

Warnings fell on deaf ears

Residents' decade-long landslide warnings over a hillslope development proved tragically right. >3

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Staggering polls

Malaysia has seen a record number of state elections since the last general election, with 11 states going to the polls between 2022 and the end of 2026. With different parties ruling different states, it's a trend that's set to stay, say analysts. > **See reports on page 6 by SHYAFIQ DZULKIFLI**

'Indonesian fires drive nearly half of weekly global emissions.' >11



Caring on both fronts: Raja Siffudin Iskandar (left), helping his mother Tengku Share Zade (right) with her medication. With them are Raja Siffudin's children Tunku Raesa, 5, (second from left) Tunku Raed, 2, and his wife Rohati Kamil. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/ The Star

The sandwich generation squeeze

Malaysians supporting both children and ageing parents make up most cases seeking help from the national credit counselling agency amid rising living costs.

More than 100,000 people have sought help, up 15% from last year.

> **See reports by FAZLEENA AZIZ and DIYANA PFORDTEN on page 5**

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Nusantara on canvas

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PM eyes closer ties with Brazil following Lula's win

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia looks forward to strengthening trade and investment ties with Brazil and advancing cooperation between Asean and Latin America under President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's continued leadership, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Congratulating Lula on his election victory, the Prime Minister said the hard-fought contest had given the Brazilian leader a renewed mandate from his people.

"My heartiest congratulations to my dear friend, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, on his historic election victory in Brazil.

"There is much that we can do together: strengthening trade and investment, advancing cooperation between Asean and Latin America and giving greater substance to the partnership between our two countries," he said in a social media post.

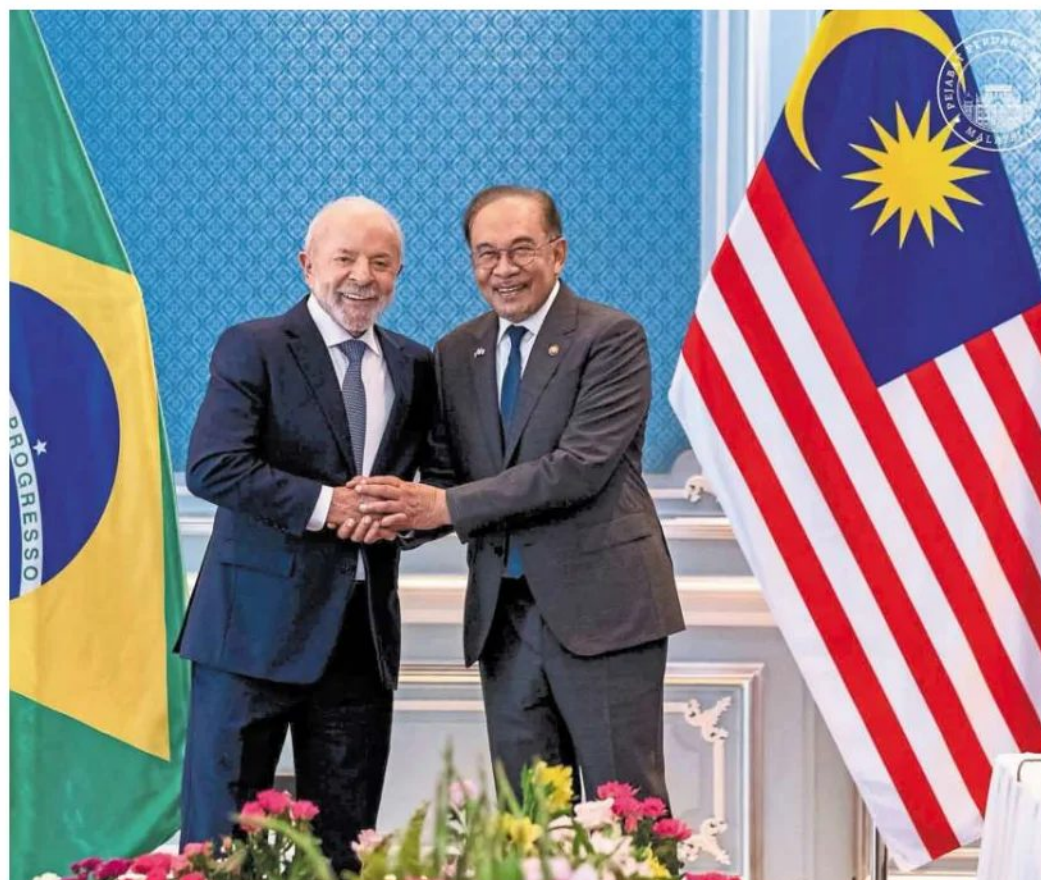
The Prime Minister said Lula's lifelong commitment to social justice, poverty reduction, and ensuring developing countries were heard had earned respect beyond Brazil.

"I have always valued our friendship, and I share his conviction that the Global South must have a stronger voice in shaping a fairer international order," he said.

Lula secured a fourth presidential term after defeating Senator Flavio Bolsonaro in Brazil's presidential run-off on Oct 25. He won about 51.8% of the vote against his rival's 48.2%.

Lula, who turns 81 today, was first elected in 2002.

FOR MORE:
See page 20



Shared vision:

A file photo of Anwar welcoming Lula at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya during the Brazilian President's visit to Malaysia in conjunction with the Asean Summit and Related Summits last year. — Photo from Anwar Ibrahim's Facebook page.

Action needed on Asean power grid

Fadillah urges practical progress towards integrated regional networks

SINGAPORE: Asean must move beyond commitments and take concrete steps to turn its regional power grid ambition into reality, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

He cited the Laos-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore (LTMS) Power Integration Project as evidence that multilateral electricity trading in the region was possible, underscoring the potential for such initiatives to advance the regional grouping's power grid ambitions.

Fadillah, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister, said the bloc had reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing regional connectivity at the recent 44th Asean Ministers on Energy Meeting in Manila, Philippines.

"It is now time to move the ambition into action," he said in his ministerial keynote address at the Singapore International Energy Week



Powering ahead: Fadillah delivering his ministerial keynote address at the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2026. — Bernama

(SIEW) 2026 yesterday.

Fadillah said Malaysia viewed the Asean Power Grid (APG) not just as infrastructure but as a strategic connection for the

region's energy security and prosperity.

"These connections are more than cables carrying electrons across borders; they are bridges

of energy security.

"In times of stability, they bring efficiency and help us integrate more renewable energy, while in times of disruption, they bring options, flexibility and resilience," he said, Bernama reported.

The APG is an energy cooperation initiative aimed at promoting electricity trading to strengthen energy security, resilience and connectivity while helping Asean meet growing electricity demand and improve access to reliable and affordable energy.

The LTMS Power Integration Project, which has been operational since 2022, enables electricity trading among four Asean countries through existing power grids and represents an important step towards implementing multilateral power trading across the region.

Fadillah said the bloc's strength lay in the ability of its member states to complement one

another and build a system that connects all resources together.

He stressed that energy transition and energy security were "two sides of the same coin", and that a more diversified, interconnected and flexible system would lead to stronger regional integration.

He reaffirmed that Malaysia stands ready to play its part and would keep advancing its domestic energy transition and strengthening partnerships.

"We will deepen our partnership with Singapore and work with our Asean neighbours and international partners to turn connectivity from aspiration into reality.

"We have the vision, we have the partners, and what we need now is the will to act together. The energy future we want will not be built by any one country; it will be built by all of us together."

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Residents proven right – tragically

Over a decade of warnings could not stop hillslope development

By **LOW CO SIN**
cosin.low@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: For more than 10 years now, residents have been fighting to stop a hillslope development near their homes.

Now, they have been proven tragically right – a landslide has killed a doctor in Taman Seri Rambai in Paya Terubong here.

Residents of the housing estate and nearby Taman Lau Geok Swee have been raising concerns over hillside development, rock blasting, mudflows and the safety of their neighbourhood for years now.

As early as October 2015, the earthworks on the hillside behind their homes left roads muddy whenever it rained.

Between 2015 and 2017, when residents sought political intervention and took their case to the state Appeals Board.

In 2017, when a deadly landslide occurred at a construction site in Tanjung Bungah, they again reminded that they, too, were facing a similar threat.

A check on the construction notice board yesterday shows that work on the hill above the affected properties is now for the building of a block with two apartment towers comprising a tower with 783 units in 35 levels and another with 887 units in 34 levels.

There will be eight lower ground levels and two more

above grounds for multistorey car parks, common facilities, shops and a management office.

The development had first started as six-storey townhouses but had undergone several changes along the way.

Meanwhile, Penang MCA Public Services and Complaints Bureau adviser Lim Thoon Deong said authorities should not wait for another tragedy before taking decisive action.

“The people of Penang deserve transparency, accountability and, above all, the assurance that their lives and homes are safe.

“One life lost is already one too many. Development must never take precedence over human life,” he said in a statement.

Lim said he had previously raised concerns about the suitability and safety of constructing such tall buildings on a steep slope, particularly so close to existing houses.

“Despite objections from the Paya Terubong Residents Association and concerned non-governmental organisations, the development was allowed to proceed.

“The authorities maintained that the necessary precautionary measures had been considered,” he added.

Lim called on the state government to conduct an independent investigation into the latest landslide as well as a geotechnical assessment of the



Deadly aftermath: Heavy construction and slope stabilisation works underway along the hillside directly above a landslide-affected neighbourhood in Penang. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

Residents living under shadow of fear

Towers plan in Paya Terubong is a huge worry, they say

By **LOGESWARY THEVARASS**
and **RENA LIM**
renalim@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Since the deadly landslide in Tanjung Bungah, people in Paya Terubong are looking over their shoulder – and up at a nearby hill.

They have been trying for years to stop a project comprising four towers, each over 40 storeys tall, approved on a hillside across the road from their homes.

Because the project has already been approved, the residents are down to one last resort – the state Planning Appeals Board.

“We must try. The only thing between our homes and those four towers will be a new three-way street,” the developers said.

“Building skyscrapers on a steep hillside is dangerous. If the towers come down, the whole neighbourhood will be gone,” he said, adding that the high-density project will also worsen traffic congestion there.

He told a press conference yesterday that the earthworks two years ago caused frequent flash floods, mudslides and torrential mudflows in the neighbourhood.

Penang MCA and Gerakan, which organised the press conference, urged the state government to revoke the approval.

Bukit Gelagar MCA division dep-

artment buildings in Paya Terubong. Air Ram.

Put on hold: A view of the site for the development of four apartment buildings in Paya Terubong. Air Ram.

Warning signs: A report by ‘The Star’ from Oct 26, 2017, on residents’ concerns about the hillslope development in Paya Terubong.

hillslope, taking into account the high-rise development and slope stability.

“The original planning approv-

als and safety requirements must also be reviewed, and for the findings be made available to the public,” he said.

After the fatal landslide, stop-work orders have been issued for a housing development and slope stabilisation works behind the affected row of houses, pending safety inspections.

Several residents were also allowed to retrieve essential belongings from their homes under the supervision of the authorities.

A resident known as Loon, said his family of nine had been told to temporarily vacate their home.

“For now, we have booked two hotel rooms for three days, while some of us will stay at a Buddhist religious centre.

“But we still do not know what will happen after that,” he said, adding that muddy water had entered homes in the neighbourhood before, with the worst incident occurring in 2017.

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Zahid backs Dr Wee over the ministry's RM2.1bil issue

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong's explanation over the Rural and Regional Development Ministry's RM2.1bil expenditure controversy was accurate, says Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (pic).

The Deputy Prime Minister backed the Ayer Hitam MP following a heated exchange in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday between him and Kampar MP Chong Zhemin.

Chong had moved to refer Dr Wee to the Parliamentary Rights and Privileges Committee over allegations that he had made that could have misled the Lower House about the ministry's expenditure.

Dr Wee said he had never accused anyone of misappropriating the funds but had sought clarification on the financial approval processes involved to prevent perceptions that the

money had disappeared or had been given to ministers to spend at their discretion.

He said he had been referred to the committee and asked to explain himself over the controversy, adding that he had written to the Dewan Rakyat Speaker seeking an opportunity to clear his name.

"What I said was that something had happened, and I was referring to the statement by the Treasury secretary-general, which mentioned the figures cited by the Deputy Prime Minister.

"I never said that anyone had 'sakau-ed' the money. Various allegations have been made. I asked for clarification so that the government's image would not be tarnished. That is all," he said.

Dr Wee said any revision to the



allocation had to go through the proper approval process, whether through the Economic Planning Unit for development expenditure or through warrant financing by the Finance Ministry.

"I know this because I have been a minister before. Without these approvals, the money cannot be released.

"Only now has there been an acknowledgement of the actual expenditure. That is why I said it would be best to explain all three processes.

"If these processes are omitted, it gives the impression that the money has disappeared or that it was handed to ministers to spend as they pleased," he said.

Ahmad Zahid subsequently backed Dr Wee's explanation, saying the Ayer Hitam MP had

provided the correct answer before proceeding with his ministerial explanation.

"Do you hear that, Kampar? That is the correct answer. Ayer Hitam's answer is correct."

Chong had previously challenged Dr Wee to identify who had used the word "sakau" in relation to the RM2.1bil expenditure controversy.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid, who is the Rural and Regional Development Minister, said the RM2.1bil difference between the original allocation and actual expenditure for the Rural Road Programme (JALB) arose when actual expenditure of RM6.108bil was compared with the original allocation of RM3.982bil without taking into account the revised allocation.

"For the record, from 2023 to 2025, JALB's original allocation totalled about RM3.982bil.

Following adjustments, the revised allocation stood at RM6.143bil, while actual expenditure amounted to RM6.108bil.

"However, compared with the revised allocation, actual expenditure remained below the amount available, leaving a balance of about RM34.3mil.

"Where did the RM2.1bil figure come from? It was derived by subtracting the original allocation of RM3.982bil from actual expenditure of RM6.108bil, without taking the revised allocation into account," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said the allocation was revised to meet project payment needs, including when work progressed faster than expected or outstanding claims for earlier projects had to be settled.

He stressed that every adjustment was subject to government approval and financial procedures.

Higher threshold from next year

Bankruptcy benchmark to be raised from RM100,000 to RM150,000

By **ARFA YUNUS**
and **QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 253,457 bankruptcy discharge cases were recorded between 2023 and September this year, as the government plans to raise the bankruptcy threshold from RM100,000 to RM150,000, says Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said (pic).

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) said the proposed increase is aimed at reducing bankruptcy risks while giving debtors more room to restructure their finances.

"The move is intended to

reduce bankruptcy risks and provide debtors with an opportunity to reorganise their finances.

"The government is strengthening its recovery efforts through the second-chance policy," Azalina said during her winding-up speech on Budget 2027 in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

The proposed increase in the bankruptcy threshold was announced during the tabling of Budget 2027 on Oct 9.

Azalina said the government would continue its efforts under the Fast Track Discharge Programme 2026, which prioritises



certain groups, including single parents, scam victims, buyers of abandoned housing projects as well as micro, small and medium enterprise borrowers.

Applications for bankruptcy discharge can now be submitted online through the Insolvency Department's e-Insolvensi portal, she added.

"For eligible applicants, the fast-track process can be completed within 36 days, subject to the relevant conditions and no objections from creditors."

Azalina also said that the government, through the Insolvency Department, is aiming to further

shorten the discharge process next year.

On a separate matter, Azalina said a parliamentary special select committee (PSSC) examining the proposed separation of the Attorney General (AG) and Public Prosecutor (PP) roles would meet again next week.

She said the AG's Chambers had been given two weeks to provide its legal response on the proposed reform.

"Once we receive its legal response next week, I will convene another PSSC meeting."

Azalina said separating the two roles is necessary to address perceptions of interference in prosecution decisions, when asked by Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa

(BN-Tampin) whether it was appropriate for an MP to request the Prime Minister to direct the AG to prosecute certain individuals, arguing that such actions are inconsistent with the rule of law.

She also outlined a proposed appointment mechanism under which candidates for the PP position would be debated in Parliament before their names were submitted for consideration and eventual presentation to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

She stressed that the country's system of checks and balances depended on the separation of powers among the executive, legislature and judiciary, adding that the courts remained an avenue for seeking justice.

Over RM300mil in seizures this year

By **JUSTIN ZACK**
justin@thestar.com.my

SEPANG: More than RM300mil worth of seizures have been recorded by the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS) so far this year, says Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

The Home Minister said the total value of seizures as of this month stood at RM322.74mil.

"The value of seizures that helped prevent losses to national revenue from leakages reached RM322.74mil as of October, representing an increase of nearly fourfold from the previous year.

"AKPS officers and personnel have done well in protecting the country's borders," he said in a speech read by ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Awang Alik Jeman at the agency's second anniversary celebration yesterday.

He said that, following the arrest of a Malaysian pilot in Indonesia for drug smuggling, AKPS had been entrusted with leading the National and Border Security Pillar under the newly established Security Improvement and Mitigation Action Plan.

"In this regard, AKPS has begun coordinating integrated operational activities under Ops Sundang to ensure that the stipulated target timelines are met through collaboration between AKPS and various agencies such as the police and the Customs Department," he added.

Meanwhile, AKPS deputy director-general (management) Ismail Mokhtar said the illegal goods seized this year represented more than just statistics.

"Behind them lie attempts to exploit weaknesses in controls, evade legal obligations and reap



illicit profits, with the risks ultimately borne by the nation and its people.

"Our aim is not merely to seize goods. We want to close smuggling routes, identify the perpetrators and dismantle the systems that allow smuggling to recur," he said.

He added that e-waste issues are becoming more complex and that it will continue its efforts to export out containers that have been identified at ports here.

"For the first time this year, the government, through a task force led by AKPS, successfully arranged for containers carrying e-waste to



Fresh look: AKPS personnel showing the agency's new logo at its second anniversary celebration in Sepang. — Bernama

be shipped out of the country.

"We will ensure that all 1,259 containers are exported by the end of this year."

On its manpower, Ismail said a total of 4,190 staff members had been absorbed into the agency via the AKPS Service Scheme.

"This figure is important in building a professional identity

and uniting personnel from different service backgrounds under a single institution.

"However, this integration process must be followed by the development of common competencies, the standardisation of work procedures, stronger discipline and the consolidation of a single chain of command."

WEATHER

	GEORGE TOWN	K. LUMPUR	JOHOR BARU	KOTA BARU	K. KINABALU	KUCHING
AM	Rain	Thunderstorms	No rain	Rain	No rain	Isolated rain
PM	Rain	No rain	Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms	Isolated thunderstorms	No rain

PRAYER TIMES

ALOR SETAR	PENANG	K. LUMPUR	JOHOR BARU	KUANTAN	KOTA BARU
Subuh 5:55	Subuh 5:55	Subuh 5:48	Subuh 5:38	Subuh 5:42	Subuh 5:48
Zohor 1:05	Zohor 1:05	Zohor 1:00	Zohor 12:51	Zohor 12:54	Zohor 12:58
Asar 4:24	Asar 4:24	Asar 4:19	Asar 4:09	Asar 4:13	Asar 4:17
Maghrib 7:01	Maghrib 7:02	Maghrib 6:59	Maghrib 6:52	Maghrib 6:54	Maghrib 6:54
Iyayak 8:12	Iyayak 8:13	Iyayak 8:09	Iyayak 8:03	Iyayak 8:04	Iyayak 8:01

Too many mouths, too many bills

Families caring for both kids and ageing parents feel the pinch as living costs rise

By FAZLEENA AZIZ
fazleena@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Caring for children and ageing parents while keeping the household budget afloat is a balancing act for many Malaysians in their 30s, 40s and beyond – and many are losing their balance.

According to the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK), which offers credit counselling and debt management services, this age group accounts for the largest share of its approved debt management programme (DMP) cases since the agency was set up in April 2006.

Financial responsibility for everything from household expenses and children's education to supporting ageing parents can converge for this cohort.

"This can create a 'sandwich generation' effect, with people balancing the needs of younger and older family members alongside their own commitments," the AKPK said.

Its data shows that individuals aged 30 to 39 account for 41% of approved DMP cases, followed by those aged 40 to 49 at 30%.

The Star spoke to several families who shared how rising costs and caregiving duties are squeezing their finances, and what form help from the government should take.

For Janet Chia, caring for her mother who has dementia while raising three children and running a food and beverage business has become a careful tightrope walk.

The 52-year-old from Puncak Jalil in Seri Kembangan, Selangor, said she first noticed changes in her mother's behaviour about two years ago, when she began making unusual claims about money going missing.

Her mother was eventually diagnosed with dementia at a government hospital and now



Multiple duties: Chia caring for her mother Lim Ah Choo, 77, who has dementia. Chia, who runs a food and beverage business, is stretched between caring for her kids and mother.

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lives with Chia, requiring constant supervision, including at night when she becomes restless and behaves unpredictably.

Chia and her husband, an artist who works from home, hired a domestic helper about a year ago.

However, Chia said she still had to step in because the helper sometimes struggled to communicate with her mother.

She shares caregiving costs with her two siblings, including expenses for supplements, specialised food, and adult diapers.

"The most expensive, I think, are the supplements," she said.

For educator Mimie Zerlina, 46, from Seremban, caring for both ageing parents while raising her children and working has made household budgeting increasingly important.

Although she and her husband have stable jobs, she said the rising prices of groceries, electricity, and petrol, alongside tuition fees and other educational expenses, had affected their monthly spending.

Middle-income families also need support despite not qualifying for many forms of government assistance, she said.

Mimie called for broader tax relief for children's education and tuition fees, more affordable electricity tariffs, and targeted subsidies for essential expenses.

She also urged the government to consider the number of

dependents and responsibility for ageing parents when determining eligibility for assistance.

A 48-year-old freelancer from Kota Kemuning, Shah Alam, who wants to be known only as KaySL, said unpredictable earnings have left little room for savings despite having a dual-income household.

He lives with his wife, two children, and father-in-law, and earns a living through wholesaling coffee beans to cafes, design work, event photography, and coaching volleyball as an assistant coach.

The economic slowdown and inflation over the past two to three years have affected his income, he said, while unexpected expenses – such as house repairs, car breakdowns and damaged work equipment – further strained the family budget.

"When our work laptop breaks, it hits us especially hard because it directly impacts our ability to earn an income," he said.

KaySL said the family's biggest expenses are his children's extracurricular activities and food.

A meal outside could cost nearly RM100, prompting the family to cook at home and prepare packed meals for the children.

He considers extracurricular classes important for his children's development and continues to prioritise them when the family can afford them.

He hopes for direct financial assistance, subsidies for children's enrichment classes, and emergency grants tailored for freelancers with irregular incomes.

He said fuel subsidies were less useful to him because his work did not require a daily commute.

Some of the wants mentioned have been referenced in Budget 2027, such as expanded tax relief for caring for parents and grandparents, as well as broader relief for children's education and tuition fees.

AKPK's 4A formula Steps to help you understand your finances

1 Acknowledge
Recognise the signs of financial pressure such as difficulty meeting monthly commitments or relying on credit for essential expenses.

2 Analyse
Review income, expenses, debt obligations and savings to understand the sources of pressure.

3 Take action
Act on what you have identified.

Reassess spending priorities
Adjust the household budget

Manage existing commitments carefully

Avoid taking on additional obligations that could further strain cash flow.

4 Approach AKPK
If financial commitments are becoming difficult to manage, approach AKPK for financial advisory and, where appropriate, debt management assistance.

Early guidance can help clarify your financial position and the options available.

Source: AKPK TheStargraphics

Over 100,000 seek financial aid in eight months

By DIYANA PFORDTEN
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: More Malaysians are seeking financial help amid cost-of-living pressures, with over 100,000 turning to the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK) in the first eight months of 2026 – this is up 15% year-on-year.

"The increase may indicate a greater willingness to seek guidance on financial commitments and overall financial well-being," said the agency that was established by Bank Negara Malaysia to offer credit counselling and debt management services.

More than 47,000 individuals were approved for its debt management programme (DMP) between January and August this year, said the agency, adding that this highlights the continued need for structured assistance to manage debt commitments.

"Seeking financial guidance should not be viewed solely as a response to financial difficulty. It is also a practical step towards making informed, responsible decisions."

Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency

Data compiled since the agency was set up in April 2006 shows that 40% of individuals who approached the AKPK received assistance under the DMP to deal with the high cost of living, while 12% needed help with unexpected financial commitments.

"Alongside challenges in managing debt and monthly repayments, higher living expenses and unexpected financial commitments can put additional strain

on household cash flow.

"These figures suggest that financial strain can arise from a combination of day-to-day expenses and unforeseen costs that make existing obligations harder to manage," it said.

AKPK said growing access to credit is adding another dimension to household financial commitments.

In a parliamentary reply on Oct 19, Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Anwar Ibrahim said active "buy now pay later" (BNPL) account holders had increased by 22.7% to 9.2 million as at June 30, with outstanding financing totalling RM6.6bil.

AKPK said while BNPL can offer payment flexibility, consumers need to consider all their commitments together and assess whether they can meet them within their financial capacity.

"The key is to maintain a clear picture of total obligations and avoid placing undue pressure on monthly cash flow.

"Ultimately, financial vulnerability has no single age or income profile. What matters is whether a person's financial commitments remain manageable as their circumstances and responsibilities change," AKPK said.

AKPK noted that financial difficulties rarely emerge overnight.

"Warning signs may include relying increasingly on credit to

pay for everyday necessities, consistently paying only the minimum amount due, borrowing to repay existing debts, having little or no emergency savings, or finding that monthly commitments are affecting essential household expenses.

"The important thing is not to wait until repayments are missed or the situation becomes unmanageable.

"Seeking financial guidance should not be viewed solely as a response to financial difficulty.

"It is also a practical step towards making informed, responsible decisions throughout one's financial journey," the agency said.

Beyond debt management, AKPK said it supports Malaysians through financial education, programmes, modules, and publications that help them make informed decisions and strengthen their financial resilience.

States diverge from national polls

Staggered electoral schedules reach peak frequency

By SHYAFIQ DZULKIFLI
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

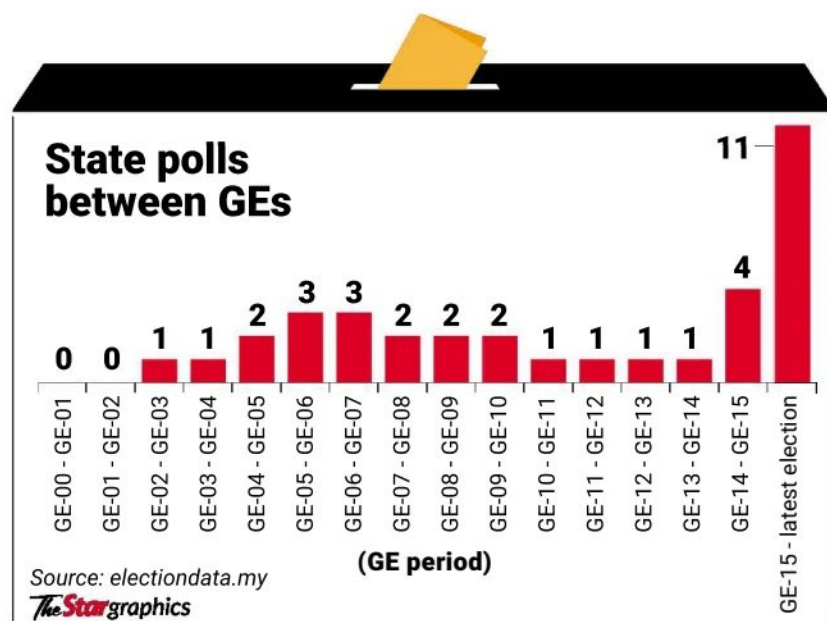
PETALING JAYA: It used to be that the Peninsular Malaysia states went to the polls during the general elections, while Sabah and Sarawak held their state elections on different days.

But that's long in the past. Now, it's open season and almost a free-for-all.

In fact, the upcoming Melaka and Sarawak elections will bring the total number of state polls since the 15th General Election (GE15) to 11 – the most ever held between two general elections.

The previous record was four state elections, between GE14 (2018) and GE15 (2022). Between GE6 (1982) and GE7 (1986), there were three with one seat in Negri Sembilan also holding its election outside the general election.

The trend shows that state elections are increasingly being held separately from parliamentary polls.



For most voters, it means going to the ballot box twice, once to choose a member of Parliament and again to decide on their state assemblyman.

The result of GE12 in 2008 was a political tsunami that led to Barisan Nasional losing several states. In GE14 in 2018, Pakatan Harapan won seven states, Barisan two, and PAS two, cementing this new political reality (see related story).

After the dissolution of the Dewan Rakyat in October 2022 to pave the way for GE15, the current surge of separate state polls began.

Only three states decided to dissolve their assemblies alongside Parliament, namely Pahang, Perlis and Perak, all led by Barisan. Ten others, including Sabah, Sarawak, Melaka and Johor, did not follow suit.

These four states had held elections between 2020 and 2022 and still had several years of their five-year terms to run.

The remaining six that decided not to dissolve their assemblies were Pakatan-led Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Penang and PAS-held Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah.

After GE15, these six states held

their elections simultaneously on Aug 12, 2023. Sabah then went to the ballot box last year on Nov 29.

This year, Johor held its polls on July 11.

Negri Sembilan, meanwhile, held its second post-GE15 state election on Aug 1 after a crisis in the state over the position of the Ruler. Following Melaka, Sarawak will be the last state set to call for elections.

In the history of Malaysian elections, Sabah was the first state to hold its election separately from Parliament, on April 8, 1967.

The Sabah Alliance, comprising the United Sabah National Organisation (Usno) and the Sabah Chinese Association (SCA), won 19 of the 32 seats contested, securing a simple majority to form the state government.

While the number of state elections since GE15 is unprecedented, it is a different story when it comes to by-elections.

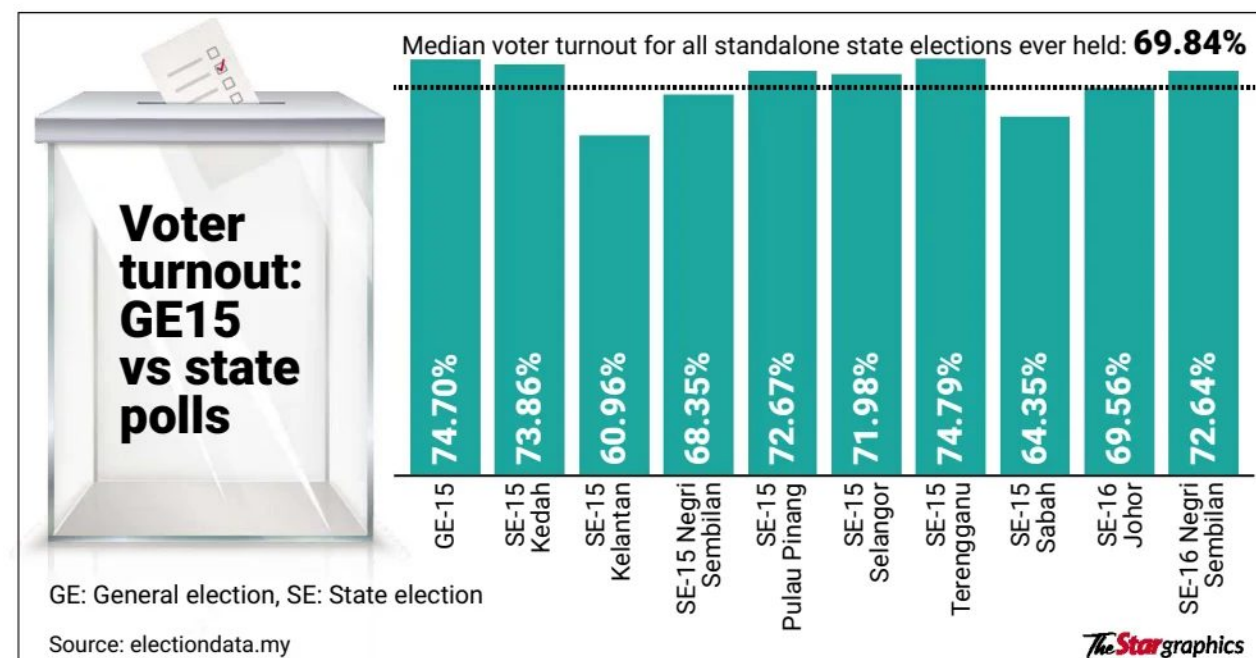
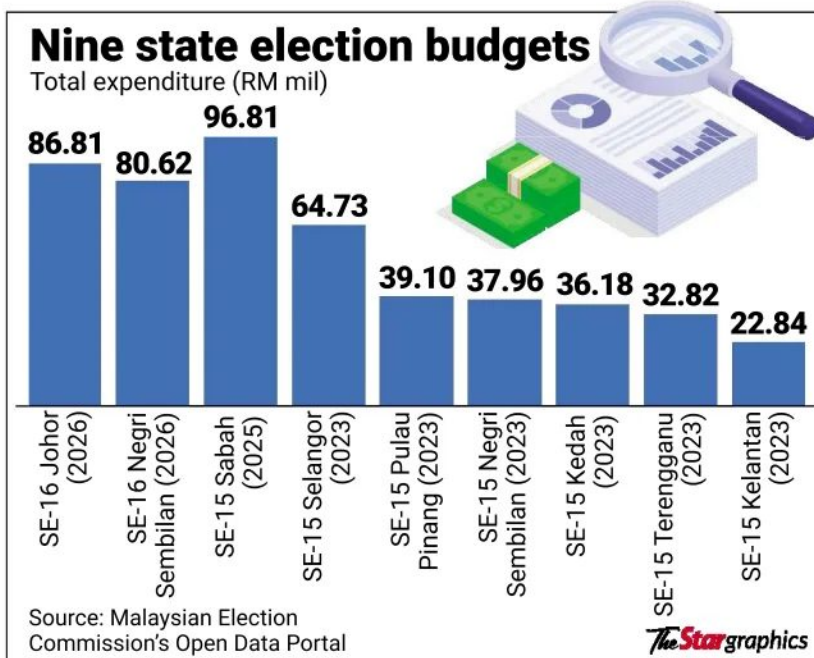
The period between the fourth and fifth general elections (GE4 in 1974 and GE5 in 1978) recorded the highest number of by-elections, at 29, followed by 28 between GE5 and GE6.

In comparison, only 13 by-elections have been held since GE15.

Six took place in 2023, four in 2024, one in 2025 and two this year.

The two by-elections this year were for the Kinabatangan parliamentary seat and Lamag state seat.

Both state by-elections were held following the death of the incumbent, Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin, on Dec 5 last year.



Voting apart a trend that will stay in Malaysia, say analysts

PETALING JAYA: Separate state elections have become the new political reality in Malaysia, and the trend is probably here to stay, say analysts.

The 12th General Election (GE12) in 2008 was probably the beginning of the trend, as it resulted in significant political changes, particularly the change of government in several states.

This development gave state administrations greater incentive to call for elections separately from general elections, says political analyst Prof Dr Azizuddin Sani.

The trend became even more pronounced after GE14 in 2018, which saw the formation of a unity government comprising several political parties.

Azizuddin said the country's political dynamics changed after

GE15 in 2022 as there was no longer a single dominant political party.

"There's an element of strategy among political parties. They believe they have a better chance of winning state elections if they are held separately."

Fellow analyst Azmi Hassan, of Akademi Nusantara, said political parties and coalitions now realise that it has become harder to form governments on their own, at both federal and state levels.

State governments would therefore be inclined to call elections according to their own political interests, particularly when their political arrangements differed from those at the federal level.

"States will seek to dissolve their assemblies according to

their own timetable and to their own advantage."

He cited Johor, Melaka and Negri Sembilan as examples of how state-level considerations could shape election timing.

Melaka goes to the polls on Nov 14, while Negri Sembilan has held two state elections since GE15.

Meanwhile, Azizuddin said there was no guarantee that states like Kedah, Selangor, Penang, Kelantan and Terengganu would seek to hold their next polls simultaneously with GE16.

Any decision would depend on political circumstances in each state, including whether simultaneous polls could improve a party's chances of winning.

He does not foresee a return to a more synchronised election cycle soon, unless a single party can regain dominance at both

federal and state levels.

"Unless we have one party that dominates at the federal level and in almost all the states, I think we will continue to see separate state elections," he said.

On whether frequent elections could lead to voter fatigue, Azizuddin said the phenomenon could happen if polls are held close together.

However, most Malaysians are willing to go to the polls twice in any cycle.

He noted that voter turnout in state elections was generally lower than in general elections but pointed out that some state polls drew a relatively high turnout.

This, he added, suggested that election fatigue was not the only factor affecting participation.

"Voters in Johor, Negri Sembilan

and Melaka, for instance, had many reasons to participate in their respective state elections because the outcomes would determine the political direction of their state governments."

Azizuddin also highlighted the financial implications of holding elections separately, saying political parties incurred substantial campaign expenses beyond the official costs of administering an election.

Spending on campaign materials, publicity and transporting voters could add to the overall cost, although the full amount was difficult to quantify.

While synchronising state and federal elections could reduce some of these expenses, he said political parties were more likely to prioritise their chances of winning than potential savings.

Committee proposed to discuss more seats for Borneo

KUALA LUMPUR: A special committee has been proposed to discuss increasing the number of parliamentary seats for Sabah and Sarawak, says Datuk Mustapha Sakmud.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak) said the proposal would be submitted to Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said, minister in charge of law and institutional reforms.

"As a Sabahan, I certainly want

Sabah and Sarawak to have more seats. We need to increase the number of seats in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution under MA63.

"This is to ensure Sabah and Sarawak have adequate representation and that their voices are heard in this House," he said when winding up debate on the Supply Bill 2027.

On the implementation of MA63, Mustapha said the government had, to date, resolved 12

matters under the agreement, bringing the total number settled to 16, including three issues agreed upon at the MA63 Implementation Action Council meeting on Sept 11.

The issues are the federal financial obligations, an increase in public service posts in Sabah and Sarawak, and the Borneonisation of the federal public service in both states.

"This achievement shows that negotiations through official

channels continue to yield progress.

"However, the government recognises that several issues remain unresolved.

"Efforts will continue to be made to address them through the established mechanisms."

On the timeline for resolving outstanding issues, Mustapha said five matters, including oil royalty payments, required decisions by a high-level committee comprising Prime Minister Datuk

Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor.

"Proposals concerning royalty rates, petroleum cash payments and the basis for calculating revenue cannot be considered finalised at this stage.

"The government will continue discussions to find solutions consistent with the Federal Constitution and the existing legal framework."

GPS holds firm in Sarawak

Analysts see limited gains for opposition parties in upcoming state polls

By **DESMOND DAVIDSON**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUCHING: With Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) firmly in control, peninsula-based opposition parties face an uphill battle to gain ground in Sarawak, while smaller local challengers are also expected to struggle to make electoral inroads, say analysts.

They said PKR, PAS and Bersatu faced major challenges in penetrating Malay-Melanau and Dayak constituencies, while DAP would focus on urban Chinese-majority seats.

University of Tasmania professor James Chin said PAS had an outside chance of winning Beting Maro.

"Realistically, PAS can only win one seat," he said, noting that the Islamist party was also reportedly eyeing Samariang, Sebuyau

and a possible fourth seat in northern Sarawak.

In the 2021 state polls, PAS' Arif Paijo finished second in a five-cornered fight in Beting Maro, losing to GPS incumbent Razaili Gapor by just 1,711 votes.

Chin dismissed the party's chances in the other seats, describing its expected foray as "just to fly the flag".

"They're running a very stealthy campaign and they're very clever in only going after four seats, concentrating on areas where they can really plant PAS for the future," he added.

On DAP's prospects, Chin said contests could emerge in Kuching, Sibu and Miri.

In Kuching, he said DAP could probably hold Pending again, which its incumbent Violet Yong won by 504 votes.

He was sceptical about the

prospects of smaller local parties, including pro-independence Parti Bumi Kenyalang (PBK).

"I expect them to come out zero again because of the credibility of its leadership," he said, adding that Bukit Assek in Sibu could be the party's best opportunity.

Chin also expected Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak Baru to field candidates widely without winning any seats, also citing concerns over its leadership's credibility and strategy.

"They are playing this wrong strategy of having as many candidates as possible.

"If you are a small party trying to create a presence, or to get over the hurdle and win at least one seat, you should only contest in areas where you are strongest.

"The problem with all these small parties, they don't under-

stand that simple concept.

"They think flying the flag is more important when in fact, that is exactly the wrong strategy to use because you spread your resources too thin," he added.

Universiti Malaya political analyst Prof Datuk Dr Awang Azman Awang Pawi said the polls would test whether PAS could turn its grassroots presence into broader electoral support.

"It has never won a Sarawak state seat, and the 2021 result in Beting Maro illustrates both its longstanding presence and the challenge of securing a breakthrough," he said.

He added that DAP might concentrate its resources on retaining its seats, while its chances of gaining ground would depend on its candidates and how voters viewed its role as an

opposition party.

PKR, which contested 28 seats but failed to win any in 2021, could face another difficult election, Awang Azman said.

He added that the party needed to develop credible local candidates and strengthen its grassroots organisation rather than rely mainly on its identity as a federal party.

He said Bersatu, which has yet to establish an electoral foothold in the state, would also need strong local organisation, suitable candidates and possible electoral arrangements to compete effectively.

The Sarawak Legislative Assembly was dissolved yesterday, paving the way for the next state election.

GPS held 80 of the 82 seats before the dissolution, with DAP holding the remaining two.

Johor Elephant Sanctuary to open next year

By **MOHD FARHAAN SHAH**
farhaan@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: Human-elephant conflict in Johor is expected to ease with the opening of the Johor Elephant Sanctuary (JES) in Kota Tinggi next year.

State health and environment committee chairman Ling Tian Soon said the sanctuary was one of the state government's initiatives to address conflicts between humans and elephants, particularly in areas near wildlife habitats.

"The opening of JES in Kota Tinggi can help further reduce human-elephant conflict in the state. It is one of the state government's initiatives to address this issue," he said yesterday.

He added that the second phase of the sanctuary's upgrading project was more than 82% complete and expected to be finished in the first quarter of 2027.

The project, costing more than RM11mil, involves the construction of several new facilities, including a visitor hall, security

room, observation deck and elephant viewing platform.

Ling said the new facilities would allow visitors to observe the elephants' daily routines more closely when the sanctuary opens to the public.

One of the sanctuary's key features is a 16km fence comprising electric fencing and metal barriers designed to prevent elephants housed at the facility from entering nearby villages.

Ling said the fencing would help protect communities living near the sanctuary while supporting efforts to manage the elephants within the facility.

There are currently eight elephants associated with the sanctuary, including four calves housed within its grounds.

The elephants are expected to assist in the rehabilitation of wild elephants that enter the sanctuary in the future.

Ling also said that the sanctuary would serve not only as a conservation facility but also as an additional ecotourism attraction for Johor.



Wildlife care: Ling (right) getting acquainted with a calf during his visit to JES in Kota Tinggi. Upgrading works at the sanctuary is expected to be completed by early next year. — Photo taken from Ling's Facebook

"The opening of JES is not only about adding another ecotourism product to Johor, but also represents a step forward in elephant conservation in the state."

He added that elephants were among Johor's natural treasures that needed to be protected, particularly in light of several recent

incidents involving human-elephant conflict.

Ling said efforts to conserve and protect wild elephants must remain a priority, while measures are also needed to reduce risks to nearby communities.

He said ticket prices had yet to be determined, but he hoped the

sanctuary would help the public gain a better understanding of elephants and their way of life.

Ling added that JES would also provide an opportunity to educate visitors about wildlife conservation and the importance of maintaining environmental balance.



Lamin Dana in Sarawak offers a rich array of experiences, including Melanau heritage lodging, cultural jamming sessions, traditional dance practices, village games, local handicrafts and authentic gastronomic specialties. – Photo by DAVID ST LOH, Courtesy of Diana Rose

DIGITAL LIFELINES FUEL GRASSROOTS HOSPITALITY

MCMC's Jendela drives local eco-tourism growth

By M. MAGESWARI
mages@thestar.com.my

HOMESTAYS and cultural boutique lodges in Malaysia offer an array of retreats for travellers seeking authentic, immersive local experiences.

Guests can immerse themselves in historic shophouses in vibrant town centres, authentic traditional stilt architecture along riverine settlements, sun-drenched coastal escapes, peaceful village retreats and lush rain-forest-framed stays.

Today's travellers look for enriching holidays that combine traditional heritage, local arts and crafts, outdoor eco-adventures like waterfall hikes and cave explorations, regional gastronomy, fruit-picking in orchards and restful escapes in nature.

The widespread expansion of high-speed digital connectivity has completely redefined this eco-tourism landscape.

With robust Internet access, global and local travellers can seamlessly discover destinations, make real-time online bookings, utilise cashless e-wallets and navigate local routes with ease. In turn, hospitality operators across both town centres and countryside locations have transformed into dynamic, globally connected micro-enterprises that power regional economies.

At the centre of this nationwide digital evolution is Jalinan Digital Negara (Jendela), the national digital infrastructure plan driven by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

Formulated to extend high-speed coverage, boost network quality and establish the core infrastructure for 5G, Jendela serves as an indispensable driver for digital inclusion and community empowerment.



Borneo Kuala Penyu Homestay in Sabah drives coastal eco-tourism through digital connectivity.

Following the completion of Phase 1 – which achieved a 99.1% implementation rate – Internet coverage across populated areas surged to 99.71%, supported by 1,646 newly erected telecommunication towers and gigabit-capable fiber broadband extended to millions of premises.

Pushing connectivity further across the nation, Phase 2 allocates RM780mil under Budget 2026 to deliver high-speed mobile broadband and neutral host satellite Wi-Fi to 2,700 new locations, especially in rural and remote areas, bridging the digital divide and supporting grassroots tourism nationwide.

The tangible impact of MCMC's infrastructure strategy is clearly reflected through the firsthand experiences of local hospitality operators, cultural lodge founders and association leaders who rely on daily digital connectivity to attract both local holidaymakers and international travellers.

Preserving culture and community

In Mukah, Sarawak, Diana Rose, 62, director and pioneer of the Lamin Dana Cultural Boutique Lodge – aptly described as the “House of the Living Legend” – shares how high-speed



Monih says, “Jendela's infrastructure makes promoting our homestay so much easier and we have seen an increase in bookings and business transactions.”

connectivity has transformed her Melanau heritage retreat.

Situated in a low-lying riverine area prone to flooding, the lodge is built on traditional wooden stilts to withstand tidal surges and rising river levels while combining cultural heritage preservation, youth and community development and social enterprise.

Lamin Dana offers a rich array of experiences, including Melanau heritage lodging, cultural jamming sessions, traditional dance practices, village games, local handicrafts and authentic



Diana says that fast Internet makes a world of difference in promotion, bookings and seamless payments for her cultural boutique lodge.

gastronomic specialties. Guests also embark on guided longboat tours along the Tellian River to discover ancient Melanau burial poles, riverine lifestyles and the cottage sago industry.

Diana explains that robust connectivity makes her retreat instantly accessible to global travellers, emphasising that mobile connectivity connects guests with just a single click. “Landline is not a lifeline anymore,” she says.

She highlights that fast Internet makes a world of difference in promotion, bookings and seamless payments, adding that cashless transactions offer maximum convenience while minimising cash-handling risks.

