700

[11D] Russia + Murmansk (EK)

7/12

RM 24,888 all in -700

[15D] Balkan 9 Countries (TK)

10/10 RM 18,988 all in -700

9/4 RM 18,988 all in -500

SHIN YANG SHIPPING SDN. BHD.

(Co. No. 195874-H)

We provide seamless door to door service for containerized shipments covering the following sectors:

To/From: Port Klang, Pasir Gudang, Penang (West Malaysia)

Kuching, Sibul, Bintulu, Miri, KK, Sandakan, Tawau, Lahad Datu (East Malaysia)

Thailand, Brunei, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, (International Route)

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Miri (Head Office)

Tel : 085-428399, 019-8599327, 016-8943176, 012-8781330

Kuching

Tel: 082-346899, 013-8089511

Sibu

Tel: 084-216899, 016-8597515

Bintulu

Tel: 086-311881, 013-8337370, 019-8550505

KK/Sandakan/Tawau

Tel: 088-497699, 016-8336470

Port Klang

Tel: 03-31683261, 31689782

Pasir Gudang

Tel: 07-3526677, 3525125

082-257610

016-8636368

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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BUSINESS LOAN

PROPERTY LOAN

MORTGAGE LOAN

SME LOAN

CHEQUE CASHING

LONG TERM & SHORT TERM

BANKRUPTCY & BLACKLISTED CAN APPLY

12% - 18% P.A.

HUPLINE

MONEY LENDER SDN BHD (857307-P)

LOT 3143, BLOCK 9, 1ST FLOOR, JALAN LAKSAMANA CHENG HO, 93350 KUCHING

NO. LESEN: RBK/PPW/131/2025/0008

NO. PERMIT: RBK/PPW/1K/131/2025/0008

SAH DARI: 06/12/2025 HINGGA 05/12/2027

SAH DARI: 06/12/2025 HINGGA 05/12/2027

In The High Court In Sabah And Sarawak At Bintulu

In Bankruptcy Proceedings No. BTU-29NCC-14-3/2025

Re : Nor Akmal bin Zainal Abidin (NRIC: 921216-10-5749) Kuarters Ladang Dulung, P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak and/or Sime Darby Plantation, Ladang Dulung P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak and/or No. 21, Jin Kelalang 28/14, Taman Alam Megah, 40400 Shah Alam, Selangor

Ex-Parte: Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad Tingkat 35, Menara 1, Menara Kembar Bank Rakyat No. 33, Jalan Rakyat 50470 Kuala Lumpur

NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY ORDER

Notice is hereby given that, on a petition filed the 24 June 2025, a bankruptcy order against Nor Akmal bin Zainal Abidin (NRIC: 921216-10-5749), Kuarters Ladang Dulung, P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak and/or Sime Darby Plantation, Ladang Dulung P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak and/or No. 21, Jin Kelalang 28/14, Taman Alam Megah, 40400 Shah Alam, Selangor, was made by the High Court of Bintulu on the 25 September 2025.

Dated the 19 day of September 2026.

(NUR SYAIRAH BINTI ROSMAN) Assistant State Director of Insolvency Malaysia Department of Insolvency Miri Branch For Director General of Insolvency

Insolvency No.: BP005295/2025

PBLT SDN. BHD.

200501022368 (704498-D)

(Sebuah Syarikat Misk Menter Kewangan Diperbadankan)

NOTIS TENDER

CADANGAN MEMBINA DAN MENYIAPKAN IBU PEJABAT POLIS DAERAH (IPD) KAPIT DAN BALAI POLIS KAPIT SERTA KEMUDAHAN BERKAITAN DI ATAS LOT 464, BLOCK 12, JALAN BLETEH, MENUAN LAND DISTRICT KAPIT, SARAWAK

FASA 2 : KERJA-KERJA BANGUNAN BAGI IBU PEJABAT POLIS DAERAH (IPD) KAPIT DAN BALAI POLIS KAPIT SERTA KEMUDAHAN BERKAITAN

Untuk butiran lanjut berkenaan Notis Tender di atas sila layari laman sesawang PBLT Sdn. Bhd. di www.pblt.com.my

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SAH DARI: 17/02/2026 HINGGA 16/02/2028

Permit No. RBK/PPW/1K/134/2026/0008

SAH DARI: 17/02/2026 HINGGA 16/02/2028

536130H38YH

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Old House refurbishment

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H/P: 019-833 9969

TEL: 019-8865321, 575301

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In The High Court In Sabah And Sarawak At Miri

In Bankruptcy Proceedings No. MYT-29NCC-31-7/2026

Re : Mohamad Shahrul bin Wahab (NRIC: 790708-13-5605) No. 7778 Lite View Graden Jalan Ameria Off Jalan Airport 98000 Miri, Sarawak and/or 113C Flat PKNS Jalan Sungai Baru Kampung Baru 50300 Kuala Lumpur Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur

Ex-Parte: Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad [Company Registration No. 198301002944 (98127-X)] a company incorporated in Malaysia under the companies Act 1965 (now repealed and replaced by the companies Act, 2016) and having its registered address at 32nd Floor, Menara Bank Islam No. 22, Jalan Perak 50450 Kuala Lumpur and carrying out its business at No. 1257 & 1258, Block 9 Centre Point Commercial District Jalan Melayu 98000 Miri, Sarawak

NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY ORDER

Notice is hereby given that, on a petition filed the 18 August 2026, a bankruptcy order against Mohamad Shahrul bin Wahab (NRIC: 790708-13-5605), No. 7778 Lite View Graden Jalan Ameria Off Jalan Airport 98000 Miri, Sarawak and/or 113C Flat PKNS Jalan Sungai Baru Kampung Baru 50300 Kuala Lumpur, was made by the High Court of Miri on the 18 September 2026.

Dated the 18 day of September 2026.

(NUR SYAIRAH BINTI ROSMAN) Assistant State Director of Insolvency Malaysia Department of Insolvency Miri Branch For Director General of Insolvency

Insolvency No.: BP008416/2026

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to

YB Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi

on your graduation with

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree

from Asia e University

ABDUL YAKUB BIN HAJI ARBI

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MALAYSIA

From:

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YB Datuk Dr Malcom Musen and Datin Dorothy

YB Ir Christoper Gira and Puan Anita

Dato`Bong Ah Loi and Datin Helen Bong

Datu William Nyigor and Datin Jackie

Mr Patrick Tan

Dr David Ling

Mr Alex Dris.

Dr. Balasubramaniam@Balan

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
DIVORCE PETITION NO. MY-33-33-5/2026 (HC)

In the matter of dissolution of marriage on ground of
and
In the matter of rule 7 and 8 of the Divorce and Matrimonial Proceedings Rules 1960
and
In the matter of Sections 33, 54(1)(c) & (d), 88(1), 89(2), 93(1) and 106(1) of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [Act 164]

BETWEEN

ERNIE MARLYNE ANAK DEBIT (F) ... PETITIONER
(NICR. NO. 960320-13-5966)

AND

BARRY MUTANG LORES (M) ... RESPONDENT
(NICR. NO. 931009-13-6867)

NOTICE

(IN THE MATTER OF DIVORCE PETITION issued on the 21st day of May 2026)

To: **BARRY MUTANG LORES (M)**
(NICR. NO. 931009-13-6867)
Last known address:
Pejabat Ridsa Stesen Lawas,
1st Floor, Lot 504,
Lawas Town District, Jalan Trusan,
98850 Lawas, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a divorce petition has been presented against you by the Petitioner **ERNIE MARLYNE ANAK DEBIT (F)** (NICR. NO. 960320-13-5966) of Lot 5190, Lorong 1A, Desaland 3, Bandar Baru Pemrayya, 96000 Miri, Sarawak and the Court has ordered that the said petition be served on you by publishing via advertisement a Notice once in a local newspaper namely **BORNEO POST** and that such publication shall be good and sufficient service of the petition on you **14** days after the date of such publication.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you desire to defend that cause, you must within **8** days after the effective service of the petition on you, inclusive of the day of service in Form F in the Registry of the High Court at Miri, Sarawak. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.

DATED this **23rd** day of **OCTOBER 2026**


High Court of Sarawak
Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court, Miri

This **NOTICE** is filed by **Assistant Director of Legal Aid Department, Miri** for and on behalf of the Petitioner, whose address for Service is at 35th Floor, 161, Jalan Tasek, Lot 87, Brooke Road, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.
Tel No: 095-4236050 Fax No: 095-425204

[Ref. No. : JBG.MI.600-712/26/0256]

3185260230340

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AND MIRI
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. MYY-28NCC-8/7-2021 (HC)
POST-WINDING UP NO.: MYY-24PW-1-11/2024 (HC)
IN THE MATTERS OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF **EPISO ENTERPRISE SDN BHD**
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Registration No: 199501010130 (339331-X)
(Winding-Up by Court)

NOTICE OF PURCHASERS' MEETING
(AMENDED NOTICE)

Only the Purchasers of Phase 2 and Phase 3
of Shoplots of Lot 1304, Block 3 SMTD and Sibü O.T. 29085
Off Jalan Ling Kai Cheng, Sibü

TAKE notice that a meeting of the Purchasers in the above matter will
be held at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibü, Sarawak on the 7th November 2026
(Saturday) at 10:00 am.

Agenda

**Discussion of a proposed Scheme of Arrangement
under section 366 of the Companies Act 2016**

WONG CHING YONG **CHAI TZE CHEK**
Joint and Several Liquidator Joint and Several Liquidator

Dated this 27th day of October 2026

Due to clerical errors, please disregard the notice dated 24 October
2026 because Phase 1 is not involved in the meeting

726221US47AN

537 100H40% KCF

**UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK**
KENYATAAN TENDER
Tender adalah dipelawa kepada syarikat yang berdaftar dengan Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia (KKM) / Perbendaharaan Malaysia Sarawak / Sabah (PMS) serta berkelakayan dan berpengalaman untuk memasuki tender berikut :-

NO. TENDER / BUTIRAN TAWARAN			
UNIMAS/18/2026(17)			
KHIDMAT MEMOTONG RUMPUT DAN PENYELENGGARAAN LANDSKAP RAGI TEMPOH DUA (2) TAHUN DI UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS), KAMPUS KOTA SAMARAHAN, SARAWAK			
SIJIL PENDAFTARAN	SYARAT KEHADIRAN KE LAWATAN TAPAK / TAKLIMAT TENDER	HARGA DOKUMEN / TEMPOH JUALAN	TARIKH TUTUP / PETI TENDER
Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia / Perbendaharaan Malaysia Sarawak/Sabah	Kehadiran adalah DIWAJIBKAN dan HANYA persona pada siri dibenarkan untuk menghadiri lawatan tapak/taklimat tender. Maklumat lawatan tapak / taklimat tender adalah seperti berikut: Tarikh : 29 Oktober 2026 (Khamis) Masa : 8:00 pagi Lokasi : Bilik Mesyuarat Utama Aras 1, Pejabat Pengetahuan, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Kota Samarahan	RM100.00 Sebuah 29 Oktober 2026 (Khamis) hingga 4 November 2026 (Rabu)	18 November 2026 (Rabu) 12.00 (thrt) Peti Tender No. 2
UNIMAS/18/2026(18)			
CADANGAN PERKHIDMATAN SERTA KADAR HARGA SEWA MESIN FOTOSTAT DI UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS), KOTA SAMARAHAN, SARAWAK			
SIJIL PENDAFTARAN	HARGA DOKUMEN / TEMPOH JUALAN	TARIKH TUTUP / PETI TENDER	
Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia / Perbendaharaan Malaysia Sarawak/Sabah	RM100.00 Sebuah 27 Oktober 2026 (Selasa) hingga 9 November 2026 (Juma)	16 November 2026 (Juma) 12.00 (thrt) Peti Tender No. 3	
1. Naskah Dokumen Meja Tender dipamerkan di Unit Perolehan, Pejabat Bendahari, Aras 1, Bangunan Canekean, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan. Dokumen Tender boleh dibeli melalui bayaran secara online banking / kad debit / kad kredit ke akaun Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak bernombor 11040010021558 di kaunter pembayaran Aras 1, Pejabat Bendahari, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. Resit/bukti pembayaran hendaklah dikemukakan untuk mendapatkan naskah dokumen tender.			
2. Pembekal dikehendaki menunjukkan salinan asal SIJIL KEMENTERIAN KEWANGAN MALAYSIA (KKM) / PERBENDAHARAN MALAYSIA SARAWAK / SABAH (PMS) / SIJIL PERAKUAN PENDAFTARAN KONTRAKTOR (PPK) (mana yang berkaitan) serta salinan SIJIL PEMATUHAN CUKAI (TAX COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE – TCC) yang masih dalam tempoh sah laku dan servatua PATUHI dan menyerahkan satu salinan (fotostat) sijil-sijil tersebut beserta cop rasmi syarikat semasa membeli Dokumen Tender.			
3. Dokumen yang telah lengkap diisi hendaklah dikembalikan di dalam sampul dan ditulis di sebelah atas kanan sampul No. Tender dan butiran tawaran dan dalmatkan kepada NAIB CANSOLOR, UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK, PEJABAT BENDAHARI (UNIT PEROLEHAN), ARAS 1, BANGUNAN CANSOLORI, JALAN DATUK MOHD MUSA, 94300 KOTA SAMARAHAN, SARAWAK. Dokumen tender hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam Peti Tender yang ditetapkan.			
4. Jika tender dihantar dengan menggunakan perkhidmatan pos berdaftar kurier dan dimasukkan ke dalam peti berkaitan, Petender hendaklah memastikan dokumen tersebut selamat tiba pada alamat yang ditetapkan sebelum atau pada Tarikh Tutup tender selewat-lewatnya pada pukul 12.00 tengah hari. Sebarang kelewatan yang timbul dalam urusan tersebut tidak akan dilayan.			
5. Tender yang lewat diterima dari tarikh dan masa ditetapkan tidak akan dipertimbangkan. Pihak UNIMAS tidak terikat untuk menerima tawaran Tender yang terendah atau sebarang Tender. Semua pengangkutan yang berkaitan dengan pembelian dan pengantaran dokumen tender ini adalah menjadi tanggungjawab Pembekal.			
TARIKH IKLAN DIKELUARKAN: 27 OKTOBER 2026 (SELASA) KENYATAAN TENDER INI BOLEH DILAYARI DI LAMAN WEB – gazette.unimas.my			