Furthermore, Diana shares that her business generates direct and indirect income for around 50 villagers across various eco-tourism and cultural activities. “If we close down, Mukah tourism will have a big hole,” she shares, adding that they communicate with operators and service providers via group chats and WhatsApp.

She explains that the Internet has brought new skills and opportunities to the surrounding community: “Now, they can sell their products, whether food or crafts, via WhatsApp, TikTok and

YouTube, while promotions are done across various social media platforms.”

She says that having a strong digital infrastructure will definitely support Lamin Dana's vision for sustainable rural eco-tourism.

Diana emphasises her satisfaction in seeing her vision thrive despite environmental challenges, highlighting that the entire expansion was accelerated through Internet infrastructure. “I feel satisfied knowing my ideas work and the whole process was sped up via the Internet.”

For Lamin Dana, reliable digital connectivity bridges Sarawak's rich Melanau traditions directly to international guests, turning grassroots cultural preservation into a vibrant, self-sustaining community ecosystem.

Coastal gateway

In Kuala Penyu, Sabah, Monih Epin, 59, coordinator of Borneo Kuala Penyu Homestay, highlights how digital connectivity elevates coastal eco-tourism, noting that the homestay features pristine beach views, mangrove tours and mud volcano trips at Tenambak and Pulau Tiga, alongside traditional Tatana cultural performances and local delights.

“Previously, communication problems via calls, WhatsApp and Facebook with fellow operators and prospective guests occurred frequently,” Monih, who is a homestay entrepreneur and Sabah Homestay Association chairman, shares.

“Jendela's infrastructure makes promoting our homestay so much easier and we have seen an increase in bookings and business transactions.”

He explains that fast Internet empowers local hosts, craft artisans, women entrepreneurs and youths who perform traditional Tatana dances.

“Increased connectivity directly encourages the younger generation to stay and work in local eco-tourism. Internet access gives more opportunities, such as learning digital marketing, online learning and e-commerce,” Monih adds.

“We feel proud that our community is now known globally.”

Inclusive growth

Paula Tan and Richard Chan, owners of 27 Ah Peng, operate a vintage homestay in Bentong, Pahang. Housed inside a restored 1930s shophouse, the stay pays homage to the past with original antiques and art while connecting guests to local markets, traditional craftsmen, homegrown eateries, Musang King durian orchards, hiking trails and Chamang Waterfall.

Tan highlights that MCMC's infrastructure efforts have been a game-changer, giving their humble homestay a competitive edge that traditional advertising could never achieve.

“With the transition to reliable 4G, 5G and high-speed fiber broadband, network timeouts are all in the past,” she says.

“We can instantly respond to customer inquiries on WhatsApp, process real-time updates on Agoda or Airbnb and handle cashless payments smoothly.”

She points out that digital infrastructure now supports smart-home technology, such as



Tan posing in front of her self-painted qipao artwork at 27 Ah Peng, her homestay in Bentong.



Sahariman lends first-hand assistance at Kampungstay Desa Murni in Temerloh, Pahang.



Japanese high school students enjoying a local meal during their visit to Homestay Desa Murni in Temerloh, Pahang.

Wi-Fi-enabled air-conditioning to reduce their carbon footprint, while enabling them to design attractive promotional content using modern design apps.

Tan explains that fast Internet attracts a new demographic of remote workers and digital nomads escaping the city to conduct online meetings and stream content. "We no longer have to rely solely on weekend crowds," she notes.

Furthermore, Tan emphasises that they actively use digital platforms to cross-promote local vendors: "We easily link our guests to local fruit farms, traditional craftsmen, homegrown eateries and ginger shops via QR codes and digital maps, enabling small business owners to enjoy profits alongside us."

"A strong online presence gives us a broader platform to

document, share and preserve Bentong's unique cultural heritage, folklore and natural beauty for future generations."

She adds, "Thanks to an Internet presence, we've had the good fortune to host not just local guests, but also international travellers from the United States, the Netherlands, Japan, China, Singapore and Australia."

She says improved connectivity integrates neighbours directly into the tourism value chain, while better mobile coverage ensures safer travel for their guests. "Whether they are heading out to Chamang waterfall or exploring the surrounding nature trails, having a strong, consistent mobile signal gives them – and us – peace of mind. This makes Bentong a much safer, more attractive destination for all."



Homestay Kampung Jelawang in Kelantan leverages digital connectivity to reach eco-tourists and outdoor enthusiasts.



"We hope more towers are built so deep interior regions get accessible Internet facilities," says Zohaime.



"High-speed Internet directly attracts customers and boosts our overall income," says Sahariman.

Modernising hospitality

Datuk Sahariman Hamdan, president of Malaysia Homestay Entrepreneurs Association, views connectivity as a non-negotiable fundamental for modern hospitality businesses.

"It is all about who gets high-speed Internet – in the artificial intelligence (AI) era, everyone wants speed," asserts Sahariman, who is also an advisor for Homestay Desa Murni and founder of Kampungstay Desa Murni in Temerloh, Pahang.

"High-speed Internet directly attracts customers and boosts our overall income. "In Peninsular Malaysia, about 70 per cent of homestay operators actively use online platforms and social media to promote their homestays, while 50 per cent of operators in Sabah and Sarawak use digital platforms and social media."

"How can anyone work today without the internet?" he asks. "We rely on connectivity for everything, from security CCTV systems to WhatsApp communication and streaming services. "Fast Internet genuinely assists local communities in discovering new ways to improve their livelihoods. MCMC's ongoing efforts are wonderful – transi-



"Active utilisation of our Facebook page allows us to promote our homestay directly to travellers from Singapore, Indonesia, Belgium and France who love nature," shares Nik Mahizan.



Tourism Malaysia officials posing for a group photo during a working trip at Homestay Ayer Limau in Melaka.

tioning communities from slow to fast Internet directly uplifts the rakyat."

Sahariman also reveals plans to launch the LamanKu Homestay website and franchise model in November, starting with an initial phase of 21 units. The remaining units – bringing the total to 100 – will be introduced in phases next year, all backed by reliable digital connectivity to offer experiential stays to domestic and international travellers.

He notes that as association members across the country embrace digital platforms, reliable network access becomes the primary catalyst for raising overall service quality and operator revenue.

Bridging reach

Zohaime Muhammad Sori, president of the Malaysia Kampungstay dan Homestay Association and chairman of Homestay Ayer Limau in Melaka, emphasises the broader socio-economic role of telecommunications infrastructure across 200 member clusters offering traditional heritage, craft weaving and local cuisine.

"Urban areas generally have no problem, but in more distant areas across Sabah and Sarawak, Jendela towers have helped significantly," explains Zohaime.

"We hope more towers are built so deep interior regions get accessible Internet facilities. Reliable Internet makes online bookings, responding to public queries and handling reservations effortless, which directly increases income and creates local job opportunities."

"Young people often migrate to big cities because Wi-Fi is more accessible there," he highlights. "Fast Internet encourages them

to stay and work in local eco-tourism, allowing them to enjoy working from home conveniently."

"Strong digital infrastructure supports long-term community growth and showcases our heritage offerings, handcrafted items and local products and services to the world," he points out.

He shares that 40 university students from Japan recently visited their homestay to experience eco-tourism and traditional weaving heritage, a cultural exchange made seamless through digital coordination.

Eco horizons

At Homestay Kampung Jelawang in Dabong, Kelantan, owner Nik Mahizan Nik Zainal Abidin leverages digital channels to showcase eco-adventures near the Stong Waterfall, cave explorations in Gua Gelap, Gua Keris, Gua Pagar and Gua Ikan, as well as seasonal fruit-picking and hiking at Gunung Stong State Park.

"Active utilisation of our Facebook page allows us to promote our homestay directly to travellers from Singapore, Indonesia, Belgium and France who love nature," shares Nik Mahizan.

"Visitors can enjoy authentic village experiences, such as plucking fruits like durians, dokong, duku and rambutan directly from our orchard trees."

"As tourism grows through online visibility, homestays open vital job opportunities for locals – food stalls are opening in Dabong, boosting local incomes and spurring secondary micro-entrepreneurs such as local makers selling traditional snacks," she highlights.

For more information, visit <https://jendela.my/>.

Rain offers hope for traders

Easing haze expected to clear way for Deepavali shoppers



By VENESA DEVI
venesa@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: Deepavali bazaar traders are hoping recent rain will help clear the haze and draw more shoppers as the festival approaches.

They said sales had been sluggish over the past week but were hopeful that business would pick up as air quality improves.

Footwear trader R. Kalai, 48, said sales had fallen by more than half compared with the same period last year.

"This is my fourth year running a stall here, and business has been much slower than in previous years.

"The haze is likely to be one of the main factors, especially as conditions were quite bad on Oct 16, the day the bazaar opened.

"The timing could also be a factor. As the bazaar opened in the middle of the month, many people may prefer to wait until their next payday before shopping," she said when met at the bazaar along Jalan Ungku Puan.

Kalai hopes air quality improves



Gaining traction: People checking out the Deepavali bazaar along Jalan Ungku Puan. — THOMAS YONG/The Star

towards the end of the month when most people receive their salaries.

Biscuit trader L. Priya, 37, said business had picked up slightly over the second weekend, particularly at night.

"During the first weekend (Oct 17 and 18), the haze was at its worst, with some areas briefly recording Air Pollutant Index readings above 200.

"I think this made some people

think twice about shopping outdoors, especially those with children or elderly family members.

"Since then, it has been raining almost daily, which I believe has helped ease the haze.

"Although the improvement has been slight, I have noticed larger crowds and hope business will continue to pick up."

Clothes trader Murad Hussein, 59, said the haze had affected business, although a slow start

during the bazaar's first week was not unusual.

"This year things have been very slow, but I am hopeful because I know many people wait until the last few days before Deepavali to shop.

"However, I am also worried that if the haze persists, it could hurt business, especially during the final weekend before the festival, which is crucial for us," he said.

In Sabah, a quieter festival with fewer Hindus

By STEPHANIE LEE
stephanielee@thestar.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Every Deepavali, Datuk Dr K. Mathavan gets up before sunrise at 5am, has an oil bath, performs prayers at home and set off with his family – all in new clothes – to the temple.

He then returns home and prepares to welcome guests to his house.

It does not sound very different from any Hindu in Malaysia but Dr Mathavan is in Sabah. He is among just a handful of people who celebrate the festival in the state.

Just a few decades back, people in Sabah had little knowledge about what Deepavali was. Many had not even heard of the word before, said Dr Mathavan, a Kuala Lumpur-born who came to Sabah 43 years ago as a houseman.

"We were a rare community," he added.

Back then, he said, Deepavali was not yet a public holiday in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

It was only when Datuk Yong Teck Lee was named the chief minister back in the 90s that Deepavali was declared a public

holiday in Sabah.

"When I first came to the state, I could hardly see an Indian except in hospitals (where they served as doctors), or lawyers or engineers."

It was much later before families started to celebrate in a grander style, inviting friends and family as well as neighbours to share the Deepavali joy, said Dr Mathavan.

He said other Sabahans started to learn and see for themselves how Deepavali was celebrated, what food was served and what the festival of light meant.

"Festival of light means triumph of good over evil, or victory of light over darkness," he explained. That, he said, was why there would always be lights, lighted candles or diya or oil lamps during Deepavali.

Dr Mathavan said temples then began holding programmes or open houses for devotees and the public while state departments, agencies and NGOs also followed suit.

As more Sabahans of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds came to enjoy the festival together, relations and under-



Faith and family: Dr Mathavan (right) and his wife say their celebrations centre around the temple programmes with the public and a smaller gathering with close family and friends.

standing also strengthened and improved.

He said while the Indian and Hindu communities are still considered a minority in Sabah, it was heartening to see how far this celebration has come, with the state even hosting several state-level open houses over the past decade or so.

"This year, our temple Sri Pasupathinath Alayam will have an open house as well, where breakfast will be provided for devotees and guests," said Dr Mathavan.

"The Sabah Indian Chamber of Commerce will host an open house for lunch, sponsored by the state government," he said, add-

ing that state leaders, prominent figures as well as the head of state, Tun Musa Aman, are expected to attend.

As for his family, he said their celebrations centre around the temple programmes with the public and later a smaller gathering with close family and friends.

The usual dishes prepared consist of idly, vadai, murukku, kesari and athirasam, along with sambhar and chutney for the vegetarians and mutton or chicken curry for the non vegetarians.

"We celebrate Deepavali in Sabah much like those in the peninsula. We just have a smaller crowd."

Visit Johor 2026 campaign set to be extended to next year

By YEE XIANG YUN
xiangyun@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: The extension of the Visit Johor 2026 campaign to next year is expected to be announced in detail by Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi next month, says a state executive councillor.

State unity, heritage and culture committee chairman P. Pannir Selvam said it would be officially announced by Onn Hafiz during the Johor Budget 2027 presentation scheduled for Nov 19.

"This is to give way to more promotion on our tourism products, as most of the upgrading projects and construction works were only completed in the middle and second half of this year.

"The extension of the campaign is also in line with Visit Malaysia 2026, which has been extended until the end of next year," he said after the Visit Johor 2026 town hall session with industry players at a hotel here yesterday.

He added that discussion about the extension is still ongoing and details such as tourism products and further plans would be revealed during the state budget presentation by Onn Hafiz.

Pannir Selvam said the extension proposal came from industry players requesting more time to weather global economic pressures and ongoing conflict in the Middle East, as both had increased airfares and disrupted travel.

Earlier during the town hall session, Onn Hafiz said the state government had poured RM187mil into building and upgrading of the state's tourism products such as the Johor Zoo, Danga Park, Muzium Tokoh Johor, Sultan Abu Bakar Heritage Complex and Kampung Sungai Melayu.

He said the state is expected to spend at least another RM50mil next year to further improve its tourism products.

"Johor has recorded 4.7 million overnight visitors from January to June and we are on track to meet our goal of hitting 12 million overnight visitors for this year.

"The state government wants to extend the Visit Johor 2026 campaign to next year and we hope this will benefit our economic and tourism sectors," he said in his opening speech.

Onn Hafiz also urged tourism players to take this opportunity to iron out issues and improve their communications and services to be better equipped to welcome tourists.

He added that next year is also significant to Johor as the Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link, connecting Johor Baru and Singapore by rail, is expected to start operating in February.

At its peak, the RTS Link has a capacity of 10,000 passengers per hour in each direction.

Nationwide Air Pollutant Index (API) readings (As of 8pm yesterday)

API reading categories: Good 0-50 | Moderate 51-100 | Unhealthy 101-200 | Very unhealthy 201-300 | Hazardous Above 300

152	96	104	115	53	47	43	52	51	48	27	30	46	63	34	69	64
Serian, Sarawak	Kuching, Sarawak	Sarikei, Sarawak	Sibu, Sarawak	Cheras, FT K. Lumpur	FT Putrajaya	Klang, Selangor	Johan Setia, Selangor	Shah Alam, Selangor	Petaling Jaya, Selangor	Minden, Penang	Tanjung Malim, Perak	Kemaman, Terengganu	Seremban, N. Sembilan	Bandaraya Melaka, Melaka	Pasir Gudang, Johor	Larkin, Johor

Source: Air Pollutant Index Management System (Apims)

Indonesian wildfires fuel emissions

Recent readings show blazes account for nearly half of global carbon burning

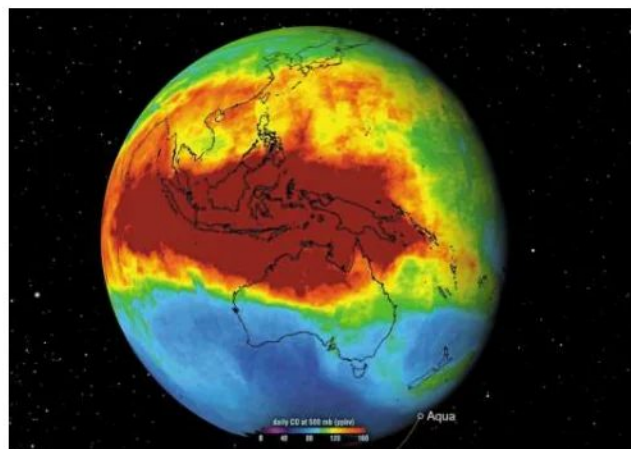
PETALING JAYA: Fires in Indonesia that have blanketed the region in haze are estimated to have accounted for nearly half of the world's current weekly wildfire carbon emissions.

The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) estimated that fires in Indonesia emitted 14.4 megatonnes of carbon (MtC) between Oct 15 and 21.

"This accounts for almost half of the global total biomass burning emissions (31.5 MtC) for the same period.

"The only year that exceeds this is the El Nino year of 2015," said its senior scientist Dr Mark Parrington.

For comparison, Indonesia's



Raging fires:

Nasa satellite imagery showing the distribution of CO over South-East Asia, averaged over three days from Oct 23-25.

estimated year-to-date wildfire emissions in 2026 stood at about 180 MtC, or roughly 15% of the global total of 1,150 MtC, he said.

Asked how emissions during the current El Nino year compared with previous El Nino years, Parrington said this week

of 2026 is ahead of 2019 and 2006 but is still less than 2015.

"It looks as though some rain is forecast across Kalimantan in the coming days and we will continue monitoring to see if this reduces the fire emissions and haze," he said.

In a Reuters report on Sept 9, Parrington said peat fires burning at low temperatures or underground could fall below CAMS' detection threshold.

Asked whether this meant Indonesia's fire emissions could be higher than estimated, he said CAMS' estimates relied on fires being detected by satellite sensors.

"Quantifying how much we

could be underestimating the actual emission is difficult at this stage, but we are comparing our data against other available data-sets.

"In the future, we will also be comparing against measurements being made in situ around Palangkaraya at the moment to see what we can learn about improving our fire emissions estimation for Indonesian fires."

Satellite imagery from Nasa also shows high concentrations of carbon monoxide (CO) spreading across the region at high altitudes.

According to Nasa, the visualisation shows the distribution of CO at an altitude of 5,486m over the past three days.

Domestic tourism stays strong despite haze

By KHOO GEK SAN

newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The country's domestic tourism sector remains healthy despite haze-related disruptions to some inbound tours, with industry players hoping conditions will improve ahead of the December holiday season.

Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) president Nigel Wong said there had been no significant impact on bookings and trips so far, although some tourists had postponed their visits or changed their itineraries to avoid outdoor activities.

Travel agents had adjusted arrangements to suit customers' preferences, including replacing outdoor excursions with indoor attractions when necessary.

"Activities such as theme park visits, hiking and other outdoor excursions could be replaced with alternatives when haze conditions affected visitors' experiences."

Wong said such adjustments were normal in the travel industry, but warned that prolonged haze could pose a long-term risk

to Malaysia's tourism reputation.

"The concern is if this is going to be a recurring problem," he said, adding that domestic tourism remained healthy, as reflected in the performance of recent MATTA fairs.

Malaysian Inbound Tourism Association president Mint Leong said the haze had affected inbound group tours, with some bookings postponed and others cancelled following extensive media coverage of the conditions in Malaysia.

She said about 30% of group tours scheduled for November had been cancelled, although the figure did not include individual travellers.

"The impact varied by destination, as not all parts of Malaysia were affected equally. Langkawi and Genting Highlands, for instance, were among the destinations where travel could continue without significant haze-related disruption.

"Some tour operators had replaced outdoor activities with indoor alternatives, including redirecting Kuala Lumpur walk-

Open skies: Visitors enjoying a clearer view of the city skyline from Menara Kuala Lumpur after months of haze. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



ing tours to museums and shopping centres."

Malaysian Tourism and Travel Agents president Muhammad Syazri Afiq Rosli said there had been industry reports of fewer bookings and some cancellations but cautioned against interpreting these as evidence of a nationwide decline in tourist arrivals caused solely by the haze.

"Outdoor sightseeing, nature

excursions and island activities are particularly vulnerable, as visitors might postpone their trips, shorten outdoor activities or consider alternative destinations.

"The impact could also extend to tour guides, transport providers and small businesses that depended on tourist spending," he said.

Syazri said it was too early to determine whether the current impact was more severe than pre-

vious haze episodes without comparable data on cancellations, tourist arrivals and revenue.

The duration of the haze, the destinations affected and any disruption to transport and planned activities would determine the extent of the impact, he said, adding that prolonged haze could affect future bookings and confidence in Malaysia as a destination.

Flood response teams on alert as monsoon season begins

By YASMIN ABDUL LATIF and NAN HIDAYAT NAN AZMIE
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: With 3,682 flood-prone locations recorded nationwide last year, disaster response agencies are stepping up preparations ahead of the Northeast Monsoon, which is expected to begin today.

The Fire and Rescue Department will deploy 1,248 assets, supported by 29 rapid response teams and three regional forward bases, to strengthen its readiness.

Its director-general Datuk Seri Nor Hisham Mohammad said

preparations included inspecting equipment and logistics, deploying personnel and enhancing rapid response capabilities to ensure rescue operations could be carried out effectively.

"All assets must be in optimal condition and ready to be mobilised at any time to deal with floods and related disaster."

Nor Hisham said Pahang had the highest number of flood-prone areas, at 760, followed by Kelantan (618) and Sabah (517).

He said the department's 25,592 personnel, comprising full-time, auxiliary and volunteer firefighters, are also tasked with monitor-

ing weather conditions, identifying flood-prone locations and coordinating operations with other agencies at the national, state and district levels.

The Malaysian Civil Defence Force (APM) has also fully mobilised its full personnel nationwide.

APM chief commissioner Mohammad Abiddin Abd Rahman said personnel had been stationed in vulnerable districts to monitor conditions and remain on standby for emergencies.

"APM is ready for rescue operations at any time," he said, adding that additional heavy vehicles, including lorries, ambulances

and four-wheel drives, were needed to support rescue efforts.

The force has 997 land-operation vehicles and 895 water-operation assets, along with 27 drones, 7,564 life jackets, 96,929 folding tents and 153 generators.

Its 12,927 personnel are distributed across five zones, with 4,149 in Sabah and Sarawak as well as 3,108 on the east coast, 2,210 in the Central zone, 1,757 in the northern region and 1,703 in the south.

The Northeast Monsoon, which usually lasts until March, brings the risk of prolonged heavy rain and flooding.

Malaysian Meteorological

Department (MetMalaysia) director-general Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip said the current monsoon transition phase could bring thunderstorms, heavy rain, lightning and strong winds over short periods, especially in the afternoons and early evenings.

He added that transboundary haze from neighbouring countries was expected to gradually subside as wind patterns changed.

The National Disaster Management Agency said it would coordinate closely with MetMalaysia during the monsoon transition, with measures to be implemented nationwide.

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Akmal's bid to drop charge fails

Defence to submit second representation

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Umno Youth chief Datuk Dr Muhamad Akmal Saleh failed to get the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) to drop a charge against him for causing alarm to public safety.

The charge relates to him having allegedly committed the offence through his social media account in August last year.

Penang state 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 following the rejection.

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

forward it to the AGC.

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

The court then fixed Jan 4 next year as the next mention date to follow up on the developments of the second representation, Bernama reported.

In August 2025, Dr Muhamad Akmal pleaded not guilty 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.



In the dock: Mohd Khairudin being taken to court to face a charge for his wife's murder.

Husband tried for officer's murder

By **SARBAN SINGH**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

SEREMBAN: The husband of a Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS) officer has been charged with her murder.

No plea was recorded from Mohd Khairudin Safi'ai after the charge was read to him before Magistrate Nurul Saqinah Rosli.

The 37-year-old allegedly murdered Norhazwani Ibrahim, 35, at a KLIA government quarters unit in Nilai around 7pm on Oct 15.

Under Section 302 of the Penal Code, the accused can be sentenced to death, jailed for between 30 and 40 years and whipped, if found guilty.

The court fixed Dec 22 for mention pending completion of the post mortem report.

Deputy public prosecutor Farah Wahidah Mohd Sharip appeared for the prosecution while Mohd Khairudin is unrepresented.

The accused has been in remand detention since Oct 16.

A post-mortem examination reportedly found that the woman died from pressure on her neck.

Earlier news report said examination also revealed three stab wounds, two to the abdomen and one to the right cheek.

Authorities had also seized a knife believed to have been used to commit the crime and other exhibits from the crime scene as part of their probe.

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GISB granted extension to appeal S'gor fatwa decision

PUTRAJAYA: GISB Holdings Sdn Bhd (GISB) has obtained an extension of time to file the records of appeal for its appeal against the Selangor state fatwa.

GISB's lawyer, Zulkikri Ulul Azmi, told the appellate court yesterday that the extension was sought as 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 Mohamed Zaini Mazlan, Ong Chee Kwan and Mohd Radzi Harun allowed the application and awarded RM5,000 in legal costs to the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC).

Senior federal counsel Mohammad Sallehuddin Md Ali objected to the application, Bernama reported.

The application follows the Shah Alam High Court's Jan 9 rejection of GISB's bid for

leave to commence a judicial review.

High Court judge Justice S. Narkunavathy dismissed the leave application after allowing a preliminary objection by the AGC that the fatwa is not amenable to judicial review.

Justice 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.

In its judicial review application, GISB sought a certiorari order to quash the fatwa published on Oct 14, 2024, and gazetted on Oct 16, 2024, which declared GISB as deviating from the teachings of Islam and prohibited its followers from practising its beliefs, teachings and doctrines.

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

Schoolboy hit by car at zebra crossing

Driver, 69, unable to stop in time to avoid collision, say cops

By **MUGUNTAN VANAR**
vmugu@thestar.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: An 11-year-old schoolboy was seriously injured after being struck by a car while using a pedestrian crossing in front of SK Darau in Menggatal.

The boy suffered head injuries and was taken to a hospital in Likas for treatment following the 6.10am incident yesterday.

Kota Kinabalu OCPD Asst Comm Shahrudin Mat Husain said that initial investigations found that the car, driven by a 69-year-old man, was travelling from Menggatal town towards a supermarket.

He said the pupil had begun crossing the road at the pedestrian crossing when the car approached.

"Due to the short distance, the driver was

unable to avoid the collision and hit the pupil," he said in a statement.

ACP Shahrudin said the case is being investigated under Section 43(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987.

He urged anyone with information on the incident to contact investigating officer Sjn Mazlan Mursalam at 012-3036605 or the nearest police station.

"We advise all road users to drive carefully and responsibly and obey traffic regulations for the safety of everyone," he added.

A CCTV recording of the incident, which has been widely shared on social media, showed the boy getting out of a car on the opposite side of the road before walking towards the school.

He was using the zebra crossing when he was hit by the car.

Drug mule faces RM2.7mil fine

KUALA LUMPUR: A Chinese national detained at Hong Kong International Airport, believed to be carrying 2kg of cocaine from Penang last week, was allegedly promised about RM1,200 to transport the drugs.

Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) director Comm Datuk Hussein Omar Khan said the drugs were found in the checked baggage of the 25-year-old man during a search by Hong Kong Customs authorities.

He said initial investigations found that the suspect obtained the drugs from an unidentified individual at a supermarket in Penang.

"We will liaise with the Hong Kong authorities to obtain further details on the case's developments, including syndicate members involved in Malaysia," he said

when contacted yesterday.

Comm Hussein said the man's passport was issued earlier this month and showed no other travel records.

"He had made several hotel bookings during his three-day stay in Malaysia."

Hong Kong Customs had earlier said the man was detained at the airport last Thursday after he was detected carrying two kilogrammes of suspected cocaine in his baggage.

The suspect was subsequently charged with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug, with the case scheduled for mention at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Court.

Under Hong Kong's Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, drug trafficking carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a HK\$5mil (RM2.7mil) fine upon conviction.

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AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT

Reports by QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN and ARFA YUNUS

28,401 licences revoked

Nga: It is a move to curb illegal business activities by foreigners

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 28,401 business licences nationwide were revoked over the past three years as part of efforts to curb illegal business activities by foreigners, says Nga Kor Ming (pic).

The Housing and Local Government Minister said this was part of integrated enforcement operations conducted nationwide by the ministry to curb illegal activities involving foreigners and protect local businesses.

A total of 10,248 operations were conducted, resulting in 100,366 enforcement actions, including 65,023 compounds, he said.

"A total of 6,942 seizures and demolitions involving business premises were carried out," he said during his winding-up speech on Budget 2027.

In June, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim urged ministries and government agencies to work together swiftly to curb illegal business activities involving foreigners and the misuse of local business licences.

Anwar said the authorities should take immediate action against foreigners allegedly conducting business using tourist or student visas, as well as the misuse of permits and licences issued to Malaysians.

Nga said the government remained committed to protecting local businesses and ensuring that Malaysians had access to business opportunities.

"Local authorities will not hesitate to revoke, with immediate



effect, the business licences of local licence holders who act as 'Ali Baba' operators or rent out their premises to foreigners.

"Let us work together to ensure that business licences entrusted to Malaysians are fully utilised by them, rather than rented out to outsiders," he said.

On another matter, Nga said the development of Bukit Jalil Bandar Madani will be implemented in phases over a 15-year period, with the government currently in the process of allocating RM250mil to upgrade roads and alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

"The allocation will be used to upgrade existing roads, construct new four-lane roads and build

two bridges to improve traffic flow, thereby addressing the concerns of local residents," he said.

Nga emphasised that this development is not merely a high-density housing project, but rather an integrated urban ecosystem that combines affordable housing with educational, healthcare and community facilities.

"This project is specifically designed to ensure that the people do not only own a home but also enjoy a high quality of life," he said.

Nga noted that key components of the project include the construction of a "vertical school" integrating preschool, primary and secondary education within a single complex as well as a modern health clinic and a Madani Hub.

National focus turns to cyber defences

CYBER defence was among the areas given greater attention in the review of Malaysia's Defence White Paper last year, says Adly Zahari.

The Deputy Defence Minister said the document was reviewed every five years to ensure the country's defence planning remained relevant to evolving regional and global security challenges.

"When we first drew up the Defence White Paper five years ago, cyber defence and our involvement in this new domain were not discussed as extensively.

"We have now incorporated these aspects into the revised document," he said during the question and answer session yesterday.

Adly added that Malaysia had defence plans extending to 2050 across the maritime, land and air domains, covering asset procurement, defence capabilities and the development of cyber defence capabilities.

On defence procurement, Adly said acquisitions such as the Littoral Mission Ship and FA-50 light combat aircraft from South Korea were progressing according to schedule.

In a separate development, Adly said Malaysia was strengthening maritime patrols and intelligence-sharing with neighbouring countries to keep the Strait of Malacca safe and open amid evolving global security threats.

RM15,000 savings rule prepares haj pilgrims

LEMBAGA Tabung Haji (TH) is not operating like a bank by requiring prospective haj pilgrims to maintain a minimum savings balance of RM15,000, says Dr Zulkifli Hasan (pic).

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) said the Seruan Istito'ah initiative was in line with TH's original vision, as envisaged by the late Royal Professor Ungku Aziz, of encouraging financial discipline and early planning among

prospective pilgrims.

"TH has its mandate under the Tabung Haji Act. This is a responsibility and a trust.

"TH will continue to act in accordance with this mandate and will not undertake activities beyond it," he said during the ministry's winding-up session for Budget 2027 yesterday.

Zulkifli was responding to Datuk Idris Ahmad (PN-Bagan



Serai) who urged TH to scrap the RM15,000 requirement, arguing that it placed an unnecessary burden on prospective pilgrims and ran counter to the institution's original purpose of helping ordinary Muslims save for the haj.

Defending the initiative, Zulkifli said TH's experience had shown that more than half of haj offers were previously deferred as prospective pilgrims had not made

adequate financial preparations.

This affected the efficiency of managing the haj queue and required TH to repeatedly issue replacement offers at short notice, he said.

Following the introduction of the RM15,000 requirement and early reminders, the deferral rate fell to 18%, he added.

Zulkifli said the minimum savings balance remained eligible for annual profit distributions.

OTHER

NEWS & VIEWS

Compiled by C. ARUNO and ALLISON LAI

Restaurant takeaway bags draw flak over gambling ads

TAKEAWAY bags bearing online gambling advertisements, allegedly provided by two restaurants in Kuala Lumpur, have drawn criticism from Internet users, *Sin Chew Daily* reported.

Sharing photos on social media, a man claimed he bought the food, including mala soup and barbecue skewers, from separate eateries in Cheras.

The photos showed information about gambling platforms clearly displayed on a plastic bag and a thermal bag.

The man warned that children might scan the codes out of curiosity, potentially leading them to gambling websites.

He lodged a police report and filed a complaint with the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry.

He was apparently not the first customer to raise concerns, as an online review had also flagged the advertisements.

According to a screenshot of the review, the operator reportedly dismissed the matter as a packaging issue, suggesting that customers could simply discard the bags after their next purchase.

> The daily also reported that a

couple who already had a son and had hoped for just one more child were stunned to learn that they were expecting triplets.

"The doctor pointed them out to us. There were so many little hands and feet on the screen.

"Both of us were stunned and could hardly believe it. Even now, it still feels like a dream," she said.

The couple from Penang wel-

comed three girls on June 18, weighing 1.8kg, 1.94kg and 1.45kg respectively.

Although raising the newborns alongside their eight-year-old son would significantly increase their household expenses, the couple said the joy of having four children made it worthwhile.

"Three times the expense, four times the joy," they said.

Laksa seller fined RM4,500 for insulting text message to woman

A LAKSA seller was fined RM4,500 for calling a woman a prostitute in a messaging platform. The two women had previously shared the same husband.

Nur Hazwani Mustapha, 39, pleaded guilty at the Magistrate's Court in Kota Baru, Kelantan, to insulting Nur Faezah Sohaimi, 33, in the text messages sent on Nov 1 last year, *Sinar Harian* reported.

The court heard that Nur Hazwani was a single mother of four who earned about RM50 a day selling laksa.

She was charged under Section 509 of the Penal Code and paid the fine.

> Veteran actor and former sports commentator Datuk Rahim Razali recently received a major career honour at the age of 87, being named Tokoh Seri

Angkasa 2026, *Utusan Malaysia* reported.

The award recognises his decades of contributions to the arts and broadcasting industry.

Communications Minister Datuk Seri Fahmi Fadzil presented it at the Anugerah Seri Angkasa ceremony at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre on Saturday night.

Rahim took home RM18,000 in

cash, a Proton e.MAS 7 worth RM150,000, a three-day, two-night holiday package and a trophy.

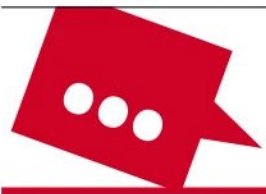
He described the award as one of the highest honours of his career.

> The daily also reported that a 25-year-old woman was found unconscious after being trapped in a lift with five others, including two children, at an apartment in Bayan Lepas, Penang.

The six were trapped when the lift stopped on the third floor of Block B at Idaman Selasih, Lilitan Sungai Ara, at about 8.55pm on Saturday.

Firefighters arrived and opened the lift doors at about 9.30pm, rescuing all six.

The woman received initial treatment from Malaysian Red Crescent personnel before being taken to hospital.



YOUR OPINION

EMAIL editor@thestar.com.my or
MAIL The Editor, Menara Star, 15, Jalan
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BUDGET 2027 allocates RM6.92bil to the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry, comprising RM4.85bil and RM2.07bil in operating and development expenditure, respectively.

Another RM2.62bil has also been allocated for padi farmer assistance and RM1bil in financing through Agrobank, Bank Rakyat and the Malaysian Cooperative Commission to support agricultural entrepreneurs.

These allocations create opportunities to strengthen the agri-food sector. However, the priority must be to translate spending into measurable improvements in productivity, farmers' incomes and food supply resilience.

Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) data for 2025 highlight Malaysia's continued reliance on food imports. The import dependency ratio for goat meat reached 90.7% while beef recorded 82.6%. For crops, the ratios were 82.7% for ginger, 67.9% for chilli and 59% for round cabbage.

Nevertheless, 23 selected agricultural commodities recorded self-sufficiency ratios exceeding 100% in 2025, demonstrating the potential of domestic production.

Malaysia should therefore prioritise commodities with strong production potential, considering climate suitability, production costs, market demand and local capabilities.

For commodities that are less economically viable to produce domestically, diversifying import sources and strengthening supply chain resilience may be more practical than pursuing self-sufficiency at any cost.

The amount allocated for padi farmer assistance and incentives is important for maintaining rice production. However, the effectiveness of financial assistance must be measured not only by

Measure agricultural success by outcomes

Photo: Filepic/The Star



the amount distributed but also by changes in yields per hectare, production costs and farmers' net incomes.

Higher production does not necessarily mean higher profits. If fertiliser, labour and transport costs rise faster than farm-gate prices, farmers may continue to face financial pressure despite producing more.

The same principle applies to livestock and vegetable production. Expansion should be guided by market demand and competitiveness to prevent oversupply that could depress prices and undermine producers' profitability.

The RM1bil financing facility offers opportunities for agricultural entrepreneurs to expand operations, adopt technology and develop new markets. However, access to financing alone cannot guarantee business success.

It should be supported by business management training, technical advice, market access and

sound planning. Small-scale producers also need assistance in meeting quality standards and establishing reliable relationships with buyers.

Downstream industries offer another pathway to growth. Food processing, cold storage, packaging and distribution can reduce post-harvest losses, create employment and increase the value of domestic agricultural output.

Stronger collaboration among farmers, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises and industrial buyers can improve market access and income stability.

Agriculture should therefore be developed as an integrated value chain connecting production, processing, logistics and exports rather than merely a supplier of raw materials.

To ensure Budget 2027 delivers meaningful returns in the agriculture and agro-food sector, the government should strengthen transparent, outcome-based

monitoring.

Key performance indicators should include agricultural productivity, farmers' net incomes, import dependency ratios for strategic commodities, food loss and waste, and growth in domestic value.

Monitoring should distinguish between budget allocations, actual expenditure and the outcomes achieved. Regular reporting would allow policymakers and the public to assess which programmes deliver results and which require improvement.

This approach does not diminish the importance of subsidies or financial assistance. Instead, it ensures that public support strengthens producers' competitiveness and reduces long-term vulnerabilities in the food system.

Ultimately, agriculture should be viewed not merely as a sector receiving government assistance but as a strategic investment in Malaysia's future.

A successful budget does more than finance agricultural activities: it builds a more secure food system, strengthens farmers' economic viability and supports a productive, resilient and sustainable economy.

DR NUR MARINA ABDUL MANAP
and **DR HARTINEE ABBAS**
Senior lecturers
School of Economics, Finance
and Banking
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Ban on Waze will not solve security problems

THE government's recent order for civil servants to stop using Waze should be reviewed.

The main concern is that the GPS navigation application started in Israel, so it might be used to collect or share sensitive government information.

Keeping our country safe is important – no one argues about that. But this ban is unfair and may create problems instead.

Waze may have begun in Israel, but it is fully owned by Google now. If the concern is about Waze collecting location data, banning it changes almost nothing.

Smartphones primarily use Android (created by Google) or iOS (developed by Apple).

What about TikTok and other social media platforms? They also track where we are and what we do all the time.

Picking on Waze while letting all other big apps stay is like locking your front door but leaving every window wide open.

Real cybersecurity means protecting secret files, keeping official messages safe and securing classified documents.

Waze is just a navigation app. It helps people avoid traffic jams and speed traps. It cannot see or record confidential government work.

If we want to stop data leaks, we should focus on securing devices and teaching safe habits, not ban a simple tool that hundreds of thousands of people use to get around.

Civil servants, including teachers, office staff and public officers, depend on navigation apps. They need them to get to work on time, move through busy city traffic and do their jobs well.

These people keep schools running, hospitals staffed and our communities moving.

Forcing them to drop Waze and use less capable local apps only makes daily life harder. They deserve real help – not unnecessary red tape.

This ban will not fix actual security problems. It will just create frustration. Keeping the country safe matters greatly, but rules must make sense.

Banning Waze will not protect state secrets. It will only make getting around tougher for public servants.

True security comes from strong systems and smart policies – not from banning the use of a navigation system.

KOMALA @IKHA
Larut-Matang, Perak

TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE
Kuala Lumpur

Give struggling new mothers a helping hand

HAVING a baby is often seen as one of the happiest moments in a woman's life. However, for many mothers in Malaysia, the period after childbirth can be one of exhaustion, loneliness, anxiety and emotional struggles.

Almost every expectant mother in Malaysia is familiar with the "Buku Pink" or Maternal Health Record Book. It records important health information about them, including blood pressure, weight and medical history, from early pregnancy through delivery and the postnatal period.

But mothers need more than medical monitoring. They also need practical guidance, emotional support and reassurance as they adjust to motherhood.

The need for better support is revealed in the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2022: Maternal and Child Health report, which found that 11.2% of mothers surveyed screened positive for postnatal depression. The report also highlighted that nine in 10 affected mothers were unaware of their condition.

More recent research presented by the Institute for Public

Health in 2023 reported that 10.4% of mothers with babies aged six to 16 weeks screened positive for postnatal depression.

Although the findings come from a specific study population and should not be directly compared with the NHMS figures, they reinforce the importance of continued attention to maternal mental health.

One important step is to strengthen postnatal home visits. Community nurses, known as *jururawat masyarakat*, play an important role in caring for mothers and babies. However, they need adequate time, training and resources to guide mothers on infant care, feeding, recovery after childbirth and the early signs of emotional distress.

A mother who is struggling may need someone to listen, demonstrate what to do and reassure her that asking for help is not a sign of failure.

Malaysia's multicultural society also means that mothers have different traditions and needs after childbirth. These traditions should be understood and respected while ensuring that mothers receive safe, evi-

dence-based advice.

Community-based training programmes could help bridge the gap between traditional practices and modern healthcare. Community leaders and local postnatal caregivers could receive basic training in maternal recovery, mental health awareness and the warning signs of postnatal depression.

With proper certification, supervision and referral procedures, they could provide practical support and help mothers seek professional care when necessary. They would not replace healthcare professionals but could become an important link between families and available services.

Another major concern is the lack of family support. Many couples in urban Malaysia live far from their parents and extended families. After childbirth, a mother may have to manage sleepless nights, feeding, household responsibilities and physical recovery with very little help.

Financial pressure can make the situation even harder, particularly for low-income families who struggle to

meet essential needs.

To address these challenges, several practical measures should be considered. First, postnatal mental health screening must be followed by timely assessment, counselling and treatment where needed.

Second, healthcare teams should have sufficient resources to conduct meaningful home visits.

Third, targeted financial assistance and postnatal support packages should be considered for families in need.

Finally, community support groups, confidential counselling services and public education campaigns should be strengthened so that women know where to seek help.

Maternal mental health is not the responsibility of the mother alone. Families, healthcare professionals, community organisations and society all have a role to play. We must create an environment where women feel safe enough to ask for help without fear of humiliation or judgement.

The Star

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Pakistan



Alpaca encounters

Alpacas resting at Multi Gardens Zoo Park on the outskirts of Islamabad, where visitors can enjoy drinks at the on-site Alpaca Cafe while interacting with the animals. — AFP

Pushing for stronger governance

Xi leads key meeting to tighten party discipline and anti-corruption efforts

China

THE Communist Party began a four-day meeting of its highest-ranking members, targeting concrete measures for “full and rigorous party self-governance”.

President Xi Jinping briefed the party’s Central Committee on a draft document that state news agency Xinhua said addressed the challenges the party faced, including growing its governing capacity, as well as guarding against complacency and combating corruption, the president’s signature campaign.

The implementation of major decisions and plans of the Central Committee, the party’s top decision-making body, must not be empty rhetoric, the commentary said.

“It is essential to both refine institutional rules and regulations to close loopholes and strengthen safeguards, and ensure their effective implementation,” it said.

The Central Committee will convene in the closed-door meeting, which began yesterday and runs until Thursday – the fifth since the current cohort was formed in 2022 and therefore

known as the fifth plenum.

Analysts say this could be the last major party gathering before its 2027 leadership reshuffle, when Xi is expected to hold on to the top job for a fourth term.

Xi has overseen a vast anti-corruption campaign in recent years involving senior officials.

While critics argue the purges – particularly those targeting the highest ranks of the armed forces – are destabilising, the party has portrayed the campaign as both necessary and regenerative, saying the military must undergo a phoenix-like rebirth.

The Xinhua commentary described the anti-corruption drive as a demonstration of “sustained and systemic” self-governance to “ensure officials dare not, cannot and do not want to commit corruption”.

“For global investors and policymakers, this signals greater predictability,” it said, arguing that China was also creating a more transparent environment for international cooperation as merit and the rule of law prevail over connections and bribery. — Reuters



On high alert: Paramilitary police standing guard at an entrance to the Tiananmen Square during the plenary session of the Communist Party’s Central Committee in Beijing. — AFP

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi acquitted in defamation case

India RAHUL Gandhi, the leader of India's main opposition Congress party, was acquitted in a defamation case by a local court, TV channels said.

The acquittal comes at a time when Gandhi is leading a united opposition campaign against

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Election Commissioner over a controversial revision of voter lists.

Gandhi, 56, the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty and top leader of Congress, which has mostly ruled India since it

gained independence from the British, was in court in the northern town of Sultanpur when the verdict was announced yesterday.

His supporters burst crackers, beat drums and waved party flags as he left the court after the acquittal, images on TV showed.

Gandhi was accused of calling India's powerful Home Minister Amit Shah, who was then head of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a "murder accused", during a state election campaign speech in 2018.

The case was filed in Sultanpur

town of Uttar Pradesh state by a BJP member.

A court in Modi's home state of Gujarat had convicted Gandhi in 2023 in a separate defamation case over a "Modi surname" remark, which briefly cost him his seat in parliament. — Reuters

US Marine indicted in Naha

Strained ties:

Hotels and an American themed mall are seen at the Mihama American Village in Okinawa prefecture. Crimes 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. — AFP



Murder case revives concerns about military presence on island

Japan LOCAL prosecutors have indicted a US Marine on suspicion of murdering a woman on Okinawa, a court spokesman said, 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 Oct 25," said the spokesman for the court in Naha yesterday, 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 sus-

pect allegedly strangled the woman from Naha in a hotel with a telephone cord on Oct 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.

The existing policy, updated in 2024 following a string of sexual assaults by US military personnel in Okinawa, includes a ban on US military personnel drinking in public off base between 1am and 5am or going to bars during those hours.

The US military enacted a two-day operational pause after the Marine's arrest to reinforce discipline and standards, followed by

a month-long curfew.

Crimes committed by US personnel have been a thorn in relations between the close security allies.

Last year, a Japanese court sentenced a US Marine accused of choking and attempting to rape a woman in her 20s to seven years in prison.

The United States has around 54,000 military personnel stationed in Japan, mostly on Okinawa.

In Japan, once a suspect is formally indicted, the conviction rate stands at more than 99%.

The justice ministry says the near-perfect rates are because prosecutors only pursue airtight cases they are confident about winning. — AFP

Bounty for senator on the run upheld

Philippines THE presidential palace defended a 50 million peso (RM3.2mil) bounty for information leading to the arrest of Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, saying it was part of a legitimate operation by the Interior Department and the Philippine National Police.

Presidential Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said yesterday that the bounty was an operational strategy of the Interior Minister and the Philippine National Police, when asked whether it had been ordered or approved by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Castro said confidential and intelligence funds allocated to the interior department and police could be used for such operations, provided authorities could substantiate the operation and show results.

Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity during the "war on drugs" he helped oversee as national police chief under Rodrigo Duterte, who served as president from 2016 to 2022. He has denied any involvement in illegal killings.

He was last seen in May when he took refuge at the Senate for several days following six months spent in hiding.

Amid claims that his arrest was imminent, he appealed for help from his supporters and slipped away from the Senate in the early hours of May 14 following hours of chaos that included gunfire.

Police have given Dela Rosa one week from Friday to surrender, but Castro said the deadline did not mean operations would stop if he failed to turn himself in.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Dela Rosa's lawyer questioned the legal basis for the bounty, arguing that authorities should produce an arrest warrant issued by a Philippine court. — Reuters

Former prime minister Yasuo Fukuda dies at age 90

Japan FORMER prime minister Yasuo Fukuda (pic), who used his brief period in office to seek closer ties with Asian neighbours, particularly China, has died at the age of 90, *The Nikkei* business daily reported.

The Japanese politician, the first son of a prime minister to become premier himself, died on Thursday from heart failure, *The Nikkei* said yesterday.

Becoming prime minister on the sudden resignation of Shinzo Abe in 2007, Fukuda lasted less than a year — a tenure even shorter than his father Takeo's two-year stint.

A graduate in economics from Tokyo's prestigious Waseda University, Fukuda spent nearly two decades working his way up the ranks of an oil compa-



ny — including a two-year posting in the United States — before resigning to become a political secretary when his father became premier in 1976.

Elected to Japan's more powerful lower house of parliament in 1990, Fukuda was chief Cabinet secretary from 2000 to 2004, resigning as one of several Cabinet ministers to admit not paying into the

pension system.

Known for his testy manner, Fukuda drew criticism in 2003 for off-the-record comments in which he suggested women who dressed provocatively were asking to be raped.

When Fukuda succeeded Abe he joked he might have drawn the short straw in assuming office given the divided parliament and opposition parties' ability to delay legislation.

Frustrated with the stalled legislative process, Fukuda resigned in 2008, the second of six prime ministers to quit after only around a year in office.

Known as a diplomatic dove, Fukuda made several visits to China after leaving office in an effort to improve relations.

Fukuda leaves a son, Tatsuo, who is also a lawmaker and has been viewed as a potential future prime minister. — Reuters

Pyongyang says explosion 'fabricated'

Letter to UN blames Seoul for rising tensions

North Korea PYONGYANG 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.

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 sent a letter on Sunday to the UN Security Council regarding the "provocation the ROK committed by groundlessly shifting the blame for the dubious 'mine explosion incident'".

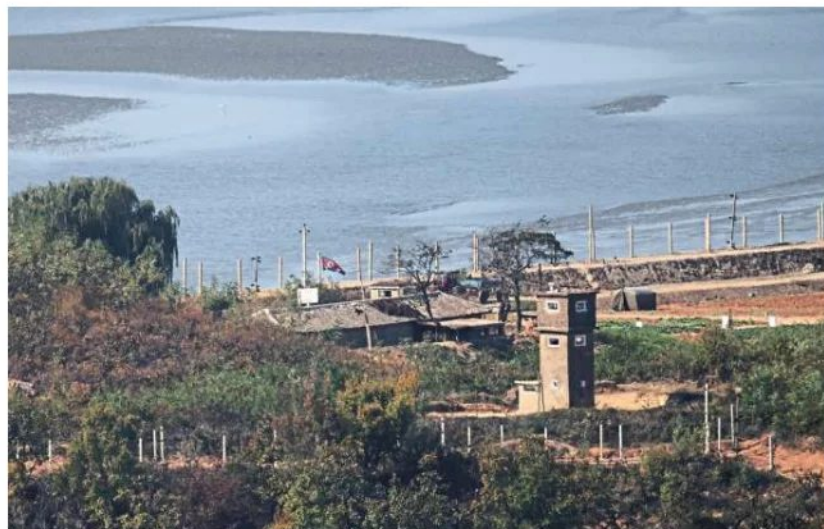
The letter said that the landmine incident "fabricated by the ROK, is a sinister obstructive move to brand as a 'military invasion', delay and impede the DPRK's fortification of its southern border," using the acro-

nyms 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 "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



Standing guard: A North Korean guard post is seen from an observation deck in Gimpo, South Korea. — Reuters

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". — AFP

Spooky season

Partygoers taking part in a Halloween costume contest in Bangkok. Halloween is not a traditional Thai holiday, but it is widely celebrated with costume parties, club events, and themed decorations in major tourist and urban hubs like Bangkok, Phuket, and Chiang Mai. — Reuters



Thousands evacuated as Cyclone Arnab nears

India TWO states along the eastern coast were preparing to evacuate thousands of people ahead of Cyclone Arnab, which is expected to make landfall tomorrow, as one of them said it would close schools in some districts for two days.

Arnab, which formed over the Bay of Bengal before intensifying into a cyclonic storm, is expected to make landfall in Andhra Pradesh state by tomorrow morning, with gusts of as much as 140kph, India's weather office said.

The cyclone will probably intensify further, it added.

The weather system is expected to bring heavy to extremely heavy rainfall to Andhra Pradesh's northern and central coastal districts, and southern regions of neighbouring Odisha.

Andhra Pradesh has called for boats at sea to return ashore and ordered speedy restoration of power in case of disruptions.

A senior Andhra Pradesh disaster management official said yesterday the state government had identified 570,000 people as vulnerable and evacuations were to start yesterday evening.

Odisha's government announced the closure of schools and colleges in five districts for today and tomorrow, and said it was preparing to move residents of low-lying areas to cyclone shelters. — Reuters

Flash floods sweep across island of Phuket

Thailand FLASH floods inundated several areas of the island of Phuket, following heavy rainfall overnight, officials said.

All three districts of the southern island province, including its capital, Phuket City, were impacted by the flooding.

Water levels started to recede by late morning, but some low-lying areas remained flooded

and small vehicles were advised to avoid those areas, according to the provincial deputy governor, Romdon Hayiauae.

He said some parts of the province were also hit with mudslides and officials were working to clear the debris to prevent it from falling into canals and obstructing waterways.

Photos and videos shared on social media show floodwaters

flowing into residential areas and filling up several roads, making them impassable.

About 100 households were affected. There were no reports of casualties, Romdon said.

The Thai Meteorological Department warned of heavy and continuous rain in the southern region until tomorrow, which could trigger more flash floods and landslides.

Flooding has battered many parts of Thailand since mid-September and at least 83 people were reported killed as of yesterday, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Bangkok was inundated in late September after days of torrential rain, forcing thousands to evacuate and causing severe disruptions. — AP

Nonagenarian helps police ensnare suspected scammer

Japan A 93-YEAR-OLD woman outsmarted a suspected scammer by pretending to fall for the scheme and helping police arrest him at her home, an officer said.

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 ¥325.7bil from their victims.

The woman, who lives in the Shiga region, 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 experi-

enced 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 on customary condition of anonymity.

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, while urging other elderly residents consult family members when they suspect fraud. — AFP

Lula wins historic fourth term

Brazilian left-winger makes comeback after defeat in first round of voting

SAO PAULO: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won a historic fourth term, the country's electoral court said, in a shock result that defied polls, precedent and global anti-incumbent sentiment to put the brakes on a wave of right-wing election victories across Latin America.

However, his opponent Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, the eldest son of former president Jair Bolsonaro, refused to accept defeat and said he would ask for the result to be annulled due to a Sunday ruling from a Supreme Court justice that extended voting for two hours.

Flavio led the election's first round but lost in the runoff by over four million votes, rattling Brazilian financial markets which had bet on his victory.

Flavio's refusal to concede defeat has echoes of his father's



Close race: Lula waving to supporters after winning the presidential runoff election in Sao Paulo. — AFP

reaction after losing to Lula in 2022. Jair never accepted his loss and was later sentenced by the Supreme Court to 27 years in pris-

on for plotting a coup to remain in power.

The scale of Flavio's loss to Lula — by more than twice his father's

losing margin — and the fact his campaign also asked for an extension due to rains in the conservative-leaning south make any annulment unlikely, analysts said.

The victory marks another comeback in a career full of them for Lula, an icon of the global left and the most dominant force in Brazilian politics this century.

The 80-year-old was jailed from 2018 to 2019 on corruption charges that were later overturned, paving the way for him to beat Jair in the 2022 election.

At times, Lula's reelection looked like a long shot, as voters soured on him and his Workers' Party after years of corruption scandals and rising prices, while sweeping social changes left the former metalworker and union leader looking out of touch with

an increasingly app-based economy and its growing ranks of informal workers.

During the campaign, Lula pointed to a track record of falling poverty and inequality, while unemployment, illiteracy and deforestation hit record lows during his third term.

He warned Flavio would cut welfare spending, backslide on social advances and hand over Brazil's sovereignty to US President Donald Trump, whose State Department led a campaign to get the Bolsonaros back to power.

Lula's win deprives Trump of a major addition to what has been a growing bloc of friendly right-wing Latin American governments that have embraced Washington's agenda on security and migration. — Reuters

Serbia's student revolt ousts longtime leader

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

Sunday's 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.

"Students won and with them also a hope that Serbia can be a country of justice, freedom and dignity," Radomir Saicic, a candidate for the Students' List, said in a speech at the movement's election headquarters.

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 said 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% of its 6.4 million registered voters had cast



Ushering change: Students' List supporters celebrating in front of the Parliament building after Vucic conceded defeat in the parliamentary election, in Belgrade. — Reuters

their ballots by 6pm local time, two hours before polls closed.

The figure surpassed the 1993 parliamentary election, when just over 61% 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. — AFP

Venezuela opposition leader Machado returns home after exile



Homecoming: Machado greeting supporters upon her arrival in Caracas. — AFP

CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was greeted by tens of thousands of cheering supporters as she made her way by car to Caracas, after she arrived home following several failed return attempts which have strained her ties with US President Donald Trump's administration.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Machado, who was prevented from challenging deposed leader Nicolas Maduro for the presidency in 2024, has been out of the country for 10 months and spent the previous year in hiding following the disputed election.

On Sunday, Machado appeared at a church in western Lara state

and travelled to the capital in a journey that took eight hours because of crowds. By the time she neared Caracas, festooned in rosaries handed to her by followers, the highway was all but blocked by cheering supporters.

"For the reunion of every family, for freedom of every political prisoner, for the freedom of Venezuela," she wrote on social media.

Machado's return was coordinated with the United States, Panamanian and Colombian governments, according to a person briefed directly on her movements, who added Trump approved her return and was kept informed about it.

At the White House on Sunday, Trump said he did not know anything about Machado's return and suggested the US would continue to back Venezuelan interim President Delcy Rodriguez.

"She's a very nice woman," he said, referring to Machado. "But we're doing really well in Venezuela."

Trump has repeatedly expressed support for Rodriguez, a former deputy to Maduro, and hailed deals on oil production and other business ventures by US companies in the South American country. Trump said in September it was too soon to consider democratic elections in Venezuela. — Reuters

Envoys meet to avert conflict

High-level talks underway in Teheran to maintain regional stability

TEHERAN: High-level delegations from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkiye were in Teheran for meetings with Iranian authorities to try to avert renewed fighting between Iran and Israel and the United States, two regional officials said.

The talks come as many in Iran are girding themselves for the possible return to all-out war, as Israeli and American leaders have been sharpening their threats ahead of pending elections in both countries.

Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and

Ibrahim Kalin, the head of Turkiye's intelligence service, were to meet with Iran's top security officials and negotiators to push for a deal between Teheran and Washington.

The conflict in Yemen and strikes by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels against Saudi Arabia were topics also on the table, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to reporters.

Saudi Arabia said in a statement that the delegations hoped to find "ways to de-escalate tensions, enhance regional security

and promote its stability".

Qatari mediators were in Teheran on Sunday, working in coordination with the United States, as part of ongoing efforts to de-escalate regional tensions, according to a regional official speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the talks.

Pakistan and Qatar helped broker an agreement in June aimed at having Iran fully reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, ending a US blockade of Iranian ports and opening negotiations on a broader settlement addressing Iran's nuclear programme.

The deal unravelled quickly, however, as both sides renewed attacks.

With worries about renewed fighting ahead of Israel's election today and the Nov 3 midterm elections in the United States, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, on the weekend said Teheran had not closed the window of diplomacy and that messages were being passed to the United States via intermediaries.

With negotiations long stalled, Esmail said that the United States appears to be persisting in unilateral demands and that Trump

and US officials repeatedly use the phrase "complete surrender", which Esmail said no Iranian accepts.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meantime, repeated his warning on Sunday that Iran or its proxies could attack ahead of the close elections to disrupt the vote, citing intelligence.

Yemen has become a widening front in the Iran conflict that began in February, with the Houthis increasingly launching attacks on Saudi Arabia because it supports Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is battling the rebels. — AP

Israeli strike in Gaza kills three including child

GAZA CITY: Three Palestinians, including a young girl, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a camp for displaced people in the southern Gaza Strip, medical sources and first responders said.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmoud Bassal said a total of 11 people had been killed and 50 wounded by Israeli fire and airstrikes in Gaza over the past 24 hours.

"We transported three martyrs, including a child, following an Israeli airstrike targeting a camp for displaced people in the Al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Yunis," Mahmoud said.

Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis confirmed the three deaths.

"Their bodies were torn apart by direct hits from shrapnel from the Israeli missile," the hospital said, adding that several wounded people, including a child and a woman, had also come in for treatment.

The hospital identified the deceased as Hossam al-Zamli, Tamer Abu Sneima, and Jouri al-Soufi, a young girl.

The Gaza education ministry gave her age as seven.

Israel's military said it was looking into reports of the strike.

A security source in Gaza told AFP that "several tanks and military vehicles, accompanied by a military bulldozer, advanced yesterday morning into the area west of the Yellow Line in the eastern part of Deir al-Balah", in central Gaza.



Perilous breadline: People seeking cover from a reported drone strike while queueing to receive meals from a charity kitchen in the Jabalia camp for Palestinian refugees in the northern Gaza Strip. — AFP

After a US-brokered ceasefire took hold in Gaza in October 2025, the so-called Yellow Line was established to divide the areas under Israeli control – more than 60% of the territory – from those under Hamas control.

The military advance coincided with "heavy gunfire by the occupation forces towards the eastern and northern areas" of Deir al-Ba-

lah, home to hundreds of displaced families, the source added.

Since the ceasefire began last year, more than 1,500 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry.

The conflict began on Oct 7, 2023, following an unprecedented attack by the fighter group Hamas on southern Israel that killed 1,221 people, according to

an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Israel responded with a massive military campaign that has destroyed much of Gaza and killed more than 74,500 people, according to the territory's health ministry, which operates under Hamas and whose figures are considered accurate by the United Nations. — AFP

Houthis strike Riyadh airport and Saudi pipelines

SANAA: Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said they had attacked Saudi Arabia's East-West crude oil pumping stations and Riyadh airport, as rising hostilities choke oil supplies and threaten to erupt into a larger conflict.

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said earlier it had destroyed two ballistic missile launchers in the capital Sanaa, including one used to fire a missile towards Riyadh that the coalition said it had intercepted.

There was no immediate Saudi confirmation of the Houthi attacks.

The Houthis have been firing ballistic missiles and drones at Saudi airports, ports and oil installations, turning US ally Saudi Arabia into a pressure point in the wider conflict.

The Houthis also said they had struck Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, which resumed operations at two terminals on Sunday after an attack claimed by the group earlier this month killed 13 people, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade.

Top officials from the Mecca Pact countries Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan were set to meet Iranian officials in Teheran to discuss regional coordination, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

The planned talks would be the first high-level contact between Iran and all members of the three-nation bloc since Saudi Arabia came under escalating attacks from Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis.

Saudi Arabia temporarily shut down its 1,200km East-West pipeline in September as a precaution after a drone attack that Riyadh said originated in Iraq.

The pipeline has served as a key route for Middle East oil exports while the Strait of Hormuz has been largely shut by the conflict. — Reuters

Three armed suspects nabbed in deadly church attack

AMMAN: Security forces arrested three armed suspects after a shootout in connection with an attack on a church in the US-allied country that killed nine people, state television reported.

Friday's attack during a funeral at a Greek Orthodox church in the village of Hamoud in Karak governorate, about 120km southwest of the capital Amman, also wounded 40 others.

Witnesses said the shooting lasted several minutes.

Jordan's Public Security

Directorate said the suspects were located while hiding in an abandoned house in Karak.

They refused to surrender and attacked security forces, who returned fire and arrested all three after wounding them, the directorate said in a statement published on state media.

No security personnel were injured, and a number of firearms and ammunition were found in the suspects' possession.

Jordanian authorities have said

the violence was carried out by "extremist terrorists".

There has been no claim of responsibility.

"Terrorism has no place among us," the directorate said, adding that the suspects had met their "just fate".

King Abdullah, a US partner in the battle against fighter groups, has ordered security forces to respond with an "iron fist" to the rare attack on the Christian minority.

Such violence is highly unusual

in Jordan, a relatively stable state in the Middle East, though authorities say they have foiled several plots over the years.

The Public Security Directorate did not name the suspects or publicly identify possible affiliations with any groups.

Interior Minister Mazen al-Faraya said authorities were reviewing the circumstances that led young people towards extremism and would hold accountable anyone found to have participated in the attack. — Reuters

IN PICTURES



The Netherlands: An owner holding her cat as it is judged in a competition during FIFe World Show 2026 – the world's biggest annual cat event – in Vijfhuizen village, where about 1,500 felines were competing for 34 world titles. — AFP



Spain: People watching a flock of sheep stroll through Madrid's city centre during an annual parade, as shepherds demand for their livestock to be led to winter grazing pasture land in southern Spain. — Reuters



United States: A child sitting by a pile of pumpkins at the Cal Poly Pomona Pumpkin Fest in Pomona, California. As Halloween draws near, families are embracing the festive spirit with pumpkins and spooky celebrations. — AFP

Europe battered by storms

One killed, 150,000 lose power as strong winds hit several countries

LONDON: Storms have battered northern Europe, 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 135kph 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 and 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. — AFP

Australian politicians pay tribute to wounded lawmaker

SYDNEY: Australia's prime minister and fellow parliamentarians led sombre tributes to "beacon of decency" and colleague Helen Haines, who remains in hospital after being struck by a car outside her office a week ago.

A widely-liked independent lawmaker known for campaigning against corruption and action on climate change, the alleged attack on Haines has prompted soul-searching in a country where political violence is rare.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese pointed to her empty seat while paying tribute to the lawmaker's "empathy, kindness and compassion" as Australia's parliament met for the first time since the incident.

"The shock from what happened last Monday is like a stone in our hearts," Albanese said. "Right now, our friend and colleague is in hospital, grievously injured. The shape of her life and her family's lives changed forever."

He paid tribute to the bystanders who offered help to Haines, describing it as "the best of the Australian character".

He also bemoaned a rise in public anger "that distorts and corrodes our public discourse".

"We are seeing a normalisation of the language of grievance and violence," Albanese said.

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles described Haines as a "beacon of decency".

She remains in a serious but stable condition in a Melbourne hospital as of yesterday morning.

Her husband, Phil, has said that surgeons had been forced to amputate both her legs in an effort to save her.

Haines's alleged attacker – 43-year-old Brendan Nugent – fronted court for the first time on Wednesday.

He has been charged with dangerous driving causing serious injury and intentionally causing serious injury, as well as the federal crime of harming a public official, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

His motive remains unknown and authorities will not speculate while the investigation is ongoing. — AFP

Remembering the departed

A couple taking part in the Catrinas Parade, ahead of the Day of the Dead in Mexico City. The parade features elaborate costumes and skull-inspired face paint, celebrating Mexico's rich heritage and honouring loved ones who have passed away. — AFP



Embattled Albanian PM vows tougher protest laws

TIRANA: Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama has vowed a tougher line against anti-government protesters, saying that fines would be introduced for violent demonstrations, as hundreds of people marched again in the capital.

Albania has been wracked by months of anti-government protests that in recent days have deteriorated into pitched battles between security forces and protesters.

Rama said a new law would be released this week allowing fines of more than US\$550 (RM2,246) for "anyone who chooses to remain in a crowd" that is carrying out acts of violence or looting in a public space, or "concealing

their identity".

In a speech broadcast on social media, he said the clampdown would apply to any type of gathering "when it results in property damage".

The new law would give police the powers to restrict "gatherings" in certain cases if there was a risk of violence, Rama said.

"Anyone demanding my resignation is mistaken if they think it can be forced or imposed in any way, but I do not believe that everything they are saying and demanding is wrong," he added.

Rama's statement came as several hundred people in the capital staged a fresh protest outside his offices, with protesters shrugging off the threat of fines.

"Why do parents have to pay for the acts of their children while the prime minister isn't responsible for the acts of his government?" a pensioner who declined to give her name said.

Several clashes between demonstrators and police flared on Sunday evening.

Opposition leader and fierce Rama rival Sali Berisha, head of the Democratic Party, said people would not accept the new government measures, his party said in a press release.

"We will stand firmly against them" and "respond tooth for tooth" to Rama "to give him what he deserves", Berisha told an online exchange with the public.

The new law also allows for

compensation for small companies affected by protests and action against those who "encourage, organise or coordinate the participation of minor school children in rallies".

Teachers have backed high school students who have taken part in the protests this year.

In recent protests, demonstrators have attacked the education ministry and other official buildings, complaining about corruption and demanding better conditions for students and Rama's resignation.

After Saturday's protests, police said that 23 people had been formally arrested, 13 others face legal proceedings and 30 people were "wanted". — AFP

KALAMOS (Greece): Chryssa Ntalaka's classroom has become an object lesson in subtraction.

The sole teacher in the last school on the idyllic Greek island of Kalamos has a shorter list of students every fall – this year, just two.

Last month, the sixth graders sat at Ntalaka's table beneath the whiteboard, in front of rows of unused desks and benches.

When they head to middle school on Greece's mainland next year, her school will be moth-balled.

Toys and picture books still sit on shelves in the nearby kindergarten since it was shuttered three years ago.

"Usually, teachers are placed on these islands against their wishes," Ntalaka said.

"Whereas for Kalamos, there are teachers and kindergarten teachers, as far as I know, who want to come – but there are no children."

Falling enrollment across Greece this year prompted authorities to close 75 schools and suspend or extend suspension of classes at more than 400 others.

It's a situation playing out across Europe and beyond.

The region has 16 of the world's top 20 oldest nations, particularly in Southern Europe, according to the independent World Population Review. And its remote communities act as an early warning system.

Mountain villages and small islands are among the first places where schools and services disappear in a deepening cycle of population decline.

Some 17 million people live on more than 4,000 islands across the European Union; Greece has about 200 of them.

"Closing schools leads to young people not staying and to them leaving," said Byron Kotzamanis, co-founder of the Institute of Demographic Research in Athens.

"Leaving means fewer and fewer people – fewer and fewer births. It means depopulation and dead settlements that will become nursing homes."

Kalamos' year-round population is just 80.

A decade ago, it had 40 kids in local schools and public daycare.

"It was very nice. We played together every day. We went to (primary) school every morning," Antonis Aivaliotis, a high school senior, said during a ferry ride in the predawn light.

Aivaliotis is among Kalamos' seven teenagers who today make a choppy crossing to school on the mainland. They miss class on days strong winds pose a risk.

He spent several years as a student in Ntalaka's class, which at the time was a single room with children of all ages.

Ntalaka has often been the lone teacher during her 20 years at remote schools.

Half that time was in Kalamos, located not far from Odysseus' home island Ithaca in *The Odyssey*.

She fell in love with Kalamos' unspoiled beaches that are a magnet for yacht tourists. She learned to dive and became an accomplished spearfisher.

But she'll have to leave.

All it would take for her school to remain open would be the arrival of two families.

She and town officials have desperately sought to spread the word, but there's no sign of any comers.

Full attention:
Ntalaka teaching music to the two students of Kalamos Primary School, on Kalamos island in the Ionian Sea, western Greece. — AP



A Greek isle's tough lesson

Remote schools at stake with falling birth rates and youth exodus



Idyllic perspective:
A boat sailing on the waters off Agrapidia Beach on Kalamos island. — AP

Images broadcast on Italian television showed six-year-old Aysha wearing a purple backpack almost as big as her body and holding her mother's hand as she walked through the narrow streets of Ginostra to her first class inside the village's local church.

Aris Alexopoulos, head of the OECD's Crete Center on Population Dynamics, says Greece's population will fall as low as eight million, from 10.5 million, by 2050.

Young people are becoming a minority, he said on the sidelines of a demographics conference in Athens on Sept 21.

The trend extends across the European Union: 3.55 million babies were born in 2024, roughly half the 1964 peak.

Its fertility rate dropped to a record low of 1.34 children per woman – well below the 2.1 level needed to maintain a stable population.

Greece was among few countries with rates below 1.25.

In June, the European Union announced it would develop a strategy for islands, aiming to address the problem of shrinking populations, among others.

Themis Christophidou, director-general for regional and urban policy at the European Commission, said in an email that the European Union has spent €146mil over the past five years to modernise schools on four Greek island clusters, specifically to counter demographic decline.

"Mobility is one of Europe's strengths, but people should leave by choice, never because of neglect or missing investment," she wrote.

"That starts with quality public services, with education at their heart." — AP

"We're very welcoming and we're trying. That's what we want to do, even right now – for someone to hear us," Ntalaka said.

"The sooner, the better."

As for Aivaliotis, he sees moving away after graduation as inevitable.

"Of course I would like to stay here," he said. "I love Kalamos. It is my home. But there's no development at all."

Ageing countries are struggling to keep their island schools open, with limited success.

Croatia has invested €4.6bil in its islands over the past 10 years, Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said in June.

That includes 20 kindergartens being built or expanded and renovation of primary schools and sports arenas.

Its parliament in January passed an Islands Act aimed at improving life for islanders.

The rate of population decline on small, remote Croatian islands is similar to that of the mainland.

Japan faces grimmer demographics.

In the decade through 2023, the population of over 250 remote islands covered by a government support programme fell 19%, almost double the national rate, according to the most-recent government data.

Nearly a million people lived on those islands in 1955, and 340,000 by 2020.

This has led to a shortage of people to operate ferries and other transportation, worsening economic contraction on remote islands.

Japan's government says maintaining residents is crucial to national security and has provided subsidies to lure people to work in tourism, fishing and other industries.

Some islands have managed to recruit students from elsewhere.

On remote Oki Islands, for example, 74 of the 132 students at a fisheries high school were drawn there through family relocation programmes.

And on the Italian island of Stromboli, formed by the tip of a volcano, a school reopened last month after 20 years – with a single student.

Italian elementary schools normally need at least 15 pupils, but exceptions are granted to remote islands because a school's closure can accelerate depopulation.

Airport marks first international flight

New hub widens travel options for western Sydney

SYDNEY: The first international flight took off 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 on Sunday night and soon afterwards flew out of the airport yesterday 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 9km from the city centre, planes using the airport roar over many city homes, and a curfew bars passen-

ger 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.



First flight out: Passengers boarding an Air New Zealand aircraft operating the first international departure from the newly-opened Western Sydney International Airport. — AFP

Built at a cost of A\$5.3bil (RM15.2bil), 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," he said. — AFP

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Dato' Mahadev Shankar

17 November 1932 – 26 October 2026

Former Court of Appeal Judge, Suhakam Commissioner, V.I. Rodger Scholar, Arbitrator, Educator, Husband, Father

He leaves behind:
Wife: Datin Janet

Sister and Brother-in-Law: Shanta and Vish

Children: Kamesam, Lakshmi, and Ravi

Daughters-in-Law: Anita and Felicity

Grandchildren: Arjuna and Apsara
and many nephews, nieces, grandnephews,
and grandnieces.

Wake Details

Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Time: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Venue: Xiao En Centre

Address: 1 Jalan Kuari, Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur

"I hold the world but as the world, Gratiano; A stage
where every man must play a part"
Antonio from *The Merchant of Venice*, Shakespeare

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Ningbo crown is Elena's again as she brushes aside Leylah

BENGALURU: Elena Rybakina blazed past unseeded Canadian Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-2 in the Ningbo Open final on Sunday to retain her title and lift her first trophy as the world number one ahead of the WTA Finals next month.

The victory in Ningbo also helped the Kazakh to take a big step towards securing the year-end number one ranking, further burnishing a spectacular season in which she won the Australian Open title before adding the US Open crown to reach the summit.

"It's amazing to play in front of you... it's my second year here and my second win," Rybakina told the crowd in the eastern Chinese city after collecting a tour-leading fourth title of the season and 15th overall.

"It's such a special place for me. Thanks so much Ningbo."

Rybakina's latest triumph is a timely lift after setbacks in Beijing and Wuhan, as she turns her attention to the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo this week before she launches her title defence at the season finale in Indian Wells, California, from Nov 8.

Top seed Rybakina made the breakthrough with her trademark power in the fifth game and then unleashed a searing crosscourt backhand winner to go 4-2 up, before the 27-year-old wrapped up the opening set in 38 minutes.

World number 30 Fernandez made a bright start to the next set but Rybakina



Take that: Elena Rybakina in action during the match against Leylah Fernandez. — Reuters

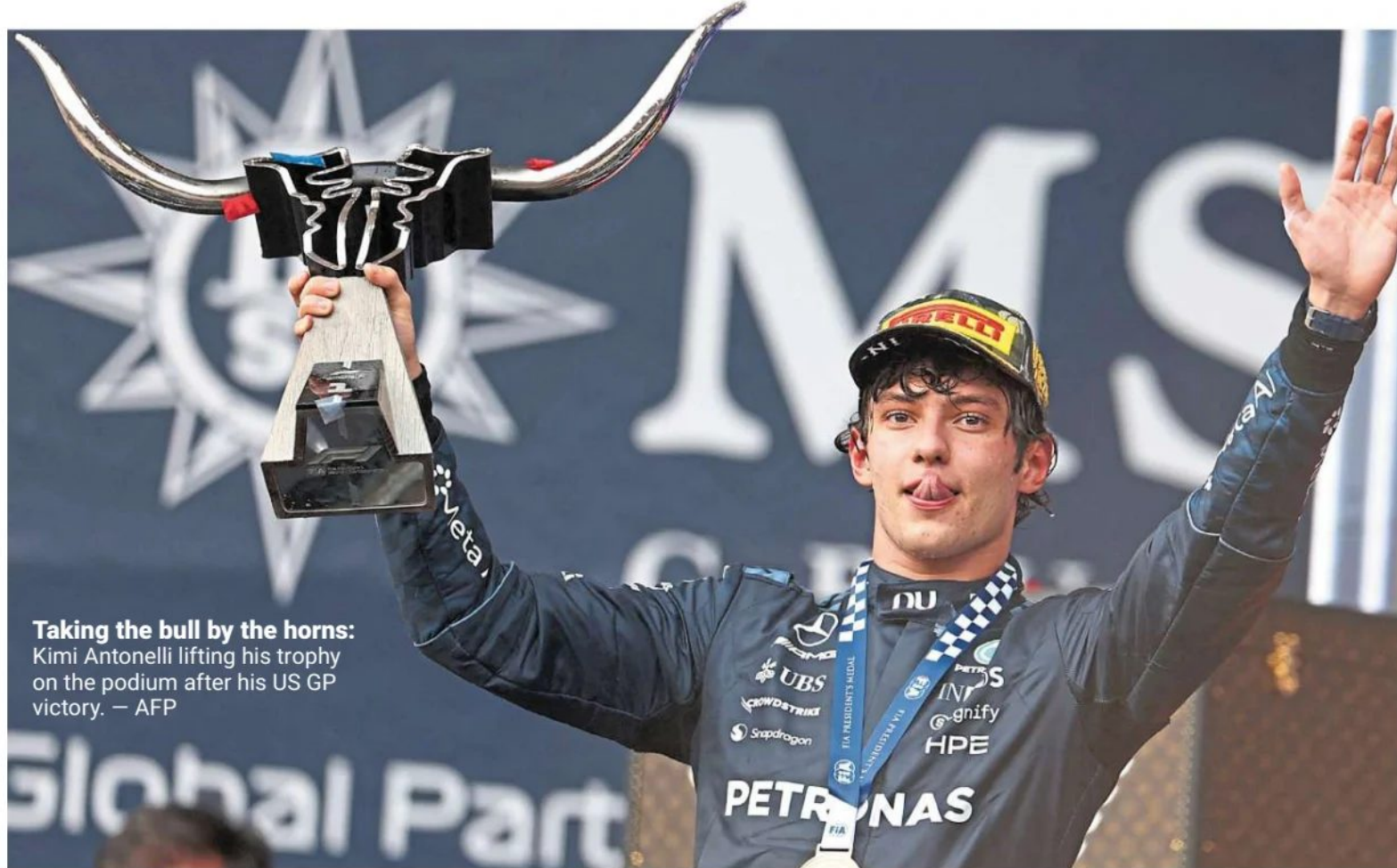
absorbed the pressure and raised her level to force an error and break for 2-1, with the three-time Grand Slam champion breezing to victory from there.

Fernandez, who won the Singapore Open last month, remained upbeat despite a disappointing showing in the final and backed herself to finish the season strongly after a gruelling run of matches

in Ningbo.

"I'd like to congratulate Elena for a wonderful week and a wonderful year. Congratulations to you and your team," the 24-year-old said, before addressing her own team.

"We're having a good end of year. We've just got to keep going and keep working hard." — Reuters



Taking the bull by the horns: Kimi Antonelli lifting his trophy on the podium after his US GP victory. — AFP

Stop me if you can

Antonelli two points away from sealing title and making history

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 teammate 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.

"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." — AFP

Daniil defends Almaty Open trophy to close in on ATP Finals

ALMATY: Top seed Daniil Medvedev shook off a first-set stumble to beat Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-7(6-7), 6-1, 6-3 to defend his Almaty Open title on Sunday, picking up his fourth trophy on the ATP Tour this year.

The win was a boost for Medvedev's hopes of securing his place early in the ATP Finals, which he won in 2020. Alexander Zverev, Carlos Alcaraz and Ben Shelton have already qualified for the tournament, while the injured Jannik Sinner will not feature in the eight-man season finale in Turin from Nov 15-22.

Former US Open champion Medvedev saved two set points to force a tiebreak in the first set, but netted two attempted winners as qualifier Basilashvili, ranked 128th in the world, clinched the set with a powerful cross-court backhand.

The world number five regained control in the second set, forcing backhand rallies and pressuring an error-prone Basilashvili into shooting wide.

Georgian Basilashvili, playing in his first final on the tour since 2022, struggled with his nerves in the third set, netting a backhand drop shot to bring up Medvedev's first match point, before shooting wide from the baseline to lose the match.

■ **LYON:** Italy's former world number five Lorenzo Musetti lifted his first ATP title since 2022 on Sunday as he beat American Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the 250 event in Lyon.

It was a third career title on the main tour for the 24-year-old, following victories four seasons ago in Hamburg and Naples, and brought an end to a seven-match losing streak in tournament showpieces.

In a dominant 81-minute performance in south-east France, Musetti secured two breaks of serve early in each set and forced his second-seeded opponent into 28 unforced errors.

The routine victory stood in juxtaposition to Musetti's grinding route to the final, in which the sixth seed had to show great physical resilience to beat France's Luca Van Assche in a three-and-a-half-hour marathon in the quarter-finals, as well as a lengthy last-four success against his compatriot Fabio Cobolli in which he saved four match points. — Agencies

Seamus, Austin set for playoff at Bermuda C'ship

MIAMI: Seamus Power and Austin Smotherman will play off for the Bermuda Championship title after inclement weather forced officials to cancel the scheduled final round of the US PGA Tour event.

Organisers had tried to get Sunday's scheduled final round under way early but ended up cancelling play for the day as winds gusted up to 40 miles per hour and the weather deteriorated.

Hours after that decision was made, the tour announced that in view of the poor forecast, officials had decided not to try to play a full round.

"Due to the unfavourable weather forecast at the Butterfield Bermuda Championship and the uncertainty surrounding the completion of the entire round, the tournament results will be considered final through 54 holes in accordance with PGA Tour regulations," the tour said in a statement.

"A playoff between Seamus Power and Austin Smotherman will be conducted to determine the champion," the statement said.

Smotherman carded a five-under 66 on Saturday for a 16-under total of 197.

He's trying to add his second title of the month after lifting his maiden PGA Tour trophy at the Utah Championship three weeks ago.

He was joined by Ireland's Power, whose four-under 67 on Saturday included a birdie at the wind-blown 17th that pulled him level with Smotherman atop the leaderboard.

The leading duo were two strokes clear of American Taylor Moore and Canadians Corey Connors and Ben Silverman, who all finished 54 holes at 14-under par. — AFP

Century of class

Mbappe bags 100th Real goal with brace in Clasico win over Barca



Huge milestone: Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe celebrating after scoring against Barcelona — Reuters

BARCELONA: Kylian Mbappe said reaching a milestone 100 goals for Real Madrid during the 2-1 Clasico win over Barcelona in La Liga on Sunday was “just a detail” compared to the team’s victory.

The French forward hit a brace to bring up his century for Los Blancos across all competitions since joining in 2024.

Mbappe’s double, either side of a Raphinha strike for the hosts at Nou Camp, brought third-place Real Madrid within three points of the La Liga leaders and reigning Spanish champions.

“I’m very happy, I think everyone knows I like to score goals, I like to help the team with that, but

I think today it’s just a detail, because ... the most important thing is the team’s win,” Mbappe told Real Madrid TV.

“Honestly, the real star of the game today is the team, the group, because we knew we had to play a big game, a team game ...

“We know that in the end it was a great game, but it still only counts as three points, and we need to pick up a lot of points to win La Liga.”

Jose Mourinho’s Real have now won five matches in a row and seem to be coming into strong form.

“It doesn’t mean anything, we have to continue, because five games for us is nothing, we want

to win every game,” added Mbappe, 27.

“(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.”

Meanwhile, Mourinho was delighted with his team’s display in his first Clasico back at the helm of Real.

“My team had an extraordinary game, very organised, good concentration, with courage to play out from the back against a team that press you a lot,” Mourinho told reporters.

“We had chances for the second goal ... obviously Barca had a strong reaction but we were calm

SPANISH LEAGUE RESULTS & STANDINGS									
A. BILBAO	4	GETAFE	0						
CELTA VIGO	0	REAL BETIS	0						
R. SOCIEDAD	2	LEVANTE	1						
BARCELONA	1	R. MADRID	2						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
BARCELONA	10	9	0	1	40	11	27		
A. MADRID	10	8	1	1	20	8	25		
R. MADRID	10	8	0	2	25	10	24		
REAL BETIS	10	6	2	2	16	14	20		
R. SOCIEDAD	10	6	1	3	19	18	19		
SEVILLA	9	4	2	3	14	16	14		
ALAVES	10	3	3	4	14	11	12		
A. BILBAO	9	3	3	3	12	9	12		
CELTA VIGO	10	2	6	2	10	7	12		
VILLARREAL	10	3	3	4	15	14	12		
DEPORTIVO	10	2	5	3	13	13	11		
OSASUNA	9	3	2	4	10	18	11		
RACING	10	3	2	5	15	26	11		
LEVANTE	10	2	4	4	16	19	10		
ELCHE	10	2	4	4	14	17	10		
VALLECANO	9	2	3	4	12	20	9		
GETAFE	10	2	3	5	5	15	9		
ESPANYOL	10	2	2	6	12	14	8		
VALENCIA	10	1	3	6	7	17	6		
MALAGA	10	0	5	5	7	19	5		

and organised and at 1-1 we never lost our tranquillity.”

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,” said Flick of his team’s performance.

“It’s the first defeat in La Liga, we won nine in a row. This is what we have to see.

“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.” — AFP

Bayern beat Freiburg to reclaim top spot after Kompany’s illness

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 on Saturday the coach is likely to be out for “days, not weeks”.

“I just opened my phone to a message from Vince saying ‘well done’ and he was happy,” assistant coach Aaron Danks told DAZN.

“I just replied saying ‘brilliant - now go rest’. I sent him a kissing emoji, so hopefully he rests up.”

Bayern sporting director Max Eberl gave an update on Kompany’s condition.

“He’s stable. He no longer has a headache. He’s now undergoing a thorough examination. Everything is being handled,” he said.

“There’s no diagnosis, nothing final yet.” — AFP

RESULTS

Freiburg 1 Bayern Munich 3, Hoffenheim 3 Bayer Leverkusen 0
Leading standings: Bayern Munich 17, Borussia Dortmund 17, Freiburg 13, Bayer Leverkusen 13, Leipzig 12

Monaco hold Lille as Rennes go top of Ligue 1

MONACO: Lille were made to pay for Tanguy Nianzou’s red card as Monaco fought back to hold them to a 1-1 draw in Ligue 1 on Sunday, opening the door for Rennes to take the summit of the table thanks to a 3-0 win over struggling Strasbourg.

With Paris St Germain and Lyon’s match pushed back due to protests taking place across France this weekend, a winner in the principality would have gone three points clear at the top of the table.

But Lille have to content themselves with second spot on goal difference in the standings ahead of Monaco as both sides moved to 15 points - one ahead of Lyon, reigning champions PSG and Paris FC.

Rennes then took full advantage of the draw as they eased past 16th-placed Strasbourg in Brittany to climb to 16 points.

At the Stade Louis II, Ethan Mbappe’s goal midway through the first period put Lille in the driving seat but a straight red for Nianzou just after the hour was swiftly punished by Edan Diop as the hosts forced a draw. — AFP

RESULTS

Monaco 1 Lille 1, Rennes 3 Strasbourg 0, Marseille 4 Le Havre 3, Angers 0 Lorient 0, Toulouse 0 Troyes 0, Auxerre 1 Le Mans 1
Leading standings: Rennes 16, Lille 15, Monaco 15, Lyon 14, PSG 14

ITALIAN LEAGUE RESULTS & STANDINGS									
INTER	2	FIorentina	1						
ATALANTA	4	FROSINONE	4						
GENOA	1	VENEZIA	0						
LECCE	0	JUVENTUS	2						
UDINESE	0	AC MILAN	2						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
INTER	8	7	1	0	23	10	22		
LAZIO	8	7	1	0	16	5	22		
ROMA	8	5	3	0	19	6	18		
AC MILAN	8	5	3	0	16	7	18		
COMO	8	5	2	1	14	7	17		
FROSINONE	8	4	2	2	17	13	14		
JUVENTUS	8	4	2	2	11	8	14		
TORINO	8	4	1	3	13	11	13		
CAGLIARI	8	4	1	3	6	9	13		
NAPOLI	8	3	2	3	13	10	11		
ATALANTA	8	3	1	4	14	15	10		
LECCE	8	3	0	5	9	14	9		
BOLOGNA	8	2	2	4	8	10	8		
SASSUOLO	8	2	2	4	12	16	8		
MONZA	8	2	1	5	15	18	7		
GENOA	8	2	1	5	6	13	7		
UDINESE	8	1	1	6	9	18	4		
FIorentina	8	1	1	6	9	19	4		
PARMA	8	1	1	6	5	15	4		
VENEZIA	8	1	0	7	6	17	3		

Inter rally late to down Fiorentina and lead

ROME: Inter Milan struck twice in stoppage time to complete a remarkable 2-1 comeback win over Fiorentina and return to the summit of Serie A on Sunday, while Juventus and AC Milan both bounced back with victories.

Alex Jimenez’s rocket strike had struggling Fiorentina heading for a shock win at San Siro, but Marcus Thuram levelled in the 91st minute before winning a penalty that Piotr Zielinski (pic) converted in the 98th minute.

The result lifted Inter to first place, level with surprise fellow pace-setters Lazio on 22 points, while the Florence club’s winless run stretched to four games to keep them in 18th spot.

Later, Juventus claimed a 2-0 win over Lecce that lifted them into seventh place after a poor recent run of form and AC Milan bounced back from a heavy Europa League defeat to Bournemouth by beating Udinese 2-0 to go fourth.

Inter’s fifth comeback win of the season saw them concede for the 10th time, but head coach Cristian Chivu was unconcerned by his side’s defensive issues.

“That’s football: sometimes you concede,” Chivu told DAZN.

“The important thing is not to let your heads drop and to maintain the same mentality.

“Ever since I arrived here, I’ve always said that games last 90 minutes. I don’t want to see people feel sorry for themselves.

“I want to see players respond to setbacks,” added Chivu.

Milan continued their unbeaten start to the league season and responded to their midweek drubbing in Bournemouth by claiming a confident win away to Udinese.

“We need time to work on several things, but we don’t have time sometimes even to address the problems we had in the last game,” Milan coach Ruben Amorim told DAZN. — AFP



Between the sticks – how goalkeepers proved to be difference makers

IN football, outfield players get most of the glory. A defender is lauded for a goal-saving tackle, a midfielder for controlling the game or creating chances, and a striker collects all the accolades for scoring.

Goalkeepers are put under the microscope for every mistake or when they are involved in a penalty shootout, but never get the recognition they deserve if a team have a routine 2-0 win.

Game week eight proves goalkeepers are equally important if you want to compete at the highest level of football.

It starts with the games at Villa Park, where Zion Suzuki showed the audience that Unai Emery was right in acquiring him from Parma.

At the other end, Gianluigi Donnarumma had a game to forget since Manchester City's first defeat of the season can be attributed to his errors.

The siege mentality was gone as Jackson took advantage of two goalkeeping errors, ensuring that Villa continued to climb the league table after the slow start.

The first goal beat Donnarumma at his near post, and the second

was a ferocious shot that slipped under the goalkeeper's body. On a different day, Donnarumma would have saved both, but Saturday was not his.

In the Villa goal, Suzuki showed the Villa Park faithful that he is the man to replace the departed Emiliano Martínez.

Suzuki ensured City did not get the equaliser and helped with the distribution from the back.

If you ask the pundits, Suzuki's distribution is an upgrade from Martínez.

Emery once again proved he knows how to build a team, and while it might take time for them to click, eventually he gets it right.

Even after losing the spine of the team from last season, the current players are showing they are more than capable of replacing them, and perhaps even better. Up the Villans!

Chelsea had another reminder why the goalkeeper matters. With Martínez out injured with a fractured jaw, Chelsea started with 21-year-old Mike Penders against Tottenham Hotspur in the London derby.

Penders had a game to forget for

EFNY
JOHAN

A winning factor

his error from a cross saw him punch the ball into his own net to give Spurs the lead.

Roberto De Zerbi's men took advantage of this and secured their second win of the season.

Spurs have played well over the last three games, and it was only a matter of time before the team finally clicked.

With favourable games on the horizon, expect Spurs to climb the table, and this will make for an entertaining race among teams chasing the coveted third, fourth, and fifth spots for Champions League football.

Imagine if this Spurs side had a

proper striker leading the line – they could be a frightening team to face.

"Set-Piece FC" is back as Arsenal scored two goals from set-pieces to level on points with City.

Solid at the back and with the ever-dependable David Raya between the sticks, Mikel Arteta got his goalkeeping recruitment right as Raya has proven to be a game-changer time and time again for the Gunners.

A good goalkeeper helps build confidence in the defence.

At Old Trafford, the Cherries got another 3-0 victory over Manchester United.

They won with that scoreline for the third time in four seasons and the fourth time they have scored three or more goals against the Red Devils – a remarkable record, but these days it is not hard to beat United.

A team just need to be competent, show a bit of structure and run more than United.

This looks like a curtain call for Michael Carrick. This is the relegation form. Perhaps it is time to look at the players instead of just the manager.

Sacking Carrick would make him the seventh permanent manager United sacked since Sir Alex Ferguson retired. Even if the board brings in a world-class manager now, the cycle will continue since the squad have the same players.