**MALAYSIA**
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NCC-48-8/2026 (HC-3)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF the Companies Act, 2016;
AND
IN THE MATTER OF Section 465 (1) (a) and 466(1) (a) of the Companies Act, 2016;
AND
IN THE MATTER OF GREENLEAF FOOD & BEVERAGES SDN BHD (Registration No. 202001025807 (1382127-K)) a company incorporated in Malaysia under Companies Act 2016 and having its registered and business address at Ground Floor, No. 33, Lot 673, Block 226, 5th Mile, Jalan Penrissen, Hakka Avenue Industrial Estate, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak.
BETWEEN
HONG LEONG BANK BERHAD
(Registration No. 193401000023 (97141-X))
a licensed financial institution in Malaysia registered under the Financial Services Act 2013, and having a registered office at Level 30, Menara Hong Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damansara, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur with a branch office at Consumer Collections – Legal Operations, Level 2, Tower A, PJ City Development, No. 15A, Jalan 2/5, Section 51A, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

— PETITIONER

GREENLEAF FOOD & BEVERAGES SDN BHD
(Registration No. 202001025807 (1382127-K)) a company incorporated in Malaysia under Companies Act 2016 and having its registered and business address at Ground Floor, No. 33, Lot 673, Block 226, 5th Mile, Jalan Penrissen, Hakka Avenue Industrial Estate, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak and/or at S/L 33 Hakka Avenue Industrial Estate, 5th Mile Jalan Penrissen, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak.

— RESPONDENT

(Rule 24 of the Companies Act (Winding-Up) Rules, 1997)
ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION
NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the above-named Company by the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching was on the 10th day of August, 2026 presented by HONG LEONG BANK BERHAD (Registration No. 193401000023 (97141-X)) and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak, Kuching at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon, on Monday, the 30th day of November, 2026 and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for the purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
The Petitioner's address is at Level 30, Menara Hong Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damansara, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur with a branch office at Consumer Collections – Legal Operations, Level 2, Tower A, PJ City Development, No. 15A, Jalan 2/5, Section 51A, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
The Petitioner's advocates are Messrs. Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. (Sibu) of No. 33, 1st Floor, Jalan Kampung Nyatoh, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak.
Dated this 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026


Messrs. Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. (Sibu)
Advocates for the Petitioner

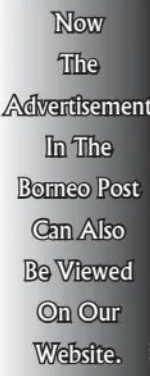
NOTE:
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named advocates for the Petitioner, Messrs. Kadir, Wong, Lin & Co. (Sibu), notice in writing of his intention so to do. The Notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or its or their advocates (if any), and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named advocates for the Petitioner not later than 12:00 noon on Friday, the 27th day of November, 2026 (one working day before the day appointed for the hearing of the Petition).
537154H02LKF 725175U548KA

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No.9, Lintang Park, Jin Batu Lintang, Kuching

**SED SARAWAK**
SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE
1. This tender is open to suppliers/contractors registered with the **Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor Dan Jurupendeng (UPKJ)** under the **Category B** and registration type with a valid registration period, to submit tenders for the following supplies:-

Tender No.	Registration of Class/Category, Head & Sub-Head	Document Fees (RM)	Date, Time & Location for Site Tender Briefing	Date, Time & Location for Purchasing of Tender Document	Closing Date, Time & Location of Tender Submission
PPES: T08/2026	1. Registered with UPKJ License: Category: B	Payment in cash RM50.00 (Non-refundable and deemed reasonable tender document fee. Payment in cash shall be made at the Finance Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak)	Date: 11 November 2026 (Wednesday) Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Brahman Room, Level 10, Menara SEDC, No. 2, The Isthmus, 93050, Kuching, Sarawak. (Tender Briefing is COMPULSORY for Bidders/ Tenderers participating in this tender before purchasing the tender documents)	Date: 12 November 2026 - 30 November 2026 Time: From 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Office hours) Monday - Friday Location: Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.	Date: 1 December 2026 (Tuesday) Time: 12:00 noon Location: Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

**Now The Advertisement In The Borneo Post Can Also Be Viewed On Our Website.**

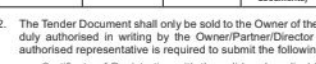
**ZHEN KIM HANG**
MONEY LENDER SDN BHD
1st Floor, Sublot 16, Lot 1385, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93300 Kuching, Sarawak.
◆ Personal Loan
◆ Business Loan
◆ Property Loan
◆ Mortgage Loan
◆ SME Loan
◆ Cheque Cashing
◆ Long Term & Short Term
◆ Blacklist & Bankruptcy
◆ Hawker Loan
Tel: 082~578575
H/P: 016-8781579
No. Lesen: RBKCPWW/38/2026/0009
No. Permit: RBKCPWW/38/2026/0009
Sah Date: 28/07/2026 - 27/07/2028
Sah Date: 28/07/2026 - 27/07/2028

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722637UBS

**SED SARAWAK**
SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE
1. This tender is open to suppliers/contractors registered with the **Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor Dan Jurupendeng (UPKJ)** under the **Category B** and registration type with a valid registration period, to submit tenders for the following supplies:-

Tender No.	Registration of Class/Category, Head & Sub-Head	Document Fees (RM)	Date, Time & Location for Site Tender Briefing	Date, Time & Location for Purchasing of Tender Document	Closing Date, Time & Location of Tender Submission
PPES: T08/2026	1. Registered with UPKJ License: Category: B	Payment in cash RM50.00 (Non-refundable and deemed reasonable tender document fee. Payment in cash shall be made at the Finance Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak)	Date: 11 November 2026 (Wednesday) Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Brahman Room, Level 10, Menara SEDC, No. 2, The Isthmus, 93050, Kuching, Sarawak. (Tender Briefing is COMPULSORY for Bidders/ Tenderers participating in this tender before purchasing the tender documents)	Date: 12 November 2026 - 30 November 2026 Time: From 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Office hours) Monday - Friday Location: Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.	Date: 1 December 2026 (Tuesday) Time: 12:00 noon Location: Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

2. The Tender Document shall only be sold to the Owner of the Company/Firm or to a representative duly authorised in writing by the Owner/Partner/Director of the Company. The Owner or the authorised representative is required to submit the following documents:
• Certificate of Registration with the valid and applicable **Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor dan Jurupendeng (UPKJ)**;
• Valid **Business License**;
• Original Certificate of Bumiputera Status Recognition (if applicable);
• **Business Name / Company Registration Certificate** issued by the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM);
• **Form 24 (Companies Act 1965 – List of Shareholders and their Shareholdings) or Section 51 (Companies Act 2016 – Notification of Change in the Register of Members) or Section 78 (Companies Act 2016 – Return of Allotment of Shares)**, where applicable; and
• **Form 48 (Companies Act 1965 – List of Directors of the Company) or Section 14 (Companies Act 2016 – Notification of Appointment of First Secretary)**, where applicable.
• For sole proprietorship or partnership, an Extract of Business Name Registration shall be submitted.
3. A non-refundable fee of **RM50.00** for the Tender Document shall be paid in the form of **Cash**, payable to **Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)**. Payment in cash shall be made at the **Finance Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak**.
4. This Tender Document will be issued in **softcopy format**, and tenderers are required to bring their own pen drive when collecting the Tender Document may be obtained from **12 November 2026 to 30 November 2026 during office hours** at the **Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak**.
5. The Tender Document shall be submitted by the Owner or an authorised Representative of the Company/Firm by depositing it into the Tender Box in a **sealed envelope clearly marked with the Tender Number and Tender Title**. The Tender Document must be submitted no later than **12:00 noon on 1 December 2026** at the following address:
Group Chief Executive Officer
Sarawak Economic Development Corporation
Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services,
Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.
6. Tenderers are strongly encouraged to submit their Tender Documents well in advance of the stipulated Closing Date and Time to avoid any difficulties or inconveniences that may arise on the closing day.
7. The Sarawak Economic Development Corporation shall not be held liable for any failure by the Tenderer to submit the Tender Document by the specified Closing Date and Time.
8. The Form of Tender and Bidder's Declaration must be duly completed, signed, and stamped with the Company Seal. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
9. Tender Documents received after the closing date and time shall not be considered.
10. The Sarawak Economic Development Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and shall not be bound to accept the lowest tender. The Corporation is not obliged to provide any reason for the rejection of any tender.

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Date: 27 October 2026
Important Note: This Tender Notice must be displayed on the Notice Board for fourteen (14) consecutive days throughout the tender invitation period.
537154H02LKF

**MALAYSIA**
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
DIVORCE PETITION NO. KCH-33-153-9/2026 (HC-3)
IN THE MATTER OF Section 53 of the Law Reform (Marriage & Divorce) Act 1976
BETWEEN
JENNIFER ANAK MEDONG
(W.N.KP 731106-13-5202)
Kampung Seratut
94000 Bau, Sarawak

... PETITIONER
AND
LARS SPITSBERG LAURSEN
(Denmark Passport A003630981)
(address unknown)

... RESPONDENT
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF DIVORCE PETITION
In the matter of Divorce Petition dated the 11th day of September, 2026.
To:-
LARS SPITSBERG LAURSEN
(Denmark Passport A003630981)
(address unknown)
TAKE NOTICE that a Divorce Petition has been commenced against you in the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching by the Petitioner, JENNIFER ANAK MEDONG (W.N.KP 731106-13-5202) of Kampung Seratut, 94000 Bau, Sarawak for an Order that:-
1. the said marriage be dissolved; and
2. any other relief as the Court may deem fit and necessary to grant.
AND THAT the Court has ordered that the service of the said Divorce Petition be effected on you by way of a publication of this notice in one (1) issue of the "Borneo Post" newspaper and that such publication shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Divorce Petition and shall be deemed to have been effected on you on the same day of such publication.

Dated this 22nd October, 2026.

**Messrs Khaidar Zaidell & Co.**
Advocates for the Petitioner

This Substituted Service of Divorce Petition is taken out by Messrs Khaidar Zaidell & Co. Advocates for the Petitioner whose address for service is at 2nd Floor, Lot 328, Section 10, K.T.L.D. Jalan Sanku, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak. 537154H02LKF

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OBITUARY

John 11: 25-26

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."