Some players have been there since the Louis van Gaal era.

At Anfield, it was four wins in a row for the Merseyside Reds as the high-flying Seagulls came tumbling down in an entertaining game.

Liverpool had a rough start, but just as at his old club, Andoni Iraola needed around 10 games for players to understand his system, and you can see it in the Liverpool players now.

Time to build from there, as a sterner test awaits when Liverpool host Arsenal.

The Premier League is slowly taking shape as it should, because the league table's true reflection is only visible between weeks eight and 10.

From November onwards, one can separate the contenders from the pretenders, and to become a contender, a capable player between the sticks is needed.

It could be a difference maker.

Can Carrick carry on?

Michael unsure over United future after Bournemouth loss

MANCHESTER: 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," Carrick told Sky Sports. "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."

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

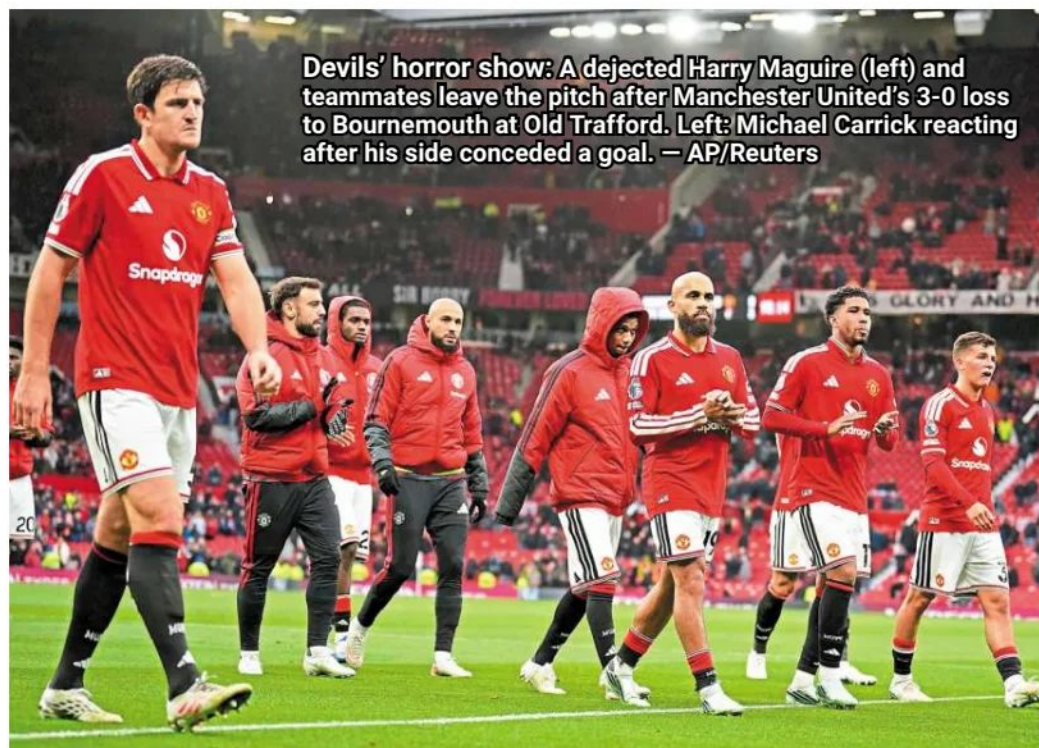


midfielder as he made his way off the field at full-time before they turned on the club's players.

"I have mixed emotions to have that connection with the supporters in the moment we're in. I need time to digest that," added Carrick.

"I appreciate their support but the situation is where it's at. We haven't been good enough."

Carrick's decision to drop captain Bruno



Devils' horror show: A dejected Harry Maguire (left) and teammates leave the pitch after Manchester United's 3-0 loss to Bournemouth at Old Trafford. Left: Michael Carrick reacting after his side conceded a goal. — AP/Reuters

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' 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

Iraola says Isak back to his best as striker savours sixth goal for Liverpool

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' 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 £125mil 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. — AFP

Nabil extends Malaysia's strong record in e-sports with gold in Thailand



By S. SAKTESH

PETALING JAYA: Malaysian e-sports celebrated another golden moment as Nabil Azlan (*pic*) delivered a commanding performance to clinch gold at the Asia-Pacific Motorsport Championship (APMC) in Thailand.

The 24-year-old national simulator racing athlete won the Assetto Corsa category, domi-

nating the competition from start to finish at the event held at the Bira Circuit in Pattaya.

Thailand's Thanathip Thanalapanan came in second while Singapore's Mohd Thasbeeh settled for bronze.

It was a huge win for Nabil, who went one better than the silver medal he won in the iRacing category at the competition last year.

Nabil's win also extends

Malaysia's strong record in e-sports, having secured gold medals at the APMC since its inaugural edition in 2023.

Joining Nabil in the Assetto Corsa category was compatriot Iqbal Suji, who did well on his debut to secure a place in the final and finished in sixth place.

Fortune, however, was less favourable for two racers in the iRacing event.

Debutant Raja Amirul Syaumat battled through to the final, but the 22-year-old was involved in a collision that sent him to the back of the grid, effectively ending his hopes of challenging for a medal as he finished ninth overall.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Ethan Low, the youngest competitor in the e-sports discipline, suffered a setback as his campaign ended early.

No Port of comfort

Insa warns JDT not to take struggling Thai club lightly in ACL clash



Staying on the ball: The JDT players at a training session. Inset: Coach Xisco Munoz (left) and captain Natxo Insa at a press conference. — Bernama

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: It will be easy for Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) to underestimate Thai club Port in their AFC Champions League (ACL) Elite group match at the Sultan Ibrahim Stadium today.

The side from up north were thrashed 5-1 by Kashiwa Reysol in their previous match and also

lost their opener to Vissel Kobe 2-1.

That may make them easy meat for the Southern Tigers, but captain Natxo Insa was quick to put a leash on his teammates to prevent complacency.

The 40-year-old Insa, who has been with JDT since 2017, certainly knows better when it comes to discipline and giving opponents

their due respect.

"Port may have started poorly in the competition but we still see them as tough opponents.

"They are a team of fighters who won't give up till the final whistle," said Insa, who was born in Spain but has Malaysian heritage.

"So we'll be asking for trouble if we expect an easy game."

As for coach Xisco Munoz, he wants JDT to maintain their momentum after their 3-0 win over Pohang Steelers last week. He has also urged the supporters to turn up in force.

"Port are currently among the top sides in the Thai League and we must stay focused to beat them and keep our winning momentum," said Munoz.

Asian Cup push for Safuwan to go extra mile with Selangor

PETALING JAYA: Veteran centreback Safuwan Baharudin is ready to go the extra mile to help Selangor achieve success this season.

The 35-year-old Singaporean's motivation goes beyond the Super League, as he intends to earn a spot in the Lion City squad for next year's Asian Cup.

"It will be a win-win situation for me if I can help Selangor do well this season as I'm determined to play for my country in the Asian Cup," said Safuwan.

His priorities with the Red Giants are to help them qualify for continental competition and also reach the FA Cup final.

Selangor must finish second in the Super League to be eligible for Asian competition next season.

In the FA Cup, they hold a 2-1 first-leg lead in the semi-final against Kuching City, with the second leg in Sarawak on Nov 8. Safuwan is one of several Singaporeans to have reached a century of caps, having won 133 since making his international debut in 2010.

He was part of the team that qualified for the Asian Cup for the first time in 42 years and is regarded as one of the pillars alongside captain Hariss Harun and the Fandi brothers, Ikhsan, Irfan and Ilhan.

The Asian Cup will be held from Jan 7-Feb 5 in Saudi Arabia.

Singapore are in Group D with Australia, Iraq and Tajikistan.

Cats vow to be more clinical in bid to end winless run

PETALING JAYA: Kuching City are fired up to snap a winless streak when they face South Korean club Gangwon in the AFC Champions League (ACL) Two at the Gangneung Arena on Thursday.

The Cats, given their attacking verve, have been one of the unluckiest teams around.

Aidil Shahrin's men have scored 10 goals in their last five matches, yet have won only one, with the rest ending in draws or defeats.

Winger Ramadhan Saifullah said they must convert more of the many chances

they create if they are to win games.

In last Friday's 2-1 loss to Selangor in the FA Cup semi-final first leg, they had eight shots at goal but scored only once.

"Going by the number of chances we're creating in a game, we should be scoring more goals. So that's one area we have to fix before we can start winning on a regular basis," said Ramadhan.

As for coach Aidil, he said his side would not abandon their attacking approach.

"We're a team that love to

attack and play good football, and I believe that we will be eventually rewarded with wins," he said.

Kuching will be eyeing their first win in the ACL Two in their maiden continental campaign.

They lost 2-1 to Cambodian club Phnom Penh Crown on Sept 17 and were held to a 1-1 draw by Hong Kong's Kitchee on Oct 15.

In the Shopee Cup Asean Club Championships, they also played to a 2-2 stalemate with Singaporean side Tampines Rovers on Oct 7.



Tightly marked: Kuching City's Jerome Etame (centre) is challenged by Kitchee's Haddon Jay during their AFC Champions League Two match. — Bernama

Fresh vision

Azeem hopes change of scenery will aid recovery after hectic schedule

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: The season has ended for national sprinter Mohd Azeem Fahmi and he hopes a change of scenery will help him recover from physical and mental lethargy after a busy schedule.

The 22-year-old's last assignment was the Japan Asian Games where he finished last in the 100m due to groin injury.

He is expected to resume preparations in November to be ready for next year under sprint coach Thabo Mathebadi.

First, however, it is time for Azeem to be back home with family and friends.

"The goal is to take care of myself, especially staying away from injuries, staying healthy, and, most importantly, having fun," said Azeem.

"I will spend time with my friends, family, and all my loved ones.

"I'm hoping that it will boost my motivation and also make sure that I'm always in the right place, especially mentally."

Azeem, the national record holder with a time of 10.09s, is hellbent on hitting the flat 10-second mark in the 100m event next year to qualify for the Olympics spot on merit.

"I think I'm not that far away from that

sub-10-second barrier. Even my coach believes that I can run 10 seconds next season," said Azeem.

"He will handle all the schedules and plans and I will keep working hard, work smart, and take care of my body."

On the extent of his injury, Azeem said scans at the National Sports Institute confirmed he has suffered partial torn by about 4cm.

The scans also showed at least two scars in the same spot, suggesting he may have torn it before without realising, which could explain why it has bothered him on and off.

He underwent a platelet-rich plasma injection procedure after the Games, followed by rehabilitation and treatment.

"It has been a very long season since January, and I've been running back-to-back almost every two weeks. So now, I think it's a great time to give my body and mind a bit of a break," he said.

The target recovery period is five to seven weeks. If all goes to plan, conditioning and preparation for the new season could begin around mid-November.

Azeem said he ran five of his best times this year and clocked 10.09s again.

"It wasn't how I wanted it to be, but I'm

still grateful. I would say this has been my best season so far in my track and field career.

"It just shows that I'm still capable of doing it, and it also gave me a lot of confidence to keep going, especially with the things that I love."

Azeem is confident about Malaysian future in athletics as he noted that more than half of the track and field athletes sent to the Asiad were youngsters, with an average age of below 24.

The six-man relay group of Mohd Armin Zahryl Abdul Latif, Mohd Haziq Mohd Akhir, Danish Iftikhar Mohd Roslee, Mohd Umaira Subri, Pengiran Aidil Auf Hajam and Azeem are all under-23.

"This was actually a very big gamble, I would say, for Malaysian Athletics (MA) to send us to the Asian Games. But this was also a great opportunity, not just for me, but for the rest of the guys.

"At least now they know what to expect at the Asian level. I'm looking forward to this team sticking together, and hopefully we can build a very strong sprint team leading towards the SEA Games.

"Hopefully, MA can give us more opportunities to compete overseas and show what we are capable of."

Future mindset: Mohd Azeem Fahmi is expected to resume training in November. — NSC

Vidhurran ready for bigger test after U-15 dominant show

PETALING JAYA: Rising squash talent R. Vidhurran (*pic*) has enjoyed a consistent year on the junior circuit, reaching all eight finals he contested in the Under-15 category and winning five titles.

And now, he is ready to take on bigger challenges in the Under-17 category.

The 14-year-old capped his Under-15 campaign in style by winning the Milo All-Star Malaysian Junior Open earlier this month by defeating compatriot Kayvern Arthur in straight sets at the Jalan Duta Squash Courts.

The victory was particularly significant as the tournament was the region's first diamond-level event on the Asian Junior Super Series calendar, providing Vidhurran with an ideal send-off from the age group.

Turning 15 next month, Vidhurran is ready to step up to the challenge as he will get his first taste of competing in the Under-17 category at the REDtone KL Junior Open from Dec 1-6.

"I'm looking ahead to the challenge of competing in the Under-17 category," said Vidhurran, who is ranked No. 1 in Malaysia and Asia in the Under-15 category.

"I know it's going to be a step up, and I'm going to put in maximum effort to keep improving and keep pushing myself.

"There's a lot of work to be done ahead of me, and I'm ready for it."

Vidhurran's other wins this year were the SRAM National Junior Circuit 1st leg, SRAFTKL International Junior Open in April, the Penang Junior Open in July, and the Lion City Junior Open in June.

Vidhurran's coaches, former players Addeen Idrakie and Aika Azman, believe the rising player's dedication to the sport has been commendable, and moving to the next age group is the right step for him.

"To reach the final of every single event he played this year and finish as champion in five of them tells you everything about Vidhurran's consistency and work ethic.

"Heading into the Under-17 group is the next step for him to continue developing," said Addeen.

"We are looking forward to taking it head-on at his upcoming tournaments. It will provide exactly the kind of challenge he needs at this stage as the best is still ahead of him," said Aika.



Let Sangari shine without added pressure, says Cross

By S. SAKTESH

PETALING JAYA: National squash coaching director Andrew Cross believes there is no need to pile extra pressure on S. Sivasangari, whose impressive run of form has propelled her to new heights in recent months.

The 27-year-old has enjoyed a series of career milestones, successfully defending her Asian Games crown, securing qualification for the Los Angeles Olympic Games and reaching her maiden platinum-level semi-final before clinching the gold-level Silicon Valley Open title on Sunday.

Now at a career-high world No. 4, Sivasangari has given Cross plenty of encouragement, with the national coaching director believing that continued hard work and consistency will be key to sustaining her upward trajectory.

"Sivasangari is doing really well at the moment. She's playing big matches well and entered diamond and platinum semis in the last few weeks before adding another gold title to her collection," said Cross.

"Right now with all that confidence, it's

just about keeping it going. She's going to get back to the hard work this week, and then it is the US Open on Sunday."

Sivasangari won the Silicon Valley Open after defeating Egypt's Farida Mohamed in straight sets in Redwood City, California.

Meanwhile, Cross also praised Rachel Arnold and Aifa Azman for commendable outings last week.

World No. 22 Rachel got another big win under her belt after beating rival and world No. 10 Amanda Sobhy for the first time in four attempts, while Aifa pushed Sivasangari to five sets in the second round before bowing out.

"It's great to see Rachel the last few weeks, especially after she also beat world No. 3 Nour El Sherbini in Qatar last month.

"Rachel's doing well, and it's good to see her push back up the rankings. Aifa was the only one to push Sivasangari to five sets last week. She played pretty well too.

"So good performances overall, and I'm happy so far. They will go again to US for the Open next week," he said.

The US Open will take place in Philadelphia from Nov 1-7.



The sky is the limit: S. Sivasangari has enjoyed a series of career milestones. — PSA Squash Tour

Timely comeback

Wei Chong-Kai Wun's French Open title marks return to top form again

FINAL RESULTS

Men's singles: Christo Popov (Fra) bt Moh Zaki Ubaidillah (Ind) 21-11, 14-21, 21-13.
Men's doubles: Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun (Mas) bt Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani (Mas) 13-21, 21-15, 21-7.
Women's singles: An Se-young (Kor) bt P. V. Sindhu (Ind) 16-21, 21-11, 21-1.
Women's doubles: Yuki Fukushima-Mayu Matsumoto (Jpn) bt Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah (Mas) 10-21, 21-17, 21-16.
Mixed doubles: Feng Yangzhe-Huang Dongping (Chn) bt Hoo Pang Ron-Lai Pei Jing (Mas) 21-10, 21-13.

By T. RAHULESH

PETALING JAYA: Following a testing few months plagued by injury struggles and partner reshuffles, national men's doubles shuttler Man Wei Chong can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

The 27-year-old, who aggravated a right knee injury in March, had been struggling to find his form.

The challenge was compounded when he was temporarily split from his regular partner, Tee Kai Wun, to trial other pairings.

Recently reunited, the duo captured their first Super 750 title at the French Open final on Sunday.

The world No. 11 pairing entered the all-Malaysian final as underdogs against world No. 5 Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani but came back from a game down to win 13-21, 21-15, 21-17 at the Arena Grand Paris.

The win marks their sixth career title together and their first since the 2025 Malaysian Masters.



Rising to the occasion: Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun beat compatriots Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani in the French Open final.

Despite the triumph, Wei Chong remained grounded about their current expectations.

"There wasn't actually a target for the past few tournaments," said Wei Chong.

"We were the underdogs, but we really wanted to perform well and bring home the title.

"Maybe when we are under pressure, we can play better." He added that his knee is now "almost fully recovered".

The victory is a significant turnaround for the pair, who suffered a first round exit at the

Denmark Open just a week earlier.

Their success also ends Malaysia's 22-year wait for a French Open men's doubles crown.

The last Malaysians to achieve the feat were Gan Teik Chai-Koo Kien Keat in 2004.

Furthermore, the match marked the first all-Malaysian final in a Super 750 tournament.

"We are glad to be part of history as Malaysians," said Kai Wun.

"Hopefully, we can have more all-Malaysian finals in the future."

Following their triumph in Paris, Kai Wun hopes the duo can maintain their consistency moving forward.

"Our consistency is not so good. We just focused match by match, and I told my partner to give our best until the end," said Kai Wun.

"Now that we are back together and have won a title, we hope to maintain this momentum."

After a gruelling two-week schedule on tour, the pair are now looking forward to spending time with family back home and enjoying the local cuisine.

Bank on Frenchmen Popov and Lanier to spice up the game

PETALING JAYA: France's emergence as a new badminton force continues to gather momentum after Christo Popov's historic French Open triumph on Sunday and further cemented the European nation's growing stature on the international stage.

The 24-year-old French sensation became the first home player in 80 years to capture the men's singles crown after defeating Indonesia's world No. 28 Moh Zaki Ubaidillah 21-11, 14-21, 21-13 in a thrilling final at the Arena Grand Paris.

Henri Pellizza was the last French winner in 1946.

"All the planets aligned today," Popov told the Badminton World Federation.

"I'm not only proud of myself, but also that a Frenchman has won the French Open. It's one of the best memories I have in my career. The first one is always the best one."

The landmark victory, which also propels Popov to the coveted world No. 1 ranking, adds another significant achievement to what has been a remarkable period for French badminton.

Popov's success follows his triumph at the World Tour Finals last year and compatriot Alex Lanier's world championship title victory in August.

"I think I'm a more experienced player now," added Popov, who is coached by his father, former shuttler Thomas Popov.

"Those results, they don't come alone. I couldn't have done it without the team I have here and also the crowd."

With Popov, his 28-year-old brother Toma, and Lanier, 21, leading the charge, France appears well-positioned to sustain its growing influence on the international badminton scene for years to come in a sport traditionally dominated by Asian nations.



Singles lack the mentality, says legend Rashid

PETALING JAYA: Mindset can be the biggest hurdle but once overcome, the sky is truly the limit.

While the Malaysian doubles hogged the limelight after a successful French Open, the singles department told a different story.

In the space of two weeks, sole national representative Leong Jun Hao (*pic*), 27, suffered first round exits at both the Denmark and French Opens, further highlighting Malaysia's struggles to establish a consistent presence in the later stages of major singles competitions.

The contrast was particularly evident in the emergence of Indonesia's 19-year-old Moh Zaki Ubaidillah, who reached the French Open final despite entering the tournament ranked world No. 28.

Zaki stunned world No. 6 and teammate Jonatan Christie and world No. 5 and reigning world champion Alex Lanier of France on his way to the final before going down 11-21, 21-14, 13-21 to 24-year-old Christo Popov of France, who is set to officially become world No. 1 player today.

National badminton legend Datuk Rashid Sidek believes the gap between

Malaysia and their regional rivals is a matter of mindset.

"The main difference is the mentality," said Rashid.

"In terms of talent and facilities we are on par if not better than Indonesia, but there is always something lacking when our players graduate from the junior level."

For Rashid, Zaki's fearless approach is precisely what Malaysian players must learn to emulate.

"Take the Indonesian youngster (Zaki) for example. You look at him you already know his attitude," said Rashid.

"He isn't afraid of anyone no matter how high their ranking."

"Whether the person in front of him is the world No. 1 or the world champion, he still plays the same way."

Zaki is not the only young Asian player making significant strides on the international stage.

Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, ranked world No. 10, Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul (No. 18) and India's Ayush Shetty (No. 20) have also established themselves among the world's top 32.

In comparison, Jun Hao remains

Malaysia's highest-ranked men's singles player at world No. 31 and the only one inside the top 32, while Justin Hoh, 22, and Eugene Ewe, 21, trail in 46th and 89th positions respectively.

With Jun Hao leading Malaysia's hope of reaching the season-ending World Tour Finals, the lack of progress among the country's younger singles players remains a pressing concern.

"Other players are always faster and attacking from the start of the match but the Malaysians tend to take a slower approach especially at the start," said Rashid.

"This won't work in high-level tournaments like the French Open."

Rashid, however, is convinced that Malaysian shuttlers already possess the necessary qualities to challenge the elite but just need a little nudge.

"They're not brave enough. In terms of technique, quality and their skills they have it all. But they're not brave enough to push themselves."

"Something needs to be done so that they start giving 100% every game."

"Right now they're stuck at 80%. Once that block clears, we can be on par with the best in no time."

Staying humble will be greatest victory for emerging stars

IT has been a magical fortnight for Malaysian badminton.

From the juniors to the seniors, our shuttlers have given fans plenty to cheer about, weaving their magic across Cairo, Odense and Paris with performances that have rekindled hopes for the future.

The celebrations began in Egypt, where Low Zi Yu-Genevieve Lim made history by capturing the girls' doubles title at the World Junior Championships while the mixed team took a silver.

Not to be outdone, the seniors turned on the style in Europe.

At the Denmark Open, Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah captured the women's doubles crown, ending a 18-year wait for Malaysia, while Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik finished runners-up in their first tournament together after a brief separation.

The good run continued in Paris, where Malaysia featured in three French Open finals.

Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun defeated compatriots Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani in an all-Malaysian showdown to end the country's 22-year wait for the men's doubles title.

Pearly-Thinaah and mixed doubles

pair Hoo Pang Ron-Lai Pei Jing settled for runners-up honours.

The remarkable run brought back fond memories of Malaysia's golden moments at the BWF World Super Series Finals when Malaysia won three titles in the 2008 and 2009 editions.

Today, I want to turn the spotlight on the young player who has added a special sparkle to Malaysian badminton - 16-year-old Zi Yu, who became the youngest girls' doubles world junior champion.

For years, we have been searching for our own Lamine Yamal, the Spanish football sensation who burst onto the biggest stage as a teenager.

And Zi Yu has stepped up. Standing tall at 175cm (5ft 9in), she has already shown maturity, resilience and a hunger for success that belie her tender age.

But it was not overnight success. It took three attempts with three different partners before she finally struck gold.

At just 14, she became the youngest player to reach the girls' doubles final, partnering Dania Sofea Zaidi despite battling hyperthyroidism in 2024. A year later, she lost in the final with Noraqilah Maisarah Ramdan.

RAJES PAUL

rajespaul
@thestar.com.my



Sports Box

Her versatility was also evident when she won the Asian junior mixed doubles title with Ahmad Redzuan Zulwaqqarizal this year and finished runners-up at the China Masters with Noraqilah in the senior ranks.

Due to her thyroid condition, the family had wanted to care for her at home and she used to travel from Johor to Kuala Lumpur for weekend training. She finally joined BAM as a full-time trainee only this year.

The sacrifices, determination and perseverance have now paid off handsomely.

Like Zi Yu, Genevieve (18), Dania (18) and Noraqilah (19) have also shown the passion, promise and potential to go far.

We now know we have the talent but the bigger challenge is ensuring that these promising youngsters make a successful transition into the senior ranks - and that's where the real test begins.

The opponents are tougher, the scrutiny is greater and expectations can rise as high as Mount Everest.

One moment, a youngster is being hailed as the next big thing. Then, a string of defeats can turn cheers into criticism.

Some thrive under the spotlight. Others wilt beneath its weight.

We have seen too many promising talents fade into oblivion over the years, unable to cope with the pressure, injuries, distractions and the many pitfalls that come with sporting success.

But there is one danger that can be even more destructive than all these obstacles - false pride.

A little fame, a few big wins and the wrong circle of friends can sometimes undo years of hard work. Talent may take a player to the top, but character determines how long they stay there.

That is why I hope our young stars will remain humble through their ups

and downs.

The wise King Solomon reputedly said "pride goes before a fall" - and he knew what he was talking about.

Pride can quietly sabotage our dreams and ambitions if we fail to keep it in check or refuse to listen to those who genuinely care about us.

It can blind us to our weaknesses, shut out wise advice and make us forget the very people who helped us climb the ladder of success.

So, to Zi Yu and all the other young stars chasing their dreams, keep doing what you are doing.

Keep working hard. Keep smiling. Keep winning but above all, stay humble.

Never forget the sacrifices of your parents, the patience of your coaches and the people who stood by you long before the medals and applause arrived.

People may forget a magical victory in a week or two, and even the brightest sporting moments eventually fade from memory.

But a champion who wins hearts through humility, kindness and character leaves a magic that lasts far longer than any medal.

Leading by example

Rosman hails Pearly-Thinaah as role models that a new wave of players can look up to

By **RAJES PAUL**

PETALING JAYA: One great pair can inspire a generation, and Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah are proving just that for Malaysian women's doubles.

Once heavily reliant on one or two pairs to deliver results, the national women's doubles department are now showing encouraging signs of greater depth, with several promising youngsters waiting in the wings.

Besides Pearly-Thinaah, they have national No. 2 pair Carmen Ting-Ong Xing Yee, reigning world junior champions Low Zi Yu-Genevieve Lim, as well as Sofea Dania Zaidi and Nuraqilah Maisarah Ramdan, among others, hoping to make their mark.

Head coach Rosman Razak hopes Pearly-Thinaah will continue to lead the way and inspire the next generation to dream big.

"The women's doubles department is fortunate to have Pearly and Thinaah as role models," said Rosman.

"Their achievements inspire our younger players and give them the belief that they, too, can reach the same level as Pearly and Thinaah, or even surpass them one day."

Pearly-Thinaah have continued to raise the bar, becoming the first Malaysian women's doubles pair to reach back-to-back Super 750 World Tour finals.

They captured the Denmark Open title last week before finishing as runners-up at the French Open on Sunday.

Rosman hopes their success will spark healthy competition within the squad.

"When players have the right attitude, ambition and desire to improve, my role is to guide them and provide the training environment and platform they need to compete with one another."

"Opportunities will be given based on performance, both in training and in tournaments. The door is open to everyone."

"I strongly believe that with the right mindset, commitment and hard work, it is entirely possible for other players to challenge the established names in women's doubles."

Rosman, however, stressed that building a stronger women's doubles department requires a collec-



Proud head coach: Rosman Razak (left) posing with French Open runners-up Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah.

tive effort from all stakeholders.

"It involves everyone in the badminton system, starting from the state associations, which play a vital role in developing young talents before they progress to the ABM (Academy Badminton Malaysia)," said Rosman.

"Every coach, from the state level right through to the senior team, contributes to this journey."

"BAM play a crucial role by consistently providing opportunities for our junior players to compete in tournaments, gain valuable

experience and develop their confidence at a higher level."

Rosman believes there is still plenty of work ahead before Malaysia can boast a truly formidable squad.

"We still have a long way to go, but we believe we are moving in the right direction and are progressing through a positive and structured development process."

"Most importantly, we must continue to believe in the potential and capabilities of our women players."



Professional shuttlers Zii Jia, Pang Ron-Pei Jing aim to keep momentum rolling in Hylo Open

PETALING JAYA: Professional shuttlers Lee Zii Jia and Hoo Pang Ron-Lai Pei Jing (pic) will be out to keep their fine run going in the Hylo Open starting today in Saarbrücken, Germany. The 28-year-old Zii Jia will be looking to build on his recent momentum from his semi-final finish at the Arctic Open earlier this month.

He will be out for a revenge

against world No. 33 Teh Jia Heng of Singapore, who won their only previous encounter at the Swiss Open in March.

Zii Jia has done well in the tournament before, having finished as runner-up to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew at the 2021 edition.

Cheam June Wei, who is the only other Malaysian representative in the men's singles event,

will face India's Kiran George in the opening round.

Meanwhile, there will be no rest for Pang Ron-Pei Jing as they will take a qualifier in the opening round, fresh off a runner-up finish at the French Open on Sunday and a semi-final appearance at the Denmark Open the week prior.

Pang Ron noted that since leaving the national team in

April, he has been enjoying his time on the court.

"Every match could be the last match, so I'm just enjoying every game as it comes," said Pang Ron.

"You can even see during the match, I have a little dance because I feel happy. That's the most important thing for me," added Pang Ron, who hopes to continue his good run in Hylo.



That's
a tonic
to
a Tee

>By T. RAHULESH on Pg 30



**Barca
killer,
Devils
slayers**



— AP >27

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lifestyle@thestar.com.my



Nusantara on canvas

Artist and intrepid traveller
Rafiee Ghani charts a
tropical passage across the
region in his latest
exhibition, *Dusun Laut*. 3

A
Malaysian
art
institution
5

Beyond
the finish
line
6

Photo: FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

Locating the right night

New study traces van Gogh's famed *The Starry Night* to an actual night sky from 1889.

SCIENTISTS doubling as art detectives have traced Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night* to a celestial scene that suggests a new date for one of the world's most famous paintings.

Their findings indicate that rather than being a product of van Gogh's imagination, *The Starry Night* may have been inspired by what he saw as he gazed heavenward from his French asylum 137 years ago.

A South Korean team reported recently that after years of forensic astronomy and research into the Dutch artist, they have matched his masterpiece to a predawn sky over France's Saint-Remy de Provence right around July 22, 1889.

That's a month later than the long-accepted time frame for the post-impressionist painting depicting a crescent moon and Venus surrounded by a sky of swirling stars with a village nestled below and cypress trees looming on one side.

Art historians have long dated the painting to June 1889, soon after van Gogh checked into the asylum. He'd cut off his left ear several months earlier during an argument with painter Paul Gauguin.

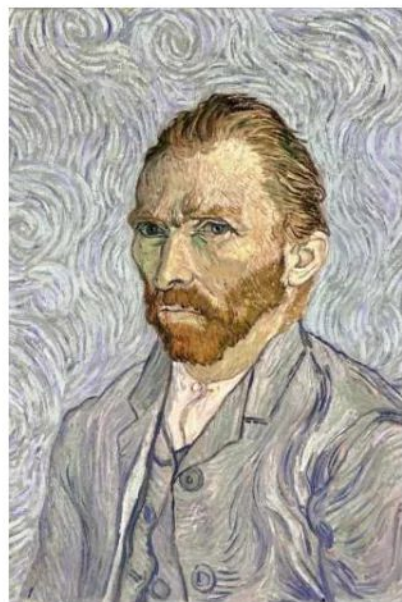
A team led by Elijah Jeong-hyun Kim, the CEO of a Seoul telescope maker, is now disputing that date in a study appearing in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The sky that is most similar to the painting occurred around July 22, 1889, said Kim, who is also a doctoral candidate at Kyung Hee University. He noted that the few days before and after could have inspired van Gogh as well.

"No two skies are the same. Something always changes. I believe Vincent noticed those changes and put them into the painting," Kim said in an email.

He added: "I am confident that July 22 is the better date. I will bet on this date."

The latest study addresses "a real puzzle" that in mid-June 1889, the moon was not the thin crescent painted by van Gogh, said Jose Luis Aragon at the



Van Gogh's self-portrait, painted in southern France in September 1889. — Handout

National Autonomous University of Mexico.

He has studied *The Starry Night* as a physicist, but did not take part in the new research.

"Still, I would see the July date as an intriguing hypothesis rather than a settled answer," Aragon said in an email.

Long fascinated by van Gogh's art, Kim travelled to France in 2019, the first time in mid-June and the second around July 22. He found brilliant stars rising in July's predawn sky, unlike June.

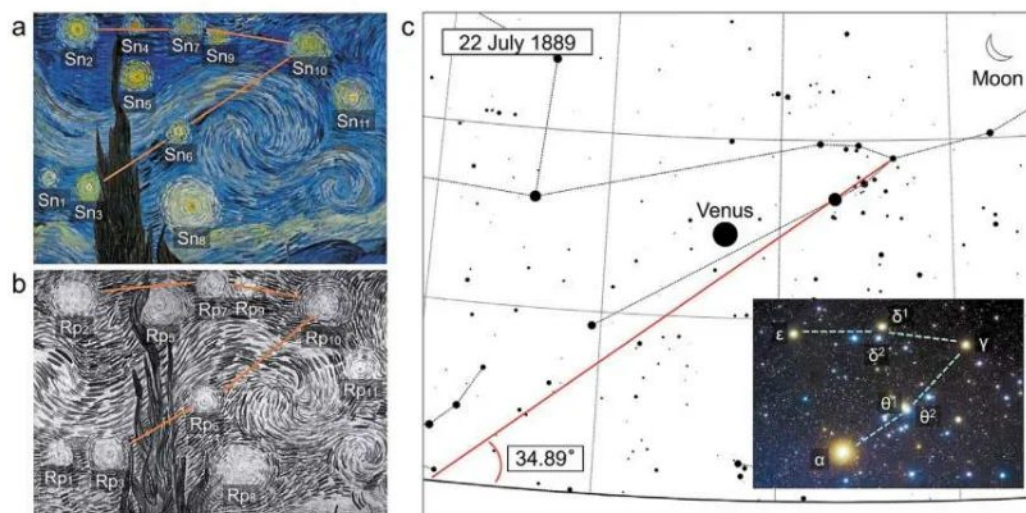
Kim and his team discovered through further celestial sleuthing that around July 22, 1889, the shape of the moon before dawn appeared like the one in the painting, with the Hyades star cluster in the constellation Taurus rising in the east alongside Venus.

The sky should have been clear enough for van Gogh to see all this, based on their weather analyses.

Van Gogh is thought to have suffered a seizure around that time in July. But Kim and his team contend that the seizure occurred later in July, based on their analyses of letters between the painter and one of his brothers. Some of those letters refer to cicadas,



Visitors view van Gogh's *The Starry Night* at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, United States in October 2003. — AP



Researchers used Procrustes software to identify the constellation by star positions, excluding artistic embellishments such as size and colour. — *Scientific Reports*

another clue that points toward the hotter July, according to Kim.

The researchers tested and verified their methods on night skies in other paintings, making for what Aragon considers "a careful and genuinely interdisciplinary study".

Since van Gogh painted in a studio at the asylum from sketches and memory, "... the sky is likely a composite of many nights as the authors themselves acknowledge," Aragon said.

"What I find most convincing is the broader message: The painting is not pure fantasy. Van Gogh watched the real sky very closely," Aragon said.

Despite all his research, Kim has never seen *The Starry Night* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"Now that the paper is out, I really have to go and see *The Starry Night* in person, don't I?" he said. — AP

Star NIE English Express

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CIMB Artober will take place at Ombak KLCC from Oct 28 to Nov 1. — GLENN GUAN/The Star

Riding the art waves

THIS year, the annual CIMB Artober moves to the new Ombak KLCC, placing the five-day art fair — starting on Wednesday — within one of Kuala Lumpur's latest retail destinations.

More than 20 galleries — including G13 Gallery, Wei-Ling Gallery, Core Contemporary Art and FriendenArt — will present a selection of contemporary art, textiles and craft.

Among the featured home-grown artists are Fawwaz Sukri, whose work combines the visual energy of American and Asian comics with traditional motifs, and photographer Eiffel Chong, whose explorations of industrial themes, memory and time, include highlights from the Rovski Art Initiative.

The return of the Pahang Pavilion, featuring tenun textiles,

extends this dialogue between contemporary expression and traditional craftsmanship.

Art talks, sales of artworks and a charity auction benefiting Mercy Malaysia's humanitarian work complete the programme.

The upcoming sixth edition of CIMB Artober runs from Oct 28 to Nov 1, 10am to 10pm daily, on Level 1 of Ombak KLCC. Admission is free.



Rafiee's paintings *Warung Cerita Ibu Dan Anak* (left) and *Penjual Buku Lama*, a smaller work, draw on his visit to an isolated island with a small second-hand bookstore serving local residents.

A world before borders

By M. IRSYAD

lifestyle@thestar.com.my

Photos: FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

IF there is an artist who continues to draw gallery-goers into his world, it is Rafiee Ghani, whose art is fuelled by wanderlust and whose paintings bring together the colours and textures of the places he explores, allowing viewers to experience them through his eyes.

The veteran abstract artist's repeated visits to Indonesia often last for weeks or months, taking him beyond the usual tourist routes.

Over the past year, he has explored Pantai Trenggole, Bukit Pengilon and Gunung Kidul in Yogyakarta, as well as Bromo Lumajang in East Java, among other destinations.

Having returned from his latest trip in June, Rafiee presents the fruits of his journeys in his show *Dusun Laut* at Galeri Puteh in Kuala Lumpur.

The exhibition, running through Nov 7, brings together more than 40 new works, their Nusantara palette extending across mixed media paintings on canvas and charcoal drawings on paper.

As large solo exhibitions devoted primarily to painting become less frequent, *Dusun Laut* is a reminder of the pleasure of taking time to look.

"I try to avoid tourist areas whenever I travel, spending more time exploring villages, understanding their culture. I've even reached some islands via boat. I will sketch and take photographs of a particular scene, but observations can capture things beyond the lens, and I usually feel the urge to paint once I've returned from a trip," says Rafiee, 63, in an interview at the gallery.

The artist returns to more familiar territory after two previous solo exhibitions: *Arca Samudera* at Galeri Puteh in 2024, which saw him experiment with wood carving and sculptural forms, and *Rafiee Ghani In Morocco* at G13 Gallery in 2025, a dreamy watercolour study.

In *Dusun Laut*, the canvas becomes Rafiee's means of translating his experiences into colour and form, with acrylic and oil lending a fluidity that recalls the region's environments.

With titles in both English and Bahasa Malaysia, the works include *Setaman Kantan*, *Taman Orang Merantau*, *Semangat Gunung Kidul*, *Tanah Melangit*, *Daerah Kemuning* and *Kedai Kopi Sejuta Impian*, reflecting the regional cultural and geographical references that inform the exhibition.

"In this exhibition, the term *dusun* can mean the fruits (reward) of labour from a plantation – planted, cultivated and preserved – but in travel terms, one harvests stories and experiences. The sea is a metaphor for a bridge that connects rather than separates. Maritime culture is an important aspect in Nusantara," says Rafiee.

At a time when the haze crisis dominates public discourse, Rafiee's paintings take us back to another era.

Recurring motifs of gulfs, bays, rivers, ponds, corals, flowers and leaves form a distinctive visual vocabulary of land and water, evoking South-East Asia's longstanding cultural connections.

On his far-flung travels across Indonesia, it was the people he encountered who left the strongest impression, informing his understanding of the region's cultural ties and traditions.

"I've met with many weavers there, who pass down folklore, myths and legends through textiles, so I adapted them into a visual archive. I don't get into discussions about who 'owns' what, but we must remember that we shared many things among us (South-East Asian countries) before geographical boundaries were introduced. Batik existed before Indonesia existed, rendang existed before Melaka existed, so it goes beyond borders," he explains.

Rafiee's approach is informed by reading as much as by exploration.

As a constant source of inspiration, Rafiee returns to Paul



Rafiee with his new mixed media works *It's Time To Open The Ruby Gates* (left) and *Polka-dot Dancer From The Farm at Galeri Puteh*.



Rafiee's *Ayah Kami Pengembara* (2026) reflects his role as a storyteller to his children.



Kedai Kopi Sejuta Impian (mixed media on canvas, 2026), distinguished by its crimson hues.

Theroux's *The Great Railway Bazaar* (1975), which chronicles the US author's four-month railway journey across Europe, West Asia, the Indian subcontinent and South-East Asia, before returning via the Trans-Siberian Railway.

"Before I decide to travel anywhere, I read a lot of travelogues and history books. I don't plan around things like climate or season, something from my research would feel like it's calling out to me – something that makes me want to learn more about a country, its people and its way of life," says Rafiee.

This unhurried approach gives the Kedah-born Rafiee time to absorb the myths, symbols and cultural references that inform his paintings.

Two works that reflect the discoveries such journeys yield are *Warung Cerita Ibu Dan Anak* and the charcoal pairing of *Taman Kuda Lari* and *Kuda*

Ku Menari Gagah Berlari.

"In one of the more isolated islands I visited, I discovered a small second hand bookstore where residents, even children come to read. They cannot afford to go beyond the islands so these kids dream of the world across the ocean. With books, they travel through the imagination," says Rafiee.

"In contrast, there is an island called Pulau Sumba where herds wild horses run free, no one owns them. There may come a time where these types of scenes no longer exist, so I felt compelled to capture them," he adds.

Back home in Puncak Alam, Selangor, Rafiee channels his experiences into painting, producing a substantial body of work for *Dusun Laut*. His family, too, provides a source of inspiration.

A father of 10 children – four boys and six girls, ranging in age from 14 to 40 – he relishes shar-

ing stories of his journeys with them.

In *Ayah Kami Pengembara*, Rafiee depicts himself as an indistinct figure, shaped by a multitude of experiences. Three of his youngest daughters listen to his adventures, imagining their own journeys and the stories they might one day bring home.

"Before you travel, there is always that yearning for adventure, to explore, to move forward. But then when you are out, the feeling shifts. The story of this painting is of homecoming."

"Part of travelling is appreciating the ability to return and knowing that there are people who are excited to listen to your stories," concludes Rafiee.

***Dusun Laut* is showing at Galeri Puteh, KL Eco City, Jalan Bangsar in KL until Nov 7. Instagram: (@galeriputeh).**

By KERRY-ANN AUGUSTIN

ON Sept 7, 1998, the third floor of Suria KLCC buzzed with anticipation. Artists, collectors, curators and art buffs gathered as television crews readied their cameras for a live broadcast.

GALERI PETRONAS was opening the doors to its new home.

Spanning more than 21,000sq ft, the gallery featured sweeping white walls and specialised lighting as well as audiovisual and multimedia technology designed for new ways of experiencing art.

The scale of the opening called for a show to match. GALERI PETRONAS began with *Rimba*, a solo exhibition by Latiff Mohidin.

Opening with one of Malaysia's most celebrated visual artists set the tone for the gallery's artistic ambition – one that would put Malaysian art front and centre, from its leading figures to its newest voices.

"Lots of people came, not just to visit the new gallery, but to see Latiff's major work," remembers Zainol Abidin Ahmad Shariff, known as Zabas, who led the gallery as its director from 1998 to 2003.

"We had a relatively small community of artists back then, and GALERI PETRONAS was among the major art galleries in the country. The design of the gallery was quite impressive compared to those of the time too," he adds.

But GALERI PETRONAS' journey began six years before the crowds gathered at KLCC, for a simple reason: to make space for the National Art Gallery's collection.

Making room for art

In the early 1990s, the National Art Gallery was undergoing refurbishment and needed a temporary home for its permanent collection.

PETRONAS made room at Dayabumi Complex, its headquarters at the time, providing rent-free space in the podium block. By 1992, the collection had been on display for more than a year.

A memorandum to then PETRONAS president Tun Azizan Zainul Abidin proposed renaming the space GALERI PETRONAS and introducing new exhibitions jointly managed with the National Art Gallery.

The timing mattered. PETRONAS was expanding beyond Malaysia and energy, opening spaces for learning, culture and creativity alongside the nation's growth.

For Zabas, the move stood out.

"It was interesting to find out that PETRONAS was coming up with an art gallery, Dewan Philharmonic, Petrosains and the PETRONAS Performing Arts Group."

Together, he says, it brought the arts closer to people.

Amerrudin Ahmad, now the National Art Gallery's director general, remembers hearing about GALERI PETRONAS as a second-year Fine Art student at MARA Institute of Technology (ITM).

"We were very excited that we were going to have another institution that took art seriously."

He adds that Malaysia had the National Art Gallery and established artists such as Syed Ahmad Jamal, Ibrahim Hussein and Latiff Mohidin, but a

THE VISION THAT MADE SPACE FOR MALAYSIAN ART

More than 30 years on, the story of GALERI PETRONAS shows what becomes possible when art is given the time, support and space to grow



Zabas (left) and Amerrudin (right) supporting art means more than providing exhibition space – it means giving artists the freedom to experiment, grow and leave their mark on the nation's cultural story. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

younger generation was emerging, searching for a contemporary language of its own.

"We needed more institutions that would not only provide exhibition spaces, but also build collections, conduct research, document history and create opportunities for artists," Amerrudin shares.

New ways of encountering art

When GALERI PETRONAS moved to KLCC in 1998, the big question was: How could it contribute to Malaysia's growing art scene?

One answer lay in what was happening outside its doors. Artists were responding to a changing Malaysia, capturing diverse experiences and perspectives.

Collecting and documenting their work would keep those voices in the conversation long after exhibitions ended.

GALERI PETRONAS began to build around two connected ideas – make room for what was emerging and care for what was being created.

Turning a vision into a reality

With Zabas at the helm, those ideas began to take shape in bold ways. *Teks and Tekstur* was one of many instances. The 2003 show had artists work on their craft in the gallery with visitors as their audience.

"It was a novel thing to try, allowing the public to see artists actually working on a piece of art," Zabas explains.

"It was interesting for visitors to see the creator of an artwork and to be able to have a dialogue with the artist about how the art was developed."

The show also brought both established and emerging artists

together, working side by side – an exchange Zabas considered essential.

"The arts have to continue with the birth of new talent. We can't just hang on to the old; art changes," he points out.

GALERI PETRONAS also opened the doors to young artists through *Matahati: PL*.

The collective, composed of Ahmad Fuad Osman, Ahmad Shukri Mohamed, Bayu Utomo Radjikin, Hamir Soib and Masnoor Ramli Mahmud were testing more experimental and critical ways of making art.

Giving them a major platform meant making a choice at a time when many artists were searching for the same opportunity.

"We have to encourage young artists to think about how art develops – not just to copy, and not just to make work to be sold.

"Art has a role in reflecting politics, religion and the world around us. It is dynamic," Zabas says recalling the show held in 1999.

Recognising emerging talent, as he recalls, was only the beginning. Giving artists space to be seen and develop their practice could open a path towards a career in art.

"It was important to give young artists a platform to explore how they engage with art and create something new. Art continues to develop with each new generation of artists."

The gallery had begun with a commitment to Malaysian art. Sustaining that commitment meant allowing its idea of support to evolve as art itself changed.

Making art accessible

The gallery's programme included works that opened up different ways of seeing Malaysia's art and communities.

These included works connected with different generations, women artists, communities and forms of artistic expression.

Asli, held in 2000, brought works connected with Orang Asli communities and culture into the gallery at a time when, Zabas remembers, few were making space for them.

"As a gallery, we have to show every facet of the country. It's so important," he stresses.

For one group of schoolchildren who were blind, *Asli* offered a different way to experience art.

"Normally, artwork is not meant to be touched. But our exhibition allowed visually impaired visitors to experience it through touch."

It is a small detail with a much larger idea behind it – accessibility.

In the decades that followed, GALERI PETRONAS stayed close to that belief. It kept opening doors for artists to develop their practice, for ideas to travel, and for people to connect with art in different ways.

Exhibitions, collaborations and cultural exchanges also brought different disciplines and communities together, allowing ideas to move across borders regionally and internationally, and take on new forms.

Just as importantly, the gallery found ways to bring people closer to art. Talks, artist-walkthroughs, workshops, publications and public programmes invited people from different backgrounds to engage, ask questions and take part.

Moving forward

Sometimes, support began before there was an artwork to show. Amerrudin points to Masnoor Ramli Mahmud's 55-day journey with the PETRONAS Adventure Team across Borneo and Indonesia, including Flores.

Travelling through different landscapes and communities, Masnoor researched and absorbed what he saw.

Those experiences informed his 2007 solo exhibition, *Bumi Manusia – Journey Through Nusantara*.

For Amerrudin, the significance lay in support offered before the outcome was known.

"It demonstrated that an institution can support an artist not only after a work has been produced, but from the very beginning by providing the time, the journey and the conditions that allow the work to come into being."

A future rooted in art

Looking back, Amerrudin sees PETRONAS's early support as part of a shared responsibility – companies, alongside artists and public institutions, have a role in helping art thrive.

For PETRONAS, being part of Malaysia's art ecosystem became an important way to preserve and share the stories, perspectives and expressions that mattered.

"When an institution builds a collection over decades, we are preserving works of art, as well as the story of Malaysia's development and that of its artists," Amerrudin observes.

Preservation begins with canvas, paint, wood and paper. But as Amerrudin points out, context matters too – who made the piece, when, and the ideas and circumstances that shaped it.

For him, GALERI PETRONAS' exhibition history offers a way to follow those developments – *Rimba* and *Voyage* trace Latiff Mohidin's artistic journey, while *Matahati PL* captures the emergence of a new generation. *Bumi Manusia* shows how travel and the cultures of the Nusantara shaped Masnoor's creative process.

Amerrudin describes a collection as cultural memory, preserving how artists and generations see and understand their world.

With its move to Ombak KLCC, GALERI PETRONAS hopes to build on decades of work, by bringing art to more people, encouraging collaboration and giving creativity room to grow.

Amerrudin sees the role of GALERI PETRONAS evolving in much the same way. Future institutions, he says, need to give artists room to research, question, experiment and discover something new.

They also need to bring collections into conversation with communities, connect generations and create a bridge between what came before and what comes next.

"We do not preserve history in order to remain in the past. We preserve it so that future generations have a foundation upon which to create their own future."

Meet the artists and curators who connected generations at GALERI PETRONAS, and explore what those connections made possible. Look out for Part 2 and watch the full documentary on youtube.com/@thestaronline

Beyond the finish line

With support from Toyota, young Malaysian para-athlete Ammar Aiman is championing more inclusive access to sport.

By DARYL GOH

lifestyle@thestar.com.my

Photos: Toyota Motor Asia

THE curtain came down on the 5th Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan on Oct 24, but for Malaysian para-athlete Mohd Ammar Aiman Nor Azmi, a new chapter in his sporting journey was already taking shape.

He was still rueing his missed opportunity to win gold in Japan.

But his silver medal finish in the men's T20 400m on Oct 20 was a hard-fought result, with Ammar throwing himself across the finish line in pursuit of gold. Though narrowly beaten, the performance has given him fresh impetus to set his sights on future competitions.

Saudi Arabia's Idris Sufyani took gold with 48.25s at Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, while Ammar, making his second appearance at the Games, clocked 48.34s – just 0.09 seconds behind.

Speaking on stage and later during a media session at Toyota's One Team Asia event in Nagoya on Oct 21, Ammar made little effort to mask his disappointment at missing out on gold and falling short of defending the Asian title he won in Hangzhou, China in 2023.

"I'm disappointed not to have won gold, but I have to accept the result, learn from it and keep working. There are more opportunities ahead, and I want to come back stronger," said Ammar, 24, who has established himself as a strong contender in the T20 400m sports event.

Para-athletics caters to athletes with eligible physical, intellectual or vision impairments. Classifications are denoted by "T" for track, marathon and jumping events, and "F" for field events.

For Ammar, one of his biggest inspirations is fellow Malaysian para-athlete Datuk Abdul Latif Romly, whose achievements on the international stage show what is possible with hard work and determination.

He follows Abdul Latif in joining the Global Team Toyota Athletes (GTTA) initiative, becoming the second Malaysian to receive the opportunity.

Ammar's trajectory has been on a steady upward path, progressing from state-level competitions to the international stage.

His consistency and potential caught Toyota's attention, positioning him as a long-term prospect for the GTTA programme. He won gold at the 2022 Asian Para Games (held in 2023) in Hangzhou, China and silver at the 2025 Asean Para Games in Thailand, adding to a record that reflects his continued develop-

ment as an athlete.

"Datuk Abdul Latif remains a source of inspiration to me, reminding me to keep pushing my limits and work towards greater achievements in sport," said Ammar.

He also looks to national 400m record holder Umar Osman as both a friend and a rival, with the two sharing the ambition of breaking national records.

Staying on track

As the youngest and newest member of the GTTA, Ammar has a support network to help him realise his potential, while bringing youthful charm to his growing public role.

In June this year, Ammar made his first official appearance at the Toyota Start Your Impossible (SYI) Outrun 2026 in Putrajaya, marking an early step towards connecting with the public beyond the sporting arena.

On many levels, Ammar has the potential to bridge the worlds of elite sport and the wider community as a para-sprinter representing Toyota.

"One of the first things we noticed about Ammar was his humility and sincerity. He took to the early publicity sessions and photo shoots earlier this year with ease, always willing to learn and engage with those around him," said Kenix Loh, deputy general manager of Toyota Motor Asia.

"He was conscious, too, that the spotlight could serve a purpose beyond his own athletic pursuits," she added.

With the 2026 Asian Para Games behind him, Ammar now has his sights set on the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California in the United States, and the World Para Athletics Championships in Uzbekistan next June.

"I have a short break coming



Toyota-backed Ammar (front) aims to build on his sporting progress while extending his contribution to the community beyond the track. — National Sports Council

If there is a chance for me to give others a chance to believe in themselves, I would like to do that.

Ammar Aiman



Hao (left) with Ammar, silver medallist in the men's T20 400m at the 5th Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

up, and I'm looking forward to getting some rest and recharging. Then, let's see what 2027 brings, with the World Para Athletics Championships in Uzbekistan on the calendar. I want to see how far I can push myself ahead of these major competitions."

During the One Team Asia fire-side chat in Nagoya, Ammar also spoke with confidence about his competitive career, recalling how badminton was his childhood passion before athletics entered the picture.

"I kept losing at badminton, so switching to athletics was probably for the best," he said with a laugh.

Through Toyota's backing, particularly its recent One Team Asia showcase, Ammar is gaining opportunities to present himself not only as a sprinter, but also as a person beyond the track.

Asked to assemble a small display of personal memorabilia,

Ammar chose a photograph of himself winning a cross-country race at his school in Batu 24, Pekan Nenas, Johor.

Among his prized possessions is a drumstick belonging to Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker, while his jersey and race bib from the Hangzhou Asian Para Games in 2023 serve as reminders of the standards he has set for himself.

"There is a lot of seriousness and focus during training, but I also believe in enjoying the hours I put in. That is where music comes in. I love Blink-182," he said.

As he pursues his sporting goals, Ammar also hopes to translate his GTTA experience into community action.

Dual Hero Project

Just as valuable are the friendships forged within the GTTA family, particularly with celebrated Vietnamese para-powerlifter Le Van Cong, whose own para-sport career offers a source of encouragement.

At the One Team Asia event, Ammar and Cong shared their broader GTTA mission, reflecting on their professional careers and community work beyond competition.

Toyota Motor Asia launched the GTTA programme in 2018 to help athletes across Asia pursue their sporting goals, supporting more than 20 athletes to date.

Through its Dual Hero Project, also introduced in 2018, athletes receive support to develop community initiatives around causes close to their hearts.

Hao Quoc Tien, president of Toyota Motor Asia (Singapore), said an athlete's influence extends

beyond sporting achievements to the difference they can make in their communities and the example they set for younger generations.

"Every athlete we support has a project in their community to nurture the spirit, knowledge and interest of local people. We believe that winning competitions gives them greater credibility in promoting what they want to do," said Hao.

The exchange of ideas among GTTA members also allows their community work to inspire one another, showing how sporting ambition can translate into wider social impact.

"Winning therefore means a great deal to me. As a sponsor, seeing the athletes we support bring about positive change in their communities is also a major achievement for Toyota," he added.

In Vietnam, Cong runs a children's art project, while Filipino para-swimmer Ernie Gawilan has led a nationwide coastal clean-up campaign, and para-cyclist Muhammad Fadli champions road safety among children.

The experiences of fellow GTTA members have encouraged Ammar to consider how he, too, can contribute beyond competition. Through upcoming Toyota initiatives, he hopes to promote more inclusive facilities and wider access to sport.

"I've learned about what other GTTA members are doing in their respective countries, and I want to do my part for Malaysia, too," said Ammar.

"If there is a chance for me to give others a chance to believe in themselves, I would like to do that."



Vietnam's Cong (in wheelchair) and Ammar chat animatedly about their fellow GTTA teammates at Toyota's One Team Asia event in Nagoya.

By NATALIE DONBACK
Photos: NATALIE NACCACHE/The New York Times

LIKE many children in Beirut, Lebanon, Georges Zahar grew up playing on the public stairs dotting the city. Then came the 2020 port explosion that killed 218 people and caused up to US\$4.6bil (RM18.8bil) in damages, including to the Vendome and St Nicolas stairs near his home.

After the blast, “there was no life on the stairs, and it was quite trashy”, said Zahar, now an 18-year-old biology student.

“It wasn’t livable any more, and it was hard walking on them.”

When he was 14, Zahar participated in a workshop that used the video game Minecraft to engage children in urban design.

Led by facilitators from the Block by Block Foundation and UN-Habitat, he and 45 other children redesigned three of the damaged stairways, dreaming up new features like a big slide, handrails made from speaking tubes and shaded seating areas, modelling everything out in the game to inform real blueprints.

Since the renovation, the 125 steps that make up the St Nicolas stairs are buzzing with people hanging out and children playing with features first imagined in Minecraft.

“I was really happy that they actually added the slide on the stairs that are near my home,” said Corine Abiramia, who participated in the workshop as a 14-year-old and now studies interior design.

Despite Israel’s conflict with Hezbollah and multiple strikes targeting the Lebanese capital this spring, “the stairs remain intact and continue to be used”, said Joana Dabaj, co-founder of CatalyticAction, the organisation behind the Beirut project.

In the blocky, 3D virtual world of Minecraft, one of the world’s most popular games, users can build and destroy structures as they like. In 2025, more than 200 million monthly players helped turn *A Minecraft Movie* into the highest-grossing video game movie ever made.

The game’s open-ended design and building tools allow players to reimagine real-life spaces like abandoned riverbanks, dark alleys and dump sites, making it one of the main tools used to involve citizens, especially youth, in redesigning urban areas.

Since 2012, the Block by Block Foundation and UN-Habitat have supported the building of over 150 urban structures in 55 different countries, with more than 30,000 citizens using Minecraft to participate in the design process.

Microsoft purchased Minecraft’s developer, Mojang, in 2014, which helped to set up the foundation alongside UN-Habitat. While Mojang and other partners continued to provide core funding for the initiative, it was cut off in 2025, forcing the foundation to close.

Their work will now continue under a new UN-Habitat initiative called Games for Urban Futures, building on the Block by Block methodology and incorporating other games.

There’s no fixed approach to designing public spaces that really solve local issues.

“But there’s a looseness to the Minecraft methodology that we can play with,” said James



Resident Samira al Ahmar lives at the top of the Vendome stairs in Beirut.



The St Nicholas stairs (far left), and the Laziza stairs in Mar Mikhael, Beirut.

“The stairs were more colourful, there was more life, and many people started to use them because they now had places to sit.”

Georges Zahar

Delaney, who has led the foundation since 2020.

Including both children and adults in the workshops was part of the magic.

“The power dynamic between the two is flipped because the younger person instantly knows Minecraft and can be quite quick at it,” Delaney said.

Block by Block’s methodology works like this: Local organisations – mostly nonprofits working on engaging citizens in urban planning – submit their project proposals to UN-Habitat. Those selected are given funding and technical guidance to engage community members, run the Minecraft workshop and construct the final designs, with budgets of US\$10,000 (RM40,825) to US\$200,000 (RM816,500).

Once a site is chosen, community members go on a walk equipped with printed-out maps and markers.

“We invite participants to look at the place with critical eyes,” said Eugenio Gastelum Pons, a gaming expert who has organised Minecraft workshops around the world since 2014.

People may pass by a place every day without stopping to consider how it could be improved, he said.

After the site visit, participants attend a Minecraft workshop to learn how to build 3D models using the game.

Gastelum preloaded each location into Minecraft, allowing participants to walk around the virtual space and add their designs.

The children are encouraged to think about the needs of vulnerable groups such as older residents and those with disabilities, said Bisma Setiyad, an architect with Kota Kita, a nonprofit that implemented a Block by Block project in Indonesia.

Once the Minecraft designs are ready, they take turns presenting their ideas before voting on which models should be built in real life. Professional architects and urban planners then translate the Minecraft models into sketches and drawings that could be used for construction.

Kota Kita operates in Solo, a city of about half a million on the Indonesian island of Java.

In 2021, the nonprofit started scouting for a place to redesign with the Minecraft methodology, and chose a riverbank close to Rusunawa Mangkubumen, an affordable public housing block with 80 families.

The area was scattered with trash, provided no shade and had very little for the local children to play with.

“There were a lot of children

living in the housing block, but also many elderly residents who just stayed in their rooms because they didn’t feel safe to move around in their wheelchairs,” explained Setiyadi.

After the Minecraft project, the riverbank became a colourful space with plenty of shaded seating areas, and a playground with a badminton net and basketball field. Ramps, handrails and guiding blocks made the space more accessible for some 320 residents who live nearby.

“Minecraft is great because participants get a sense of the proportion of the components that they want to add – you can’t cram in an infinite amount of things and you have to prioritise,” said Giulia Galli, the architect who translated the Minecraft visions of Beirut’s children into technical sketches and models.

After the final design for the Beirut stairs was approved, Zahar passed by daily to see construction advance. After 14 months, the results were in.

“The stairs were more colourful, there was more life, and many people started to use them because they now had places to sit,” Zahar said.

The redesign brought new restaurants and bars. Small tables and plants dotted the landings. More seating areas and handrails made the stairs more comfortable for older neighbours.

“You can see elderly residents meeting again and doing dinners and lunches in front of their houses,” said Dabaj.

But participatory urban design also has an intangible impact: not only by making children feel heard and seen, but also by transforming their ideas into real structures in their city, explained Jose Cheng, coordinator of the Global Public Space Network at UN-Habitat.

“That’s why we only try to work on projects we can see through and finance the building of,” said Cheng. “I get the sense that young people are slightly sick of being asked what they think when there’s no tangible result.” – ©2026 The New York Times Company



Sanou developed Vibra-Signe, a dance technique that helps deaf performers feel the rhythm.

Feel the beat

In Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, deaf dancers have a unique way of following the rhythm and fulfilling their dreams.

Story and photos
by ELIA BORRAS

THE music is turned all the way up, sending vibrations through the rubber-covered stage as Yaya Sanou translates the beat with his face and gestures for a small group gathered around in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

The group of deaf and non-verbal dancers follow the rhythm and music through the vibrations and body gestures, part of a local technique created by Sanou to make it possible to follow music even without hearing it.

The Vibra-Signe technique has gained popularity in and outside Burkina Faso with its use by members of the Fientan Dance Company, which Sanou, a dance tutor and choreographer, founded a decade ago in Bobo-Dioulasso for deaf and hard-of-hearing dancers.

Vibra-Signe translates music into vibrations, touch and visual cues. Dancing barefoot, performers feel the percussion through the floor, while taps, signs, gestures and facial expressions communicate the tempo, transitions and emotional intensity of the choreography.

With Vibra-Signe, Fientan won a gold medal for dance creation at the 2023 Francophone Games in Congo's capital of Kinshasa. The group has also performed its latest production, *Adeptes De Mon Etre* (*Devoted To My Being*), in Germany and Ivory Coast.

In the West African nation, where government support is limited and resources are inadequate, Vibra-Signe has empowered the dancers and improved their social skills.

Even the group's name is empowering, they say, as Fientan means "without disability" in the local Dioula language.

"This teaching method is an opportunity (for us) and also a solution to a problem ... that gives young people the possibility to express themselves and to say what they want to say," Adama Sanou, one of the dancers, said in sign language.

Sanou, the tutor, began his dance career many years ago on

the streets of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso's second-largest city, blending the traditional dances he learned at home with modern styles.

That was when he noticed that the children at the Institut des Jeunes Sourds du Faso, a local school for deaf children and others with disabilities, rarely socialise. He said he took it up as a challenge to hold dance classes for them.

He developed Vibra-Signe as his dance group became more popular, with children from within and outside Bobo-Dioulasso joining his sessions.

He explained it could take time to master the technique to follow the rhythm, vibrations and body movements, but that the result has been fulfilling for him and his students.

"With this project, we give these young people the possibility to express themselves and to say what they want to say," he said.

Empowering deaf performers

There's no recent data available on the number of deaf and hard-of-hearing people in Burkina Faso, but the 2019 census recorded about 46,500 people aged two or older who had significant difficulty hearing or could not hear at all.

The country of around 24 million people has adopted education programmes and measures intended to improve living conditions for people with disabilities, including deaf and hard-of-hearing people. But rights advocates and experts say there are still shortages of teachers, sign-language interpreters and support services.

Although American Sign Language is taught in schools, it doesn't reflect the local languages spoken in homes. Moreover, many deaf children never get the chance to learn sign language until they enroll in school, sometimes not until they're 10.

Burkina Faso's Institute of Social Sciences published a study showing that 58% of respondents have a "negative" perception of deafness because it is considered



Members of the Fientan Dance Company take part in a training session.



Dance empowers deaf people to express themselves and show their abilities.



Adama participates in a physical training session, with part of the performance's set.

With this project, we give these young people the possibility to express themselves and to say what they want to say.

Yaya Sanou

a "curse" or a "spiritual punishment".

Vibra-Signe is a great way to improve inclusion for children with disabilities and could be modified to be integrated into other programmes including education, said Philo Camara, a disability advocate in the country.

At the dance studio in Bobo-Dioulasso, members of Fientan have developed ways to identify themselves and communicate.

Souleymane Barro, a 24-year-old deaf dancer, introduces himself with a sign combining the "B" in Barro with the "S" in Souleymane.

"As a deaf person, it is difficult to get ahead," Barro said. "But I am working to become a professional and teach the younger ones to dance."

Cultural and societal norms meant some of the children faced

resistance from families when they talked about joining the dance group.

"When I suggested it to my father, he did not like it at first but I kept dancing," said Adama, who is not related to trainer Yaya Sanou.

At a recent rehearsal, curious children drifted in, captivated by the dancers. The music played non-stop as the tutor communicated with his hands, face and body. The dancers repeated the movements, their eyes fixed on him.

Ouaramata Sanou, 26, once watched from the sidelines, but joining the group has opened up a new life, she said.

"Before, I watched people doing things, dancing, and I did nothing," she said.

"But now I dance, and I can travel." – AP

The royal treatment

Stay in these six castles in Scotland to feel like a ... celebrity.

By LAUREN TAYLOR

IF you are a fan of British television, BBC One's *Celebrity Traitors* is back on screens with a batch of famous contestants as they scheme, lie and backstab in a Scottish castle.

The 19th-century Ardross Castle in Scots Baronial style, located north of Inverness in the Highlands is set in 4ha of parkland and formal gardens along the River Alness.

From the ornate drawing room (used as the breakfast area in *The Traitors*, the non-celebrity version of the show), to the Billiard Room with tartan wall-coverings and the great hall, the grand interiors of Ardross are as much part of *The Traitors*' storytelling as the contestants themselves.

If the start of the new series is inspiring a stay in similar surroundings, here are some Scottish castles you can actually stay in.

1. Dalhousie Castle

The 800-year-old Dalhousie Castle just outside Edinburgh has been a luxury hotel since 1972, and it has just reopened following an extensive £6mil refurbishment. The history and character have been preserved in one of Scotland's oldest inhabited castles, with 35 individually designed guestrooms, a hidden single-cask whisky library and a two AA-Rosette restaurant.

(AA-Rosette is Britain and Ireland's version of the Michelin Star, an award given by The Automobile Association to both restaurants and hotels for exceptional service and quality.)

The original foundations have weathered through centuries (the moat, which once had a

draw bridge, still exists), but the residence as seen today was designed around 1450.

2. Ayrshire Castle, West Kilbride

For something truly unique, this medieval tower house – also known as Law Castle – was commissioned in 1467 as a wedding gift by King James II of Scotland for his daughter, Princess Mary Stewart.

Located in the foothills of Law Hill in North Ayrshire, it became a law court at one point, complete with a prison in the pit, before falling into disrepair in the 19th century.

Since then it's been beautifully restored in its original medieval style. Featuring a stone spiral staircase, a great hall and a dungeon dining room over more than 280sq m and six levels, there are views of the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran.

This is also a dog-friendly establishment.

3. Duns Castle, Berwickshire

Near the Scottish Borders, the family-owned Duns Castle dates back to 1320 and looks every bit like it could host *The Traitors*. Coming complete with its own nature reserve, highlights include the impressive dining room with views onto the lawn and lake and the main drawing room with period features.

Guests can rent the entire place and take part in archery, clay pigeon shooting and falconry while staying.

For history buffs, the grounds include Duns Law, a historic site where the famous rising against King Charles I – known as the Scottish Covenant – took place in 1638.



The dining room at Duns Castle which has been the home of the Hay family since 1696. The current owners, Alick and Aline Hay, live in private quarters within the castle. – Duns Castle/dpa



Scotland is home to thousands of historic fortresses, tower houses, and royal palaces, ranging from dramatic cliffside ruins to fully restored family homes. – FLORIAN OERTEL/dpa



Kilmarnock does not only boast a castle but a local celebration of famed poet Robert Burns, who is depicted in this mural by artist Michael Corr in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. – PA Wire/dpa

4. Ferniehirst Castle, Jedburgh

Close to the wooded banks of the River Jed near the Scottish borders and surrounded by ancient forest, this restored 15th-century property has stood through border conflicts and centuries of dramatic history.

Built in 1476 by Sir Thomas Kerr, it has since survived centuries of bloody border warfare – captured by the English twice, and in 1593 was nearly demolished by King James VI as punishment for the then laird apparently assisting his enemies. Andrew Kerr rebuilt it in 1598 and it's still the seat of the Clan Kerr today.

At its heart is a great hall with ancestral portraits, and beneath the nine bedrooms is a vaulted undercroft, offering a glimpse into the past. There's even an intimate family chapel on site. Outside there's rolling countryside, river walks and historical landmarks, while Jedburgh itself offers plenty of independent cafes and shops.

5. Castle Wing, Kilmarnock

Live like royalty for a few days or a whole week in this castle in the Ayrshire countryside. Set within a 240ha estate with a private loch, this regal stay sleeps up to 16 people over six bed-



Balmoral is among Scotland's most famous castles. It is not open to the public for overnight stays, but guided tours are occasionally possible. – ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA Wire/dpa

rooms, in one wing of a castle that's been owned by the same family for over 700 years (they'll even show you around the estate and share some tales).

If you get tired of woodland walks (dogs are welcome here) the lively Kilmarnock is only 5.6km away.

6. Tower O'Ess, Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire

This Victorian era gatehouse conversion on the River Tanar was built in the 1870s as an

imposing gateway to the Glen Tanar Estate. Technically it isn't a castle, but it does have the feel of a miniature one.

It's now a luxury romantic hideaway with an outdoor hot tub, roll top bath and a wood burning stove.

The Glen Tanar Estate covers 10,117ha of Caledonian pine forests and hills glad in purple heather. Guests can take part in salmon fishing, grouse shooting and wildlife photography to try and snap the rare golden eagle or red squirrel. – PA Media/dpa

Cause and effect

France's tourism industry players are worried about the impact of riots.

THE images of France's riots posted and broadcast around the world have cast a pall on the country's important tourism sector, with many fearing worse consequences if violence returns.

"The surge of violence in the centres of Nice, Paris, Lyon – it's catastrophic," said Christelle Cassagne, head of the ADN Tourisme body covering the country's tourism institutions.

"When you book a hotel for a week, it's not so you (can) stay stuck in the hotel," she said.

The scenes of clashes with police, public buildings on fire, shops being looted and masked young men roaming the streets have shocked and fascinated news audiences internationally.

The violence has usurped the usual curated footage of genteel cafes favoured by influencers, who have suddenly taken to asking "Is Paris safe?" – many using artificial intelligence on thumbnails or even in their videos to boost click-through rates.

The closure of the Louvre in Paris recently because of a small group of student protesters at the entrance also frustrated

many visitors who had the museum on their list of highlights.

The uncertainty has made some hesitant about visiting the City of Light.

"Honestly, we were not certain that we'd keep our stay," an Indian businessman in a pricey Paris hotel said, declining to give his name.

Already, hotel reservations are weakening in major cities such as Paris, Lyon and Marseille, according to Didier Arino, head of the consulting and research firm Protourisme.

For a country used to welcoming 100 million visitors a year – and the more than €70bil (RM320bil) they spend – it's a concern.

Arino and other observers questioned by AFP said the overall picture for France's tourism industry would depend on whether new violence broke out in the coming weeks.

"The impact of a day of rioting and urban violence in the heart of Paris caused around a 1% cancellation rate for the monthly count in the days following, and the same for the following weeks," Arino said.



Graffiti on the window of a luxury boutique on Rue Saint-Honore following looting in Paris on Oct 21. Tourists feel unsafe in the city with all the looting happening. – Bloomberg

"For the 42 million hotel nights forecast for 2026, that's not major. But watch that you don't underestimate the effects from repeated incidents.

"The further away the clients are, the more sensitive they are to safety risks, and the stronger the impact," Arino added.

Visitors from faraway countries, particularly the United States and some Asian ones, often spend more than Europeans during their stay.

The downward pressure on reservations comes as several countries, including the US, China and Germany issued travel advisories for

their citizens in France.

Laurent Abitbol, head of the executive board of travel agency group Selectour, said: "If this lasts two weeks, that's not so serious. However, if this continues for several months it will be catastrophic."

"When you watch CNN, or Fox News, BBC, all that, you'd believe that France is at war. That's not good," Abitbol said.

Another firm, MKG Consulting, said that Paris hotels have lost potential bookings for the next six weeks since the second week of October.

Its data showed bookings had weakened sharply within a day.

Between Oct 19 and 20, the share of rooms booked for stays from Oct 20-29 fell from being 1.0 percentage point above the level recorded for the same period in 2025 to just 0.2 percentage points higher.

For stays between Oct 20 and 25, the increase over 2025 levels also narrowed significantly, dropping from 3.5 percentage points to 1.9 points.

"This slowdown is especially notable for near-term and high-end stays," it said, drawing a parallel with a period in December 2018 when Yellow Vest street protests raged in the capital's streets. – AFP

Long walks in Slovenia

Story and photos by
WEE HON KOO

READERS SHARE

LJUBLJANA, the capital of Slovenia, is a charming city that happens to have the largest car-free zone in the European Union.

A visit to this unique city should not mean just ticking off and taking selfies of the must-see tourist spots, but to wander through the streets and alleys in between stately buildings.

As soon as we stepped onto Preseren Square in Ljubljana's city centre, we were mesmerised. The place does not feel imposing, rather it lets you gently take in its surroundings and atmosphere.

We were there at the end of the year and there was a huge pine tree fully decked with Christmas lights. Along the Ljubljana river, trees draped with snow and lights exuded a magical atmosphere.

In the middle of Preseren Square was a statue of Slovenia's national poet, France Preseren. This statue caused a minor uproar when it was unveiled in 1905 because of a topless sculpture of a muse sitting on a rock behind him.

Worshippers coming out from the nearby Franciscan Church of the Annunciation could see the muse and did not like that. After much debate, a full-grown tree was replanted at the front left side of the church, blocking sight of the statue.

Unfortunately for Preseren, a

Write to us

We'd love to hear what made your holiday so special. Your story – experiences, tips, advice – should be 700 to 800 words long in Word or Text format. Please attach at least five photos (1MB, captioned) in a separate email. There is no payment for submissions, and we reserve the right to edit all submissions. E-mail star2travel@thestar.com.my with the subject "Readers Share".

bust of the woman he loved but who did not love him back faces his statue from across the square.

The Triple Bridge on Preseren Square stretches across the Ljubljana river. This was initially a single bridge, but in 1932 Joze Plecnik added two more to make way for increased traffic.

Plecnik was ahead of his time as the three bridges were built to cater separately for cars, pedestrians and bicycles.

There are three other bridges around and visitors can go on tours to check out all six of them. There's one called the Dragon Bridge, where you will see four large dragon statues and 16



Huge lanterns hanging from the trees at Zvezda Park.



An insect hotel at the Botanical Gardens.

smaller ones. Local legend has it that once upon a time, a dragon guarded the river but was killed by another mythical creature.

Kljucavnicarska Ulica or Locksmith Street is an alley with 700 bronze casts of expressive human faces along it.

From Congress Square you can see Ljubljana Castle that sits at the top of a hill. At night

the place is all beautifully lit up.

The square itself has a number of charming buildings around. Nearby is Zvezda Park, a nice spot with lots of tall trees and greenery, making it perfect for chilling out.

Ljubljana Castle overlooks the city and beyond. You can either walk to the castle or go by funicular – we chose to trudge up

the snow-covered paths and through the woods to get there.

Check out the museum at the castle where cultural and historical artefacts are displayed. We also visited the Botanical Gardens, the Gradascica and Lake Bled, a scenic lake that's two hours from the city centre by bus.

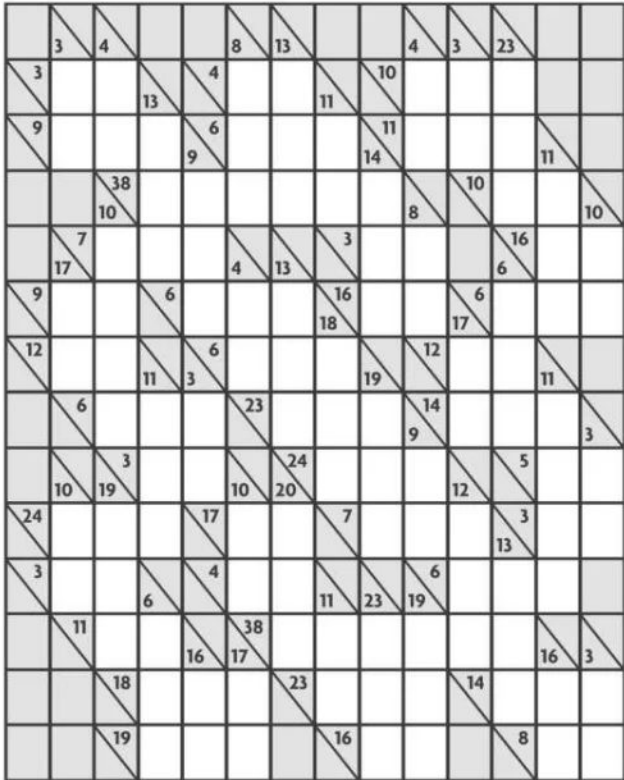
The only island in Slovenia is on this lake and reachable by boat. It is a small island with a museum and cafe; the building was formerly a pilgrimage church.

We walked around the lake and came across a castle and a nice wooded area. However, it was snowing heavily so we decided to head back.

Before leaving, though, we went into a cafe to try a traditional Bled cream cake, Kremsnita, a must for visitors, we were told. It was so delicious!

The views expressed are entirely the writer's own.

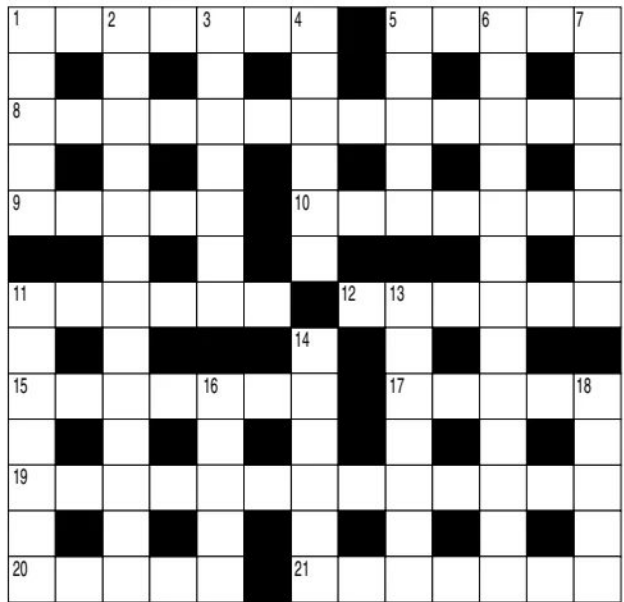
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KAKURO
PUZZLE



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1. Put numbers from 1 through 9 in each cell (no zeros.)
2. A number in a cell divided by a diagonal line tells the sum of the numbers in the consecutive cells to its right or downward.
3. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Neckwear irritates (7)
- 5 Bird doctor goes round to object (5)
- 8 Practise putting on a glove? (3,4,4,2)
- 9 So the reformed show spirit (5)
- 10 A limit I set out for force in emergency (7)
- 11 Point has a need to be put differently (6)
- 12 A number in beastly residences are land-owners (6)
- 15 It's short and possibly conical (7)
- 17 Inclined to sound fast (5)
- 19 Just a fraction of a Rugby team (5-8)
- 20 Pen has the French way of writing (5)
- 21 Cafe and inn combine somehow to make money (7)

Down

- 1 A solo trumpeter cast out by the herd (5)
- 2 Realise and convey how one may act the part of a servant (5,3,5)
- 3 Regards the lot as OK perhaps (5,2)
- 4 A diminutive person - or a ten-footer (6)
- 5 Affected speech given by doctor on lawbreaker (5)
- 6 In this way men are trained for the sea (13)
- 7 Racetracks for those taking the air? (7)
- 11 At length speaks of details (7)
- 13 A new role in flight control (7)
- 14 He looks as though he hasn't washed the back of the neck (6)
- 16 Accurate about direction, relatively speaking (5)
- 18 Discrimination makes sense (5)

> Solutions on page 12

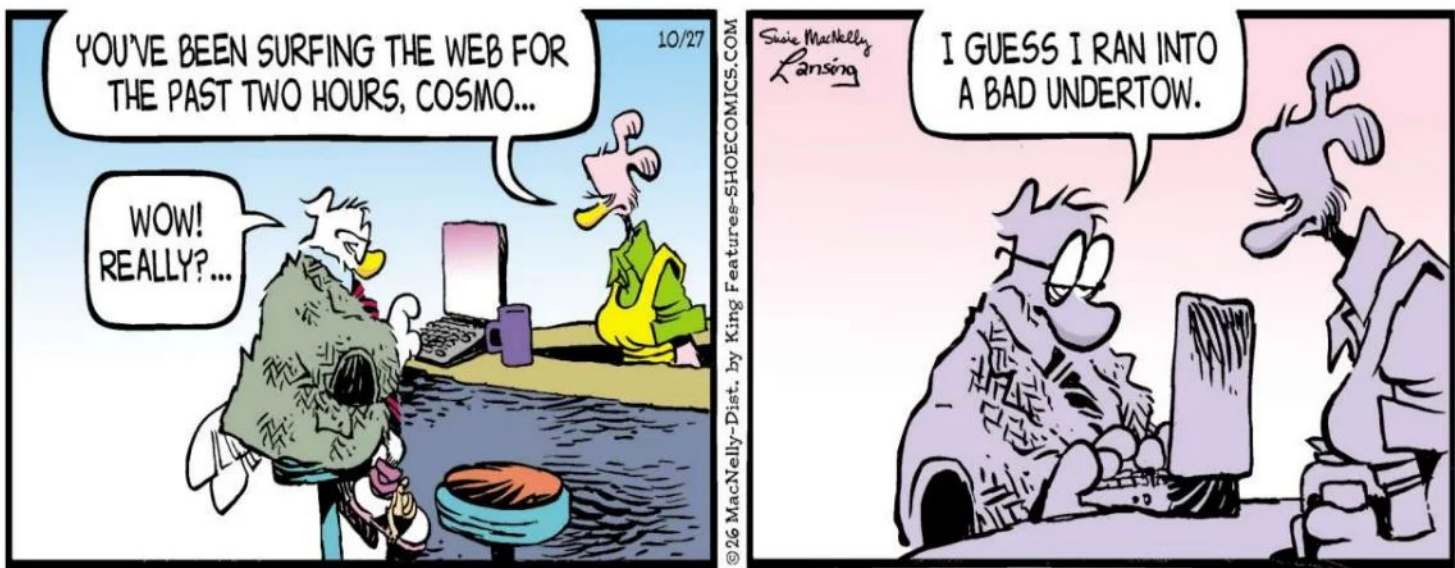
KEE'S WORLD by C.W. Kee



REDROVER by Brian Basset



SHOE by Jeff Macnelly



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



TV1	TV2	TV3	ntv7	8TV	TV9
6.00am Negaraku	6.00am Negaraku	6.30am Bacaan Yasin	7.00am Go Go Dino	7.00am 8 E-Pulse	6.00am Bacaan Yasin
6.02 Anda Musykil	6.02 Berpaling Dari Syurga	6.50 Tanyalah Ustaz	7.30 Kelab Dan Persatuan	8.00 Let's Go Home	6.50 Tanyalah Ustaz
7.00 Berita Pagi Nasional	7.00 Misi Ady	8.00 Setelah Ku Dimiliki	8.00 Pecutan SPM	8.30 Wow Shop	8.30 Wow Shop
8.00 Selamat Pagi Malaysia	7.30 Ejen C	9.00 Wow Shop	9.00 Menengah Atas	9.45 Women Walk The Line	Noon My #QuranTime 2.0
10.00 Langsung Dari Parlimen	8.00 Sugar Pals	9.30 Buletin Pagi	10.00 Menengah Rendah	10.35 Wow Shop	1.00pm Wow Shop
Noon Berita Semasa	8.30 Kapluk Dari Kapluwi	10.00 Malaysia Hari Ini	11.00 Prasekolah	12.30pm Midday Mandarin News	2.00 Kau Ilhamku
12.05pm Epic Safari Encounters & Destination	9.00 Dunia Kiara	11.00 Supa Strikas	11.30 Tahap I	1.00 Your Finesse	3.30 Suamiku Mat Piun
1.00 Berita Tengah Hari	10.00 Bintang Pujaan – Hafiz Hamidun	11.32 5 Rencah 5 Rasa	Noon Tahap II	2.00 My Twin Lover	4.00 Nasi Lemak Kopi O
1.30 Kasih Malisa	11.00 Ammavin Parambariya Samayal	12.05pm Surviving Beauty	12.30pm Menengah Atas	3.00 Wow Shop	5.00 Beyblade X
2.30 Sembang Jarak Jauh	1.00 Are You Safe?	1.00 Wow Shop	1.00pm Buletin Didik	4.00 Fight For Justice	5.30 Oddbods
3.05 Kuppa Kopi	2.00 Past Life, Present Love	1.30 Buletin 130	1.30 Mylnovasi	6.00 8 E-Pulse	6.00 Bread Barbershop
4.30 Biz Malaysia	3.00 Annai Madi	2.00 Sekam Di Dada	2.00 Ilham Kreatif	7.00 The Queen Of News	6.30 Supa Strikas
5.00 Berita Wilayah	4.00 I Am Not Me	3.00 Selamat Pengantin Haru	2.30 Prasekolah	8.00 Mandarin News	7.00 Buletin TV9
6.00 Bismillah	5.00 Ana Ponti	4.00 Ali Baba: Dastaan-E-Kabul	3.00 Tahap I	9.00 Pursuit Of Jade	7.50 Lelakimu Yang Dulu
6.45 Demi	6.00 Food Magic	5.00 Wow Shop	3.30 Tahap II	10.00 I Believe I Can Fly	8.40 Rama-Rama
7.44 Kanta 744	6.30 Berita Mandarin	6.00 Rindu Kasih	4.00 Menengah Rendah	11.00 8 E-Pulse	10.30 My Sweet Mobster
8.00 Berita Perdana	7.00 Diva's Secret	7.00 Andai Masih Ada Maaf	5.00 Menengah Atas	Midnight The Legend Of Heroes	11.30 Aduan Jiwa
8.30 Malaysia Tonight	7.30 Berita Tamil	8.00 Buletin Utama	6.30 Kelab Dan Persatuan	1.00am EightFM @ 8TV	Midnight Plan B
9.00 Bicara Naratif	8.00 Cinta Yang Tertangguh	9.02 999	7.00 Buletin Didik		12.55am Wow Shop
10.30 Isteri Untuk Diiktiraf	9.00 The Cursed	10.00 Sepenuh Hati Rindu	7.30 Armor Rangers		2.00 Kau Ilhamku
11.30 Innovation Nation	11.00 Chicago Med	11.00 Misteri Wan Peah	8.00 Pecutan SPM		3.30 Kool101 @ TV9
Midnight Berita Tengah Malam	Noon Family Trip	Midnight Nightline	9.00 Mylnovasi		4.30 Suamiku Mat Piun
12.30am Kasih Malisa	12.30am Trilogi Cinta	12.30am Wow Shop	9.30 Ilham Kreatif		5.00 My #QuranTime 2.0
1.30 Legasi Maritim Melayu	1.30 Wira Kasih	1.30 Hanya Untuk Dia	10.00 Jurnal Resepi		
2.00 Isteri Untuk Diiktiraf	2.00 Anusha	2.30 Setelah Ku Dimiliki			
3.00 Cerita Samudera	2.30 Agam Puram	3.30 Akad Tak Dipinta			
3.30 Demi	3.00 Turbulent Times	4.30 Kapsul Surah			
4.30 Sembang Jarak Jauh	4.00 Ammavin Parambariya Samayal	5.00 Bacaan Al-Quran			
5.00 Projek Hias		5.30 Wow Shop			
5.35 Bacaan Ar Rahman					



STARSCOPE

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Yesterday's Full Moon created intensity, and it's not at an end. However, the smart thing today, if you're still feeling the effects, is not to dig your heels in. That doesn't mean you shouldn't make a point and be firm, but completely refusing to lean into what is being discussed could prove counterproductive. Be firm but flexible where possible today.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21): The good news, Taurus, is the Moon continues her journey in your sign, and she's rather pleased about it. It's just the grumpy celestial neighbours. Today Mercury goes face to face with the Moon. With Mercury still retrograde, a misunderstanding is possible, but only if you're hasty. Slow down, listen carefully, and check what you've heard before responding.

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21): More stuff has been coming into the open over the last twenty-four hours and more can do so today. You may believe, with some justification, that someone has been less than transparent. Even so, try not to be triggered. The more you don't rise to the bait, the more you deny this person any power and, in the process, keep your dignity. Rising above them can be powerful.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23): Emotions and words don't always align. When people ask questions, we don't always want to open up and share how we really feel, and rightly so. However, someone who knows you well might ask something which hits a nerve. You may need to be more obliging than usual today, Cancer. So listen carefully before deciding how you should respond thoughtfully.

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug 23): Be it at work or home, tension continues if you don't feel the respect due to you is forthcoming. Yet today everyone can likely be more easily irritated by things we usually shrug off. What you can do, rather than react, is lead. This doesn't mean giving orders and demanding respect, no, just lead by example, Leo. This can achieve much more today.

♍ VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23): Your ruler Mercury is in a complex phase, retracing its steps in intense Scorpio. This has given you a chance to rethink or revise an ongoing plan, idea or interest, but in a more perceptive way. Don't be deflected by what others say. Whilst they may have a valid point, your viewpoint counts most, and know that you're at your best when refining things.

♏ LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23): You may be reconsidering something you had felt certain about. Yet there is subtle encouragement to look beyond the obvious and trust that something is gradually moving in a more helpful direction. Don't force an answer today. Give yourself room to reflect, especially where a relationship, money matter or personal priority is concerned.

♐ SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22): Today, with the Moon opposing Mercury in Scorpio, someone may say something which seems personal. Before responding, double-check what was actually meant. There is a difference between a comment touching a sensitive spot and someone deliberately trying to provoke you, Scorpio. A little patience will help you to decipher just what's what today.

♑ SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): You may be carrying more of a burden than is obvious. With Mercury retracing its steps through the most private area of your chart, something from the past can resurface, perhaps through a conversation or passing thought. You don't have to resolve it immediately. Sometimes recognising why something still bothers you is the key, as today can show.

♒ CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20): Yesterday's Full Moon may have highlighted a situation involving friends, colleagues or your hopes for the future. Today you may now see it from a different perspective. Someone's reaction could tell you more than their words, particularly if there has been some uncertainty. Don't rush to conclusions. Letting things settle before deciding will serve you best.

♓ AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19): Ambitions, responsibilities or the expectations others have of you may leave you feeling someone is making demands without appreciating what you already contribute and what is already on your plate. Rather than becoming defensive, explain your position clearly. Once the facts are out in the open, a workable compromise may be easier to find for everyone.

♈ PISCES (Feb 20-March 20): Your thoughts may wander, particularly towards something you once believed, studied or experienced. This kind of revisiting can be valuable, as you may have changed since first encountering it. Don't dismiss something simply because your previous view no longer fits. Curiosity, reflection and allowing your perspective to evolve is a great theme and quality.