Mdm Julia Ngui Mei Choo @ Gwee Moi Choo
(wife of the late **Mr Augustine Bong**),
aged 98, was called to eternal rest with the Lord
on **Sunday, 25th October 2026 at 5:13 pm.**

Sons:
Edward Bong (deceased)
Joseph Bong (deceased)
Peter Bong (deceased)
William Bong (deceased)
Celestine Bong (deceased)

Daughters:
Janet Bong
Pauline Bong

Grandsons:
Alexander Bong
Anderson Bong
Henry Bong
Herbert Bong
Harry Bong
Eric Bong
Aaron Bong
Brian Bong

Granddaughters:
Amelia Bong
Elaine Bong
Henrietta Bong
Pamela Bong
Edna Bong
Bibiana Bong
Wong MeiLian
Sharon Wong
Grace Wong

Great-Grandsons:
Ethan Bong, Nathaniel Cheng, Liew Yanyu, Ryan Bong, Asher Ethan Bong

Great-Granddaughters:
Leandra Bong, Natalyn Cheng, Natalie Liew, Kimberly Liew, Naomi Bong, Abigail Hannah Bong, Jorlyne Bong, Jaslyne Bong, Janlyne Bong, Yannah Chong

Daughters-in-law:
Jenny Hiew
Catherine Tan
Sandra Wee

Son-in-law:
Wong Kiong

Granddaughters-in-law:
Tan Kim Yong

Grandsons-in-law:
Liew Kong Hiun
Cheng Tzin Loung

Michelle Jong

Tan Ai Li

Silvien Chai
Suriya Ak Langkan

Chong Choon Wei
Lim Yu Jie

Funeral Wake:
St Joseph's Funeral Chapel, Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, Kuching

Funeral Mass:
St Joseph's Cathedral Kuching on Wednesday, 28th October 2026 at 2 pm

Final Resting Place:
7 ½ Mile Immaculate Heart Catholic Cemetery, Kota Sentosa, Kuching

Telephone contact: 010 766 7212

537152H03LKF

OBITUARY



MR CHEN LIAN FATT
aged 88,
passed away peacefully on
Monday, 26th October 2026 at 1 am,
leaving behind the following loved ones:

Sons:
Khing Chen
Chen King Yu
Chen King Yee

Daughters:
Wendy Chen
Angelina Paddock
Siok Lee

Daughters-in-law:
Lisa Chan
Tee Sei Yong
Titty Ricca Binti Suhaili

Sons-in-law:
Tony Partrovic
Christopher Paddock
Jason Lee

Grandchildren:
Nicholas Chen
Ethan Chen
Jasmine Chen
Chen Ru Yi
Chen Fan Hong
Chen Fan Li
Chen Fan Yang
Julius Lim
Marcus Partrovic
James Lee
Kathryu Lee

Funeral Service will be held at his residence **No. 66, Rock View Estate, Jalan Rock, Kuching** on **Thursday, 29th October 2026 at 10 am**, thereafter will proceed for burial at **Nirvana Memorial Park, Jalan Kuching-Bau Kuching.**

Tel : 016-890 2460 (Andy Chen)
014-339 6878 (Bryan Chen)

FUNERAL SERVICE CATERED BY CHEN HUI COFFIN & FUNERAL SERVICE
Tel : 019-826 2995

537152H03LKF

Obituary



Mr. Christopher Pintos anak Felix Sipel
aged 44, was called home
to be with the Lord on
Sunday, 25th October 2026
at 1:00pm,
leaving behind the following to
mourn his demise

Father: Felix Sipel Anak Nyowet (*deceased*)
Mother: Maria Awin Anak Sidet

Siblings:
Prudence Anak Felix Sipel
Angela Portia Anak Felix Sipel
Michael Bassanio Anak Felix Sipel
Mabel Anak Felix Sipel
Patience Anak Felix Sipel
Veronica Peggy Anak Felix Sipel
Nicholas Andy Anak Felix Sipel
Bartholomew Dayan Anak Felix Sipel
Thresa Dayu Anak Felix Sipel
Felix Winsilver Anak Felix Sipel
Elizabeth Witty Anak Felix Sipel

Spouses:
Nelson Anak Charlie
Arthur Robert Anak Joseph
Agatha Barin (*deceased*)
Joseph Gee Choon Leong
George Kading
Shiv Prakash Babulal
Christie Anak Mata
Laura Madona Anak Tadek
Richard F Isidore
Mary Rosnah Anak Tapeh

Nieces and Nephews:
Michele Eva Anak Nelson
Deborah Rachel Anak Nelson
Joshua Jang Anak Nelson
Dannyson Lukas Anak Nelson
Antonia Isabelle Anak Arthur Robert
Anthony Anak Arthur Robert (deceased)
Alvia Athalia Anak Arthur Robert
Aviel Nathaniel Anak Arthur Robert
Adornia Anna Ponai Bassanio
Eugene Noah Gee Tze Hung
Jeremiah Noel Gee Tze Hui
Josiah Aran George
Abner Sibal George
Anna Saran George

Aashta Rami
Aslan Raja
Adriella Mercy Anak Nicholas Andy
Grace Timongon Anak Nicholas Andy
Mary Yanna Anak Bartholomew Dayan
Maria Angel Anak Bartholomew Dayan
Marshall Bidik Anak Bartholomew Dayan
Joseph Pitar Anak Bartholomew Dayan
Miriam Sangon Anak Bartholomew Dayan
Felix Pogan Anak Bartholomew Dayan
Alexa Joy Richard F Isidore

The funeral mass will be held on **Wednesday, 28th October 2026, 11:00am** at the **Church of St Anna Kampung Jugan, Bau.** Thereafter, will proceed for burial at the cemetery of **St Anna, Kampung Jugan** burial ground.

Telephone contact: Mabel 016-6340556, Dayan 017-9851282

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

537156H03LKF

Obituary



Gabriel Chai Piang Jin
aged 79 years old
on **Monday 26th October 2026 at 00:10 am.**
He will be dearly missed and forever remembered by his family and loved ones.

Wife: Nancy Ong Soo Hiok

Daughter:
Lydia Chai Li Yia
Eileen Chai Yi Lin

Son-in-law:
Chua Wai Kin
Chong Jia Ying

Granddaughter:
Chua JoyLynn

Siblings:
Paul Chai Piang Kong (*Deceased*) & Elizabeth Wong Wei Ling
Agnes Chai Siew Yung & Philip Liew Mun (*Deceased*)
Simon Chai Piang Yew (*Deceased*) & Winnie Then

Funeral Wake
Location: Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM)
24 Highland Road, Singapore 549115
• Monday, 26 October: 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM
• Tuesday, 27 October: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Funeral Mass
Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Time: 11:30 AM
Location: Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM)

Cremation Service
Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Time : 12:55 PM
Venue: Mandai North Crematorium, Service Hall 5
Transport will be provided from IHM to Mandai North Crematorium.

The family sincerely thanks everyone for your kind thoughts, prayers, and support during this difficult time.

May he rest in eternal peace and be welcomed into God's loving embrace.



With love and remembrance,
The Family of the Late Gabriel Chai Piang Jin
Nancy Ong (012-2118813) & Lydia Chai (65-87168444)

536879H03LKF

Bulgaria’s battery boom pays off as drought hits power plants

Rossen Boshev

SOFIA, Bulgaria: As Eastern Europe’s power sector has taken a hit from a record drought, Bulgaria has benefitted from building out battery storage capacity alongside its rapid solar expansion.

Around a hundred battery energy storage system (BESS) sites are now operating, most of them built in the past two years.

The large-scale projects take advantage of former industrial sites and airfields or are integrated into existing power stations, including coal-fired plants.

“The scale and speed of storage deployment in Bulgaria is unprecedented in a European context,” Stavros Papathanassiou, a professor at the National Technical University of Athens, told AFP.

Low administrative hurdles, a receptive market for clean energy and EU funding are among the reasons expert cite for the country’s leading role in the region.

The battery installations absorb surplus power from solar installations and feed it back into the grid when demand rises.

That proved a boon when exceptionally low Danube levels disrupted power generation at nuclear and hydroelectric plants in Eastern Europe, boosting demand for electricity imports.

In July and August, Bulgaria — one of the EU’s poorest countries — recorded net electricity exports of around 830 gigawatt-hours a month, more than twice the average in May and June.

In July alone, Romania accounted for nearly half of Bulgaria’s outward electricity transfers, valued at an estimated 74 million euros (\$85 million).

Reducing coal reliance

At Maritsa East 3, once Bulgaria’s second-largest coal-fired power plant, the shift away from dependence on the fuel is visible on the ground.



Aerial photo shows a worker walking in the Contur Global’s 500 MWh battery energy storage system near the Maritsa East 3 TPP near Galabovo. As Eastern Europe’s power sector has taken a hit from a record drought, Bulgaria has benefitted from a surge in solar-powered battery projects across the country. Around a hundred large battery energy storage system (BESS) sites are now operating, most of them built in the past two years. — Photos by Nikolay Doychinov / AFP



A fisherman in front of a smoke rising from the coal-fired Brikel TPP near Galabovo, Central Bulgaria.

Built under communism with four generating units, the plant sharply reduced coal operations in 2024, repurposing existing grid infrastructure for a battery facility.

“We could leverage the large connection to the grid. We decided to disconnect one coal unit and connect batteries,” said Vassil Shtonov, head of Bulgaria operations for the British-based

power company ContourGlobal.

“Coal is out, battery is in — It was the right place at the right time,” Shtonov told AFP, though he said Bulgaria should maintain a minimum coal-fired reserve for severe winters or disruptions to gas supplies.

While Bulgaria accounted for about nine percent of European battery-storage additions and about two per cent of solar additions in 2025, it can “serve as a positive example for other European nations”, said Lennart Herrmann at the Munich-based research and consulting firm FfE.

“The right incentives... can enable a swift energy transition,” he told AFP.

The Bulgarian energy ministry said the country had around 5.7 gigawatts of operational battery-storage power capacity this month.

That is equivalent, in power terms, to nearly a quarter of



Photo shows Sunterra Re’s photovoltaic plant located next to Maritsa East 3 TPP near Galabovo, central Bulgaria.



Workers check battery containers in the Sunterra Re’s 450 MWh battery energy storage facility near the village of Pyasachevo.

Bulgaria’s installed power-generation capacity overall — and more than five times neighbouring Romania’s operational battery capacity.

Businesses in Bulgaria have also signed contracts for nearly 14 gigawatt-hours of large-scale storage, part of which has already come online.

“The aim is for storage systems to find a sustainable role in the market,” the ministry said, adding that it “must go hand in hand with other investments, such as in transmission and distribution grids”.

‘By chance’

Nikola Gazdov, president of Bulgaria’s Association for Production, Storage and Trading of Electricity, attributed the battery boom to a combination of factors rather than a crafted strategy.

“Everything happened almost by chance,” he told AFP.

Solar and wind capacity has expanded rapidly across the region, but Bulgaria’s renewables boom has been particularly

solar-heavy, creating growing daytime surpluses.

And in Bulgaria, large battery projects can be up and running in just nine to 18 months, much less than many solar or wind projects, Gazdov added.

But battery storage technology has its limits.

One is that grid connections with neighbouring countries are limited in the amount of current they can transport.

Another is that current batteries can store power only for relatively short periods, “typically between one and six, sometimes up to eight hours”, said Herrmann at FfE.

So while they can support the grid in case of a temporary drop in power supply, they cannot replace a nuclear reactor that goes offline due to drought.

And their success could ultimately reduce their own profitability, because when more BESS operators buy electricity when prices are low and sell it back at peak times, the gap between the two price periods will narrow. — AFP

Zimbabwe farmers seek funds to cash in on China blueberry boom

Mary Taruvinga

MVURWI, Zimbabwe: Under the morning sun, women moved briskly through neat rows of bushes, plucking blueberries for Zimbabwe’s export market thrown wide open by new trade deals with China.

Managers of the Forrester Estates farm about 100 kilometres north of Harare want to more than double their planting area to 50 hectares next year to capitalise on the booming demand.

“The funding, that’s the problem,” farm manager Albert Chakala told AFP.

The southern African country dispatched its first shipment of blueberries to China in July after a phytosanitary agreement signed a year ago and Beijing’s scrapping of tariffs on imports from 53 African countries in May.

“The crop that we have is not enough to satisfy our market,” Chakala said.

Each new hectare of blueberries requires an upfront investment of between \$50,000 and \$55,000, mainly for irrigation, planting material and other infrastructure, he said.

Lack of access to affordable finance is one of the biggest barriers to growth for many of Zimbabwe’s farmers, according to the Horticultural Development Council (HDC), which represents growers and exporters.

Yet, the promise of new global markets clashes sharply with Zimbabwe’s ongoing monetary realities, where a scarcity of foreign exchange routinely leaves farmers unable to fund the very expansion needed to meet demand.

“We are expanding bit by bit, according to what we are getting back from what we sell,” Chakala said.

Zimbabwean blueberries already reach European, British and Middle Eastern markets, but China — one of the world’s largest consumers of the fruit widely promoted for its purported health



Chairman of Export Produce Growers Association of Zimbabwe Clarence Mwale checks blueberry export volumes on a laptop at his Kuminda Offices and Packhouse, in Mvurwi. — AFP photos

benefits — offers a potentially transformative new destination for the farmers who can afford to scale up.

Financing ‘a big worry’

Zimbabwe is Africa’s third-largest blueberry producer after Morocco and South Africa, and one of the world’s fastest-growing blueberry producers, according to the HDC.

This year, the industry expects to export about 12,000 tonnes from around 850 hectares, up from 9,500 tonnes produced from

650 hectares last year, CEO Linda Nielsen said in a statement in June.

To support growth to meet the potential offered by China’s hunger for blueberries, the sector was engaging with the government over more competitive export financing and targeted tax incentives for irrigation, solar and cold-chain investments, she said.

“The lack of adequate financing is a big worry for growers,” she said.

Most of Zimbabwe’s blueberry



Zimbabwe farm workers harvest blueberries into punnets and crates ready for export into global markets at Forrester Estates in Mvurwi.

producers are established white commercial farmers whose families have farmed for many years, said Clarence Mwale, chairman of the Export Produce Growers Association of Zimbabwe.

“With the opening of new markets like the Chinese market, it gives an opportunity

for indigenous farmers to find space to also grow crops like blueberries,” he told AFP.

But this would require securing cheaper, long-term capital, he said.

“If we can attract foreign direct investment, foreign facilities, foreign loans, patient money, patient capital, then perhaps we



Zimbabwe farm workers pack blueberries into punnets and crates ready for export into global markets in a pack house at Forrester Estates in Mvurwi.



Zimbabwe farm workers harvest blueberries into punnets and crates ready for export into global markets at Forrester Estates in Mvurwi.

BEIJING: At the Dahecun National Archaeological Site Park in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, reeds sway in the autumn breeze and deer can be heard calling across the nearly 2,400-mu (160-hectare) landscape.

The new Dahecun Site Museum within the park is built largely underground, with a sloping entrance leading visitors into the history of a Neolithic settlement dating back about 7,000 years.

"This is the country's first thematic museum to present the Yangshao Culture in a panoramic form," said Wang Xiaoya, a guide at the museum.

"Its rectangular roof is level with the ground, allowing the building to blend into the landscape like an archaeological site emerging from the soil."

Inside, more than 1,500 cultural relics illustrate the Yangshao Culture and shed light on the history of the Dahecun site.

Outside, the core protection zone displays the remains of a large Yangshao-period settlement.

Offering an important window into a Neolithic culture that lasted about 2,000 years, Dahecun is one of China's major archaeological sites, where protection and public presentation are making the traces of ancient life more accessible to the public.

Known in Chinese as "dayizhi," these archaeological sites include the remains of major ancient settlements, cities, palaces and tombs, as well as related groups of sites and cultural landscapes.

They carry historical and cultural information across different stages of ancient Chinese history, and are distinguished by their scale, historical and cultural significance, and far-reaching influence.

The category includes sites such as Liangzhu in east China's Zhejiang Province, the Yin Ruins in Henan, Sanxingdui in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the Old Summer Palace ruins in Beijing, the Xia Imperial Tombs and the Great Wall.

These sites attest to China's million-year human history, 10,000-year cultural history



People visit the Dahecun site museum in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province. — Xinhua photos

and more than 5,000-year-old civilisation.

China now has 150 such archaeological sites. A total of 65 national archaeological site parks have been established based on some of these sites, incorporating the surrounding areas.

Luoyang, a city in Henan with 4,000 years of urban history and more than 1,500 years as a capital, is home to several major archaeological sites that are closely woven into the modern cityscape.

"Several major archaeological sites lie within an east-west stretch of less than 50 kilometers along the Luo River, including Erlitou, the Yanshi Shang Dynasty Capital Ruins, the Han-Wei Luoyang Ancient City site, the Sui-Tang Luoyang City site and the Mangshan tombs,"

said Zhao Xiaojun, head of the Luoyang municipal cultural heritage bureau.

"The density, scale, time span and richness of historical content are rare in the world."

As early as the 1950s, Luoyang developed a new urban area away from the old city and required archaeological excavations before construction began.

Authorities have adopted site-specific regulations to protect these archaeological sites.

The Sui-Tang Luoyang City site, the Han-Wei Luoyang Ancient City site and Erlitou have all become national archaeological site parks and cultural landmarks woven into city life.

Nationwide, more people are visiting such places. According to statistics, visits to China's national archaeological site parks

rose from 20.97 million in 2021 to 97.74 million in 2025, bringing the five-year total to 303 million.

Their benefits also extend beyond archaeological research and museum exhibitions.

In Zhejiang, efforts to link Liangzhu Culture with rural revitalisation have supported local economic development.

The operating income of village collectives in 14 villages within the site area rose 19 per cent year on year in 2025.

At the Liulihe site in Beijing, a China-US international field archaeology summer school offers young people from around the world a platform to learn about Chinese civilization.

China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) for the development of national cultural heritage calls for systematic protection and

This is the country's first thematic museum to present the Yangshao Culture in a panoramic form.

Wang Xiaoya

utilisation of such sites.

A recent national conference on work related to major archaeological sites stressed the need for high-level archaeological research, sustainable protection and efficient management, while also calling for high-quality presentation.

For sites in city centers, small-scale exhibition spaces will be integrated into the urban fabric, while sites in suburban and rural areas can explore models that combine rural revitalization with educational field trips and study programs.

Efforts will also be made to improve the cultural services provided by these sites, better realize the value of cultural heritage and meet public needs.

For visitors, these sites offer a more direct encounter with the past.

Standing among the reeds at Dahecun, they may wonder whether the people who lived here 7,000 years ago saw the same landscape. — Xinhua



The details of a turquoise dragon-form artifact at Chinese Archaeological Museum in Beijing.

Rescue efforts continue after 7.0-magnitude quake in China's Xizang

LHASA: Rescue and relief efforts continue after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Baqen County of the city of Nagqu in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, local authorities said Saturday.

The earthquake, which struck at 10.33pm last Thursday, has left 16 people dead and 76 others injured.

The quake has also damaged or destroyed 339 homes and 20 livestock sheds.

As of 11 am Saturday, all 76 injured people were receiving timely medical treatment, with five of the 11 people initially classified as seriously injured having improved to a mild condition, according to the local emergency command headquarters.

Meanwhile, relief supplies and rescue personnel continue to arrive in the affected areas.

As of 11 am Saturday, 52,450 items or sets of disaster relief supplies had been sent to the quake zone, while more than 2,500 rescue personnel were engaged in relief operations.

The supplies include 4,651 tents, 2,000 prefabricated houses, 11,772 folding beds, 5,715 quilts and other cold-weather necessities.

A large Wing Loong unmanned aerial vehicle has also arrived at the site.

Authorities have established 35 temporary resettlement sites in the disaster zone. More than 1,600 personnel from Baqen County, 347 firefighters from the Nagqu fire and rescue detachment, and 530 police officers from the Nagqu public security bureau have been deployed, alongside vehicles and search-and-rescue dogs.

Medical treatment and public health and epidemic prevention efforts are proceeding in an orderly manner, the headquarters said.

As of 2 pm Saturday, the headquarters said 949 aftershocks had been recorded in the affected areas, including eight measuring 4.0 to 4.9 in magnitude and 33 measuring 3.0 to 3.9.

All temporary speed restrictions on the quake-hit section of the Qinghai-Xizang Railway were lifted on Friday



A volunteer makes noodles at a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Photos by Tenzin Nyida/Xinhua



Staff members transfer coal for heating at a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County.

night, according to China Railway Qinghai-Xizang Group Co., Ltd.

A comprehensive inspection found no abnormalities, and trains resumed normal operations, the company said.

Power supply in the quake-hit area was fully restored on Saturday night, according to the State Grid.

State Grid Xizang Electric Power Co., Ltd. urgently dispatched teams to the affected area for emergency power

restoration after the quake, the state-owned utility said.

More than 300 personnel along with vehicles, power generation facilities and emergency equipment have been deployed as of Saturday to ensure power supply for the on-site command center, provide lighting for resettlement sites and restore damaged power lines.

Local authorities said construction on the first batch of prefabricated houses in the

quake-affected areas started at around 2 am Saturday.

As more units arrive, residents currently staying in tents will gradually move into the better-insulated temporary housing.

"We will ensure that affected residents have safe shelter, warm clothing and bedding, hot meals and clean drinking water," said Pan Zhiqing, Party chief of the Nagqu Municipal Emergency Management Bureau.

At a hospital in Baqen's



A staff member sanitizes the tents area at a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County.



A staff member of the local government prepares food at a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County.

neighbouring Sog County, many injured residents were sent there for treatment overnight.

The hospital has arranged medical treatment and prepared hot meals and daily necessities for patients.

Early Friday morning, Norbu Wangchen, a local resident in Sog County, brought more than 100 portions of Tibetan noodles, along with Tibetan tea and tsampa, to the hospital to help those affected by the earthquake.

Help also came from the city of Xigaze, some 700 kilometers away from Baqen.

Du Guoping, who was preparing to open two new restaurants in Xigaze, postponed the openings after learning of the earthquake and headed to the disaster zone with more than 1,500 kg of dumplings.

His team set off at midnight on the night of the earthquake.

After a bumpy journey, the team purchased additional supplies, including food containers and bottled water, along the way.

After arriving, Du and his staff set up cooking equipment and prepared dumplings for rescue workers and affected residents.

They worked during the day, and at night, the six team members squeezed into two vehicles to rest, keeping the heating on to ward off the high-altitude chill.

With more than 500 kg of dumplings still remaining, Du said the team planned to stay for at least three days to cook all the food they brought.

Watching firefighters, medical personnel and rescue teams race against time at the disaster site left a deep impression on him.

"We feel honored to be able to contribute in our own way," he said. — Xinhua

‘Clayface’, Holmes doc lead North America box office

LOS ANGELES: A buzzy new documentary about jailed tech CEO Elizabeth Holmes gave “Clayface,” a gory Batman villain origin story, a run for its money at this weekend’s domestic box office, industry estimates showed Sunday.

“Clayface,” from Warner Bros. and DC Comics, debuted in first place with US\$24 million in the US and Canada, but A24’s “You Can See Everything” was not far behind at US\$20 million, according to Exhibitor Relations.

That represents the second biggest weekend ever for a documentary – after Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004) – and an “extremely rare” 28-per cent increase from its debut the prior week, according to analyst David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

The three-hour documentary, co-directed by comedian Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim, follows Holmes and her family at home in 2023 during the month before she began an 11-year prison sentence.

Holmes was convicted of defrauding investors in her medical testing company Theranos after touting lofty promises she couldn’t deliver.

The scandal fueled a media circus and was chronicled in a book, multiple podcasts, and the biographical mini-series “The Dropout,” starring Amanda Seyfried – who has sparked some awards chatter with her surprise cameo in “You Can See Everything.”

The film has now earned an estimated total of US\$45 million



English actor Naomi Ackie poses on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the European Premiere of ‘Clayface’ at Curzon Mayfair in London. — AFP photo

at the domestic box office, with some analysts predicting it could become the first documentary to be nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars.

Third place this week went to Fathom Events’ animated film “Wildwood,” which debuted at US\$11 million after over a decade in production.

Made by the stop-motion animation studio behind 2009 hit “Coraline,” “Wildwood” follows a young girl who must venture into an enchanted forest after her brother is whisked away by crows.

“Audiences love this movie, but it needs a very long run to recoup its costs, or an over-performance overseas, and neither appears likely,” said Gross.

In fourth place, falling from first last week, was Paramount’s “Street Fighter” at US\$8.6 million. Based on the beloved Capcom video game, “Street Fighter” follows super-powered martial artists competing in a global tournament who uncover and battle a sinister conspiracy.

Fifth place went to Black Bear’s “Wicker,” which debuted at US\$5.8 million.

The film stars Olivia Colman as a lonely fisherwoman and Alexander Skarsgard as her fantastical husband made out of wicker, whose housework – and bedroom skills – quickly become the talk of the town.

Rounding out the top 10: “Other Mommy” (US\$3.9 million) “Sense and Sensibility” (US\$3.4 million) “Whalefall” (US\$3.2 million) “Verity” (US\$3.1 million) “Resident Evil” (US\$3.0 million) — AFP

Keanu Reeves in talks to star in ‘The Gangster, The Cop, The Devil’

KEANU Reeves is reportedly in talks to star in ‘The Gangster, The Cop, The Devil.’

Horror legend James Wan is set to helm Paramount Pictures’ upcoming reboot of the original 2019 Korean action-crime thriller, which follows a police officer and gangster reluctantly teaming up in the hunt of a serial killer.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Reeves is in discussions to join the cast of the reimagined film.



Keanu Reeves

It’s said he’ll be joined by Don Lee - AKA Ma Dong-seok - who is reprising his role as crime boss Jang Dong-soo in the remake.

The original Korean movie, which was written and directed by Lee Won-tae, premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2019.

The movie followed the unlikely duo as they come together to track down the killer. They’ve each got their own motives for catching them, which results in plenty of double crossing and games of cat and mouse.

Wan is set to be at the helm of the remake, which will mark his first directorial effort since 2023’s ‘Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom.’

The Fantastic Four: First Steps’ Eric Pearson has penned the latest version of the script, with Resident Evil’s Shay Hatten and A Knight’s Tale scribe Brian Koppelman working on previous drafts. Hatten previously worked with Reeves on the John Wick franchise.

Late last year, it was confirmed Wan will also be working with Paramount on a new Paranormal Activity film.

He is set to produce the eighth film in the franchise, which comes after his Atomic Monster studio merged with Jason Blum’s Blumhouse.

He said at the time: “I’ve been a huge admirer of Paranormal Activity since the brilliant first movie, with its creeping slow burn and subtle ability to make the unseen terrifying.”

“I’m looking forward to expanding on its legacy and helping shape the next evolution of this scary found-footage franchise.”

Meanwhile, Reeves was most recently seen in Jonah Hill’s comedy drama Outcome, which streamed on AppleTV.

Next year, he’ll be heard on the big screen as the voice of fan-favorite character Shadow in Sonic the Hedgehog 4. — Bang Showbiz

Michael Douglas wanted to be ‘killed off’ after his second ‘Ant-Man’

MICHAEL Douglas joined the Marvel Cinematic Universe as former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Hank Pym - who was also the original Ant-Man - in the original 2015 blockbuster and before returning for 2018 sequel Ant-Man and the Wasp, Avengers: Endgame the following year, and 2023’s Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania.

The 82-year-old actor told the Happy Sad Confused podcast: “I would have been killed off after the second one, but they wouldn’t let me.”

The movie veteran was actually keen to work on a CGI-heavy film as a chance to try something new.

He explained: “I said, ‘I’ve never done a green screen movie.’

“I [told] all my agents, ‘I’d like to do one of these green screen movies to see what they’re like,’ you know? Because it’s amazing.”

“It’s nothing, just a green screen, and they show you the pictures of what it’s gonna look like when it’s all finished.”