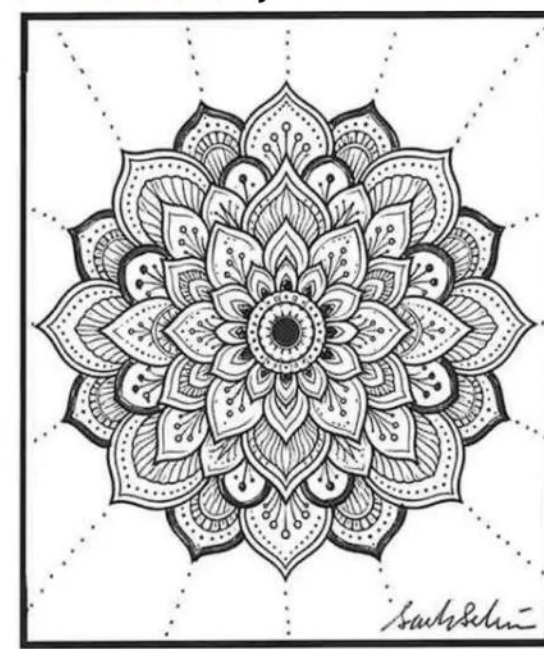
UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

DOODLISM by Sarah Salim



IG: @sarahsalim.official

SOLUTIONS

1	7	8		7	6	16		9	7	3	19		
2	6	3		9	8	6		8	9	1	18		
			14			23							
		16	8	7	3	6	5	9	2	9	11		
		1	2	3	19	23	11	3	1	6	2	1	3
1	2		3	2	1	4	7	8	9	7	8	9	24
2	3		12	8	9	7	20	10	2	1	19	10	
		3	5										
			11	8	9	6	9	8	23	3	2	6	
		1	3	2	6	7	9	16	3	1	6	1	9
6	7		16		1	2	3	13	4	2	1	4	17
		10	1	6		8	3	8	6	5	6	7	10
			11	8	2	1	11	3	1	2	5	3	9
				6	1	3		11	3	1	13	2	3
			23	3	4			13	8		4	3	

C	N	N	I	F	E	T	L	E	S
T	A	O	F	O	R	E			
S	H	E	R	A	T	H	E	R	E
A	N	E	R	I	A	V	A		
N	T	A	L	E	C	N	O	I	C
I	R								
S	D	S	L	A	I	R	O	N	E
Y	E		P	A	A				
A	V	I	T	I	S	O	H	E	T
W	I	W	I	W	C	U			
N	I	N	D	O	R	E	T	A	N
U	E	R	E	O	E	O			
R	U	F	F	L	E	S			

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

MPAJ shuts down 16 shops in Pandan Indah for flouting licensing rules >4



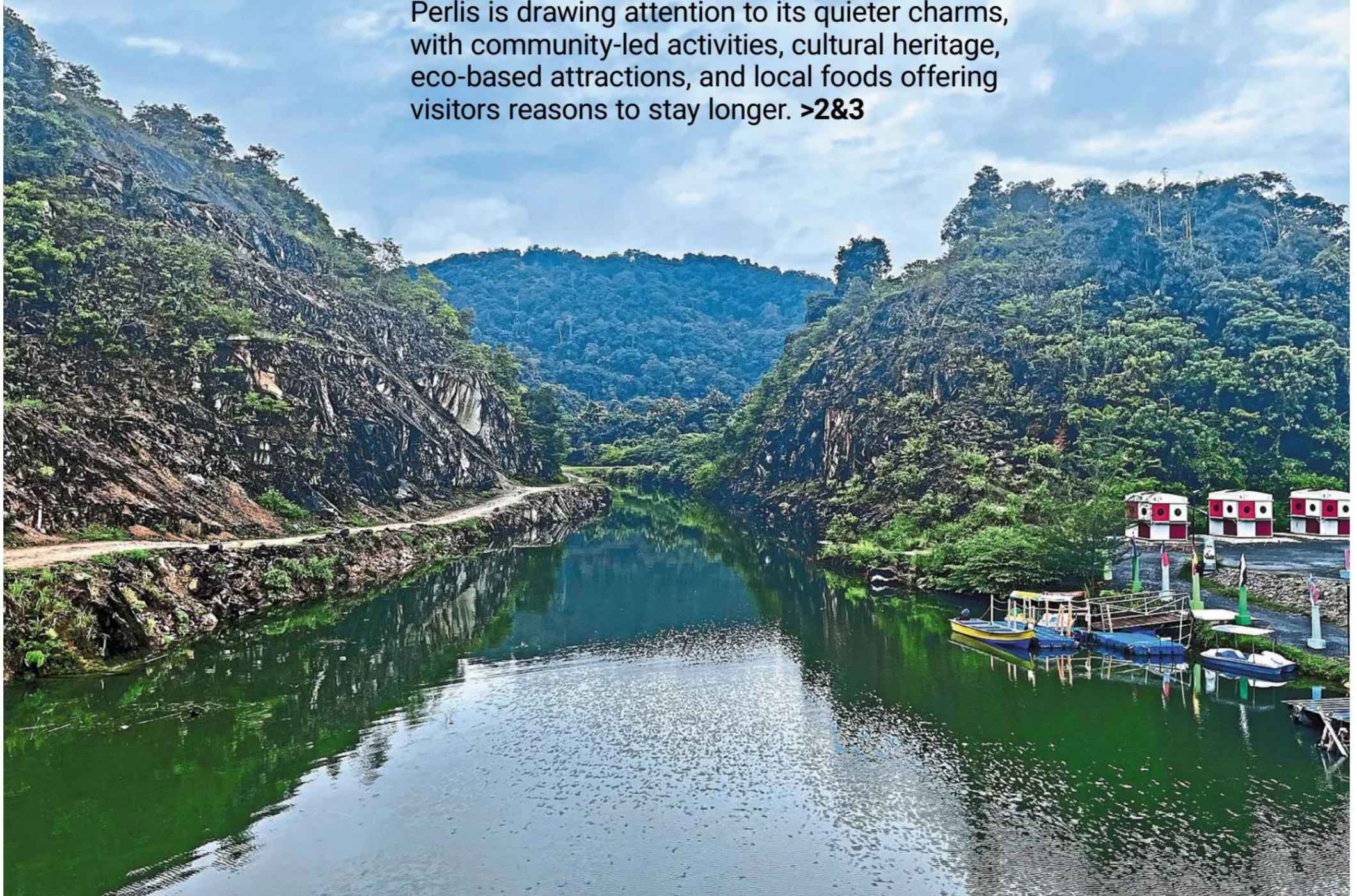
Food court traders worry over income as JB court complex's relocation nears >5



MBPJ pays out RM21,000 allocation for Sukma adopted sports winners >8

Big finds up north

Perlis is drawing attention to its quieter charms, with community-led activities, cultural heritage, eco-based attractions, and local foods offering visitors reasons to stay longer. >2&3



Nature at play: Set against towering limestone formations, the flood diversion canal in Kampung Wai, Kuala Perlis, offers visitors a scenic and memorable water cruise.
— SHALINI RAVINDRAN/The Star



BULK WASTE COLLECTION

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) is offering free bulk waste collection service until Nov 7 in conjunction with Deepavali. Items such as mattresses and old furniture are allowed, but excludes renovation waste, house-moving waste, electrical items and recyclables. To apply, call 03-8081 4437 (KDEB Waste Management) or WhatsApp 011-3538 4437. Deadline is Oct 27.

ASSESSMENT TAX REBATE

Homeowners under Kuala Langat Municipal Council jurisdiction can apply for assessment tax rebates for selected environmentally friendly initiatives, including installation of solar panels and rainwater harvesters, use of five-star electrical appliances, purchase of electric vehicles, recycling and composting. Rebates range from RM30 to RM300. Applications close on Dec 31. For details, visit qr.mpk.gov.my/E1ZD7H

FOREST PARK ACTIVITIES

All Selangor permanent forest reserves and eco forest parks will be closed to hiking activities from Nov 16 to Jan 31, 2027, as a precautionary measure during the monsoon season.

FREE SHUTTLE

Rapid KL is offering a free van service (T851) for those with official business at Parliament as well as visitors heading to Perdana Botanical Gardens. The service operates between KL Sentral, Taman Botani Perdana and Parliament until Dec 22, from 7am-8pm on weekdays, with departures every 30 minutes during peak hours and hourly from 12pm-4pm. Passengers can board at KL Sentral (ERL departure hall) and Taman Botani Perdana. For details on van location, visit myrapidbus.prasarana.com.my/kiosk?route=1129&bus

ECO PARK CLOSED

Taman Eko Rimba Gunung Pulai 1 in Johor is closed until further notice for slope repair works. Recreational activities and hiking are not permitted.

FIELD CLOSURE

Two MBSJ football fields, at Jalan LEP 5 in Taman Lestari Putra, Seri Kembangan, and Puchong Indah, Puchong, will be closed from Nov 1 to Dec 31 for upgrading and repair works.

SMART CITY SURVEY

PLANMalaysia Selangor is inviting the public to give feedback on the Selangor Smart City Blueprint 2.0 (2040) until Oct 31. The survey takes about five minutes to complete and covers views and priorities for future smart city development. Respondents will receive an e-certificate. For details, visit <https://shorturl.at/zxnjn>

POP-UP MARKET

Weekend Traders Market will be held on Oct 31 to Nov 1, from 12pm-7pm, at Level 1 and 2, KLoe Hotel, Jalan Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur. There will be live DJ sets and a lineup of food, beverage and lifestyle vendors.

BORNEO CRAFT FESTIVAL

Sarawak Borneo Craft Festival is being held at Kuching Waterfront until Nov 1, 10am-10pm daily. The event features 43 craft tents with exhibitors from Sarawak, Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia, alongside craft sales, demonstrations, cultural performances and food stalls. Entry is free.

PERLIS

Seeing Perlis in a new light

Story and photos by
SHALINI RAVINDRAN
shaliniravindran@thestar.com.my

WHILE Perlis may be seen by some as a quiet state visitors simply pass through on their way to Thailand or Langkawi, its slower pace hides a growing range of experiences waiting to be explored.

From nature-based activities and lesser-known attractions to unique local products, the country's smallest state is looking to offer visitors more reason to stay and explore.

These experiences are also being positioned as part of efforts to strengthen Perlis' appeal beyond its perceived role as a transit point.

Malaysia recorded 74.7 million domestic visitors in the first quarter of 2026, representing a 7.2% increase compared with 69.7 million during the same corresponding period last year.

According to data from the Statistics Department, Perlis recorded 3.7 million domestic visitors in 2025, compared with 3.2 million in 2024.

Tourism Malaysia said unique, experience-based activities in Perlis could attract more domestic visitors, boost the local economy and raise the state's profile during Visit Malaysia 2026-2027.

Tourism Malaysia northern region office director Abdul Hadi Che Man said Perlis stood out for experiences rarely found in larger cities.

"We highlight Perlis' special features, particularly nature, when promoting the state to people in urban places such as Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

"Places such as Gua Kelam, the padi fields, local food and culture offer experiences that people in the big cities may not get to enjoy.

"The tranquillity of Perlis is also something we want to highlight to tourists," he told reporters during the "Cutu-Cutu Malaysia Surreal Experiences Perlis" media familiarisation trip organised by Tourism Malaysia.

He said the state could also capitalise on what it already has. "Compared with other places, Perlis may not have theme parks or big malls, so we have to work

From caves and canopy walks to village tours, this northern state has plenty to keep visitors exploring



Striking cave formations shaped by years of mining activity at Gua Kelam in Kaki Bukit.

with what is already here.

"Local communities can also come up with creative ideas to turn existing places into new attractions, as seen in places such as Kampung Wai."

Abdul Hadi said local cottage industries, including belacan-making, could also be incorporated into Perlis' tourism offerings to cater to travellers increasingly seeking hands-on experiences.

"Tourists today are not just interested in sightseeing.

"They want to experience things themselves – to touch, feel and try.

"Traditional businesses offer experiences that may not be available elsewhere, and that is what we shall highlight," said

Abdul Hadi.

According to Tourism Malaysia, the five most-visited Perlis destinations among local visitors are Arked Niaga Padang Besar, Wang Kelian Viewpoint, Taman Eko Rimba Bukit Ayer, Padang Waremart and Medan Ikan Bakar Kuala Perlis.

Wang Kelian Viewpoint

Located in Compartment 5 of Mata Ayer Forest Reserve within the Perlis State Park, Wang Kelian Viewpoint in the small town of Kaki Bukit offers sweeping views of the surrounding landscape.

Visitors are advised to arrive before dawn to watch the



Abdul Hadi: Perlis' appeal is in experiences that are difficult to find in larger cities.

sunrise, with the first streaks of light breaking over the horizon and sea of clouds below.

Admission is RM2 for Malaysian adults and RM5 for non-Malaysian adults.

Padang Besar

Located on the Malaysian-Thailand border, Padang Besar is a small town known for its cross-border shopping.

Its location brings together traders and products from both Malaysia and Thailand, giving visitors the chance to browse a mix of goods from both nations.

Among the main shopping areas are Arked Niaga Padang Besar, Padang Besar Street (formerly known as Pavilion), Padang Waremart and Plaza Niaga Padang Besar, where visitors can find clothing, food, household items and other everyday goods.

Padang Besar is also a gateway to Thailand by road and rail.

Travellers often stop here before continuing to destinations such as Hat Yai, with the railway station providing a convenient link across the border.

Gua Kelam

Set within Wang Mu Forest Reserve, Gua Kelam in Kaki Bukit provides an insight into

A decorated house at Kampung Warna-Warni Kuala Perlis, where residents also run small businesses to supplement their income.





Visitors taking in Bukit Chabang in the distance and the surrounding vista from Wang Kelian Viewpoint.



Rumah Hijau, the more than 100-year-old childhood home of Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail, preserved within the grounds of Muzium Kota Kayang.

Perlis' rich limestone landscape and mining past.

The cave's name, which translates to Cave of Darkness, is divided into two sections – Gua Kelam 1 and Gua Kelam 2.

Gua Kelam 2 offers wet and dry trails through the limestone cave, where visitors can see remnants of tin mining activities dating back almost a century.

Among the highlights are old trolley tracks once used to transport mined ore, a clear Blue Pool and striking limestone formations.

The cave walls also bear markings believed to reflect the lives of miners who once worked there.

Another curious feature is the Pyramid, a limestone arrangement resembling a pyramid that is believed to be the burial site of a miner, possibly someone of importance within the mining community.

Kg Warna-Warni Kuala Perlis

Once heavily reliant on the sea for their livelihoods, the 3,000 residents of seven villages in Kuala Perlis have found new income opportunities through community-based tourism.

The transformation programme, the brainchild of Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, was launched in 2020.

The initiative revived the fishing villages with colourful traditional houses and landscaped gardens.

Kampung Warna-Warni Kuala Perlis, also known as Kampung Warna-Warni Seberang Ramai, offers visitors *choley* motorcycle



Visitors making their way along the canopy walk over lush greenery at FRIM Research Station in Kaki Bukit.

(Thai-style three-wheeled motorcycle) rides and traditional snacks too, giving residents new income streams beyond fishing and seasonal work.

Kampung Wai

When severe floods hit Perlis in 2010, nearly half the state was submerged, affecting more than 63,000 people and causing about RM200mil in losses.

The disaster led to the construction of the 22.8km Western Flood Diversion Canal, including a 765m-long tunnel through Banjaran Nakawan.

Today, the flood mitigation canal has taken on a second life as a tourism attraction at Kampung Wai in Kuala Perlis.

Visitors can kayak or take a boat, operated by Perlis Eco-

Tourism and Recreation Club, through the passage and along a 3km waterway.

The journey offers views of limestone formations believed to be more than 500 million years old, surrounded by tropical greenery.

Guide Muhamad Hairie Akif Shahrin Anuar, 27, said there were typically 50 boat trips a day, with the number doubling on weekends and public holidays.

He said the growing popularity of the attraction had also indirectly created opportunities for locals to earn an income, including through food kiosks.

FRIM Research Station

Established in 1974, the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Perlis station is located in

Kaki Bukit, within the 455ha Mata Ayer Forest Reserve.

It serves as a reference centre for the establishment and management of teak plantations.

Teak planting at the site began in 1953, and today the station is home to about 4,000 mature trees.

Perlis accounts for more than 400ha of Malaysia's estimated 2,000ha of teak plantations.

Beyond research and forestry, the station also offers opportunities for ecotourism and environmental education, with facilities including accommodation, campsites and a 100m-long canopy walk built in 2011, standing 18m above the ground.

The canopy walk offers visitors a different perspective of the teak plantation and surrounding forest landscape.

Muzium Kota Kayang

Opened to visitors in September 2001, Muzium Kota Kayang in Kuala Perlis showcases Perlis' royal, historical and cultural heritage through artefacts displayed across six galleries.

Museum assistant Yusuf Abdullah said the museum stood on what was believed to have been a royal palace complex.

Evidence of the area's historical significance includes the nearby tomb of Sultan Dhiauddin Al-Mukarram Shah, the 15th Sultan of Kedah.

"The two-year excavation from 1997 to 1998 unearthed the site of a former palace known as Kota Indera Kayangan, where the Kedah-Perlis royal family used to reside," said Yusuf.

"Research on the excavation site also revealed that more than 350 years ago, a river flowed into the area.

"However, its location has today shifted some 100m away from the museum building," he elaborated.

The former excavation site has since been converted into a parking area, while artefacts recovered from the dig are preserved and displayed in the museum.

The grounds are also home to Rumah Hijau, the childhood home of Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail.

The more than 100-year-old traditional house was relocated from Arau to the museum grounds and is now preserved as an exhibition gallery. Admission is free.

Local flavours

Among Perlis' signature dishes is Laksa Perlis, which differs from versions found elsewhere.

Its broth is relatively thick and uses a generous amount of fish, giving it a lighter colour rather than the reddish hue associated with Laksa Kedah.

It does not contain coconut milk and is served with laksa noodles made from rice flour.

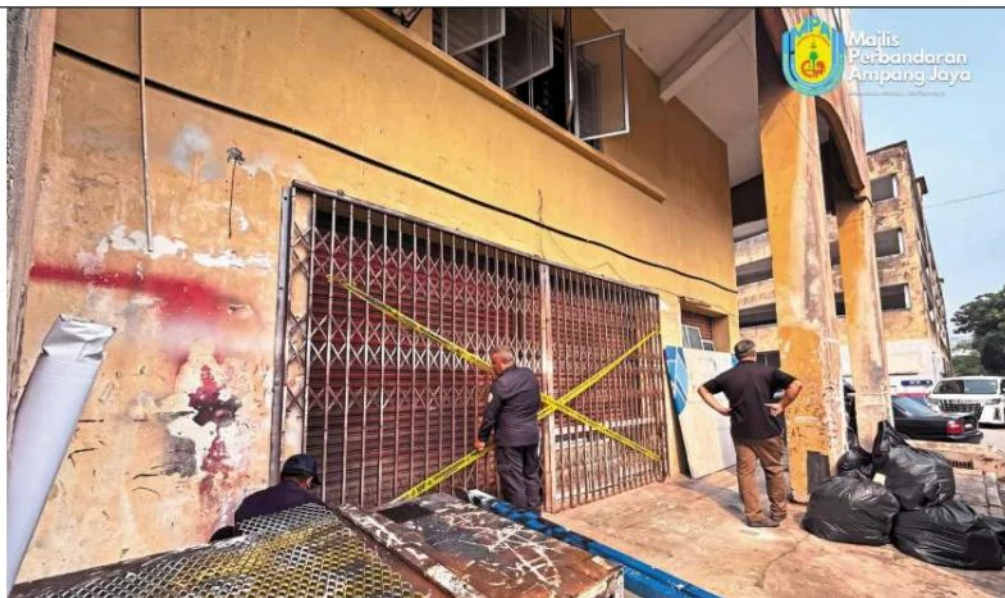
Another local favourite is *ikan bakar* (grilled fish), with a popular style being *ikan bakar lemak* – where the fish is often marinated with ingredients such as condensed milk, coconut milk or margarine, giving it a rich, slightly sweet flavour.



The state's well-known dishes include Laksa Perlis (left) while it is cross-border shopping galore at the market in Padang Besar (above).



MPAJ enforcement officers seizing gas tanks after a sundry shop operator was found to have breached licensing conditions.



A business premises in Pandan Indah being sealed by MPAJ officers for violating licensing conditions. — Photos: Handout

By **SHALINI RAVINDRAN**
shaliniravindran@thestar.com.my

AMPANG Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) shut down 16 business premises in Pandan Indah during an enforcement operation targeting licensing breaches and other business-related offences.

The crackdown focused on compliance with licensing conditions and business regulations, including the employment of foreign workers without valid permits.

MPAJ in a media statement said the operation followed a viral social media video claiming foreigners were operating businesses in the area.

"Of the 16 premises inspected, 12 had breached their licensing conditions by employing foreign workers without valid permits.

"Enforcement action also resulted in 16 seizures and closure of the premises," said MPAJ.

The local council also issued four notices for building-related offences and dismantled two unauthorised iron structures built on public land.

MPAJ shuts down 16 Pandan Indah businesses

Municipal council acting on footage finds licensing breaches, foreigners without valid permits working at shops

A three-wheeled motorcycle was also seized for obstructing a public area.

All seized items were taken to the MPAJ depot in Pandan Indah for further action.

MPAJ said the operation also targeted businesses operating without valid licences, including sundry shops, tailoring shops and tyre shops.

"Premises operating without licences were immediately ordered to close, and business items were seized.

"The cases will be brought to court for further action," the

municipal council stated.

Operators found breaching licensing conditions involving foreign workers or obstructing public areas were also issued compounds under relevant laws.

The enforcement action was carried out under the Food Establishments By-Laws (MPAJ) 2007, Trade, Business and Industrial Licensing By-Laws (MPAJ) 2007, and Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 (Act 133).

Meanwhile, several social media users urged MPAJ to take

action against local licence holders allegedly renting out their business licences to foreign operators.

One post claimed that many shops along a row of premises in Bandar Baru Ampang were also being run by foreign nationals.

"As usual, locals hold the business licences to mislead enforcement officers," the user claimed.

Another post urged local authorities to revoke the licences of Malaysians acting as nominees for foreign operators.

One user praised MPAJ's

enforcement action and called for tougher action against those involved.

"Well done, MPAJ. Prosecute and penalise licence holders who lend their licences to foreign operators, as well as shop owners who rent out their premises to foreigners," he said.

MPAJ said enforcement would continue to ensure business operators complied with licensing rules and the law, and that commercial activities in Ampang Jaya municipality remained orderly and responsible.

Good turnout at Brickfields Deepavali bazaar, says FT minister

THE Deepavali Bazaar in Brickfields, at its new location, has drawn a steady stream of visitors since its opening on Oct 9.

The Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) bazaar is operating for 30 days until Nov 7.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Hannah Yeoh said DBKL had allocated RM1.8mil for various initiatives to support

this year's Deepavali celebrations.

She said the measures included providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure the bazaar ran smoothly, and reducing stall rental to RM400 to ease traders' financial burden.

"I hope both traders and shoppers will feel more comfortable at this DBKL bazaar," she said after visiting

the site located at the DBKL Sports and Recreation Centre in Jalan Tun Sambanthan 1.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Fadlun Mak Ujud was also present.

Yeoh expressed hope that more visitors would turn up to support the traders.

The Deepavali bazaar features 150 stalls operating daily from 10am to midnight.



Yeoh (centre) and Fadlun (second from left) checking out decorative items at Brickfields Deepavali bazaar. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

MBSJ spends over RM1.07mil to upgrade Subang Jaya, Puchong parks



The upgraded Jalan SS15/5G neighbourhood park now features inclusive children's play equipment, badminton and basketball courts, exercise equipment, solar lighting and solar-powered CCTV cameras. — JADE CHAN/The Star

SUBANG Jaya City Council (MBSJ) has upgraded two recreational parks under its Landscape Department's 2026 special projects to provide more inclusive and conducive spaces for the local community.

The upgrades amounting to more than RM1.07mil involved the Jalan SS15/5G neighbourhood park in Subang Jaya and Taman Tasik Wawasan in Pusat Bandar Puchong, Puchong.

The RM351,500 project at the Jalan SS15/5G neighbourhood park was carried out over three months.

Designed around a "Smart City Neighbourhood Park" concept,

the park now features inclusive children's play equipment, badminton and basketball courts, exercise equipment, solar lighting and solar-powered closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras.

"This facility provides residents with a wider range of recreational and sports activities, while incorporating technological elements through the use of solar lighting and solar-powered CCTV cameras," MBSJ's Corporate and Strategic Management Department said in a media statement.

Meanwhile, the RM727,347 upgrading works at Taman Tasik

Wawasan took nearly seven months to be completed.

The park was developed under the "Taman Rakyat Madani" concept which aims to transform public spaces into high-quality, people-centric green zones.

It has been fitted with an inclusive playground set, a park-our set, exercise equipment, a gazebo, pedestrian walkways and solar-powered lights.

MBSJ said these enhancements complete the park's leisure, exercise and play amenities, while the new gazebo and landmark signboard strengthen the park's identity as a key community hub in Pusat Bandar Puchong.

JOHOR

Story and photos
by ZAZALI MUSA
metro@thestar.com.my

Court relocation to affect JB traders

Food court operators fear business losses as judicial complex shifts to Kota Iskandar

FOOD traders at Johor Tourist Information Centre's (Jotic) Anjung Selera are bracing themselves for the reality that their business will suffer once Johor Baru Court Complex next door relocates in January 2027.

The complex's new home will be in Kota Iskandar, with infrastructure housing High Courts, Sessions Courts, Magistrate's Courts and a special court, alongside judges' chambers, offices, temporary detention facilities and a multipurpose hall, among others.

The new RM194.5mil, five-storey Johor Baru Court Complex is scheduled to start operations on Jan 1, 2027.

Stall proprietor Norizah Ismail is expecting her daily earnings to be affected, as the majority of her customers comprise court staff and policemen, lawyers, prison officials, visitors and Johor Baru City Council (MBJB) employees.

"Journalists covering court cases are also among my customers, as they normally come to the food court to file their stories after a hearing," she told *StarMetro*.

"We are going to miss our regular customers," said Norizah, 60, who has operated her *nasi campur* business at the site since the mid-1990s.

She hopes the government will repurpose the court premises in Jalan Ayer Molek once the building is handed back.

She added that while office workers from nearby Menara Tabung Haji, Wisma Persekutuan and Employees Provident Fund also frequented the area, they had their own cafes and canteens.

Cafe owner Huzaimah Rahmat, 57, said there had already been a drop in customers after the 2018 upgrading project.

She said finding a parking spot at Jotic was a problem as MBJB has designated the parking bays for its employees.

She noted that the nearest parking space for Anjung Selera customers was at Menara Tabung Haji and the open car-park next to Wisma Persekutuan.

"However, the bays at Wisma Persekutuan are usually taken up by people visiting the federal



The new Johor Baru Court Complex in Kota Iskandar. — Filepic



Norizah (above) anticipates a drop in earnings when the court complex moves to Kota Iskandar next year.

Anjung Selera (right) is popular with people working at the Johor Baru Court Complex, visitors and MBJB employees.

agencies and departments."

Huzaimah hopes Tourism Johor will organise activities at Jotic to attract a crowd and bring in business for food operators.

The food court in the city centre is popular for its affordable Malay food.



Huzaimah hopes Tourism Johor will organise activities at Jotic to bring in customers.



Johor football club kicks off global cycling ambitions

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH
farhaan@thestar.com.my

JOHOR Darul Ta'zim FC (JDT) Cycling Team is scheduled to be launched this month in a bid to expand the JDT brand into competitive cycling.

State youth, sports, entrepreneur development and cooperatives committee chairman Mohd Hairi Mad Shah said preparations for the new team were being finalised.

He said this followed discussions with national track cycling ace and Johor sports icon Muhammad Shah Firdaus Sahrom, who will be among key figures overseeing development and performance of the team.



Mohd Hairi: JDT Cycling Team will serve as a vehicle to promote Johor and the country.

"It will be another step towards expanding the JDT brand into other sporting disciplines while setting a new

benchmark for cycling in Johor," he said.

The Larkin assemblyman said the initiative would also help identify, guide and develop young talents from Johor.

"They can then be nurtured and given opportunities to make their mark at the national and international levels," he added.

Mohd Hairi said Mentri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi had committed to the effort via an allocation under the state's 2026 budget.

He said the funding further strengthened development of cycling while providing a structured platform for athletes to progress.

"The initiative is in line with

Johor Sports Nation 2030, which aims to establish a comprehensive sports ecosystem ranging from grassroots development to the elite level.

"The state's XTIF Johor programme will also play a role in identifying and developing new cycling talent on a continuous basis.

"This means talent development will no longer be seasonal or limited to specific events."

Mohd Hairi said the ultimate aim was for JDT Cycling Team to be more than just a competitive outfit – it was to be a platform for producing champions.

The team would also serve as a vehicle to promote Johor and the country internationally, he added.

Singapore tv

Channel 5

6.00AM: Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Monsters
6.30: 100 Wishes **7.00:** Nikhil & Jay
7.15: Nikhil & Jay **7.30:** Blippi 2
7.45: Blippi 2 **8.00:** Leo The Wildlife Ranger
8.30: Pinkfong Songs & Stories **9.00:** Lil Wild: In the Big City
9.15: Agent Binky: Pets of the Universe **9.30:** JoJo and GranGran: Sr3
9.45: JoJo and GranGran: Sr3 **10.00:** Lil Wild
10.30: Go Go Dino S3-S5
10.45: Go Go Dino S3-S5 **11.00:** Nikhil & Jay
11.15: Nikhil & Jay **11.30:** Blaze and the Monster Machines
NOON: Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Monsters
12.30PM: Ben 10 S2
12.45: Ben 10 S2 **1.00:** Alvin!!! & The Chipmunks
1.15: Alvin!!! & The Chipmunks
1.30: Bakugan 3.1
2.00: Supertrons **2.15:** Supertrons
2.30: P. King Duckling **2.45:** P. King Duckling
3.00: Wheel Of Fortune **3.30:** Yes Captain!
4.00: Kin **4.30:** Malaysia Gourmet With Justine Schofield
5.00: Adam And Poh's Great Australia Bites
5.30: Freshly Picked with Simon Toohey
6.00: The Answer Run: Sr1
7.00: Wheel Of Fortune
7.30: Who Wants To Be A Millionaire USA Season 3
8.30: Yes Captain!
9.00: News Tonight **9.30:** Makan Time Stories
10.00: Dreams of the Unheard
10.15: Decalcomania
11.20: The Irrational **12.10AM:** Yes Captain!
12.40: FBI: Most Wanted
1.30: Wheel Of Fortune **2.00:** Who Wants To Be A Millionaire USA Season 3
3.00: The Answer Run: Sr1
4.00: Moma: Moments of Modern Art
4.30: Freshly Picked with Simon Toohey
5.00: Adam And Poh's Great Australia Bites
5.30: Malaysia Gourmet With Justine Schofield
6.00AM: See tomorrow's schedule

Channel 8

6.00AM: SG Explorers **7.00:** News Tonight
7.30: My One And Only **8.00:** Keep It Down
9.00: Talk of the Town **9.30:** The Queen of News 2
10.00: The Wonder Shop **10.14:** The Wonder Shop
10.16: The Wonder Shop **10.30:** 100% Wife
11.30: 100% Wife **1.00PM:** News 8 At One
1.30: Lo And Behold **2.00:** Lo And Behold
2.30: Lo And Behold **3.30:** Big Biz Duel
4.00: Big Biz Duel **4.30:** Golden City
5.30: Golden City **6.30:** Hello Singapore
7.30: The Queen of News 2
8.00: Heart of Justice
8.30: A Conversation With Minister 2026
9.00: Keep It Down **10.00:** News Tonight
10.30: Health Express
11.00: The Glory
MIDNIGHT: Love of Nirvana **1.00AM:** Hong Kong: A Feast of Local Flavours
2.00: A New Life **3.00:** A New Life
4.00: Golden City **5.00:** Golden City
6.00AM: See tomorrow's schedule

Suria

9.00AM: Beyblade X **9.30:** Sembang Sihat
10.00: Boleh Saya Bantu 2 **11.00:** Hai, Cinta Dengarkanlah
NOON: Mengejar Mentari 2 **1.00PM:** Kahwin Satu Keluarga
2.00: Aku Bukan Wanita Pilihan
3.00: Raja Kulinari
4.00: Calar Cinta **5.00:** Lara Aishah
6.00: Beyblade X **6.30:** Sembang Sihat
7.00: Boleh Saya Bantu 2
8.00: Berita 2026/2027 **8.30:** Anugerah 2026
10.30: Curang Tanpa Niat
11.30: Berita 2026/2027
MIDNIGHT: Close

Vasantham

9.00AM: Suvai Payanam **9.30:** Anbin Aaram
10.00: Thoonga Nagaram **10.30:** Ratchagan
11.00: Namma Veetu Virundhu
NOON: Momo in Dubai (Movie)
2.00PM: SiriSiri Siri Siri **2.30:** SiriSiri Siri Siri
3.00: Unga Veettu Deepavali Virundhu!
4.00: Unakkaga Ellam Unakkaga (Movie)
7.00: Namma Veetu Virundhu
8.00: Anbin Aaram
8.30: Seithi **9.00:** Ratchagan
9.30: Oh Baby **10.00:** Kalaiyarasi Vayadhu 47, Vaagana Ottunar
10.30: Vilangu **11.00:** Mellisai Hits
11.30: Seithi
MIDNIGHT: Close



Edy Irwan (front row, seated centre) with the winners and participants of the 'One Day with Persons with Disabilities Programme 2026' at National Library. — EZARD FAROUQ/The Star

By **BAVANI M**
bavanim@thestar.com.my

NATIONAL Library of Malaysia (PNM) is working to amend the Deposit of Library Material Act 1986 to include Braille publications under its requirements.

This helps preserve books and improve access for people with visual impairments.

PNM director-general Edy Irwan Zulkafli said the proposed amendment was part of its Strategic Plan 2024-2028 to make collections and services more accessible to persons with disabilities.

He said engagement sessions with stakeholders were underway, with PNM hoping to have the amendments finalised and passed by Parliament by 2028.

"Knowledge belongs to everyone," he said at the closing ceremony of PNM's "2026 Day with Persons with Disabilities" programme at the library in Kuala Lumpur.

Bridging the reading gap

National Library seeking legal amendments to preserve Braille books and expand access

Held in conjunction with World White Cane Day, which recognises the independence and rights of people with visual impairments, the event drew more than 250 participants in person and online.

It marked the culmination of activities held since August to promote reading, showcase talent and improve access to information for persons with disabilities.

Edy Irwan said PNM would expand its reading programmes for the disabled community in 2027.

"At the same time, we will strengthen cooperation with local

and international institutions and agencies to develop accessible collections, including encouraging more people to volunteer to record audiobooks.

"Since establishing our OKU Corner in 2017, we have reproduced 85 Braille book titles and 103 audiobook titles for people with visual impairments."

He said its "Sumbang Suara" initiative enabled members of the public to lend their voices to help the library produce more audiobooks.

"PNM is one of four organisations authorised under the Marrakesh Treaty to produce and distribute reading materials in

accessible formats for people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise unable to read standard print," he added.

The treaty eases copyright restrictions so books can be reproduced and shared in accessible formats, such as Braille and audiobooks, for people who cannot read standard print.

The other authorised entities are the Malaysian Association for the Blind, Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Penglihatan Islam Malaysia and St Nicholas' Home, a training centre for people with visual impairments.

Edy Irwan said the treaty helped remove copyright barriers

to producing and sharing these materials, supporting access to information and education.

"PNM will also work more closely with non-governmental organisations, special education institutions and local communities to expand its accessible collections and strengthen reading programmes.

"I hope today's programme will be a starting point for greater efforts in the future," he said.

Participants were from special education institutions, and disability organisations, besides university students.

Activities included a nationwide narrative video competition for persons with disabilities, as well as a poetry and *syair* recitation competition.

Ten finalists were recognised in each competition.

PERAK

By **IVAN LOH**
ivanloh@thestar.com.my

Perak culture centre celebrates 25 years milestone

PERAK Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM) branch held a Silver Jubilee celebration for its Culture Centre, marking 25 years of promoting peace, culture and education within the community.

Held at the centre in Taman Lapangan Ria, Ipoh in Perak, the celebration drew over 500 attendees, including distinguished guests from other

non-governmental organisations.

In his welcoming speech, SGM Perak chairman Lai Soo Ha said the centre was built through steady efforts despite facing numerous obstacles.

"It was made possible by our pioneers, who stood united, encouraged one another and pressed ahead with determination.

"Building something is difficult, but sustaining it is even harder."

Lai said the centre was surrounded by woodlands when it was first built.

"In the years that followed, as our country's economy improved, the woodland gradually gave way to new residential developments.

"Upscale housing estates were built, the population grew and the whole area became increasingly prosperous.

"We have witnessed firsthand the remarkable transformation of this neighbourhood from a quiet area into a thriving community," he added.

Also present were guest-of-honour Perak Chinese Assembly Hall president Datuk Kwan Foh Kwai, Malaysian Chinese Muslim Association (Macma) Ipoh branch chairman Datuk Dr Fadzli Cheah Abdullah, Ipoh Calligraphy Society president Voon Song Kim and Malaysia Perak Art Society president Wong Seng Yin.

Guests enjoyed the cultural performances as well as games, food stalls, exhibitions and drawing activities.

In his speech, SGM vice-director-general Chia Kok Peng said the centre belonged to the entire Perak community, not just SGM.

"The centre has hosted numerous unforgettable events that have brought true value to socie-



A cultural performance by SGM members during the 25th anniversary celebration of their Perak branch's Culture Centre in Ipoh. — Handout

ty, including Youth Culture Nights, orchestral concerts, the Run for Peace in 2013 and 2017, peace lectures as well as art and photography exhibitions.

"We've also jointly organised a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration with the Perak State Islamic Religious Department and Macma, bringing people of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds together to experience the beauty of Malaysia's multicultural harmony," he said.

"This is the concrete embodiment of our late founding president of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Daisaku Ikeda's vision, whereby culture and dialogue transcend boundaries to unite people's

hearts," said Chia.

Kwan congratulated SGM on the centre's anniversary, noting that it had grown tremendously over the last two decades.

"The presence of so many parents and members of the community today reflects the strong recognition and support the centre has received.

"We recognise its efforts to promote world peace and positive values, and to organise a wide range of cultural activities," he said in his speech.

"What was once a cultural desert has become a flourishing cultural oasis.

"This is an affirmation of SGM Perak's achievements," said Kwan.

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Penang LRT construction gathers pace

Project on track despite challenges with limited working space, utility relocation

By **LOW CO SIN**
cosin.low@thestar.com.my

THE Mutiara Line light rail transit (LRT) project is gathering pace with 16 work sites now operating along the alignment across Penang island.

SRS Consortium Sdn Bhd project director Datuk Adil Putra Ahmad said bored piling works were progressing according to schedule despite the challenges involving utility relocation and limited working space on busy roads.

He said Bandar Sri Pinang, where the project's ground-breaking ceremony was held, was the most advanced construction site, while the busiest sites were on Jalan Tengah and near Sungai Nibong.

"We have 21 bored piling rigs, 70 cranes and more than 100 excavators operating at these sites," he said.

According to Adil Putra, more than 21,000 plastic and concrete safety barriers have also been

deployed along the route.

He said more than 1,800 management personnel, engineers, consultants and construction workers were involved in the project, with the workforce expected to reach 6,000 during peak construction.

He stressed that efforts were also being made to minimise traffic disruption caused by the construction, particularly along major roads serving residential and industrial areas.

The Traffic Management Plan (TMP), introduced in phases since last year, has brought improvements to traffic flow in certain areas, he said.

"This includes the Jalan Tengah junction near the Bayan Lepas Free Industrial Zone (FIZ) where traffic lights were removed to allow vehicles to move continuously.

"Our FIZ stakeholders told us their employees are arriving for work earlier than before.

"We will continue making refinements to ensure the TMP



An aerial view of Penang's LRT construction taking place on Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah in Sungai Tiram, Bayan Lepas. — Handout

delivers positive outcomes wherever deployed," he added.

Adil Putra said further traffic management measures would be introduced at the Sunny Point junction in Batu Uban and around Komtar over the next six months.

Beyond improving public transport, he said the project was also creating substantial economic opportunities for local businesses.

A total of 149 Penang-based subcontractors and suppliers secured contracts worth more than RM397mil under the Civil Main Contractor 1 (CMC1) package undertaken by SRS Consortium.

The contracts cover structural works, material supply, site services and technical consultancy.

"The Mutiara Line serves as an excellent platform for local contractors to participate in a modern, multi-billion-ringgit urban rail project," said Adil Putra.

"We are exposing local contractors to LRT works, giving them hands-on experience in a mega rail project and helping them improve their skills and competitiveness."

He said the company was also engaging schools and tertiary institutions to introduce students to civil engineering and rail infrastructure development.

"To us, developing future talent and upskilling contractors are just as important and rewarding as building the LRT," he added.

The CMC1 package covers 23.7km of elevated tracks and 19

stations stretching from Komtar to a depot on Silicon Island (a 930ha reclaimed island off the southern coast of Penang island).

Once completed, the line is expected to provide an alternative to road transport by connecting major residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The project will also feature park-and-ride facilities with a total of 1,800 parking bays.

Spanning 29.67km with 20 stations and two provisional stations, the Mutiara Line – which commenced construction last year – is expected to begin operations in December 2031.

The RM16.8bil Mutiara Line LRT project includes a 6km cross-sea link from Macallum to Penang Sentral in Butterworth.

'Exhumation of graves not linked to commercial development'

By **LOW CO SIN**
cosin.low@thestar.com.my
Photos: **CHAN BOON KAI/The Star**

THE planned exhumation of 814 graves at a cemetery in Jalan Mount Erskine is not linked to any commercial or residential development, says Penang Kwangtung and Tengchow Association.

Dismissing concerns raised on social media over possible redevelopment, its president Datuk Lio Chee Yeong said the land was still being used for cemetery-related purposes.

He said the graves at Lot 10178 of the association's second cemetery were more than 100 years old, with some unattended by descendants for years.

He said it has several thousand graves including the 814 being affected by the project.

"Families can make their own arrangements to exhume the remains of their relatives before Dec 31.

"After the deadline, we will submit an application to the government and carry out the exhumation according to the required procedures," he told *StarMetro* in a phone interview.

Lio said unclaimed remains would be cremated and ashes placed in small urns, which



would be kept in columbariums as per their clan associations where applicable.

The association is an umbrella body of 18 other organisations for the Hakka, Cantonese, Hainanese and Teochew from different areas of Guangdong and Fujian in China.

It put up a signboard at the cemetery and advertised in the newspapers urging families to come forward before the deadline.

After that deadline, no objec-

tions to the exhumation will be entertained, said the association.

"Families are required to submit the original burial certificate, proof of relationship, a copy of the applicant's MyKad or passport and the deceased's death certificate, along with a completed application form."

The notice drew attention after a video highlighting the exercise was shared on social media, and questions were raised about whether cemetery land in Penang might eventually

make way for residential and commercial developments.

Meanwhile, Lio said the association was preparing to start the first phase of its 5.66ha columbarium project at its first cemetery in Jalan Mount Erskine.

Construction of the five-storey building is expected to begin by the end of this year and take between two and two-and-a-half years to complete.

The columbarium will be able to accommodate more than

10,000 niches with 5,000 expected to be offered for sale when construction begins.

Families seeking information can contact the association's crematorium office at No.152, Jalan Mount Erskine or 04-899 0134, funeral parlour container office at 5F, Jalan Mount Erskine or its main office at 50, Lebuhr Penang, call 04-2610 339 or e-mail admin@kwangteng.pg.org

Office hours are from 9am to 5pm on weekdays and 9am to 1pm on Saturday.



Above: A signboard at a cemetery in Jalan Mount Erskine or Penang Street informing descendants of a planned exhumation and the Dec 31 deadline to make arrangements.

Left: The Kwangtung and Tengchow Association will cremate the remains from 814 graves.



Mohd Yazid (wearing coat) with the state's Sukma and Para Sukma 2026 medallists who received their incentives from MBPJ during a ceremony at MBPJ Civic Hall.

By MEGAT SYAHAR

megatsyahr@thestar.com.my

Photos: EZARD FAROUQ/The Star

MBPJ rewards state Sukma 2026 winners

City council allocates RM21,000 in cash incentives for medallists from sports under its adoption programme

WAN Ayden Faiq Wan Azizul Fitri, also known as Ayden BamBam, 12, pulled off every trick in both his runs at the BMX flatland event at Malaysia Games (Sukma) in Selangor.

"He was very happy because he achieved his target of contributing a gold medal for Selangor and also made his parents proud," said his father Wan Azizul Fitri from Batu Caves.

Wan Azizul said his son started riding a BMX bike at four years old and began training seriously since he was seven.

"He trained at Kompleks Rakan Muda Arena in Petaling Jaya and Kompleks Rakan Muda in Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur."

Wan Azizul said the facilities were sufficient as BMX flatland only required a flat surface like a badminton or basketball court, or carpark.

He said the biggest challenge

was making sure every planned trick could be executed.

Wan Ayden is among the medallists who received a cash incentive from Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) which allocated RM21,000 for medallists from the Sukma and Para Sukma 2026 sports it adopted.

Petaling Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Yazid Sairi said each gold medallist received RM300, while silver medallist received RM200 and bronze medallist RM100,

with team-event amounts given per athlete.

"The state government directed that MBPJ be the foster parent of these sports.

"So when they win medals, we give incentives," he told reporters after the MBPJ staff assembly and excellence awards ceremony at MBPJ Civic Hall.

Mohd Yazid said the prizes were separate from the rewards given by Selangor government, and the athletes

were not necessarily from Petaling Jaya.

The MBPJ incentive, Wan Azizul said, would help with training costs and further motivate his son.

Athletes from MBPJ-adopted sports also won medals in cycling and lawn bowling.

The medallists included track cyclist Hareez Naufal Syanizam who won a gold each in the men's team road race, team time trial and scratch race.

The other gold medallists were sisters Nur Airen Sofea Mohd Nor Aszeril (women's BMX flatland) and Nia Nur Aidryana (women's BMX freestyle park) as well as Muhammad Khaidir Idzham (men's BMX freestyle park).

At Para Sukma, Mohamad Yusril Hafiz Mohd Shukri won gold in lawn bowling in the men's B7 singles, and again in the mixed B7 pairs with Mohamad Hafizul.

By FARID WAHAB

faridwahab@thestar.com.my

Photos: EZARD FAROUQ/The Star

KL event promotes inclusivity in sports

FOR wheelchair-bound Daniel Lee, being left out of sports as a child was often portrayed as an act of kindness.

Born with osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease, the 35-year-old recalled teachers telling him not to worry about missing out on activities in school.

"They said I didn't have to join, but I wanted to," said Daniel.

"Society thinks that excluding people like me from sports is doing us a favour, but it's not."

The experience inspired Daniel to make sports more inclusive, leading him to establish 360 All Ability – a social enterprise that promotes a healthy lifestyle through sports among people with disabilities.

The organisation hosted the "Sports for All Fest 2026" in Kuala Lumpur, with Daniel serving as project director.

Held in collaboration with the Malaysian Olympism in Action Society (Moias), the programme gave participants the opportunity to try various sports alongside people with disabilities.

It also featured booths run by social enterprises and non-governmental organisations, as well as live demonstrations that allowed disabled participants to showcase their sporting skills.

Moias president and former



(First row, from fifth left) Daniel and Noraseela with Moias team members at the 'Sports for All Fest 2026' in Kuala Lumpur. (Inset) Members of public getting more information about child development from one of the booths set up during the event.

Olympian Noraseela Khalid said the event aimed to bring people together regardless of ability.

"Sport is not always about getting medals.

"For some, participation itself is an achievement," she said.

"It can also serve as a platform to spread awareness and promote inclusivity in the

community," she added.

Deputy project director Benjamin Lee described the event as a significant achievement, given that it was organised in less than two months.

"We are thankful for the support and reception received.

"We look forward to organising this again next year," he said.