After his first MCU role, Douglas noted that it was “hard acting”, adding: “It’s coming at you here, this and that, you know?”

He joked about how he should have read the “fine print” in his contract.

Douglas noted that Paul Rudd “was a wonderful actor” and the rest of the cast was “lovely”.

However, he said: “But then you can’t get out of it.”

As well as his live action appearances, the actor also voiced Hank Pym in several



Michael Douglas

episodes of Disney+ animated series What If...? from 2021 to 2023.

In 2024, Douglas revealed his plans for his character’s on screen death.

Appearing on The View, he said: “[Getting killed off] actually was my request for the third one. I said ‘I’d like to have a serious [death], with all these great special effects.”

“There’s got to be some fantastic way where I can shrink to an ant size and explode, whatever it is. I want to use all those effects.”

The veteran actor had admitted in 2023 that he still had to “ask quietly” about certain topics in the MCU.

He told Digital Spy: “On the first one I knew nothing. I was not a comic book addict when I was a kid.

“I didn’t know the Marvel world, so they sent me a whole slew of the comics to get some idea. I didn’t have any idea about [the universe] and even now I still have to ask quietly because I don’t want to be an idiot.” — Bang Showbiz

Jamie Foxx to produce ‘East of the River’

JAMIE Foxx has joined the independent crime thriller ‘East of the River’ as a producer, backing a film about two estranged brothers drawn into the dangerous world of underground poker.

The Oscar-winning actor, 58, is producing the film through his Foxxhole Productions company alongside Alex Marks, with his daughter Corinne Foxx, 32, serving as an executive producer.

Directed by Dennis Latos, the thriller stars Ben Barnes, 45, Ben Ahlers, 30, Callie Hernandez, 38, and Maria Sten, 36, and follows two brothers who reunite to confront the illegal gambling operation responsible for destroying their family.

In a joint statement with Corinne and Alex, Jamie said: “We’ve been fans of Dennis since first discovering his short film, ‘Leylak,’ where his command of character and storytelling immediately stood out. This film is a powerful continuation of that voice, and we’re proud to support this exceptional project.”

The film has recently completed post-production, with global distribution rights being handled by CAA Media Finance.

Dennis, whose previous work includes the short film Leylak, said the production combined the emotional consequences of family conflict with the dangers of organised crime.

He said: “I wanted to capture



Jamie Foxx

the kinetic, dangerous energy of a world most people never see. This isn’t just a story about poker, it’s a high-octane look at what happens when you’re backed into a corner and forced to gamble with your life.

“We’ve fused a gritty family drama with the pulse-pounding stakes of the criminal underworld to give the audience a cinematic experience that is both deeply felt and truly thrilling.”

Jamie’s involvement comes after a career spanning comedy, music, television and film, including his Academy Award-winning portrayal of Ray Charles in the 2004 biographical drama Ray.

He also starred opposite Tom Cruise in Michael Mann’s crime thriller Collateral, and played the title character in Quentin Tarantino’s western Django Unchained.

His other credits include Dreamgirls, Baby Driver, The Amazing Spider-Man 2 and Spider-Man: No Way Home, in

which he reprised his role as the villain Electro.

Jamie also returned to the screen alongside Cameron Diaz in Netflix’s action comedy Back in Action, marking Cameron’s return to acting after a lengthy absence from Hollywood.

The actor has recently returned to stand-up comedy with his Hulu special Jamie Foxx: Take Care of Yourself, released on 7 October, in which he discusses his career, personal experiences and recovery from a serious medical emergency in 2023.

During an interview with ABC News earlier this month, Jamie spoke about his return to performing after suffering a stroke.

He said: “Man, I almost died.”

Jamie added: “I’ve never been as creative as I am now.”

The actor is also starring in the forthcoming action thriller Deadlocked, which began production in Melbourne, Australia, this month.

Directed by Nikhil Bhat, the Amazon MGM Studios film follows a former Marine serving on a jury who becomes caught in a hostage crisis during a high-profile trial.

The cast includes Luke Hemsworth, Sasha Calle and KiKi Layne, with filming taking place across Melbourne, including Docklands and Port Melbourne.

In East of the River, Ben Barnes, known for playing Prince Caspian in The Chronicles of

Narnia films and Billy Russo in Marvel’s The Punisher, leads an ensemble cast.

Ben Ahlers, who appeared in HBO’s period drama The Gilded Age, also stars alongside Callie Hernandez, whose credits include Alien: Covenant and The Flight Attendant.

Maria Sten, who played Frances Neagley in Reacher and its spin-off Neagley, makes her first film appearance since starring in the television series.

The supporting cast includes David Zayas, known for playing Angel Batista in Dexter and Dexter: Resurrection, John Bedford Lloyd from Ozark and The Bourne Supremacy, and Catherine Curtin, whose television credits include Stranger Things and Orange Is the New Black.

Nathan Wallace, who has appeared in Daredevil: Born Again and NCIS: Origins, also features alongside Gravesend actor Steven Gregory.

Former WWE wrestler James Storm and former NFL running back Dalvin Cook also appear in the production.

The screenplay was written by Elise Finnerty from a story by Jim Tamburino, with Ben Grant serving as director of photography.

Producers include Nicolas Alvo of Ruta 5 Films and Benjamin Wiessner of Vanishing Angle, alongside Dennis and Elise. — Bang Showbiz

Navarrette keen to ensure she transforms into her characters on screen

INDE Navarrette wants to do “everything humanly possible to look different” for ‘The Waffle House Index.’

The 25-year-old actress, who has become a household name and scream queen after playing Nikki in Obsession, is keen to make sure she transforms into her characters on screen rather than looking similar to her everyday appearance.

She told The Hollywood Reporter’s Awards Chatter podcast: “I think the future is looking like really hunkering down because I’m in a very specific opportunity in my career where I can kind of make it last as long as humanly possible or throw it all away.

“I really want to be specific with the next couple of my decisions to really solidify what I want to do in this industry.

“And what I want to do is play characters that are people and grounded and really thought-

through. And I really want to not look like myself in some characters.

“I attached myself to ‘The Waffle House Index’, and essentially I want with that character to either gain a lot of weight, lose a lot of weight, add eyebrow piercings, maybe shave my head, and do everything humanly possible to look different.”

The sci-fi thriller will focus on a Waffle House waitress who is already having a bad day even before a stranger with a gun turns up on her night shift.

From there, things take a turn for the worse, with a mass flood, killer crocodiles, a nuclear explosion, aliens, and a magical bunker under the restaurant.

The Waffle House Index takes its name from a real life informal metric measuring the severity of a hurricane.

It’s all based on how an area’s Waffle House - which are

essentially open 24/7 - copes with the storm. If the index is green, the restaurant is providing a full service, while yellow indicates low food supplies with a limited menu, and red means a closed restaurant and unsafe conditions.

Navarrette, who is also attached to play Rogue in the upcoming X-Men rebooted, noted that as an actor she has a certain amount of “freedom”.

She explained: “I also recognise that with acting comes the freedom of being a completely different person, one of those people being Rogue, Anna Marie... paying homage, paying respect to the incredible writers that are a part of Marvel, with Jake Schreier directing, taking what they want to do, adding my own sauce, and then going from there!”

The idea of standing out and trying something new was actually part of her motivation

for chasing the role of Nikki in Obsession.

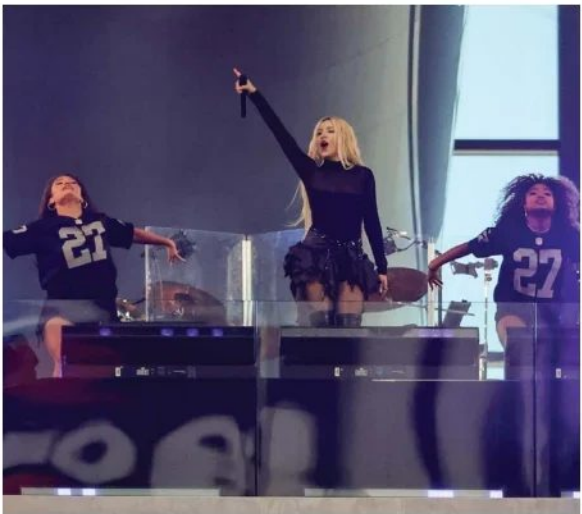
She said: “I had told my team I really wanted to do something that showed range and difference, because sometimes people can’t see what you’re capable of until you quite literally show them... they sent me Obsession, and I read it, and I was like, ‘This is going to require a lot of me that I don’t know if I’m capable of.’

“But even as I was having that thought-process I was like, ‘Shut up, you are so capable of this.’ So reading it and then sending in the tape, I felt pretty confident.”

Navarrette, meanwhile said she is using her X-Men role as an “excuse to get in the gym”.

She told Variety: “I’ve always wanted to take part in that sort of a thing.

“I think it’s also a really good excuse to get in the gym! I’m the laziest person, and I am very excited to get up and moving with my body. — Bang Showbiz



HALFTIME SHOW

Singer Ava Max (centre) performs with dancers at halftime of a game between the Los Angeles Rams and the Las Vegas Raiders at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Rams defeated the Raiders 35-21. — AFP photo

Belle Sisoski takes Borneo music to the world stage

NAGOYA: A traditional musical instrument of Borneo's Lun Bawang community, at risk of fading into obscurity, is reaching a global audience through local singer and musician Belle Sisoski, who is showcasing its distinctive sound in Toyota's 'Move Your World Beat' music project.

Belle, 20, said the unique sound of the instrument, known as the 'tapi', was fused with electronic music in the production of a song entitled 'New Day Rising', reviving an ethnic musical heritage that is facing the risk of being forgotten.

She said the project was also a golden opportunity for her to represent Malaysia in an international music project while introducing the 'tapi' to a new generation.

"I feel so honoured and privileged to be able to be here and showcase our culture, and share our ethnic instrument that has been long forgotten," she told Bernama in a recent interview.

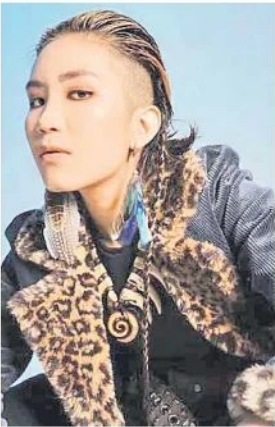
Belle said the Lun Bawang musical instrument has significant heritage value and deserves greater exposure through creative approaches that reflect the evolution of contemporary music.

She said efforts to reintroduce the instrument to a wider audience were also driven by the desire to ensure that the heritage remained relevant and could be passed down to future generations.

"It's good to be able to showcase the old instrument on the world stage and to fuse it with modern technology and electronic music.

"My mission is to revive this instrument and give it greater exposure in the mainstream media. Hopefully, future generations can integrate its traditional sound with electronic and contemporary music," she said.

For Belle, fusing traditional



Belle Sisoski is showcasing the distinctive sound of the 'tapi' — a traditional musical instrument of Lun Bawang community — in Toyota's 'Move Your World Beat' music project. — Facebook photo

and modern music not only opened up opportunities for musical experimentation but also allowed her to present cultural heritage in a form that resonated more closely with contemporary listeners.

In 'New Day Rising', Belle said she also incorporated elements from various Malaysian traditional instruments, including the rebab and serunai associated with Kelantan's Mak Yong performance, gamelan, and instruments influenced by Chinese and Indian cultures.

"There's gendang anak, serunai, and many different sounds in one track. It's been really fun to work with them," she said.

The song was produced under Motor Asia's inaugural initiative, 'Move Your World Beat Volume 1', which brings together seven artists from six Asian countries: Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand.

The project combines traditional musical heritage with modern musical innovation, including the use of vehicle sounds that are transformed into elements of the song composition.

Other participating musicians include 2pillz from Vietnam, Miguel Benjamin and Paolo Benjamin of the Philippine band Ben&Ben, Natasha Noorani from Pakistan, Shye from Singapore and Valentina Ploy from Thailand.

Belle said the songwriting process began with discussions in October last year, before the artists collaborated online to develop their respective musical ideas and bring them together into a single work.

"October was the planning stage. The actual work started in March this year and it did not take long. It was such a good experience as it was the group's collective effort," she said.

Although most of the production process took place online, Belle said the collaboration allowed artists from different cultural backgrounds to exchange ideas and build relationships before meeting in person for the filming of the music video in Thailand.

Reflecting on the experience of bringing Malaysia's musical identity into the project, Belle described it as a fresh opportunity that could pave the way for more creative collaborations across Asia.

She said the opportunity to bring different cultures together in a single work also reinforced her belief that music could serve as a medium for connecting people from diverse backgrounds.

"The song brought different cultures together, so it's something new for the future of Asia. I am so proud to be able to bring Malaysia's sound to the world stage," she said. — Bernama



'THE CAT IN THE HAT' WORLD PREMIERE

Erica Rivinoja, Daniela Mazzucato, Xochitl Gomez, Bill Hader, Tiago Martinez, America Ferrera, Alessandro Carloni, Quinta Brunson, Giancarlo Esposito, Bill Damaschke and Paula Pell attend 'The Cat in the Hat' world premiere at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, California. — AFP photo

'Hantu Pon X Boleh Resign' embraces Mamat Khalid's comedy style

IPOH: Local filmmaker Mohd Asrul Nizam Mohd Yusof, better known as Paklong Zam, continues to explore his creativity in filmmaking through a horror-comedy short film titled 'Hantu Pon X Boleh Resign'.

Produced by ECCO Studio Production, the film draws creative inspiration from the works of the late Mohamad Mohamad Khalid, better known as Mamat Khalid, who was renowned for his distinctive portrayal of local characters, satirical comedy and natural, conversational dialogue.

"This approach aims to produce a work that does not rely solely on jump scares and ghostly appearances, but also captivates audiences through distinctive characters and entertaining situations, despite featuring new actors and incorporating the Perak dialect," he told Bernama.

Filmed on Oct 5 and 6 with funding support from PORT@IPOH, Mohd Asrul Nizam said the production combines horror, situational comedy and character antics that reflect the everyday lives of Malaysians.

He said the 30-minute film places emphasis on strong

characterisation, dialogue, atmosphere and humour that emerges naturally from the storyline.

He said the production of 'Hantu Pon X Boleh Resign' also reflects ECCO Studio Production's continued efforts to create locally distinctive creative content while providing opportunities to nurture talent in directing, acting and audiovisual production.

"Funding support from PORT@IPOH is crucial in helping local creative works come to fruition, particularly by giving arts practitioners the opportunity to realise their ideas and bring their creative output to audiences," he said.

Asked about the film's screening, he said it would be shown through wayang pacak (open-air screenings) in appreciation of the Kampung Perepat community in Klang, which had provided considerable cooperation, in addition to being made available on YouTube.

"We are also exploring a collaboration with AE Cinema in Seri Iskandar and expect the film to begin screening around November," he added. — Bernama

Tamil cabaret show explores love, heartbreak

KUALA LUMPUR: Theatre-goers can look forward to a blend of Tamil cinema, live music and comedy in Kaadhal Tholvigal (The Failed Romances) which explores love, heartbreak and self-discovery through stories inspired by Tamil popular culture.

The 90-minute cabaret production will run at The Studio, Jeffrey Cheah Performing Arts Centre (JCPAC), Sunway City Kuala Lumpur from Nov 12 to 15.

Created by Malaysian performance group Terry and TheCuz and Australian theatre-maker Adriano Cortese, the show draws inspiration from Tamil films and songs spanning the 1960s to the 2010s.

"It explores how cinematic portrayals of romance have shaped people's expectations of love and relationships, while examining the realities of heartbreak and the lessons that come with failed relationships," according to a statement made available to Bernama.

Inspired partly by the 1970s cult classic Mera Naam Joker directed by Raj Kapoor, the production also looks at how social expectations influence ideas about masculinity, femininity, attraction and belonging.

The performance features Malaysian performer Govin Ruben and Singaporean actress and presenter Udaya Soundari, accompanied by a live six-piece band performing iconic and reimagined Tamil songs.

Presented in English, Tamil and Malay, with English subtitles, the show combines music, humour and storytelling to offer audiences a different perspective on romance and relationships.

Following its Kuala Lumpur run, The Failed Romances will travel to Singapore for performances at Esplanade — Theatres on the Bay on Nov 21 and 22.

The production is also scheduled to be staged at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York on Jan 13, 2027, bringing a Malaysian work rooted in Tamil cinema, local culture and the experiences of the South Asian diaspora to an international audience.

The show is presented by JCPAC, which provides a platform for Malaysian and international performing arts productions.

Tickets are available through CloudJoi. — Bernama

Sofia Jane wants you to put your phone down and let theatre get under your skin

KUALA LUMPUR: In a world of endless scrolling and on-demand entertainment, Datin Sofia Jane wants audiences to do something increasingly rare — put their phones away, sit in the dark and let a story get to them.

The actress returns to the stage next month in Thrown, a one-woman play about childhood trauma, buried memories and the emotional baggage people carry into adulthood.

Written by Jodi Gray and directed by Gavin Yap, the production sees Sofia play a child psychologist whose patients' experiences begin to blur with memories she has kept buried in her own past.

For Sofia, the play's appeal lies in how it explores the ways painful experiences can shape not only our lives but also our relationships with others.

"When I read it, I thought it was very interesting because we are living in a world where mental health challenges affect not just adults but people of all ages, from children to the elderly," she told Malay Mail in a recent interview.

One actress, one stage, no hiding place

Taking on an entire production alone is no small feat, particularly



Sofia Jane will star in the one-woman play 'Thrown', playing a child psychologist who has been carrying emotional baggage for years. — Photo courtesy of the Jeffrey Cheah Performing Arts Centre

in a story that demands a performer move between a psychologist's professional world and the personal memories she has spent years avoiding.

Sofia admitted that carrying an hour-long performance on her own was both daunting and exciting.

"Everything is a challenge," she said.

Although her work in film and television has kept her busy, Sofia said she never lost her appetite

for theatre, with the right role and timing simply not always lining up.

"Being on stage is something I always look forward to because it has a different energy," she said.

"It feels like starting all over again."

Can theatre compete with the scroll?

For Sofia, the appeal of live performance is precisely what makes it different from watching a film or series at home: audiences

have to show up, pay attention and experience the story as it unfolds.

She believes theatre still has a place in Malaysia's entertainment landscape, with younger creatives exploring how sound, lighting and music can push the form in new directions.

But keeping the stage alive also means confronting practical barriers, including whether people can afford tickets and whether they are willing to give a performance their undivided attention.

Theatre, she added, is not confined to contemporary plays or urban audiences, encompassing traditional forms such as Bangsawan, Mak Yong and Indian classical dance.

"We often say theatre is for everyone, but affordability can be an issue," she said.

For Sofia, the responsibility of sustaining the art form does not fall solely on performers and producers; audiences must also be willing to make room for it.

"It comes down to whether people can afford to attend, whether they want to go and whether they are willing to put their phones down for a while, sit in the dark, listen and watch," she said.

"The experience might trigger something in them, whether good or bad, or give them something to reflect on."

"That is part of why we do what we do."

When the curtain falls, the conversation continues

There is another aspect of live theatre that Sofia believes is difficult to replicate on a screen: the conversations that happen after a performance.

In an intimate venue, audience members may linger to exchange thoughts about what they have watched, how it made them feel and what they took away from the experience.

"People often linger after a theatre performance, sometimes waiting for the actors to come out, but also because they want to talk to others about what they have seen and how it made them feel," she said.

That shared experience is part of what keeps theatre meaningful for Sofia, even as entertainment habits change.

Thrown will run at the Jeffrey Cheah Performing Arts Centre in Sunway City, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, over two weekends, from November 20 to 22 and November 27 to 29. — Malay Mail

McCartney objects to Paul Mescal playing him in Beatles movies

SIR Paul McCartney has shared his one objection to Paul Mescal playing him in Sir Sam Mendes' Beatles movies.

The Hey Jude hitmaker admitted he was frustrated by Sam Taylor-Johnson's 2009 biopic Nowhere Boy — which followed his late bandmate John Lennon's early years — because he felt the height difference between Thomas Brodie-Sangster and Aaron Taylor-Johnson made him look "wimpy", so he was keen for the dynamic not to be echoed in the upcoming four-film cinematic event.

Speaking to Amy Poehler

on her Good Hang podcast, McCartney said: "We were all the same height, and Ringo was a bit smaller. And if you look at photos, we're all the same height."

"[In Nowhere Boy], the John character, who she later married, Aaron — he's bigger than me in the film."

"My character is kind of wimpy. Smaller than John. John knocks me to the floor. And it's like, 'Sam, this is not true!'"

"Her only explanation, bless her, 'cause she's still a good friend, she said, 'This is a movie, it's not a documentary.'"

"And I thought, 'Mm. Well, I

don't like that explanation.' But I couldn't do anything, 'cause by now she'd made the film. There was I, little Paul. John, the great big hero, and it's like: No! It's not true."

McCartney then admitted he had reservations when he heard Mescal had been cast alongside Harris Dickinson as Lennon in Mendes' upcoming project, and he messaged the director to voice his concerns.

He said of Mescal: "Guess what? He's smaller than the guy who plays John. Sam Mendes is making the film. I said, 'Sam, I've got just one thing that I need to say to you. You know, Paul

[Mescal is] a bit smaller' - I don't know how Sam's gonna deal with it."

"He sent me a picture, a still from the filming they were doing, and they're crossing the Abbey Road crossing, and the Paul character is markedly smaller."

"I texted him, 'Sam! Smaller? Don't do this! You said you wouldn't do it!'"

However, the filmmaker was quick to try and appease the 84-year-old music legend.

McCartney recalled: "He said, 'No, it's okay, it's just the stride pattern.' And he sent me another one where they were equal."

Despite the reassurance,

Mescal is listed as being 5'11", similar to McCartney's height, but Dickinson is reportedly 6'2".

The Fab Four will be rounded out in the movie series by Barry Keoghan as Sir Ringo Starr and Joseph Quinn as the late George Harrison.

Mescal revealed earlier this year that he was "thrilled" to be portraying McCartney as it is providing him with some "stability" after a whirlwind few years since his breakthrough role in the TV series Normal People.

The 30-year-old actor told Variety earlier this year: "To be honest, I can say very little — actually contractually [about the

films], but also I'm kind of keen to say very little about it, because I'm excited that people want to know so much about it."

"I think the endeavour is totally singular. The four of us inside it are pinching ourselves."

Mescal added: "On a personal level, I'm so thrilled to be working on something at this scale, but also rooted in performance with Sam and great writers."

"But also just to be living and working in London and to have some sort of stability in what has been like a kind of mad six, seven years since Normal People came out." — Bang Showbiz





NOTIS TENDER
KERJA / BEKALAN & PERKHIDMATAN

1.0 Tawaran adalah dipelawa daripada pembekal – pembekal yang **berdaftar / tidak berdaftar** dengan Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor dan Juruperunding (UPKJ) dalam Kategori dan Jenis Pendaftaran yang berkaitan serta mempunyai tempoh pendaftaran yang sah untuk membuat tawaran bagi kerja/bekalan & perkhidmatan berikut (jika berkenaan): -

NO	NO. TENDER	NAMA BORANG TENDER	PENDAFTARAN UPKJ JENIS LESEN: KERJA/BEKALAN & PERKHIDMATAN (jika berkenaan)		
			KATEGORI/ KELAS	KEPALA	SUB KEPALA
1	CENTEXS NO.12/2026/Q4 / (01)	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE SARAWAK, KUCHING.	A atau B (BEKALAN & PERKHIDMATAN)	VI	6
2	CENTEXS NO.12/2026/Q4 / (02)	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE SARAWAK, LAWAS.	A atau B (BEKALAN & PERKHIDMATAN)	VI	6
3	CENTEXS NO.13/2026/Q4 / (01)	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING AND JANITORIAL SERVICES AT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE SARAWAK, KUCHING.	A atau B (BEKALAN & PERKHIDMATAN)	VII	3
4	CENTEXS NO.13/2026/Q4 / (02)	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING AND JANITORIAL SERVICES AT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE SARAWAK, LAWAS.	B atau C (BEKALAN & PERKHIDMATAN)	VII	3
5	CENTEXS NO.13/2026/Q4 / (03)	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF LANDSCAPING, GARDENING AND HORTICULTURAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE SARAWAK, KUCHING.	E atau F (KERJA)	VI	5
6	CENTEXS NO.13/2026/Q4 / (04)	TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF LANDSCAPING, GARDENING AND HORTICULTURAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES AT CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE SARAWAK, LAWAS.	E atau F (KERJA)	VI	5

2.0 Terbuka kepada pembekal / kontraktor yang **berdaftar / tidak berdaftar** dengan Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor dan Juruperunding (UPKJ).

3.0 Deposit tender sebanyak dua peruluhan lima peratus (2.5%) daripada tawaran tender atau maksimum **RM10,000.00** akan dikenakan kepada pembekal / kontraktor yang tidak berdaftar dengan UPKJ. Disamping itu, deposit tender ini akan diserahkan dalam bentuk **draff bank** sewaktu menghantar dokumen tender oleh pembekal / kontraktor daripada bank yang telah diluluskan oleh Bank Negara Malaysia. Pembekal / kontraktor yang **tidak berdaftar** dengan UPKJ juga hendaklah mengemukakan salinan lesen perniagaan (**Trade Licence** yang berkaitan) yang masih sah pada waktu pembelian & menghantar dokumen tender.

Semua Petender hendaklah melengkapkan **Borang B** (dalam Dokumen Tender): **Maklumat Kewangan** dengan lengkap dan tepat. Maklumat yang dikemukakan hendaklah disertakan bersama dokumen sokongan seperti berikut:

- i. **Purata baki positif penyata bank bagi tiga (3) bulan terkini** hendaklah disahkan (certified) oleh pihak Bank/ Institusi Kewangan;
- ii. **Surat pengesahan daripada Bank/Institusi Kewangan** hendaklah dikemukakan bagi:
- Simpanan Tetap (**Fixed Deposit**), jika berkenaan;
 - Kemudahan Kredit (**Credit Line**), jika berkenaan; dan
 - Kemudahan Kredit Tambahan (**Additional Credit Line**), jika berkenaan.