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OLD KLANG Road Bkt Indah, Off OUG d/sty b'glow l/a 4520sf freehold 5r3b good location RM3.4m neg. Call Veron 019-2758224 / 03-77271699 REN10278 E(3)0791

OLD KLANG Road United Garden s/s b'glow la6400sf old b'glow g'd for rebuilding f/h gd loc RM-1.8M neg. Veron 019-275 8224 / 0377271699 REN10278 E(3)0791

PD SEAFRONT bungalows near Glory Beach, land 10k5f, pool, f/f, ID reno. Few units. RMneg. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

SUNWAY KAYANGAN cor 2sty land 3,035sf b/u 4,500sf 4+1r3b. Reno, extd, p/f, non-Bumi. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

APARTMENTS For Sale

MERIDIN TOWER Blok A for sale. 1 unit, 183.3 square meter, fully furnished, tenanted. Call Eddy 012-3634762.

MONT KIARA Pelangi Apollo Tower, 1390sf, refurbished, pool & gym, RM820k. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

USJ MAINPLACE Residence f/f 4r3b, 1444sf, hi floor, Block B, reno Urgent, below mkt RMneg. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

Properties For Sale

SEREMBAN 3 Star boutique hotel PD wedding hall ongoing biz 1500 pax capacity. Serious buyers. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

Offices To Let

MENARA SMI, KL Available floors for rent space of 2,700sf - 4,700sf. Rental rate RM4.20psf (neg). Call 03-2078 1522 / 019-248 2296

Shops For Sale

BUKIT BINTANG 3sty f/h 5500sf tenanted high return near Pavilion, McD, Jln Alor sale RM6.8M 017-3995092 Ren07021E(2)1064

DENGKIL, SEPANG for sale shop lot 2800sf l/a 1400sf RM1.49mil un/f. Call 012-2648320 E(1)1537 PEA 2567

TMN MIDA, Cheras for sale shop 8400sf l/a 2800sf RM4.1M p/turn. Call 012-2648320 E(1)1537 PEA 2567

Factories To Let

SEKSYEN 16, Shah Alam for rent factory 40000sf l/a 65000sf RM99k un/f. Call 012-2648320 E(1)1537 PEA 2567

Land For Sale

AMPANG / BANGSAR dev land, Jln Berembang 68k5f/Jln Kurau 32k5f. Prime high rise. Sale. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

BERJAYA HILLS Resort nr Genting Highlands 24k5f. Corner, hill-top, oversees Golf Course, f/h. Agents welcomed 012-3299733/31

PD SEAFRONT land 4, 10 & 13 acres. Prime seafont, ideal for resorts, hotels & water chalets. Mark 0129115011 REN40203 E(3)0156

SIMPANG DUA, Mukim Sitiawan, Daerah Manjung, Negeri Perak. Rubber land, 1.2469 hectare (3 acres 0 Rood 13.0000 Pole). Contact Mr. Goh 019-2783657



Cars For Sale

DAIHATSU DELTA V58R-HS year 2007. No plate : WQG 1455. Contact : Mr Azhar No: 03-2142 9044 / 03-21424343

Vehicles Wanted

ALL OLD cars wanted. 3-35 yrs all models, van & lorries & also any year's motorcycles. Please call 012-3301689 / 03-67324973 (H/O)



General Notice

NOTICE

URBAN HUB SDN. BHD.
Registration No.
202001019704 (1376024-V)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)
(Members' Voluntary
Winding Up)

NOTICE is hereby given that the member of the above-named Company have resolved by special resolution on 19 October 2026 to wind up the Company voluntarily under Section 439(1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 and Ms. Tan Poh Lian was appointed as liquidator for the said purpose. Any creditor or contributor who has claims against the company are required to send the particulars of their debts and claims to the liquidator at No. 53A, Jalan SS 15/4, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan within 30 days of this notice.

Chairperson
TAN SOR CHOO

Subang Jaya
Dated this: 27 October 2026

LEGAL

Court Notices

Court Notices

Court Notices

Court Notices

Court Notices

Court Notices

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NCC-48-8/2026 (HC 1)
IN THE MATTER of the Companies Act, 2016;
AND
IN THE MATTER of Section 465 (1) (e) 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. 19340100023 (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 Damania, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur with a branch office at Consumer Collections – Legal Operations, Level 2, Tower A, PJ City Development, No. 15A, Jalan 219, 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

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

[Rule 24 of the Companies Act (Winding-Up) Rules, 1972]

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. 19340100023 (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 Damania, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur with a branch office at Consumer Collections – Legal Operations, Level 2, Tower A, PJ City Development, No. 15A, Jalan 219, 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 Nyabur, 96000 Sibu, Sarawak.

Dated this 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.

SIGNED

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).

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
PENGKULUNGAN SYARIKAT NO. BA-28NCC-555-07/2026

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 465(1)(f) & 465(1)(h) Akta Syarikat 2016; DAN
Dalam Perkara HEJIRA TRAVEL & TOURS HOLDING SDN. BHD. (NO. SYARIKAT: 202201041341 (1487038-K)) (Dalam Pengkulan) ANTARA

FARAH HANI BINTI BAHARIN (NO. K/P: 870401-14-5120) ...PEMPETISYEN

HEJIRA TRAVEL & TOURS HOLDING SDN. BHD. (NO. SYARIKAT: 202201041341 (1487038-K)) ...RESPONDEN

IKLAN PETISYEN

NOTIS dengan ini diberikan bahawa suatu Petisyen bagi Pengkulan Syarikat yang dinamakan di atas telah dikemukakan kepada Mahkamah Tinggi oleh Pempetisyen pada 16.07.2026. Dan selanjutnya bahawa Petisyen tersebut telah diarahkan untuk didengar di hadapan Mahkamah yang bersidang di Mahkamah Tinggi Shah Alam pada atau pada jam 9.00 pagi, hari Isnin, 23.11.2026, dan mana-mana pemuitang atau penyumbang (contributory) kepada Syarikat yang berhasrat untuk menyokong atau membantah pengeluaran suatu perintah berhubung Petisyen tersebut boleh hadir pada masa pendengaran tersebut, sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui peguam yang dilantik bagi maksud tersebut; dan sesalinan Petisyen akan dibekalkan kepada mana-mana pemuitang atau penyumbang Syarikat yang menghendakinya, tertakluk kepada pembayaran caj yang ditetapkan bagi pembekalan sesalinan tersebut. Alamat Petisyen ialah No. 70, Jalan 1/2, Seksyen 1, Bandar Rinching, 43500 Semenyih, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Peguamcara Pempetisyen ialah Tetuan Raudah Rais & Associates yang beralamat di No 11-1, Jalan Mutiara Rinching 1, Taman Mutiara Rinching 43500 Semenyih, Selangor.

Ditandatangani oleh:
Tetuan Raudah Rais & Associates
Peguamcara bagi pihak Pempetisyen

NOTA:

Mana-mana pihak yang berhasrat untuk hadir semasa pendengaran Petisyen tersebut hendaklah menyampaikan atau menghantar melalui pos kepada Pempetisyen, atau kepada peguamcaranya yang dinamakan di atas, suatu notis bertulis mengenai hasratnya untuk berbuat demikian. Notis tersebut hendaklah menyatakan nama dan alamat pihak berkenaan atau, jika pihak tersebut ialah sebuah firma, nama dan alamat firma tersebut, serta hendaklah ditandatangani oleh pihak berkenaan atau firma tersebut, atau oleh peguamcara pihak berkenaan, jika ada. Notis tersebut hendaklah disampaikan atau, jika dihantar melalui pos, hendaklah diposkan dalam tempoh yang mencukupi supaya sampai ke alamat yang dinyatakan di atas selewat-lewatnya pada jam 12.00 tengah hari, 22.11.2026.

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KLANG
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
WRIT NO : BL-A72M-279-09/2026
ANTARA
MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD
(No. Syarikat: 200701029411/787435-M) ...PLAINTIF

DAN
1. MOHD NOOR FAIDHI BIN OTHMAN
(NO. K/P : 880208-11-5041)
[Berniaga dibawah nama FA USED CLOTHING GLOBAL]
(No. Pendaftaran Syarikat : 201803327896/MA0237462-H)
2. NURLIYANA ADIBAH BINTI ROKAID
(NO. K/P : 900924-03-5304)
[Berniaga dibawah nama FA Used Clothing Global]
(No. Pendaftaran Syarikat : 201803327896/MA0237462-H) ...DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI

Kepada :-

1. MOHD NOOR FAIDHI BIN OTHMAN
(Berniaga dibawah nama FA USED CLOTHING GLOBAL)
Unit B-17, Pusat Pengangkutan LSM,
42500 Sijangkang,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Dan/atau
MOHD NOOR FAIDHI BIN OTHMAN
(Berniaga dibawah nama FA USED CLOTHING GLOBAL)
Lot 744, Jalan Batu Tumbuh,
Kg. Alor Lintang,
22200 Kampung Raja,
Terengganu Darul Iman.

2. NURLIYANA ADIBAH BINTI ROKAID
(Berniaga dibawah nama FA USED CLOTHING GLOBAL)
Unit B-17, Pusat Pengangkutan LSM,
42500 Sijangkang,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Dan/atau
NURLIYANA ADIBAH BINTI ROKAID
(Berniaga dibawah nama FA USED CLOTHING GLOBAL)
Kampung Selsing,
Belakang Masjid,
16810 Pasir Puteh,
Kelantan Darul Naim.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan Mahkamah telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret Klang oleh MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD beralamat di Bangunan Maybank, Remedial & Recovery Centre, AQM, Level 3, No. 11, Jalan 51A/222, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan bahawa Mahkamah telah memberi Perintah bahawa penyampaian Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan kepada kamu dalam tindakan tersebut hendaklah dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini dan secara penampalan di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret di Klang serta di alamat-alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui seperti diatas dan bahawa penampalan dan pengiklanan ini hendaklah menjadi penyampaian yang sempurna dan memadai setelah tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh terakhir penampalan dan pengiklanan yang dibuat. Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah hadir sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui Peguambela kamu dihadapan Mahkamah Majistret Klang di Kompleks Mahkamah Klang pada 26 November 2026 pada pukul 9.00 pagi. Jika kamu ingkar hadir sedemikian Penghakiman boleh diberikan kepada kamu. Bertarikh pada 19 Oktober 2026

Penolong Pendaftar
Mahkamah Majistret
Klang

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Seoh Teoh Wong & Dennis, Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang beralamat di Level 16, Menara Aras aya, No. 11, Jalan Raja Laut, 50350 Kuala Lumpur. Tel : 03-26923000 Faks : 03-26930300 Email : rain@stwd.com.my / farahdiana@stwd.com.my [RUJ KAMI : 22639527 [MBB-(AQM)/RY/FDA] zuri]

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
(BAHAGIAN KELUARGA)
PETISYEN PERCERAIAN BERSAMA NO.: BA-33JP-356-04/2018

Dalam Perkara Mengenai Seksyen-Seksyen 52, 88 & 93 Akta Membaharu Undang Undang (Perkahwinan dan Perceraian) 1976 (Akta 164). DAN
Dalam Perkara Mengenai Kaedah-Kaedah Prosiding Perceraian dan Hal-Ehwal Perkahwinan 1980. ANTARA

CHAN LAI MUN (P) (No. K/P: 931025-10-5390) ...PEMPETISYEN ISTERI

LEE VUN SHU (L) (No. K/P: 900044-12-5621) ...PEMPETISYEN SUAMI

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada: **LEE VUN SHU**
Kampung Cina, 89808 Beaufort, Sabah.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Notis Permohonan termeretai bertarikh 12.08.2026, Affidavit Sokongan bertarikh 11.08.2026, Affidavit Sokongan (2) bertarikh 11.08.2026 ("Kertas-Kertas Kausa tersebut") telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu sebagai Pempetisyen Suami di dalam Mahkamah Tinggi di Shah Alam dalam Petisyen Perceraian Bersama No.: BA-33JP-356-04/2018 oleh Chan Lai Mun, Pempetisyen Isteri yang dinamakan di atas dan bahawa Mahkamah telah memerintahkan supaya Kertas-Kertas Kausa tersebut perlu diiklankan dan penyampaian tersebut dianggap sebagai cukup memadai dan sah ke atas diri kamu.

AMBIL PERHATIAN juga tindakan ini telah ditetapkan untuk pendengaran secara e-review pada 16 November 2026 (Isnin), jam 9.00 pagi di depan Timbalan Pendaftar, Puan Nadia Binti Othman ("Pendengaran tersebut"). Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membantah Kertas-Kertas Kausa tersebut, kamu mestilah menghadirkan sendiri di Pendengaran tersebut. Jika kamu ingkar berbuat demikian Pendengaran akan dijalankan dan penghakiman/perintah boleh diberikan terhadap atau berhubung dengan kamu sebagaimana yang difikir patut dan suaimanfaat oleh Mahkamah.

Bertarikh pada 23 Oktober 2026.

Penolong Pendaftar
Mahkamah Majistret
Kuala Lumpur

Notis Penyampaian Ganti Bentuk Iklan ini telah difailkan oleh Peguamcara Pempetisyen Isteri Tetuan Kuek, Ong & Associates, Peguambela & Peguamcara yang beralamat di No. 86-1, Jalan Mahogani 1, Bandar Botanik, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel:03-3324 1868 Faks:03-3324 2268 [No. Ruj: LIT/C/827/26/W]

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
WRIT NO: BA-A52NCC-277-08/2026
ANTARA
LEMBAGA KUMPULAN WANG SIMPANAN PEKERJA ...PLAINTIF

DAN
1. BIG CHAPTER SDN. BHD. [202101006875 (1407174-V)]
2. WONG THONG YEE ...DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN
[NO. K/P: 921201-04-5456]

NOTIS PENGIKLANAN

Kepada:-

2. WONG THONG YEE
V3-02-06, SUBANG PERDANA COURT 9
47610 SUBANG JAYA
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan telah dikemukakan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam oleh LEMBAGA KUMPULAN WANG SIMPANAN PEKERJA yang beralamat di Seksyen Pendakwaan & Litigasi, Tingkat 4, Menara KWSP, No. 1, Persiaran Kwasa Utama, Kwasa Damansara, Seksyen U4, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 28 Ogos 2026 disampaikan kepada kamu dengan cara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut dengan sesalinan Perintah Mahkamah di Papan Kenyataan Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam dan di alamat-alamat terakhir kamu yang diketahui seperti di atas dan dengan mengiklankan satu notis dalam satu isu akhbar harian tempatan iaitu "The Star" dan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut dianggap telah disampaikan dengan sempurna dan lengkap kepada kamu tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh terakhir penyampaian. Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah samada secara kediri atau melalui peguambela kamu dikehendaki memasukkan dan/atau memfailkan memorandum kehadiran di Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh penampalan dan/atau pengiklanan dan menyerahkan sesalinan Memorandum Kehadiran tersebut kepada kami. Jika kamu ingkar hadir sedemikian, Penghakiman Ingkar Kehadiran boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa kes diatas telah ditetapkan untuk Pengurusan Kes pada 29 Oktober 2026 pada pukul 9.00 pagi bertempat di Mahkamah Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Persiaran Pegawai, Seksyen 5, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor, secara Fizikal. WRIT SAMAN DAN PERNYATAAN TUNTUTAN ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan kamu di Mahkamah ini. Bertarikh pada 27 Oktober 2026

l.t.

Tetuan Shukor Baljit & Partners
Peguambela & Peguamcara bagi
Pihak Lembaga Kumpulan Wang
Simpunan Pekerja (KWSP).

NOTIS PENGIKLANAN ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Shukor Baljit & Partners Peguamcara bagi Plaintiff, yang beralamat Penyampaian di No.14-2, Wisma Shukor Baljit, Jalan 13/48A, Sentul Raya Boulevard, Off Jalan Sentul, 51000 Kuala Lumpur. [Tel: 03-4045 6366 Faks: 03-4045 6355] [Ruj. Kami: LIT/KWSP/95604/26-PCG] [Ruj. KWSP: 9/4/2-0395-01 (L)/PCG/2026/0091] [E-mel: general@shukorbaljit.com]

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KUALA LUMPUR
DALAM WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN SIVIL NO. WA-A72NCC-3268-08/2026
ANTARA
TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD ...PLAINTIF

(NO. SYARIKAT: 199001009294 (200866-WJ)) DAN

DHANABALAN A/L CHANDRA SEKHAVEN ...DEFENDAN
(NO. K/P: 760425-08-5161)

NOTIS

Kepada :-

DHANABALAN A/L CHANDRA SEKHAVEN
TINGKAT 13A-3A 25 CASA PRIMA
JALAN METRO 2,
METRO PRIMA KEPONG
52100 KUALA LUMPUR
WP KUALA LUMPUR

DAN/ATAU DI

DHANABALAN A/L CHANDRA SEKHAVEN
NO. 38 JALAN 4/4
BANDAR BARU SELAYANG FASA 2
68100 BATU CAVES
SELANGOR

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan kedua-duanya bertarikh 10 Ogos 2026 telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret di Kuala Lumpur oleh Plaintiff dalam tindakan tersebut di atas dan Mahkamah ini telah perintahkan bahawa Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut disampaikan ke atas kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan bermeterai Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut bersama dengan satu salinan bermeterai Perintah penyampaian ganti bertarikh 30 September 2026 di Pemis Defendan di Tingkat 13A-3A 25 Casa Prima, Jalan Metro 2, Metro Prima, Kepong, 52100 Kuala Lumpur, WP Kuala Lumpur dan/atau di No. 38 Jalan 4/4, Bandar Baru Selayang Fasa 2, 68100 Batu Caves, Selangor dan dengan menampalkan setiap salinan dokumen-dokumen tersebut di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret di Kuala Lumpur dan dengan mengiklankan satu Notis sekali di dalam suatu akhbar tempatan "The Star" dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup terhadap kamu, tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh akhir penampalan dan/atau pengiklanan ini.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa kamu dikehendaki memasukkan kehadiran di Pejabat Pendaftaran Mahkamah, sekiranya kamu gagal memasukkan kehadiran kamu di Mahkamah, maka penghakiman ingkar kehadiran akan dimasukkan ke atas kamu.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa Writ tersebut telah ditetapkan untuk Pengurusan Kes secara e-Review pada 29 Oktober 2026 jam 9.00 pagi. Writ tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 30 September 2026

l.t.

Penolong Pendaftar
Mahkamah Majistret
Kuala Lumpur

NOTIS ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Othman Hashim & Co., peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang dinamakan di atas yang beralamat di Tingkat 6, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 Bt 3 1/2, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah (Jalan Ipoh), 51200 Kuala Lumpur. [Tel No: 03-62573399 & Faks No: 03-62573393] [Ruj Kami: LT/TNB(IH)-0675/OHC/ZKL/2026(KUPM)/AA(ima)]

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MENARA STAR (HQ)

Lot 15, Jalan 16/11, Phileo Damansara 2,
46350 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Tel: 03-7966 8388

PENANG

No. 15, Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling,
10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

Tel: 04-269 8000

IPOH

Menara Majestic, A-G-6, Jalan C.M. Yusuff,
30250 Ipoh, Perak.

Tel: 05-253 9269, 05-253 0402

Fax: 05-253 9669

SEREMBAN

No. 41, 1st Floor, Jalan Yam Tuan
70000 Seremban, N. Sembilan.

Tel: 06-762 6984, 06-761 2992

Fax: 06-761 2577

JOHOR BARU

65 & 65A, Jalan Maju,
Taman Maju Jaya,
80400 Johor Bahru.

Tel: 07-331 5666

Fax: 07-333 2435

KUCHING

1st Floor, Sublot 7, Song Plaza,
Jln Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching

Tel: 082-457 888

Fax: 082-459 457

Booking Deadlines:

* Before 11am for publication on Tues - Sat

* Before 2.30pm on Friday for publication on Sun & Mon

BOOK YOUR AD
... IT'S SO EASY

LINER ADS

Via
PHONE



- 1 Prepare the text of your advertisement before calling 03-7966 8200.
- 2 Read your advertisement text to the Tele Ad rep who attends to you.
- 3 When the Tele Ad rep reads back the text to you, please listen carefully to confirm that the words are correct.
- 4 You will then be given an Advertisement Reference Number and the cost of the advertisement.
- 5 Payment can be made at our walk-in counters or via Public Bank. At the bank, use the pre-printed bank-in slips with Star Media Group Berhad (Account no: 3999201928) as payee.

Via
ONLINE



- 1 Go to <http://starsearch.thestar.com.my>
- 2 Login if you are a registered user. New users have to register.
- 3 Choose an ad category.
- 4 Book your ad.
- 5 Select a publication date.
- 6 Submit payment.

BUY 3 days FREE 1 DAY



PROPERTIES



AUTO



EDUCATION



HOME SERVICES



BUSINESS



GENERAL

**Minimum
4 lines**
From **RM26/day**

myStarjob.com

Minimum 4 lines
From **RM40/day**

Make your ad STAND OUT with these options

PUCHONG TAMAN Kinrara TK3
2sty, low density 18x65 3r2b fireno
wt 2s front & back extd RM415k
012-252 XXXX / 9200 XXXX
E30555

HONDA ACCORD 2.0 (M) '93, met
silver, 1 owner, acc free, well
maintained, clean interior,
RM10,800 neg. 012-202 XXXX

Highlight it

Grab attention with colour background

HOT!

FORD RANGER Hurricane 2.5 (A)
'05, 1 owner canopy accident free
well maintain RM-42,800 loan 95%
Price neg. Call Michael 928 XXXX /
019-229 XXXX

WOW!

HONDA ACCORD 2.0 (M) '93, met
silver, 1 owner, acc free, well
maintained, clean interior,
RM10,800 neg. 012-202 XXXX

Flag it

Use an icon for impact (For colour upgrades only)

BEST BUY!

BMW Z4 3.0 S-Drive (A) '09,
(unreg) Convertible, mega spec/
ivory white/ Nappa leather, 2.3%
Tel: 012-280 XXXX. (www.abcd-
fghijk.com.my)

CHEAP SALE!

CHEVROLET AVEO 1.5 (A) '04 1
lady owner, met blue, low km acc
free, clean interior, 4new tyres,
RM18k ono. 012-208 XXXX

Hot Deal!

FORD RANGER Hurricane 2.5 (A)
'05, 1 owner canopy accident free
well maintain RM-42,800 loan 95%
Price neg. Call Michael 928 XXXX /
019-229 XXXX

Best Price!

HONDA ACCORD 2.0 (M) '93, met
silver, 1 owner, acc free, well
maintained, clean interior,
RM10,800 neg. 012-202 XXXX

Shout it

Let your ad scream with a header

SPACE REALTY
www.spacerealty.com.my

KOTA DAMANSARA Sec9 two sty
b/glow land 14700sf b/up 7200sf
7rms 8b with pool. Lh Bumi lot
Murphy 012-209 XXXX, 7722
XXXX E(1)1XXXX

MUTIARA DAMANSARA 1+5c
26x90, superlink, beautiful,
practical reno & layout. 100%
move-in cond. LG 012-311 XXXX /
7728 XXXX E1XXXX

FORD RANGER Hurricane 2.5 (A)
'05, 1 owner canopy accident free
well maintain RM-42,800 loan 95%
Price neg. Call Michael 928 XXXX /
019-229 XXXX

Show it

Illustrate your ad with logo / picture

All rates are subject to 8% Service Tax. Terms & Conditions apply.

(HQ: 03 7966 8200) (Bureaus: 04 269 8000)

✉ advq@thestar.com.my

✉ pg_csu@thestar.com.my

⌐ <http://starsearch.thestar.com.my>

Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.15pm
(except public holidays)

LEGAL

Court Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI PETALING JAYA
DI DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN SIVIL NO.: BB-A72-54-07/2026

ANTARA

TOOLS HAUS SDN BHD
(No. Syarikat: 201701017286 / 1231451-K) ..PLAINTIF

DAN

WEE BOON CHEN
(No. K/P : 800222-04-5227)
berniaga di bawah nama dan gaya
"RESTORAN NCMY BISTRO"
(No. Pendaftaran: 202403292144/
LA0073289-V) ..DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN PENYAMPAIAN GANTI

Kepada:

WEE BOON CHEN
No. 10, Jalan Putra Perdana 6/23,
Taman Putra Perdana, 47130 Puchong, 47170 Puchong,
Selangor

WEE BOON CHEN
G-13, Centroz One Puchong Business Park,
Jalan OP 1/3, Bandar Puchong Jaya,
47170 Puchong,
Selangor

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan
bertarikh 01.07.2026 telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah
Majistret Petaling Jaya oleh Tools Haus Sdn. Bhd., dan Mahkamah ini
telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan
bertarikh 01.07.2026 tersebut hendaklah disampaikan melalui
penyampaian ganti kepada kamu dengan menampalkan satu salinan
Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut bersama dengan
salinan Perintah bertarikh 24.09.2026 untuk penyampaian ganti di atas
Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret di Petaling Jaya, mengesep salinan
suratcara-suratcara tersebut secara Pos Berdaftar ke alamat terakhir
yang diketahui bagi kamu yang beralamat di No. 10, Jalan Putra
Perdana 6/23, Taman Putra Perdana, 47130 Puchong, Selangor
dan/atau G-13, Centroz One Puchong Business Park, Jalan OP 1/3,
Bandar Puchong Jaya, 47170 Puchong, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan
mengiklankan Notis dalam satu keluaran akhbar harian The Star dan
bahawa penyampaian secara penampalan, pengesapan dan
pengiklanan adalah dianggap penyampaian yang sempurna dan
cukup akan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut ke atas
kamu atas penamatan empat belas (14) hari selepas tarikh terakhir
penampalan, pengesapan dan pengiklanan itu.

Bertarikh pada 30 September 2026

.....t.t.....
Penolong Pendaftar
Mahkamah Majistret
Petalang Jaya

NOTIS ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Khalif Isaac Lee, peguamcara bagi
pihak Plaintiff yang alamat untuk penyampalannya adalah di No. 5-1,
Jalan Ramin 1, Bandar Botanic, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
[No. Tel: 03-3519 8800]
[No. Ru]: KIL(KLG).2686.L(GL).THSB(KH)]

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH
DALAM NEGERI PERAK DARUL RIDZUAN
DALAM KEBANKRAPAN NO: AA-29NCC-574-09/2026

PER:

CHENG CHEW KHEONG
(No. K/P: 740320-08-6661) PENGHUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

EX-PARTE:

TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD
(NO SYARIKAT: 199001009294 /200866-W) PEMIUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

NOTIS

(Dalam perkara mengenai Notis Kebankrapan yang difailkan
pada 7 September 2026)

KEPADA :

CHENG CHEW KHEONG
NO. 136, PERSIARAN PEGOH AMAN 2,
TAMAN DESA AMAN, 31500 LAHAT, PERAK

DAN/ATAU DI ALAMAT:

NO. LK2-1-09, JALAN LAMAN KOMERSIL ARECA,
PUTRA NILAI, 71800 NILAI,
NEGERI SEMBILAN

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Notis Kebankrapan telah dikeluarkan
terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh TENAGA NASIONAL
BERHAD yang beribu pejabat di No 129, Jalan Bangsar, 50732 Kuala
Lumpur dan pejabat cawangannya di Nilai, Negeri Sembilan.
Mahkamah ini telah memerintahkan bahawa Notis Kebankrapan
tersebut disampaikan ke atas kamu dengan menampalkan salinan-
salinannya bersama satu salinan Perintah untuk Penyampaian Ganti di
alamat terakhir kamu seperti di atas dan di papan Kenyataan
Mahkamah Tinggi Ipoh, Perak dan dengan mengiklankan suatu Notis
di dalam akhbar tempatan "The Star" dan penampalan dan
pengiklanan ini hendaklah dianggap sempurna dan mencukupi akan
Notis Kebankrapan ke atas kamu selepas tamat tempoh empat belas
(14) hari dari tarikh akhir penampalan atau pengiklanan Notis
Kebankrapan.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membantah Notis Kebankrapan kamu
mestilah dalam tempoh tujuh (7) hari dari tarikh penyampaian ini
menjadi sempurna dan mencukupi memohon kepada Mahkamah
supaya mengeneikan Notis Kebankrapan ini dengan memfailkan
dengan Pendaftar satu Affidavit atau Saman Dalam Kamar yang
disokong oleh Affidavit bagi maksud di atas itu.

JIKA KAMU INKGAR, satu Petisyen Kebankrapan akan diambil
terhadap kamu.

Notis Kebankrapan tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu dengan
memohon kepada Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 14 Oktober 2026

.....t.t.....
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia
Ipo

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Prithi, Junainah & Associates.,
Peguambela & Peguamcara yang beralamat di No. 12, Medan Istana 7,
Bandar Ipoh Raya, 30000 Ipoh, Perak; Peguamcara bagi pihak Pemiutang
Penghakiman yang dinamakan di atas. (No Ru:Pj/C276/24/TNB-BN)-f

Proclamation

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

In exercise of the rights and powers conferred upon Alliance Bank Malaysia Berhad/Alliance Islamic Bank Berhad, the Assignee/Bank
by the Assignor(s)/Borrower(s), it is hereby proclaimed that the Assignee with the assistance of the undermentioned Auctioneer
WILL SELL THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED BELOW BY
PUBLIC AUCTION
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026 AT 10.30 A.M. AT
EBID.AUCTIONS.COM.MY

Prospective bidders may submit bids for the property online via ebid.auctions.com.my (For online bidding, please register at least one (1) working day before the
auction day for registration & verification purposes) ONLINE BIDDERS ARE FURTHER SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON ebid.auctions.com.my

1 Reserve Price RM486,000	Kuala Lumpur	2 Reserve Price RM329,000	Petalang Jaya
Unit No. A-21-05, Residensi Vivo, 9 Seputeh, No. 20, Jalan Telok Datok, Off Jalan Kelang Lama, 58000 Kuala Lumpur. Description : Service apartment (approx 786 sq feet) Assignor(s) : LIM PEH WUN Solicitor : M/S Goh Rafidah Tan Our Ref: PAH42148(2)		No. E1-33A-3, Edelweiss SOFO, Tropicana Gardens, No. 2A, Persiaran Surian, Tropicana Indah, 47810 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. (Bumi Lot) Description : SOFO (approx 452 sq feet) Assignor(s) : ROSMANIZAM BIN YAHYA Solicitor : M/S Azhar & Wong Our Ref: PAH41976(4)	
3 Reserve Price RM702,000	Putrajaya	4 Reserve Price RM414,000	Kuala Lumpur
Unit No. GC1-26-02, Gems Residences, Lebuhr IRC IOI Resort City, 62502 Putrajaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Description : Condominium (aprx 1,410 sq ft) Assignor(s) : Muhammad Aiman Loh Bin Abdullah Solicitor : M/S Goh Rafidah Tan Note : Alliance Islamic Bank Berhad Our Ref: PAH42202(2)		No. B-16-05, Tower B, EdgeWood (Residensi SkySanctuary 1), Jalan Santuari 1, Setapak, 53300 Kuala Lumpur. (Bumi Lot) Description : 3 bedroom condominium (aprx 861 sq ft) Assignor(s) : Muhammad Amiruddin Bin Abu Bakar & Nurul Naeila Anis Binti Mohd Zahari Solicitor : M/S TK Ooi & Nadira Note : Alliance Islamic Bank Berhad Our Ref: PAH42140(2)	

RESERVE PRICE: The subject properties will be sold on an "as is where is basis" and subject to the reserve price as mentioned above
(exclusive of Goods and Services Tax, which, if payable, shall be borne and paid by the Purchaser at the prevailing rate) and the Conditions
of Sale and subject to the consent (if applicable) being obtained by the purchaser from the Developer/Proprietor and other relevant authorities. All
intending bidders are required to deposit 10% of the fixed reserve price ("initial deposit") prior to the auction sale. The balance of the purchase price
is to be paid to ALLIANCE BANK MALAYSIA BERHAD/ALLIANCE ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD within ninety (90) days from the date of auction
sale. Online bidders are further subject to the Terms and Conditions on ebid.auctions.com.my
PROPERTY AUCTION HOUSE SDN BHD (187793X)
Ground Floor, No.1, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur (Tel: 03-20702226 Web: www.auctions.com.my)

TARIKH PENDENGARAN: 11.11.2026

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI DI JOHOR BAHRU
DALAM NEGERI JOHOR DARUL TAKZIM, MALAYSIA
PENGGULUNGAN SYARIKAT NO. JA-28NCC-201-09/2026

Dalam perkara Seksyen 465 (1) (e) dan
Seksyen 466 Akta Syarikat, 2016
Dan
Dalam Perkara Kaedah-Kaedah
(Penggulungan) Syarikat 1972
Dan
Dalam perkara BINA MEKAR SDN BHD
(No. Syarikat: 199401042504(328192-A))
ANTARA

MBSB BANK BERHAD
[NO. SYARIKAT: 200501033981(716122-P)] ...PEMPETISYEN
DAN

BINA MEKAR SDN BHD
[NO. SYARIKAT: 199401042504(328192-A)] ...RESPONDEN

IKLAN PETISYEN

NOTIS dengan ini adalah diberikan bahawa Petisyen untuk
menggunakan Syarikat tersebut di Mahkamah Tinggi Johor Bahru
telah pada 15 September 2026 diperserahkan di Mahkamah oleh
MBSB BANK BERHAD (NO. SYARIKAT: 716122-P) dan Petisyen
tersebut diarahkan untuk didengar oleh Mahkamah Tinggi Johor Bahru
yang bersidang di Johor Bahru pada 11 November 2026 pada pukul
9.00 pagi dan mana-mana Pemiutang atau Penyokong Syarikat
tersebut yang ingin menyokong atau membantah Perintah di dalam
Petisyen itu bolehlah hadir pada waktu perbicaraan dengan sendirinya
atau melalui Peguamnya bagi maksud itu dan sesalinan Petisyen akan
diberikan pada mana-mana Pemiutang ataupun Penyokong Syarikat
tersebut berkehendakkan yang sama oleh bertandatangan di bawah
untuk pembayaran caj teratur untuk yang sama.

Alamat Pempetisyen ialah di Tingkat 7, Menara MBSB Bank, PJ
Sentral, Lot 12, Persiaran Barat, Seksyen 52, 46200 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Peguamcara Pempetisyen ialah Tetuan Wan Shahrizal, Hari & Co dan
beralamat di 30-1, Jalan Galloway, Bukit Bintang, 50150 Kuala
Lumpur.

TT

Tetuan Wan Shahrizal, Hari & Co
Peguamcara bagi pihak Pempetisyen

Nota :-

Sesiapa yang ingin hadir pada hari Pendengaran Petisyen mestilah
menyerahkan pada ataupun melalui pos kepada Tetuan Wan
Shahrizal, Hari & Co secara bertulis niatnya untuk berbuat begitu.
Notis tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat orang tersebut
atau Peguamcaranya (jika ada) dan mestilah diserahkan, ataupun jika
diposkan dalam masa munasabah untuk sampai yang dinamakan di atas
tidak lewat dari pukul 12:00 tengahari pada 10 November 2026.

IKLAN PETISYEN ini telah difailkan oleh Tetuan Wan Shahrizal, Hari &
Co, Peguamcara bagi pihak Pempetisyen yang beralamat di 30-1,
Jalan Galloway, Bukit Bintang, 50150 Kuala Lumpur. No. Tel: 03-
21101124 Emel: kloffice@wshlaw.my
[Ruj Kami : WSHKL/PNL/2026/1-15/BMSB(WUP)(AS)]

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUANTAN
DALAM NEGERI PAHANG DARUL MAKHMUR, MALAYSIA
PERLAKSANAAN NO: CA-37J-3-04/2026

ANTARA

LIM KECK ENG
(No. K/P: 540404-04-5369) ...PEMIUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

DAN

LIM AUN SOON
(No. K/P: 530709-08-5725) ...PENGHUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

BENTUK IKLAN

LIM AUN SOON
No.29, Lebu Chateau,
Taman Chateau,
30250 IPOH, PERAK

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap
kamu dalam Mahkamah dalam Saman Penghutang Penghakiman NO.
CA-37J-3-04/2026 oleh Lim Keck Eng yang beralamat di No.330,
Jalan Senyum Matahari C, Country Heights, 43000 Kajang Selangor yang
ditetapkan untuk pendengaran pada 19 November 2026 dalam mana
tuntutan Pemiutang Penghakiman adalah berdasarkan
Penghakiman dan Perintah-Perintah berikut:-

- Di dalam Penghakiman Mahkamah Tinggi Kuantan bertarikh 29
September 2022 di dalam Guaman Sivil No.22NCVC-80-11/2014
digabungkan dengan bersama Guaman Sivil No.22NCVC-35-06/2014
untuk kos RM 500,000.00 beserta dengan faedah pada kadar 5%
setahun dari 29/09/2022 sehingga kepenyelesaian penuh dan
perakuan alokator RM20,000.00 dan berikutnya dengan
Penghakiman itu jumlah sebanyak RM607,534.25 masih lagi
terhutang setakat 03/03/2026 dengan faedah berterusan sebanyak
RM68.49 sehari mulai dari 31/03/2026 sehingga kepenyelesaian
penuh.
- Di dalam Perintah Mahkamah Rayuan bertarikh 2 Julai 2025 di dalam
Rayuan Sivil No. C-02(NCVC)(W)-1990-10/2022 untuk kos sebanyak
RM50,000.00 dan perakuan alokator RM 2,000.00 dan berikutnya
dengan perintah itu jumlah sebanyak RM52,000.00 masih lagi
terhutang setakat 03/04/2026.
- Di dalam Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Kuantan bertarikh 10/01/2023 di
dalam Guaman Sivil No.22NCVC-80-11/2014 digabungkan dengan
bersama Guaman Sivil No.22NCVC-35-06/2014 untuk kos RM 7,000.00
dan perakuan alokator RM280.00 dan berikutnya dengan perintah itu
jumlah sebanyak RM 7,280.00 masih lagi terhutang setakat
03/04/2026.

Dan bahawa telah diperintahkan bahawa penyampaian Saman
Penghutang Penghakiman itu dalam tindakan tersebut kepada kamu
kena dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini. Jika ingkar apa-apa kehadiran
yang demikian maka penghakiman boleh dibuat terhadap kamu.
Bertarikh pada 13 haribulan Oktober 2026

.....t.t.....
PEGUAMCARA BAGI
PEMIUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

BENTUK IKLAN ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Jacob Goldie S.S.Chew,
Peguamcara pihak Pemiutang Penghakiman yang bera lamat di B48,
Tingkat 1, Lorong Tun Ismail 8, Sri Dagangan II, 25000, Kuantan,
Pahang Darul Makmur. [Ruj. Kami: JG/L14653/14/JY].

Proclamation

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN MAHKAMAH
TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH AE NO: AA-38-2468-08/2026

LEMBAGA PEMBIAYAAN PERUMAHAN SEKTOR AWAM

... PLAINTIF

KETUA PENGARAH INSOLVENS PENTADBIR ASET SI BANKRAP
MUHAMMAD A'FIF ZUHDI BIN KHIRUDDIN
[NO. K/P: 680923-26-5575] ...DEFENDAN

Lelongan Awam pada Hari Isnin, 18hb Januari 2027,
jam 11.00 pagi, melalui sistem e-Lelong di laman web:
<https://eelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian
Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua
tanggungan,bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah
tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

HARTANAH: Sebuah rumah teres satu tingkat - lot tepi - yang
beralamat di No. 15, Jalan Taman Saujana Indah 3, Taman Saujana
Indah, 35400 Tapah Road, Perak Darul Ridzuan di bawah Pegangan
Hakmilik Sementara No. H.S.(D) 25440, No. PT 9354, Mukim Batang
Hadang, Daerah Balang Padang, Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan dan
Taraf Pegangan Pajakkan 99 tahun dan berakhir pada 16 Disember
2117.

KELUASAH HARTANAH: 161.00 m.p. Syarat Nyata: Kediaman
- Rumah Teres Sekatan Kepentingan: Tanah ini hanya boleh
dipindahmilik, dipajak, digadai atau dicagar dengan kebenaran bertulis
oleh Pihak Berkuasa Negeri Pemilik: Muhammad A'fif Zuhdi Bin
Khiruddin Bebanan digadai kepada Lembaga Pembiayaan Perumahan
Sektor Awam.

HARGA RIZAB: RM 210,600.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Dua Ratus,
Sepuluh Ribu Enam Ratus Sahaja).

Penawar yang berminat dikehendaki mendeposit 10% daripada
harga Rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft diatas nama "LEMBAGA
PEMBIAYAAN PERUMAHAN SEKTOR AWAM" tempoh satu (1)
hari bekerja sebelum tarikh lelongan kepada Pusat Operasi e-Lelong
Kompleks Mahkamah Kuantan.

Untuk Maklumat dan selanjutnya sila pohon kepada:-
PEGUAM: Tetuan Mad Diah Faizal Ima Shafini, Ipoh
(Tel:05-5250001/2) Rujukan: LPPSA/3/2025(NOAJsh)

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR
DALAM WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN, MALAYSIA
(BAHAGIAN DAGANG)
PENGULUNGAN SYARIKAT NO: WA-28NCC-1105-10/2026

Dalam perkara Seksyen 464(1)(b),
Seksyen 465(1)(e) dan Seksyen 466
(1)(a) Akia Syarikat, 2016
Dan
Dalam perkara KENARI HARAPAN
SDN BHD
(No. Syarikat: 200101023245)
(559003-T)
ANTARA

TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD
(No. Syarikat: 199001009294) ...PEMPETISYEN

DAN

KENARI HARAPAN SDN BHD
(No. Syarikat: 200101023245) (559003-T) ...RESPONDEN

NOTIS PENGIKLANAN PETISYEN

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Petisyen Penggulangan Syarikat
terhadap KENARI HARAPAN SDN BHD (No. Syarikat: 200101023245)
(559003-T) telah dikeluarkan oleh Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di Kuala
Lumpur pada 12 Oktober, 2026 atas permohonan TENAGA NASIONAL
BERHAD (No. Syarikat:199001009294), Jabatan Setiausaha Syarikat,
Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Aras 16, Tower A, TNB Platinum, No. 3,
Jalan Bukit Pantai, 59100 Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur dan Jabatan
Undang-Undang Kumpulan, di Aras 4, Tower A, TNB Platinum, No. 3,
Jalan Bukit Pantai, 59100 Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur dan Petisyen
tersebut telah ditetapkan untuk pendengaran di hadapan Hakim,
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di Kuala Lumpur pada 15 Disember, 2026
pada jam 9.00 pagi, mana-manaPemiutang atau Penyumbang kepada
Syarikat tersebut yang berhasrat untuk menyokong atau membantah
kepada permohonan untuk suatu Perintah Petisyen Penggulangan
Syarikat tersebut boleh hadir semasa pendengaran Petisyen tersebut
sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui Peguamcara untuk tujuan itu
dan sesalinan Petisyen Penggulangan Syarikat tersebut akan dibekal-
kan kepada mana-mana Pemiutang atau Penyumbang Syarikat
tersebut bolehlah diperiksa atas permohonan di Mahkamah Tinggi
Malaysia di Kuala Lumpur.

Alamat Pempetisyen adalah di Jabatan Setiausaha Syarikat, Tenaga
Nasional Berhad, Aras 16, Tower A, TNB Platinum, No. 3, Jalan Bukit
Pantai, 59100 Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur dan di Jabatan Undang-Undang
Kumpulan di Aras 4, Tower A, TNB Platinum, No. 3, Jalan Bukit Pantai,
59100 Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur dan Peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen
adalah Tetuan Alvin John & Partners, yang beralamat di No. 210, Blok E,
Phileo Damansara 1, No. 9, Jalan 16/11, 46350 Petaling Jaya,
Negeri Selangor Darul Ehsan.

tt: AJP
Tetuan Alvin John & Partners
Peguamcara Pempetisyen

PERHATIAN: Jika sesiapa yang ingin hadir pada tarikh pendengaran
Petisyen Penggulangan tersebut hendaklah menyampalkan secara
kudri atau menghantar melalui pos kepada Tetuan Alvin John &
Partners, yang beralamat di No. 210, Blok E, Phileo Damansara 1, No.
9, Jalan 16/11, 46350 Petaling Jaya, Negeri Selangor Darul Ehsan,
Peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen yang dinamakan di atas dengan suatu
Notis bertulis tentang niatnya sedemikian. Notis tersebut hendaklah
menyatakan nama dan alamat bagi pihak yang berkenaan atau jika ia
sebuah firma, nama dan alamat firma tersebut mestilah ditandatangani
oleh pihak atau firma berkenaan atau Peguamcaranya jika ada. Notis
tersebut hendaklah disampaikan atau jika dihantar dengan pos,
hendaklah dihantar-serah dalam jangka masa peruntukkan
kepada Peguamcara Pempetisyen pada 14 Disember, 2026 sebelum
12.00 tengahari.
Ruj: AJP/20242543/Lit/AJ/ARJ/AA (W/U)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
COMPANIES WINDING UP NO.: WA-28NCC-594-07/2026

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 465 (1) (a) OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 2016 (ACT 777)
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES (WINDING-
UP) RULES 1972
AND
IN THE MATTER OF REKAUSAHA ENGINEERING
SDN. BHD.
(Company No. 198501002412 (134854-K))
(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS HANDAL
ENGINEERING SDN BHD)

REKAUSAHA ENGINEERING SDN. BHD.
(Company No. 198501002412 (134854-K)) ...THE PETITIONER

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the above-
named company by the High Court was, on the 7th day of July 2026,
presented by the said company. And that the said petition is directed
to be heard before the Court sitting at the High Court of Malaysia at Kuala
Lumpur at nine o'clock in the morning, on the 1st day of December 2026;
and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to
support or oppose the making of an order on the said petition may
appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that
purpose; and a copy of the petition will be furnished to any creditor or
contributory of the said company requiring the same by the
undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is No. B-33-3A, Block B, Megan Salak Park,
Jalan 1/125E, Taman Desa Petaling, 57100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Petitioner's solicitor is Messrs Walston Wai & Partners of B-12-07,
Plaza Mont Kiara, Jalan Kiara, Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur,
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur.

Dated 20th October 2026

.....sgd.....
Messrs Walston Wai & Partners
Solicitors for the Petitioner

Note - Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said
petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs
Walston Wai & Partners, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The
notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the
name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or
firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted,
must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not
later than twelve o'clock noon of the day 30th of November 2026 (the day
before the day appointed for the hearing of the petition)

Proclamation

In the exercise of the rights and powers conferred upon the Assignee by the
Borrower / Assignors, it is hereby proclaimed that the Assignee with the
assistance of the under-mentioned Licensed Auctioneer: -

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

Will Sell The Property Described Below By PUBLIC AUCTION
ON MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2026, AT 10.30 A.M
AT THE AUCTION HALL, UNIT NO. 20-04, LEVEL 20,
MENARA LANDMARK, No. 12, JALAN NGEENG HENG,
80888 IBRAHIM INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, JOHOR
BAHRU, JOHOR.
(Registration Will Be Closed At 9.30 A.M)
Alternatively, prospective bidders may submit bids for the
property online via www.vsauction.com.my
(For online bidding, please register at least one (1) working day
before auction day for registration & verification purposes.)