CENTEXS berhak untuk membuat semakan dan pengesahan terhadap semua maklumat kewangan yang dikemukakan. Kegagalan mengemukakan maklumat atau dokumen sokongan yang lengkap, benar dan sah boleh menyebabkan tawaran Petender **ditolak atau tidak dipertimbangkan** dalam proses penilaian tender.

4.0 Dokumen Tender yang berharga **RM 100 satu set (tidak dikembalikan)** hanya akan dijual kepada pemilik atau wakilnya yang diberi kuasa secara bertulis oleh Pemilik / Rakan Kongsi / Pengarah Syarikat. Pemilik atau wakilnya hendaklah mengemukakan **SIJIL ASAL UNIT PENDAFTARAN KONTRAKTOR DAN JURUPERUNDING (UPKJ)** (jika berkenaan), **LESEN PERNIAGAAN (TRADE LICENCE)** (yang berkaitan), **SIJIL ASAL PENGIKTIRAFAN STATUS BUMIPUTERA** (jika berkenaan), **SURAT PERWAKILAN KUASA** (jika berkenaan), **SALINAN KAD PENGENALAN** (jika berkenaan) sebelum dokumen tender dijual kepada Pembekal / Kontraktor yang layak.

5.0 Bayaran yuran Dokumen Tender hendaklah dibuat dalam bentuk **TUNAI** atau melalui pindahan dalam talian **ONLINE TRANSFER** yang dibayar atas nama **CENTEXS**. Petender hendaklah mengemukakan bukti pembayaran kepada pegawai perolehan CENTEXS untuk tujuan pengesahan sebelum Dokumen Tender diserahkan.

6.0 Contoh Dokumen Tender boleh disemak & diperolehi mulai **27 Oktober 2026 hingga 17 November 2026 pada jam 8 pagi sehingga 5 petang pada waktu pejabat** di alamat Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak, Jalan Sultan Tengah, Rampangi, Santubong, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak. **Petender dinasihatkan untuk menghubungi pihak CENTEXS (Unit Perolehan) terlebih dahulu** ditalian 082-846408 (ext 205) sebelum hadir ke pejabat bagi memudahkan urusan menyemak Dokumen Tender.

7.0 **TIADA** lawatan tapak bagi tender – tender yang dijual oleh CENTEXS pada Suku ke-4 2026 ini.

8.0 Dokumen Tender hendaklah dimasukkan sendiri oleh Pemilik / Wakil Syarikat / Firma ke dalam peti tawaran tender dengan menggunakan **sampul berlakri** serta mempunyai catatan **Nombor** dan **Tajuk Tender** pada bahagian atas sebelah kanan sampul. Dokumen Tender hendaklah diserahkan selewat-lambatnya **jam 12.00 tengahari** pada tarikh tutup **17 November 2026** di alamat seperti di bawah:-

Unit Perolehan
Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak,
Jalan Sultan Tengah, Rampangi, Santubong
93050 Kuching, Sarawak

9.0 Dokumen tender yang diterima selepas tarikh dan masa tutup tidak akan dipertimbangkan.

10.0 **CENTEXS** tidak terikat untuk menerima tawaran terendah atau mana-mana tawaran atau memberi apa-apa sebab di atas penolakan sesuatu tawaran tersebut.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif
Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak,
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722637U65

MAJLIS DAERAH LUAR BANDAR SIBÜ

KENYATAAN TENDER

1. Tender adalah dipelawa daripada kalangan kontraktor-kontraktor yang berdaftar dengan Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor dan Juruperunding (UPKJ) yang masih sah dan berdaftar dengan Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB) bagi perolehan kerja-kerja berikut:-

Bil	No. Tender	Tajuk Tender	UPKJ (Supply and Services)			Jenis Tawaran	Yuran Dokumen/Deposit Tender (RM)	Tempat dan Masa Jualan Dokumen Tender
			Category	Kepala	Sub-kepala			
1	SRDC/PH/T/2027/1	The Supply Of Roll On Roll Off (RORO) Bins, Truck Services and Manpower for Zone A	B or C	VII	2(a)(i)	Terbuka	Yuran Dokumen: RM50.00 (tidak dikembalikan) Deposit Tender: RM1,000.00 (akan dikembalikan kepada petender yang gagal)	Tingkat 17 (Bahagian Kesihatan Awam), Wisma Sanyan, No.1, Jalan Sanyan, 96000 Sibü Isnin - Khamis 8:30 am - 12:30pm 2:00pm - 3:00pm Jumaat 8:00 am - 11:30am 2:15pm - 3:00pm
2	SRDC/PH/T/2027/2	The Supply Of Roll On Roll Off (RORO) Bins, Truck Services and Manpower for Zone B	B or C	VII	2(a)(ii)			
3	SRDC/PH/T/2027/3	The Sweeping and Cleansing Works For Sibujaya Wet market, Pasar Ria, Food Court, Tamu, Rh. Asap and Weekend Market, Sibujaya	B or C	VII	3(a)			
4	SRDC/PH/T/2027/4	The Sweeping and Cleansing Works For Stapang Tamu and Selangau Market & Tamu	B or C	VII	3(a)			
5	SRDC/PH/T/2027/5	To Manage and Looking After The Council's Dog Pound at Jalan Durin Link, Sibü	B or C	VII	3(a)			
6	SRDC/PH/T/2027/6	The Cleansing, Manage and Looking After the Council's Public Toilet at Sibujaya, Durin, Stapang and Selangau areas	B or C	VII	3(a)			
7	SRDC/PH/T/2027/7	The Maintenance of Council's Dumping Ground at Selangau, Batu 51, Jalan Sibü-Bintulu, Sibü	B or C	VII	5(i)			
8	SRDC/PH/T/2027/8	The Maintenance of Council's Dumping Ground at Stapang, Batu 31, Jalan Sibü-Bintulu, Sibü	B or C	VII	5(i)			
9	SRDC/Library/T/2027/1	The Sweeping and Cleansing Works For Sibujaya Library for Year 2027	C	VII	3(a)			

2. Dokumen Tender boleh diperolehi pada waktu pejabat pada dan selepas 27hb Oktober 2026 (Selasa) setelah pembayaran dilakukan untuk yuran Dokumen dalam bentuk wang tunai dan hanya dijual kepada kontraktor yang sah dan mengikut syarat yang ditetapkan. Untuk sebarang maklumat lanjut, sila kemukakan pertanyaan melalui kaunter atau melalui talian 084-336077 (Bahagian Kesihatan dan Perkhidmatan Bandar).

3. Kontraktor mesti mengemukakan deposit tender berjumlah RM1,000.00 dalam bentuk **Banker's Cheque** atau **Bank Draft** dibuat atas nama "**Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü**" semasa membeli dokumen tender. Deposit tender akan dikembalikan sepenuhnya kepada semua petender yang gagal setelah penerimaan tender.

4. Kontraktor / Wakil Kontraktor hendaklah membawa bersama sijil pendaftaran ASAL serta mengemukakan salinannya yang telah diakui sah yang dikeluarkan oleh Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor dan Juruperunding (UPKJ) semasa membeli Dokumen Tender.

5. Dokumen Tender yang dikemukakan harus disertakan dengan dokumen-dokumen seperti berikut:-
a) Sijil Pendaftaran Perniagaan
b) Sijil Pendaftaran Kontraktor dengan UPKJ dan
c) Penyata akaun bank (3 bulan terkini) dan
d) Sijil Pendaftaran Kendaraan/Jentara (Vehicle Registration Green Card)(jika berkaitan)
Kegagalan berbuat demikian, Jawatankuasa Tender boleh menolak tawaran tender.

6. Kontraktor / Wakil Kontraktor adalah dinasihatkan untuk meneliti terma, syarat dan spesifikasi tender dan melaksanakan lawatan tapak untuk mengetahui keadaan tapak sebenar dibawah kawasan liputan kontrak kerja.

7. Dokumen Tender yang sempurna diisi hendaklah dimeteraikan dengan menggunakan sampul surat yang diatasnya bertanda SULIT dan ditulis dengan jelas Tarikh Tutup, Nombor Tender dan Tajuk Tender dan perlu dimasukkan ke dalam peti tender beralamat seperti berikut:-
Setiausaha,
Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü,
Tingkat 16, Wisma Sanyan,
No. 1, Jalan Sanyan,
96000 Sibü, Sarawak.

8. Tarikh tutup bagi semua tender di atas adalah pada 10hb November 2026 (Selasa), Jam 12:00 tengahari dan sebarang dokumen Tender yang diterima selepas masa yang ditetapkan akan ditolak.

9. Tempoh sah laku tender hendaklah 60 hari dari tarikh tutup.

10. Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü tidak terikat untuk menerima tawaran Tender yang terendah atau mana-mana tawaran.

Setiausaha,
Majlis Daerah Luar Bandar Sibü,

Tarikh : 26.10.2026

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Lot 2758, Block 8 MCCLD, Jalan Padang Kerbau,
98000 Miri, Sarawak.

SEDC SARAWAK
SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE

1. This tender is open to suppliers/contractors registered with the **Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor Dan Juruperunding (UPKJ)** under the **Category B** and registration type with a valid registration period, to submit tenders for the following supplies:-

Tender No.	Registration of Class/Category, Head & Sub-Head	Document Fees (RM)	Date, Time & Location for Tender Briefing	Date, Time & Location for Purchasing of Tender Document	Closing Date, Time & Location of Tender Submission				
PPES: T/08/2026 PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AMS) SOLUTION FOR SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SEDC)	I. Registered with UPKJ License: Category: B <table border="1"><tr><td>Head</td><td>Sub-Head</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Head	Sub-Head	X	3	Payment in cash RM50.00 (Non-refundable and deemed reasonable tender document fee. Payment in cash shall be made at the Finance Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.) (Tender Briefing is COMPULSORY for Bidders/ Tenderers participating in this tender before purchasing the tender documents)	Date: 11 November 2026 (Wednesday) Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Brahmam Road, Level 10, Menara SEDC, No. 2, The Isthmus, 93050, Kuching, Sarawak. (Tender Briefing is COMPULSORY for Bidders/ Tenderers participating in this tender before purchasing the tender documents)	Date: 12 November 2026 - 30 November 2026 Time: From 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Office hours) Monday - Friday Location: Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.	Date: 1 December 2026 (Tuesday) Time: 12:00 noon Location: Sarawak Economic Development Corporation Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.
Head	Sub-Head								
X	3								

2. The Tender Document shall only be sold to the Owner of the Company/Firm or to a representative duly authorised in writing by the Owner/Partner/Director of the Company. The Owner or the authorised representative is required to submit the following documents:-

- Certificate of Registration with the valid and applicable **Unit Pendaftaran Kontraktor dan Juruperunding (UPKJ)**;
- Valid **Business License**;
- Original Certificate of Bumiputera Status Recognition (if applicable);
- Business Name / Company Registration Certificate issued by the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM);
- Form 24 (Companies Act 1965 - List of Shareholders and their Shareholdings) or Section 51 (Companies Act 2016 - Notification of Change in the Register of Members) or Section 78 (Companies Act 2016 - Return of Allotment of Shares), where applicable; and
- Form 49 (Companies Act 1965 - List of Directors of the Company) or Section 14 (Companies Act 2016 - Notification of Appointment of First Secretary), where applicable.

For sole proprietorship or partnership, an Extract of Business Name Registration shall be submitted.

3. A non-refundable fee of **RM50.00** for the Tender Document shall be paid in the form of **Cash**, payable to **Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)**. Payment in cash shall be made at the **Finance Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak**.

4. This Tender Document will be issued in **softcopy format**, and tenderers are required to bring their own **pen drive** when collecting the Tender Document may be obtained from **12 November 2026 to 30 November 2026 during office hours** at the **Sarawak Economic Development Corporation, Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services, Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak**.

5. The Tender Document shall be submitted by the Owner or an authorised Representative of the Company/Firm by depositing it into the Tender Box in a **sealed envelope clearly marked with the Tender Number and Tender Title**. The Tender Document must be submitted no later than **12:00 noon on 1 December 2026** at the following address:
GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Sarawak Economic Development Corporation
Procurement Services Department, Group Global Business Services,
Level 9, SEDC Plaza, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

6. Tenderers are strongly encouraged to submit their Tender Documents well in advance of the stipulated Closing Date and Time to avoid any difficulties or inconveniences that may arise on the closing day.

7. The Sarawak Economic Development Corporation shall not be held liable for any failure by the Tenderer to submit the Tender Document by the specified Closing Date and Time.

8. The Form of Tender and Bidder's Declaration must be duly completed, signed, and stamped with the Company Seal. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

9. Tender Documents received after the closing date and time shall not be considered.

10. The Sarawak Economic Development Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and shall not be bound to accept the lowest tender. The Corporation is not obliged to provide any reason for the rejection of any tender.

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SARAWAK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Date: 27 October 2026
Important Note: This Tender Notice must be displayed on the Notice Board for fourteen (14) consecutive days throughout the tender invitation period.

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Bintulu	Tel: 086-311881, 013-8337370, 019-8550505
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. MY-28NCC-8/7-2021 (HC)
POST-WINDING UP NO.: MY-24PW-1-11/2024 (HC)
IN THE MATTERS OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF **EPISO ENTERPRISE SDN BHD**
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Registration No: 199501010130 (339331-X)
(Winding-Up by Court)
NOTICE OF PURCHASERS' MEETING (AMENDED NOTICE)
Only the Purchasers of Phase 2 and Phase 3
of Shoplots of Lot 1304, Block 3 SMTD and Sibu O.T. 29085
Off Jalan Ling Kai Cheng, Sibu
TAKE notice that a meeting of the Purchasers in the above matter will be held at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibu, Sarawak on the 7th November 2026 (Saturday) at 10:00 am.

Agenda
Discussion of a proposed Scheme of Arrangement under section 366 of the Companies Act 2016
WONG CHING YONG CHAI TZE CHEK
Joint and Several Liquidator Joint and Several Liquidator
Dated this 27th day of October 2026
Due to clerical errors, please disregard the notice dated 24 October 2026 because Phase 1 is not involved in the meeting

7262230547AN

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. MY-28NCC-8/7-2021 (HC)
POST-WINDING UP NO.: MY-24PW-1-11/2024 (HC)
IN THE MATTERS OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF **EPISO ENTERPRISE SDN BHD**
(IN LIQUIDATION)
Registration No: 199501010130 (339331-X)
(Winding-Up by Court)
NOTICE OF PURCHASERS' MEETING
Only the Purchasers of Phases 4, 5 and 7 of
uncompleted shop lots of Lot 1304, Block 3 SMTD and
Sibu O.T. 29085 Off Jalan Ling Kai Cheng, Sibu
TAKE notice that a meeting of the Purchasers in the above matter will be held at Tanahmas Hotel, Sibu, Sarawak on the 7th November 2026 (Saturday) at 2:30 pm.

Agenda
To discuss a Scheme of Arrangement and selection of a White Knight to construct the uncompleted shop lots
WONG CHING YONG CHAI TZE CHEK
Joint and Several Liquidator Joint and Several Liquidator
Dated this 27th day of October 2026

7262230547AN

PBLT SDN. BHD.
200501022368 (704498-D)
(Sebuah Syarikat Milik Mernat Kewangan Diperbadankan)

NOTIS TENDER
CADANGAN MEMBINA DAN MENYIAPKAN IBU PEJABAT POLIS DAERAH (IPD) KAPIT DAN BALAI POLIS KAPIT SERTA KEMUDAHAN BERKAITAN DI ATAS LOT 464, BLOCK 12, JALAN BLETEH, MENUAN LAND DISTRICT KAPIT, SARAWAK
FASA 2 : KERJA-KERJA BANGUNAN BAGI IBU PEJABAT POLIS DAERAH (IPD) KAPIT DAN BALAI POLIS KAPIT SERTA KEMUDAHAN BERKAITAN
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IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT BINTULU
In Bankruptcy Proceedings No. BTU-29NCC-14-3/2025
Re :
Nor Akmal bin Zainal Abidin (NRIC: 921216-10-5749)
Kusnetz Liding Dukung
P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak
and/or Sime Darby Plantation, Ladang Dulang P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak
and/or No. 21 Jin Kelangan 28/14, Taman Alam Megah, 40400 Shah Alam, Selangor
Ex-Parte : Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad
Tingkat 35, Menara 1, Menara Kambank Bank Rakyat
No. 33, Jalan Rakyat
50470 Kuala Lumpur
NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY ORDER
Notice is hereby given that, on a petition filed the 24 June 2025, a bankruptcy order against Nor Akmal bin Zainal Abidin (NRIC: 921216-10-5749), Kusnetz Liding Dukung, P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak and/or Sime Darby Plantation, Ladang Dulang P.O. Box 2054, 97000 Bintulu, Sarawak and/or No. 21 Jin Kelangan 28/14, Taman Alam Megah, 40400 Shah Alam, Selangor was made by the High Court of Bintulu on the 25 September 2025.
Dated the 19 day of September 2025.
(NUR SYAIRAH BINTI ROSMAN)
Assistant State Director of Insolvency Malaysia Department of Insolvency Miri Branch
For Director General of Insolvency
Insolvency No.: BP005295/2025

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
In Bankruptcy Proceedings No. MY-29NCC-81-7/2026
Re :
Mohamed Shahrul bin Wahab (NRIC: 790706-13-5605)
No. 7778 Lite View Garden Jalan Ameria Off Jalan Airport 96000 Miri, Sarawak
and/or 113C Flat PKNS Jalan Sungai Baru Kampung Baru 50300 Kuala Lumpur Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur
Ex-Parte : Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad
[Company Registration No. 198301002944 (88127-X)] a company incorporated in Malaysia under the companies Act 1965 (now repealed and replaced by the companies Act 2016) and having its registered address at 32nd Floor, Menara Bank Islam No. 22, Jalan Perak 50450 Kuala Lumpur and carrying out its business at No. 1257 & 1258, Block 9 Centre Point Commercial District Jalan Melayuru 98000 Miri, Sarawak
NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY ORDER
Notice is hereby given that, on a petition filed the 18 August 2026, a bankruptcy order against Mohamed Shahrul bin Wahab (NRIC: 790706-13-5605), No. 7778 Lite View Garden Jalan Ameria Off Jalan Airport 96000 Miri, Sarawak and/or 113C Flat PKNS Jalan Sungai Baru Kampung Baru 50300 Kuala Lumpur Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, was made by the High Court of Miri on the 18 September 2026.
Dated the 18 day of September 2026.
(NUR SYAIRAH BINTI ROSMAN)
Assistant State Director of Insolvency Malaysia Department of Insolvency Miri Branch
For Director General of Insolvency
Insolvency No.: BP008416/2026

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI
DIVORCE PETITION NO.: MY-33-13-2026 (HC)
(IN THE MATTER OF Sections 53, 54(1)(c) & (d), 88(1), 89(2) and 92 of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [Act 164])
BETWEEN ... PETITIONER
BRENDA ANAK PAU (F) (NRIC. NO.: 960509-13-6524)
AND ... RESPONDENT
HERIY NEX ANAK BIJIN (M) (NRIC. NO.: 930802-13-5777)
DIRECTIONS FOR TRIAL
(IN THE MATTER OF Divorce Petition issued on the 27th day of March 2026)
To: HERY NEX ANAK BIJIN (M) (NRIC. NO.: 930802-13-5777)
Last known address:
Rumah Machau,
Nanga Kumpang,
95800 Engkilil, Sarawak
Upon the written request for directions for trial filed by the petitioner in this cause, and having satisfied that the petitioner has complied with all the requirements of Rule 29(1) of Divorce and Matrimonial Proceedings Rules 1980, I do hereby direct that the cause be set down for trial before the High Court at Miri on **Tuesday the 3rd day of November 2026 at 9.00 am o'clock** in the forenoon. That the court has ordered that this Directions For Trial be served on you by publishing the Directions For Trial once in a local newspaper namely BORNEO POST and that such publication shall be deemed good and sufficient service of the same **8 days** after the date of publication. If you desire to defend the said action you must appear in the High Court, Miri on **3rd day of November 2026 at 9.00 am, Tuesday**. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.
DATED this **20th day of OCTOBER 2026**

Senior Assistant Registrar High Court, Miri

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT BINTULU
DIVORCE PETITION NO.: BTU-33-11-2026 (HC)
(IN THE MATTER OF Sections 53 and 54(1)(c) & (d) of the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976 [Act 164])
BETWEEN ... PETITIONER
SHARINNA ANAK JOM (F) (NRIC NO.: 000702-13-1436)
AND ... RESPONDENT
JORISE JAMES EKOM ANAK ASOK (M) (NRIC NO.: 960621-13-6225)
NOTICE OF HEARING
(IN THE MATTER OF Divorce Petition issued on the 25th day of February 2026)
To: JORISE JAMES EKOM ANAK ASOK (M) (NRIC NO.: 960621-13-6225)
Last known address:
Rumah Gramen,
KM 7, Jalan Tatu-Sangan,
Sungai Empuak Jelai,
97200 Tatau, Sarawak
TAKE NOTICE that the above petition has been set down for trial before the High Court at Bintulu on **Wednesday the 11th day of November 2026 at 9.00 am o'clock** in the forenoon. And that the court has ordered that this Notice of Hearing be served on you by publishing the Notice once in a local newspaper namely BORNEO POST and that such publication shall be deemed good and sufficient service of the same **14 days** after the date of publication. If you desire to defend the said action you must appear in the High Court, Bintulu on **11th day of November 2026 at 9.00 am, Wednesday**. In default of such notice, decree nisi may be granted against you.
DATED this **20th day of OCTOBER 2026**

Senior Assistant Registrar High Court, Bintulu

VACANCIES
DELTA SEA FOOD & CAFE
LOOKING FOR
COOK
AT NO. 24,
JALAN CROSS, 96000 SIBU, SARAWAK.
Sector: HOTEL/RESTAURANT
No. of vacancies: 4
Experience: 3 YEARS
Qualifications:
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS
Salary:
RM 1,700.00 PER MONTH
Duties: PREPARE INGREDIENTS, FOLLOWS RECIPES, AND COOKS FOOD ITEMS DURING SERVICE TO MEET QUALITY.
Interview Date & Time :
27/10/2026 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Interview Location :
PEJABAT PERKESO SIBU
SCAN TO APPLY

NBG TRADING SDN BHD IS HIRING:
SPARE PARTS STAFF
- Responsible for sales and inventory management of automotive spare parts
- Relevant work experience is preferred
LORRY DRIVER
- Must possess a valid GDL lorry driving license
MECHANIC
- Experience in commercial vehicle / lorry repair is preferred
- Experience as a senior foreman is preferred
WELDER
- Relevant work experience preferred
Work Location:
Lot 1595, Block 11, 6 1/2 Mile, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak.
How to Apply:
Please send your resume to nbgswb@gmail.com,
cc_wteck8729@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +601163099845
(Messages Only, No Calls)

725178U48A

Property For Sale/Purchase/Loan
Those who are interested in property dealings or any property problems (ie. probate matter, caveat, Property for Loan), please contact our service centre.
United Properties Service Company
No.2B-C, 1st Flr, Jln Hardin, Sibu
Tel/Fax: 084 - 338909
H/P: 016 890 1611 (Mr. Ling)
*** Mukah / Balingian/ Betong/ Oya Dalat Land For Sale ***

725071020A

NGU HENG TECK ENTERPRISE SDN. BHD.
198401001489 (114010-U)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)
(In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)
NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING UNDER SECTION 459 (1) OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Final Meeting of the Company will be held at 31A, Jalan Tapah, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak on **27 November 2026 at 10.00 a.m.**
AGENDA
1. To receive and consider the accounts from the Joint Liquidators showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and any explanations arising therefrom.
2. To resolve that under Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act 2016, the manner in which all books, accounts and documents of the Company and the Joint Liquidators thereof shall be disposed of.
3. To approve and accept the resignation of the Joint Liquidators in accordance with Section 513(3) of the Companies Act 2016.
Dated this **27.10.2026**
NGU HEW HUAT
NGU HEW SII
Joint Liquidators
726223U547AN

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
DIVORCE PETITION NO. KCH-33-153-9/2026 (HC 2)
IN THE MATTER OF Section 53 of the Law Reform (Marriage & Divorce) Act 1976
BETWEEN
JENNIFER ANAK MEDONG (W.N.KP 731106-13-5202) Kampung Serasat
94000 Bau, Sarawak
... PETITIONER
AND
LARS SPITSBERG LAURSEN (Denmark Passport A003630981) (address unknown)
... RESPONDENT
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF DIVORCE PETITION
In the Matter of Divorce Petition dated the 11th day of September, 2026.
To:-
LARS SPITSBERG LAURSEN (Denmark Passport A003630981) (address unknown)
TAKE NOTICE that a Divorce Petition has been commenced against you in the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Kuching by the Petitioner, JENNIFER ANAK MEDONG (W.N.KP 731106-13-5202) of Kampung Serasat, 94000 Bau, Sarawak for an Order that:-
1. the said marriage be dissolved; and
2. any other relief as the Court may deem fit and necessary to grant.
AND THAT the Court has ordered that the service of the said Divorce Petition be effected on you by way of a publication of this notice in one (1) issue of the "Borneo Post" newspaper and that such publication shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Divorce Petition and shall be deemed to have been effected on you on the same day of such publication.
Dated this 22nd October, 2026.
Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Co.
Advocates for the Petitioner
This Substituted Service of Divorce Petition is taken out by Messrs Khaider Zaidell & Co. Advocates for the Petitioner whose office for service is at 2nd Floor, Lot 328, Section 10, KTD, Jalan Sako, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak. advocates@kzlaw.com

*Heartiest
Congratulations*

to

YB Abdul Yakub bin Haji Arbi

on your graduation with

**Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree
from Asia e University**



ABDUL YAKUB BIN HAJI ARBI

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MALAYSIA

From:

Datuk Anthony and Datin Mary

YB Datuk Dr Malcom Musen and Datin Dorothy

YB Ir Christoper Gira and Puan Anita

Dato`Bong Ah Loi and Datin Helen Bong

Datu William Nyigor and Datin Jackie

Mr Patrick Tan

Dr David Ling

Mr Alex Dris.

Dr. Balasubramaniam@Balan

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