SCV/LACA/1003/26	RESERVE PRICE: RM 886,000.00
Type : An Intermediate Double Storey Semi-Detached House	
Address : No. 15, Jalan Diamond B2/3, Diamond Residence, 43500 Semenyih, Selangor Darul Ehsan.	
Land Area : Approximately 247.00 square metres (about 2,659 square feet), with a road frontage of approximately 11.6 metres and a plot depth of approximately 21.33 metres.	
Assignor(s) : Wong Shu Jun & Tang Chee Yan	
Solicitor : AUTUMN CORECAP CONSULTANCY SDN. BHD. [formerly known as COUNTRY GARDEN AUTUMN SDN. BHD.]	

DEPOSIT:
All intending bidders are required to deposit with the Auctioneer,
prior to the auction sale, ten per cent (10%) of the reserve price by
Bank Draft or Cashier's Order only in favour of Autumn Corecap
Consultancy Sdn. Bhd. for the account ("ASSIGNOR'S NAME")
or remit the same through online banking instant transfer by 5 pm
at least one (1) day before auction day. For online bidders please
refer to the Terms & Conditions on www.vsauction.com.my on the
manner of payment of the deposit.

For further particulars, please contact:
VISION SKYBIDZ AUCTION CENTRE
SDN BHD
Sua Chong Yew (Licensed Auctioneer)
Tel : 07 - 276 3383

MESSRS HALIM HONG
& QUEK
Advocates & Solicitors
Tel No.: 07-338 4648

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN

Lelongan secara elektronik di laman web e-Lelong, Pusat Operasi e-Lelong, Kompleks Mahkamah Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur. Semua hartanah lelongan di bawah akan dijual tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat jualan sepertimana yang dicetak didalam Perisytiharan Jualan.

<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 18 Januari 2027, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 180,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan AA-38-2450-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot H.S.(D) 9451 (Kini Dikenali Sebagai Pajakan Negeri 178168) / PT 104658 (Kini Dikenali Sebagai Lot 185473) Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Sungai Terap / Kinta / Perak</p> <p>Plaintif Alliance Bank Malaysia Berhad Defendan-Defendan Kumar A/L Ramasamy, Nandhakumar A/L Raman, Narayani A/P Krishna Nair Pegumcara Leon & Lim (Tel : 05-2434898)</p> <p>An Intermediate Single-Storey Linked House Alamat : No. 6, Jalan Seri Wangsa 8, Taman Seri Wangsa, 31000, Batu Gajah, Perak Keluasan Tanah : 111.00 meter persegi / 1,195.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah Ini Tidak Boleh Dipindahmilik Atau Dipajak Tanpa Kebenaran Menteri Besar Perak. Sekatan Ini Tidak Terpakai Selepas 7 Tahun Daripada Tarikh Pindah Milik Pertama</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 7 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 268,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan BA-38-2178-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran 41079/M2/1/114 / Lot 57557 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Pekan Puchong Jaya / Petaling / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif Alliance Bank Malaysia Berhad Defendan Kannan A/L C Sannasy Pegumcara Goh Rafidah Tan (Tel : 03-21663818)</p> <p>An Apartment Unit Alamat : No. 8004, Blok B, Pangsapuri Sri Cempaka, 47170, Puchong, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 75.00 meter persegi / 807.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 23 November 2026, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 669,222.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan PA-38-1373-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Hakmilik Strata GRN No. 153128 / Lot 10008 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Batu Ferringhi, Seksyen 1 / Timor Laut / Pulau Pinang</p> <p>Plaintif Affin Bank Berhad Defendan Mahinder Singh A/L Jit Singh Pegumcara Shariful Azhar & Partners (Tel : 04-5780041)</p> <p>Suite Pejabat (Dua Bilik) Alamat : Unit No. 102-03-02, Jalan Batu Ferringhi, By The Sea, 11100, Batu Ferringhi, Pulau Pinang Keluasan Lantai : 95.00 meter persegi / 1,023.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 12 November 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 234,900.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan BA-38-1825-05/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran 55659 / 11549 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bukit Raja / Petaling / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad Defendan Mukhrisyan Bin Makhtar Pegumcara Harmy Yusoff & Azli (Tel : 03-40269888)</p> <p>Pangsapuri 3 Bilik Alamat : Unit No. 3-G-32, Pangsapuri Lily, Jalan Metafasa U16/5, Taman Bukit Subang, Seksyen U16, 40160, Shah Alam, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 78.00 meter persegi / 840.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 26 November 2026, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 140,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan AA-38-2151-07/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Pajakan Negeri 318845 / No. Lot 97048 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Kampar / Kampar / Perak</p> <p>Plaintif Hong Leong Bank Berhad Defendan Poovenraj A/L Shagaren Pegumcara Wan Chin & Co (Tel : 03-56328845)</p> <p>Sebuah Rumah Teres (2) Tingkat Alamat : No. 40, Jalan Burung Bangau, Taman Sri Kampar, 31900, Kampar, Perak Keluasan Tanah : 89.00 meter persegi / 958.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah ini tidak boleh dipindahmilik tanpa kebenaran Menteri Besar Perak. Kaveat : Kaveat Persendirian didaftarkan oleh Hong Leong Bank Berhad bertarikh 08 Ogos 2023</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KOTA BHARU Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 17 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 160,547.67</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan DA-38-824-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot GM 2150 / Lot 3024 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Chenderong Batu / Jajahan Tumpat / Kelantan</p> <p>Plaintif Hong Leong Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Chang Fong Chye Pegumcara H.S.Lim & Malik (Tel : 09-7481580)</p> <p>Sebuah Rumah Berkembar Dua (2) Tingkat Alamat : No. PT 414, Kampung Padang Rokma, 16250, Wakaf Bharu, Kelantan Keluasan Tanah : 345.00 meter persegi / 3,713.58 kaki persegi Kawasan Rizab : Di Dalam Kawasan Rizab Melayu</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SEREMBAN Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 10 Disember 2026, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 250,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan NA-38-1052-07/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran 198660 / Lot 21267 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Mantin Utama / Seremban / Negeri Sembilan</p> <p>Plaintif MBSB Bank Berhad Defendan Mohd Saiful Hanafi Bin Anuar Pegumcara Zulpadli & Edham (Tel : 03-26946979)</p> <p>Lot Kediaman Yang Kosong Alamat : Lot 21267, Persiaran Fakulti 2, College Heights Garden Resort, 71700, Mantin, Negeri Sembilan Keluasan Tanah : 0.1114000000 hektar / 0.2753000000 ekar Kaveat : Kaveat Persendirian Atas Tanah Oleh Malaysia Building Society Berhad No Syarikat: 9147-K Melalui Perserahan No. 1995/2017 Didaftarkan Pada 24 Februari 2017</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KOTA BHARU Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 17 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 445,500.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan DA-38-838-09/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot GRN 43102 (Dahulunya dikenali sebagai HSD 1894) / Lot 6042 (Dahulunya dikenali sebagai PT 4887) Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Tanah Merah / Tanah Merah / Kelantan</p> <p>Plaintif Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad Defendan Hanisah Binti Mat Jusoh Pegumcara Alawi & Associates (Tel : 09-743 2401)</p> <p>A Developer Design Double Storey Detached House Which Has Been Renovated And Extended Additional Two (2) Unit Store Building Alamat : PT 4887, Taman Kota Harmoni, 17500, Tanah Merah, Kelantan Keluasan Tanah : 471.00 meter persegi / 5,070.00 kaki persegi Kawasan Rizab : Di Dalam Kawasan Rizab Melayu</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 11 November 2026, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 315,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan PA-38-1292-07/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot HSD 45598 / PT 7276 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri 12 / Seberang Perai Utara / Pulau Pinang</p> <p>Plaintif Affin Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan-Defendan Nurainna Munira Binti Hashim, Zulhazmie Bin Midin Pegumcara Zulpadli & Edham (Tel : 03-26946979)</p> <p>Satu (1) Unit Rumah Teres Satu (1) Tingkat (Unit Tengah) Alamat : No. 80, Jalan Sepadu Jaya 2, Taman Sepadu Jaya, 13300, Tasek Gelugor, Pulau Pinang Keluasan Tanah : 139.00 meter persegi / 1,496.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Detail/96255</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 8 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 147,690.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan BA-38-2149-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Hakmilik Strata Geran 267134/ M16-A/14/599 / Lot 44028 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Dengkil / Sepang / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif MBSB Bank Berhad Defendan Syafiq Bin Salimin Pegumcara Che Mokhtar & Ling (Tel : 03-22740413)</p> <p>Condominium Alamat : No. A-13-02, Domain 2, Neocyber, Lingkaran Cyber Point Barat, Cyber 12, 63000, Cyberjaya, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 65.00 meter persegi / 699.65 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah yang Diberi Milik Ini Tidak Boleh Dipindah Milik, Dipajak, Atau Digadai Melainkan Dengan Kebenaran Pihak Berkuasa Negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SHAH ALAM Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 16 November 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 430,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan NA-38-2028-05/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Pajakan Negeri 9983/M5/2/247 / Lot 24543 Seksyen 40 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Petaling Jaya / Petaling / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif Alliance Bank Malaysia Berhad Defendan Pilly Dewi Anak Ros Pegumcara Che Mokhtar & Ling (Tel : 03-22740413)</p> <p>A 2-Bedroom Condominium Alamat : No. 102, Blok D, Kondo Kelana D'Putera, No. 19, Jalan SS7/26, Kelana Jaya, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 116.00 meter persegi / 1,249.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah yang diberi milik ini tidak boleh dipindah milik, pajakan atau digadai melainkan dengan kebenaran pihak berkuasa negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Detail/97187</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 10 Disember 2026, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 211,410.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan PA-38-1471-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran Mukim 2516/M1B/10/241 / Lot 10119 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri 13 / Timor Laut / Pulau Pinang</p> <p>Plaintif Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad Defendan Yeoh Heng Choon Pegumcara See Ramsun & Tan (Tel : 04-2295811)</p> <p>Rumah Pangsa 3 Bilik Alamat : No. 5-09-07, Villa Kejora, Hilir Paya Terubong 2, Relau, 11900, Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang Keluasan Lantai : 65.00 meter persegi / 700.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KOTA BHARU Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 16 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 108,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan DA-38-826-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot GRN 38645 / Lot 3257 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Alor Pasir / Jajahan Pasir Mas / Kelantan</p> <p>Plaintif Alliance Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Noor Azura Binti Ibrahim Pegumcara Abdullah Abd Rahman & Co. (Tel : 09-6203300)</p> <p>Rumah Teres Setingkat Alamat : PT 567, Jalan Alor Pasir, Taman Maka Utama, Kampung Jakar, 17000, Pasir Mas, Kelantan Keluasan Tanah : 127.00 meter persegi / 1,367.02 kaki persegi Kawasan Rizab : Rizab Melayu Kaveat : Pers: No. 933/2020</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SEREMBAN Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 5 Januari 2027, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 450,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan NA-38-1140-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot HS(D) 265225 / PT 51764 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Labu / Seremban / Negeri Sembilan</p> <p>Plaintif Alliance Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Mohamad Hairul Bin Mohammad Safri Pegumcara Chan & Chia (Tel : 06-7624466)</p> <p>An End Unit Double-Storey Terraced House (Bumiputera Unit) Alamat : No.1067, Jalan Bukit Eka 3/9, Taman Bukit Eka, 71760, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan Keluasan Tanah : 130.00 meter persegi / 1,399.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah yang diberimilik ini tidak boleh dipindahmilik, dipajak atau digadai melainkan dengan kebenaran bertulis daripada Pihak Berkuasa Negeri, Tanah yang diberimilik ini adalah untuk Bumiputera sahaja dan tidak boleh dipindahmilik, dipajak atau digadai kepada bukan Bumiputera melainkan dengan kebenaran bertulis daripada Pihak Berkuasa Negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 7 Januari 2027, 11:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 234,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan AA-38-2495-08/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot PN 1077823 (Dahulunya Dikenali PN 295327) / Lot 303922 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Tronoh (Dahulunya Dikenali Mukim Belanja) / Kinta / Perak</p> <p>Plaintif Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad Defendan Mohd Nashrul Bin Muhammad Nasir Pegumcara Maxwell Kenion Cowdy & Jones (Tel : 05-2551225)</p> <p>A Corner Single Storey Terrace House Alamat : No. 2, Persiaran Putra 2, Taman Tasek Putra, 31750, Tronoh, Perak Keluasan Tanah : 292.00 meter persegi / 3,143.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah Ini Boleh Dipindahmilik Atau Dipajak Dengan Kebenaran Bertulis Oleh Pihak Berkuasa Negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 9 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 947,700.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-2403-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Hakmilik Strata Pajakan Negeri 52986/ M1C/21/536 (Bangunan No. M1C, Tingkat No. 21, Petak No. 536 Bersama-Sama Petak Akseori A827, A828, A1124) / Lot 20033 Seksyen 98 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Kuala Lumpur / Kuala Lumpur / Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Plaintif MBSB Bank Berhad Defendan Khoo Chee Heng Pegumcara Zulpadli & Edham (Tel : 03-26946979)</p> <p>Pangsapuri Servis Alamat : Unit No. C-21-06, Residensi Vivo, 9 Seputeh, Off Jalan Klang Lama, 58000, Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur Keluasan Lantai : 116.00 meter persegi / 1,248.61 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah Ini Tidak Boleh Dipindahmilik, Dipajak Atau Digadai Tanpa Kebenaran Jawatankuasa Kerja Tanah Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 16 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 1,400,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-2465-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot GRN 199682 / Lot 117392 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Klang / Klang / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Bank Berhad Defendan-Defendan Lourds A/L A. Joseph, Selene Rani A/P Kulandai Raju Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Rumah Berkembar Dua Tingkat Alamat : No. 73, Jalan Batu Nilam 26, Bandar Bukit Tinggi 2, 41200, Klang, Selangor Keluasan Tanah : 334.00 meter persegi / 3,595.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 5 November 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 189,540.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-1859-05/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot PN 30381/M3/12/1323 / Lot No. 1766 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Sunway / Petaling / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad Defendan Mohd Rizal Bin Mahsan Pegumcara Seow & Megat (Tel : 03-21663384)</p> <p>Sebuah Pangsapuri Alamat : C-11-2, Mentari Court, Jalan PJS 8/9, Taman Seri Mentari, 46150, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 72.00 meter persegi / 775.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah Yang Diberi Milik Ini Tidak Boleh Dipindah Milik, Dipajak Atau Digadai Melainkan Dengan Kebenaran Pihak Berkuasa Negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Detail/97406</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 5 November 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 360,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-1858-05/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Pajakan Negeri (WP) 48458/ M1-A/19/110 / Lot 46310 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Petaling / Kuala Lumpur / Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Plaintif Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad Defendan-Defendan Tong Wai Leung, Tong Qui Gnow Pegumcara Seow & Megat (Tel : 03-21663384)</p> <p>Sebuah Pangsapuri Servis Yang Terletak Di Tingkat 18 Sebuah Bangunan 31 Tingkat Dengan Satu Aras Bawah Tanah Alamat : C-18-03A, Endah Promenade, No. 5 Jalan 3/149E, Taman Sri Endah, 57000, Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur Keluasan Lantai : 91.00 meter persegi / 980.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah ini tidak boleh dipindahmilik atau dipajakkan melainkan dengan kebenaran Jawatankuasa Kerja Tanah Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Detail/97405</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 17 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 413,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-2595-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran 60899/M3B/27/958 / Lot 63174 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Batu / Kuala Lumpur / Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Mohamad Bukhari Bin Abdul Aziz Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Kondominium Unit Hujung Alamat : Unit No. B2-25-02, Block B2, Royal Domain Sri Putramas II, Jalan Putramas Off Jalan Kuching, 51200, Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur Keluasan Lantai : 105.00 meter persegi / 1,130.00 kaki persegi Kaveat : Kaveat Persendirian melalui No. Perserahan: PDB16878/2024 didaftarkan pada 3/10/2024 oleh RHB Islamic Bank Berhad</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 17 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 489,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-2604-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot H.S.(D) 229502 / PT 12988 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Sri Sendayan / Seremban / Negeri Sembilan</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Jamaludin Bin Salleh Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Rumah Teres Dua Tingkat Unit Tengah Alamat : No. 650, Jalan Hijayu 2/50, Hijayu 2, 71950, Bandar Sri Sendayan, Negeri Sembilan Keluasan Tanah : 174.00 meter persegi / 1,873.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah yang diberimilik ini tidak boleh dipindahmilik, dipajak, digadai melainkan dengan kebenaran bertulis daripada Pihak Berkuasa Negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 15 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 348,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-1439-04/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran 103519/M3/2/322 / No. Lot 27612 Seksyen 5 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Bandar Cheras / Ulu Langat / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Kelvin Lau Kai Xian Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Kondominium Alamat : Unit No. C-1-2, Kondominium Vista Hijauan, Persiaran Sungai Long 2, Bandar Sungai Long, 43000, Kajang, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 126.00 meter persegi / 1,356.00 kaki persegi Kaveat : Kaveat Persendirian melalui No. Perserahan: 00B2777/2024 didaftarkan pada 15/4/2024 oleh RHB Islamic Bank Berhad</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 17 Disember 2026, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 292,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-2615-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran Mukim 2531/M1/14/244 / Lot 201578 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Setapak / Kuala Lumpur / Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Muhammad Fadhil Hamizan Bin Mohd Zuki Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Pangsapuri Tiga Bilik Unit Tengah Alamat : No. 13-09, Residensi Platinum Teratai, No. 2, Jalan Kuraman, 53000, Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur Keluasan Lantai : 86.00 meter persegi / 926.00 kaki persegi</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>	<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 7 Januari 2027, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 365,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-2650-06/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot H.S.(D) 294727 / PT 41570 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Ijok / Kuala Selangor / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Mohammad Syazuan Bin Ahmad Zuki Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Rumah Teres Dua Tingkat Unit Tengah Alamat : No. 14, Jalan Myra Alam 1/3, Taman Myra Alam, 42300, Bandar Puncak Alam, Selangor Keluasan Tanah : 130.00 meter persegi / 1,399.00 kaki persegi Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah ini tidak boleh dipindahmilik, dipajak atau digadai melainkan setelah mendapat kebenaran Pihak Berkuasa Negeri</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR Tarikh / Masa Lelongan : 12 Januari 2027, 9:00 pagi</p> <p>Harga Rizab : RM 324,000.00</p> <p>No. Perlaksanaan WA-38-1952-05/2026 No. Hakmilik / No. Lot Geran 331693/M2/16/189 / Lot 55933 Mukim / Daerah / Negeri Kajang / Ulu Langat / Selangor</p> <p>Plaintif RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Defendan Mohamed Fadzil Bin Khalid Pegumcara Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel : 03-27108283)</p> <p>Kondominium Alamat : Unit No. A-15-01, Ivory Residence, Jalan Mutiara 2, Mutiara Heights, 43000, Kajang, Selangor Keluasan Lantai : 120.00 meter persegi / 1,292.00 kaki persegi Kaveat : Kaveat Persendirian melalui No. Perserahan: 00B55784/2024 didaftarkan pada 22/8/2024 oleh RHB Islamic Bank Berhad</p> <p>Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit di pautan seperti berikut: https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Index</p>			

LEGAL

 Proclamation

 Proclamation

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

Prospective Bidders may submit bids for the Auto e-Bidding via www.ngchanmau.com/aut. *Please complete your registration and payment at least one (1) working day prior to the auction date for verification and processing purposes. Please refer to www.ngchanmau.com for the notice of the auction.



Lot.	Reg No.	Model & Year	Reserve Price (RM)
RHB BANK BERHAD/RHB ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD			
Auction Date : Tuesday, 3 rd November 2026, Time : 11.30 AM Viewing Dates : 30/10/2026 & 2/11/2026 (10.00AM - 4.00PM) NOTE : Please be informed that any unsold lot from this auction will automatically be put up for auction on the following date until it is sold ->10th, 17th & 24th November 2026. Venue and Time remain unchanged.			
Storeyard : SYSTEMA STOREYARD SDN. BHD. (Tel No : 012-213 8334)			
R101	VBN3741	RENAULT FLUENCE 2.0 CVT (2018)	3,400
Storeyard : G-MART KAJANG (Tel No : 03-8741 1550 / 03-8733 2551)			
R102	VID2016	PERODUA ATIVA - 1000 TURBO H (CVT) (2022)	37,400
Storeyard : MAROOF STORE (Tel No : 03 - 4265 1030)			
R103	VBN1969	PROTON IRIZ 1.3L CVT (2018)	7,300
Storeyard : TOO WAREHOUSE SEREMBAN (Tel No : 06-7638 598)			
R104	VHM8205	PERODUA ARUZ -1500 AV (AUTO) (2022)	39,200
R105	VU9190	PROTON SAGA 1.3L CVT (2017)	3,500
Storeyard : TOO WAREHOUSE JB (Tel No : 016-227 6422)			
R106	QCJ6461	PERODUA AXIA - 1000 G (AUTO) (2019)	9,100
R107	JWP3304	PROTON SAGA 1.3 AUTOMATIK PREMIUM (2023)	11,200
R108	BPN8604	PERODUA MYVI - 1300 X (AUTO) (2018)	12,150
Storeyard : SHIMFA AUTO MLK (Tel No : 06-317 2150 / 8922)			
R109	JXU6346	PERODUA AXIA - 1000 SE (CVT) (2025)	20,500
R110	QBH3648	PERODUA AXIA - 1000 X (CVT) (2025)	17,100
R111	JWJ4403	HONDA HR-V 1.8L V (2017)	26,200

Disclaimer : Prospective Bidders are advised to inspect the vehicle and conduct own searches and verification on the information provided with regards to the sale. Please obtain a copy of the Proclamation of Sale, Conditions of Sale and Online Terms & Conditions at www.ngchanmau.com

NG CHAN MAU & CO SDN BHD [200601018098 (737850-T)]
No. 7, Ground Level, Block B, (B-0-7), Megan Avenue II,
No. 12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. LICENSED AUCTIONEERS
• Call : 03-2162 3333 • Whatsapp : 012-295 1388 Mr. Low Chee Hian
• Website : www.ngchanmau.com Mrs. Rosemalini Binti Ahmad Radzi

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN

LELONGAN SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

Tarikh/Masa Lelongan : 3 November 2026 (Selasa), 11.00 pagi

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SUNGAI PETANI

HARGA RIZAB : RM 453,600.00

No Pelaksanaan KB-38-987-07/2026	Plaintiff Malayan Banking Berhad
No Hakmilik / No Lot HSD 138402, LOT 71535	Defendan Lim Yew Khoo
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri Bandar Amanjaya / Kuala Muda / Kedah	Pegumcara Mohd Anuar & Co. (04-4411471)

Sebuah Rumah Kluster Berkembar Dua Tingkat

Alamat: No. 653, Jalan SP Saujana Permai 2/9, Taman SP Saujana Permai, 08000, Sungai Petani, Kedah.

Keluasan:2240 kaki persegi (208.1 meter persegi)

Pembida boleh mendapatkan Perisytiharan Jualan, panduan pendaftaran dan bayaran 10% deposit dipautan seperti berikut : <https://lelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb/Home/Detail/96722>

Semua hartanah lelongan diatas akan dijual tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat jualan sepertimana yang dicetak didalam Perisytiharan Jualan. <https://lelong.kehakiman.gov.my/BidderWeb>

Untuk sebarang pertanyaan, sila hubungi syarikat yang dilantik oleh Plaintiff

MNP AUCTIONEERS (CENTRAL) SDN BHD
No. Tel : 04-283 3650 | No. H/P : 017-407 6661 | www.mnp.com.my

NOTICES

 General Notice

 General Notice

Borang K5 - Pengeluaran Sijil Pelepasan KPI

AKTA INSOLVENSI 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

Notis adalah dengan ini diberikan bahawa, bankrap yang dinamakan dalam jadual di bawah telah dilepaskan daripada kebangkrutan melalui Sijil Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi berkuat kuasa pada tarikh seperti yang dinyatakan dalam ruang (5) jadual berikut.

(1) BIL	(2) NAMA BANKRAP	(3) NO. K/P	(4) NO. KES	(5) TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	CHITRA A/P SELVARAJOO	730415-02-5950/A2421816	AA-29NCC-1914-09/2017	09.09.2026
2	CHANDRAMOGAN A/L SATHYA SEELAN	770806-08-6045/A3759989	AA-29NCC-1279-06/2016	09.09.2026
3	ELANGGOVAN A/L PARTHISARATHY	701115-02-5673/A1712246	AA-29NCC-636-07/2018	09.09.2026
4	MURUGAMMAL A/ KANNAYAN	751129-08-6202/A3201566	AA-29NCC-664-07/2018	09.09.2026
5	RAJASEKARANAL MURUGESU	620114-10-6709/ 6778732	AA-29NCC-50-01/2018	09.09.2026
6	SELVOORAJA A/L PATCHAIPPAN	621030-08-5941/ 6868858	AA29NCC-464-05/2018	09.09.2026
7	KARTEK A/L KRISNIAN	870916-08-5171	AA-29NCC-1078-06/2017	09.09.2026
8	DEIVAKUMAR A/L GANASAN	880416-08-5051	AA-29NCC-1079-06/2017	09.09.2026
9	KUNDAI AK DUGI	730423-13-5957/K0412446	AA-29NCC-1547-08/2017	08.05.2026

Bertarikh pada : 07 Oct 2026

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(ADIBAH BINTI ABDUL KADIR)
Pengarah Insolvensi Negeri
Jabatan Insolvensi Negeri Perak
b.p. Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

 General Notice

 General Notice

 Proclamation

 Proclamation

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH AE NO.: AA-38-2201-07/2026

LEMBAGA PEMBIAYAAN PERUMAHAN SEKTOR AWAM

ABDUL SALAM BIN ABD RAHIM ... PLAINTIF
(NO. K/P: 980126-06-5499 / T1198143) ... DEFENDAN

Lelongan Awam pada Hari Isnin 18hb Januari 2027 jam 11.00 pagi, melalui system E-Lelong di laman web: <https://lelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenalpasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

HARTANAH: Sebuah Rumah Teres Satu Tingkat – Lot Tepi beralamat di No. 817 Jalan Residen 3/20, Residen 3, Bandar Baru Setia Awan Perdana, 32000 Sitiawan, Perak Darul Ridzuan di bawah Pegangan Hakmilik Sementara H.S.(D) 165746, No. PT 54017(dahulu dikenali sebagai Geran 183281, Lot 82517), Mukim Sitiawan, Daerah Manjung, Perak Darul Ridzuan dan Taraf Pegangan Hakmilik Kekal.

KELUASAN HARTANAH: 121.00 m.p. Syarat Nyata: Kediaman – Rumah Teres (Mampu Milik). Sekatan Kepentingan: Tanah ini hanya boleh dipindahmilik atau dipajak dengan kebenaran bertulis oleh Pihak Berkuasa Negeri Kawasan Rizab: Tanah Simpanan Melayu (Kawasan Rizab Melayu Sitiawan) Pemilik: Abdul Salam Bin Abd Rahim Bebanan digadai kepada Lembaga Pembiayaan Perumahan Sektor Awam.

HARGA RIZAB: RM178,200.00 (Ringgit Malaysia Satu Ratus Tujuh Puluh Lapan Ribu Dua Ratus Sahaja).

Penawar yang berminat dihendaki mendeposit 10% daripada harga Rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft diatas nama “LEMBAGA PEMBIAYAAN PERUMAHAN SEKTOR AWAM” tempoh satu (1) hari bekerja sebelum tarikh lelongan kepada Pusat Operasi e-Lelong Kompleks Mahkamah Kuantan.

Untuk Maklumat dan selanjutnya sila pohon kepada:-
PEGUAM: Tetuan Mad Diah Faizal Ima Shafini, Ipoh (Tel:05-5250001/2) Rujukan: LPPSA-15/2025(NO)sh

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI IPOH

PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO. AA-38-2241-07/2026

ANTARA

RHB BANK BERHAD (NO. SYARIKAT: 196501000373/6171-M) PLAINTIF

DAN

TAN LAN HOLDINGS (M) SDN BHD DEFENDAN
(NO. SYARIKAT: 198201006523/86277-P)

AKAN DIJUAL SECARA LELONGAN AWAM PADA HARI ISNIN, 18.1.2027, JAM 11.00 PAGI

SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

Nota: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenal pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://lelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK

No. Hakmilik : Pajakan Negeri 404260 No. Lot 401389, Mukim Kampar, Daerah Kampar, Negeri Perak

Alamat Hartanah : An intermediate vacant detached industrial land beralamat di PN404260, Lot 401389, Jalan Degong, 31900 Kampar, Perak

Harga Rizab : RM2,397,600.00

Keluasan Tanah : 8.0 ekar (3.238 hektar)

Taraf Pegangan : Hakmilik Pajakan (luput pada 8.12.2085)

Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama “RHB BANK BERHAD” 1 HARI BEKERJA sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh Pembida yang berjaya kepada RHB BANK BERHAD dalam tempoh Seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan.

Untuk butir-butir selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

TETUAN ASBIR, HIRA SINGH & CO.
NO. 6, JALAN DATO MAHARAJALELA
30000, IPOH, PERAK
No. Tel : 05-2426666 No. Faks : 05-2536788
No. Ruj : 80465/NKR/afy

 General Notice

 General Notice

Borang K5 - Pengeluaran Sijil Pelepasan KPI

AKTA INSOLVENSI 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

Notis adalah dengan ini diberikan bahawa, bankrap yang dinamakan dalam jadual di bawah telah dilepaskan daripada kebangkrutan melalui Sijil Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi berkuat kuasa pada tarikh seperti yang dinyatakan dalam ruang (5) jadual berikut.

(1) BIL	(2) NAMA BANKRAP	(3) NO. K/P	(4) NO. KES	(5) TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	MOHD AZROY BIN OTHMAN	820129-14-6427	AA-29NCC-2260-12/2017	14.09.2026
2	MOHAMAD KHALIZAN BIN KIRAN	680106-08-6917/A0924519	AA-29NCC-268-03/2018	14.09.2026
3	MOHD NAZRI BIN ARIFFIN	860310-46-5357	AA-29NCC-2049-11/2017	14.09.2026
4	MD NIZAM BIN HUSSIN	790312-01-6589	AA-29NCC-1994-10/2017	14.09.2026
5	MOHD SYUKRI BIN ZAKARIA	880902-08-6949	AA-29NCC-2148-12/2017	14.09.2026
6	NOR LELA BINTI MOHD DAWAL	630320-04-5360/ 7005739	AA-29NCC-1049-06/2017	14.09.2026
7	NUR ZAIM BIN JAAFAR	840712-08-5025	AA-29NCC-1298-12/2019	14.9.2026
8	RIDUAN BIN IDRIS	800502-08-5151	AA-29NCC-1476-07/2017	14.9.2026
9	ZUL AZHARI BIN ABU BAKAR	731120-08-5889/A2981290	AA-29NCC-39-01/2018	14.09.2026

Bertarikh pada : 07 Oct 2026

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(ADIBAH BINTI ABDUL KADIR)
Pengarah Insolvensi Negeri
Jabatan Insolvensi Malaysia
Negeri Perak
b.p. Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

 General Notice

 General Notice

NOTICES

 General Notice

 General Notice

Borang K5 - Pengeluaran Sijil Pelepasan KPI

AKTA INSOLVENSI 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

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(1) BIL	(2) NAMA BANKRAP	(3) NO. K/P	(4) NO. KES	(5) TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	ADAM BIN MOHAMMED	850923-08-6115	AA-29NCC-712-07/2019	18.09.2026
2	MUHAMAD FAIZUL BIN SAMSUDDIN	880616-56-6239	AA-29NCC-619-06/2018	18.09.2026
3	SARINA BINTI NAWAWI	830405-08-5720	29NCC-261-01/2018	18.09.2026
4	MUHAMAD AIDIL BIN KARIM	850702-01-5145	AA-29NCC-181-02/2018	18.09.2026
5	ZALINA BINTI MOHAMAD ZOHAI	660521-08-6262/A0414516	AA-29NCC-562-06/2018	18.09.2026
6	ABDUL RAZAK BIN YUSOF	710913-08-5237/A2081931	AA-29NCC-827-08/2018	18.09.2026
7	NAZRI BIN BAHARIN	820429-14-5485	AA-29NCC-844-08/2018	18.09.2026
8	MOHAMAD SHUKRY BIN MOHD SAPIAN	790101-08-6325	AA-29NCC-254-03/2018	18.09.2026
9	AHMAD KHAIRUL IZDIHAR BIN AHMAD YUNUS	880112-08-6039	AA-29NCC-2216-12/2017	18.09.2026
10	MOHD JALIL BIN YAACOB	871127-09-5179	AA-29NCC-968-09/2018	18.09.2026

Bertarikh pada : 05 Oct 2026

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(ADIBAH BINTI ABDUL KADIR)
Pengarah Insolvensi Negeri
Jabatan Insolvensi Malaysia
Negeri Perak
b.p. Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

Borang K5 - Pengeluaran Sijil Pelepasan KPI

AKTA INSOLVENSI 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

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(1) BIL	(2) NAMA BANKRAP	(3) NO. K/P	(4) NO. KES	(5) TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	SHEIKH ISMAIL BIN MOHD KASIM	440323-04-5107 / 1776638	AA-29NCC-441-05/2018	01.10.2026
2	MUHAMMAD ROSLAN BIN YUSOB	920922-08-7045	AA-29NCC-754-07/2018	01.10.2026
3	FAURODIN BIN SHOHOD	730204-08-5021 / A2620585	AA-29NCC-213-03/2018	01.10.2026
4	OMAR BIN ABDUL LATIF	791130-08-5297	AA-29NCC-135-02/2018	01.10.2026
5	ROSMUNIRA BINTI HAMZAH	750315-08-6092 / A3009450	AA-29NCC-695-07/2018	01.10.2026
6	MEOR MOHD KHAIRUL BIN NUSIRIDIN	850531-08-5981	AA-29NCC-563-05/2019	01.10.2026
7	YAZID BIN JINJAT	650828-01-6307	AA-29NCC-869-09/2018	01.10.2026
8	HAKIMAH BINTI MUHAMAD	491106-08-5970 / 2711076	AA-29NCC-1928-10/2017	01.10.2026
9	NURUL ASSHIFAH BINTI MUZAPAR	881005-08-5430	AA-29NCC-737-07/2018	01.10.2026
10	HUSIN BIN MOHD YUSOP	830505-08-6261	NA-29NCC-1107-12/2018	01.10.2026

Bertarikh pada : 05 Oct 2026

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(ADIBAH BINTI ABDUL KADIR)
Pengarah Insolvensi Negeri
Jabatan Insolvensi Malaysia Negeri Perak
b.p. Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

 General Notice

 General Notice

 General Notice

 General Notice

Borang K5 - Pengeluaran Sijil Pelepasan KPI

AKTA INSOLVENSI 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

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(1) BIL	(2) NAMA BANKRAP	(3) NO. K/P	(4) NO. KES	(5) TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	CHU SIEW YIN	710503-08-6026 / A1911341	AA-29NCC-1898-09/2017	01.10.2026
2	NG CHOY CHYE @ NG KOK CHOY	480209-08-5021 / 7601535	AA-29NCC-1680-08/2017	01.10.2026
3	THE HOCK WONG	690926-08-5521 / A1434111	AA-29NCC-1267-07/2017	01.10.2026
4	CHONG YEE SEONG	580730-08-5573 / 5473887	AA-29NCC-1653-08/2017	01.10.2026
5	FANG KUAN YOW	760308-02-5709 / A3344252	AA-29NCC-418-10/2023	01.10.2026
6	KONG CHEE SING	790511-08-5413	AA-29NCC-314-03/2018	01.10.2026
7	TEOW YEE FAN	640523-08-5177	29NCC-674-11/2013	01.10.2026
8	LEE FOOK MEE	591102-08-6373 / 5779399	AA-29NCC-1313-07/2017	01.10.2026
9	TAM SING HUA	540910-08-6323 / 4676179	AA-29NCC-73-01/2018	01.10.2026
10	CHOO KAR HOE	741201-08-6559	AA-29NCC-1273-07/2017	01.10.2026

Bertarikh pada : 05 Oct 2026

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(ADIBAH BINTI ABDUL KADIR)
Pengarah Insolvensi Negeri
Jabatan Insolvensi Malaysia
Negeri Perak
b.p. Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

Borang K5 - Pengeluaran Sijil Pelepasan KPI

AKTA INSOLVENSI 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

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(1) BIL	(2) NAMA BANKRAP	(3) NO. K/P	(4) NO. KES	(5) TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	FUN SIEW SENG	600409-10-6193/ 5925142	AA-29NCC-87-04/2023	3.09.2026
2	NG YEE WAI	710715-08-6087/ A1959190	AA-29NCC-1385-07/2016	3.09.2026
3	LAM AH LAN	510521-08-5418/ 1389651	AA-29NCC-660-04/2017	3.09.2026
4	TAN THIAM LOONG	620328-08-5421/ 6763264	29-921-2006	3.09.2026
5	WONG KEE HOOI	600830-08-5541/ 5988349	AA-29NCC-148-01/2017	3.09.2026
6	CHANG HIN LOONG	720206-08-5421/ A1968149	29-952-2003 DISATUKAN DGN 29-1770-2004	14.09.2026
7	WONG CHUN LIM	680616-08-6669/ A1041956	AA-29NCC-2605-12/2016	14.09.2026
8	NG CHING HOCK	660807-10-6329/ A0491355	AA-29NCC-1305-07/2017	14.09.2026
9	CHIN KOK YUEN	730523-08-5491/ A2492706	AA-29NCC-2231-10/2016	14.09.2026
10	WONG HON SUN	690223-08-5955/ A1224134	29-227-02/2013	14.09.2026

Bertarikh pada : 07 Oct 2026

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(ADIBAH BINTI ABDUL KADIR)
Pengarah Insolvensi Negeri
Jabatan Insolvensi Negeri Perak
b.p. Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

 General Notice

 General Notice

Most people return small favors, acknowledge medium ones and repay greater ones - with ingratitude.

Benjamin Franklin

Court Notices... Proclamations...
General Notice... Tenders...

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NOTICES

 For Tender

 For Tender

 For Tender

 For Tender

 AGM / EGM / Financial Notice

 AGM / EGM / Financial Notice

 AGM / EGM / Financial Notice

TENDER NOTICE

UDA Holdings Berhad (UDA) is a leading, competitive and sustainable property developer and asset management company in Malaysia. As we grow our business, we intend to invite registered companies with expertise, experience and financial resources to participate in this tender.

Tender is invited to contractors who are qualified and have the experience, technical ability, finances and equipment to carry out the works.

PROJECT TITLE	TENDER REQUIREMENT	PRICE OF TENDER DOCUMENT (1 SET)	EARNEST MONEY
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR PHASE 1B AND PHASE 2 (FIT OUT WORKS) FOR PROJECT KPARC SHOPPING MALL, LOT 3280 & PT4543, MUKIM UTAN AJI, KANGAR, PERLIS. Tender No: KU/1708T/ULNKPARCBUILDING WORKS/P1BP2/500/0826	Registered with CIDB Grade: G7 (Open To Bumiputera & Non-Bumiputera) Category: B Sub-Category: B04 & B07	RM800.00 Payment for the said tender document shall be made by Banker's Cheque or Online Transfer in favour of UDA LAND (NORTH) SDN BHD Account No.: MBB 552107300013 For payments made via online transfer, please submit the transaction receipt by the following day for verification purposes. Document payment is non-refundable	RM10,000.00 Tenderer must submit their tender accompanied with Earnest Money paid via Bank Draft / Banker's Cheque in favour of UDA LAND (NORTH) SDN BHD and included with the envelope provided
Only tenderers who are registered with the Malaysia Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and those who meet the registration criteria will be considered to submit a tender Please submit the company's SSM Certificate and Tax Registration Certificate upon purchase of the tender documents.	DATE OF SELLING TENDER Date: 02 November 2026 - 16 November 2026 Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	SELLING OF TENDER DOCUMENT Interested tenderer may obtain the tender document at: - UDA LAND (NORTH) SDN. BHD. (Company no. 22339-T) No. 1961, Jalan Bertam, 13200 Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang Tel. No : 04 - 575 5566 Fax. No : 04 - 575 4166 Email : projek_ulin@udanet.com	PLACE OF SUBMISSION & CLOSING DATE TENDER BOX UDA Holdings Berhad Level 9, Tower Block, Pertama Complex, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, 50100 Kuala Lumpur CLOSING DATE: 30 November 2026 before 12:00 noon

- NOTES:
- Tender briefing and site visit are **COMPULSORY**. Company representatives are not permitted to attend the tender briefing and purchase the tender documents. **The company owner/registered company nominee only** is allowed to attend the tender briefing and site visit. Please present your identity card and company registration certificate for verification. The tender briefing will be held at **KParc Shopping Mall Project Site, Kangar, Perlis, on 02 November 2026 (Monday) at 11:30 a.m.**
 - Tenderers are advised to carefully read and understand Instructions to Tenderers in Table Tender Document that is made available at UDA Land (North) Sdn Bhd office. **Failure to adhere to any instructions and / or specified article may result in rejection of tender.** Tenderer are required to present original documents and a copy of valid registration with CIDB and an authorized letter prior to purchase the tender document. Any queries pertaining to this tender shall be emailed to tendersecretary@udanet.com.
 - Contractors who wish to enter in this tender are **ENCOURAGED** to register as a vendor at <https://udavendors.com>.
 - Tenderers must have experience in completing the Building Works with a contract value of at least RM5 Million in one (1) contract within the last five (5) years. Tenderer with experience in related projects are prioritized.
 - Completed tender documents must be return in the envelope as specified in the Instructions to Tenderers. Completed documents must be sealed with written Tender Title at the top side as specified in the Instruction to Tenderer and **must be returned before 30 November 2026 at 12.00 noon**. UDA Land (North) Sdn Bhd reserve the right to accept or reject any tender received. Overdue tender bids will not be considered and UDA Land (North) Sdn Bhd is not bound to accept the lowest bid or any bid submitted.

THE TENDER NOTICE IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE : <https://www.uda.com.my/contact-us/request-for-tender>

**UDA LAND (NORTH) SDN. BHD.** (22339-T)
No. 1961, Jalan Bertam,
13200 Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang





Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation for submission of **Tender for the Supply, Delivery, Commissioning and Maintenance of One (1) Unit of High-Specification Portable Spectrum Analyser with Direction-Finding Capability and Six (6) Units of Medium-Specification Portable Spectrum Analysers for Spectrum Monitoring**

Closing date:
26 November 2026, 12:00 noon

For more information, please visit the Procurement Notice section at MCMC website.

<https://www.mcmc.gov.my/procurement-notices/tenders>



PBA HOLDINGS BHD
(Registration No. 200001012513 (515119-U))
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of PBA Holdings Bhd ("PBAHB" or the "Company") will be held at St. Giles Wembley Penang Hotel, 183, Magazine Road, 10300 George Town, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia on Thursday, 12 November 2026 at 2:30 p.m. or at any adjournment of the EGM, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following ordinary resolution with or without any modifications:

ORDINARY RESOLUTION
PROPOSED PURCHASE OF TREATED WATER BY PERBADANAN BEKALAN AIR PULAU PINANG SDN BHD ("PBAPP"), A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF PBAHB, UNDER THE NORTHERN PERAK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, FOR ONWARD SUPPLY TO THE STATE OF PENANG ("PROPOSED BULK WATER PURCHASE")

"**THAT** subject to the approvals of all relevant authorities and/or parties (where required) being obtained, approval be and is hereby given for PBAPP to purchase treated water under the Northern Perak Water Supply Scheme for onward supply to the State of Penang, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the bulk water supply agreement dated 15 July 2026 in relation to the Proposed Bulk Water Purchase entered into between PBAPP and Prasarana Air dan Irigasi Perak Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Khazanah Air Perak Sdn Bhd, which in turn is a private limited company incorporated by a consortium comprising Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak and Gamuda Berhad;

THAT the Board of Directors of PBAHB ("Board") be and is hereby empowered and authorised to do all acts, deeds and things and to execute, sign and deliver or cause to be executed, signed and delivered on behalf of the Company and/or PBAPP, all such documents and/or agreements as the Board may consider necessary, desirable or expedient, to give full effect to and complete the Proposed Bulk Water Purchase;

AND THAT the Board be and is hereby authorised with full power to agree, accept or make, any conditions, modifications, revaluations, variations and/or amendments (if any), in any manner as may be required or imposed by the relevant authorities from time to time or as the Board may in its discretion, consider necessary, desirable or expedient in the best interests of the Company and PBAPP, including the execution of any supplemental, ancillary or consequential agreement(s), and to take all such steps and do all such acts as may be necessary or expedient to implement, finalise and give full effect to the Proposed Bulk Water Purchase."

By Order of the Board,
CHUA SIEW CHUAN (MAICSA 0777689) (SSM PC No. 201908002648)
LOW SEOW WEI (MAICSA 7053500) (SSM PC No. 202008000437)
Company Secretaries

Dated: 27 October 2026
Pulau Pinang

- Notes:**
- In respect of deposited securities, only members whose names appear on the Record of Depositors as at **3 November 2026** (General Meeting Record of Depositors) shall be eligible to attend, speak and vote at the EGM of the Company or to appoint proxy or proxies to attend, speak and vote on his/her/their behalf.
 - A member entitled to participate, speak and vote at the EGM of the Company may appoint not more than 2 proxies or the Chairman as his/her/their proxy to participate, speak and vote in his/her/their stead, by indicating the voting instruction in the Form of Proxy:
 - a proxy may but need not be a member of the Company. There shall be no restriction as to the qualification of the proxy;
 - where a member appoints more than 1 proxy, the appointment shall be invalid unless the member specifies the proportion of his/her/their shareholdings to be represented by each proxy; and
 - a proxy appointed by the member shall have the same rights as the member to participate, speak, and vote at the EGM.
 - In the case of a corporate member, the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and must be either under its common seal or under the hand of its officer or attorney duly authorised.
 - Where a member is an authorised nominee, as defined under the Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act 1991, it may appoint at least 1 proxy but not more than 2 proxies in respect of each securities account which is credited with ordinary shares of the Company.
 - Where a member is an exempt authorised nominee ("EAN") as defined under the Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act 1991 which holds ordinary shares in the Company for multiple beneficial owners in one securities account ("omnibus account"), there is no limit to the number of proxies which the EAN may appoint in respect of each omnibus account it holds.
 - Where an authorised nominee or EAN appoints more than 1 proxy, the appointment shall be invalid unless the proportion of shareholdings to be represented by each proxy is specified in the instrument appointing the proxies.
 - The instrument appointing a proxy/proxies may be made in hardcopy form or by electronic means as follows:
 - In hard copy form
The Form of Proxy shall be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company at Level 32, KOMTAR, Penang Road, 10000 George Town, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.
 - By electronic means
The Form of Proxy may also be lodged electronically via email at infopbahb@pba.com.my.
 - All instruments appointing a proxy or representative and the duly registered power of attorney or other authority (if any), must be received by the Share Registrar of the Company not less than 48 hours before the time set for holding the EGM or any adjournments thereof.
 - A member is not precluded from attending the EGM in person after lodging the instrument of proxy. If you have submitted your instrument appointing a proxy prior to the EGM and subsequently wish to revoke your proxy appointment(s), you may deposit a written notice of termination of proxy authority in the following manners not less than 48 hours before the time set for holding the EGM or any adjournments thereof:
 - In hard copy form
The written notice shall be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company at Level 32, KOMTAR, Penang Road, 10000 George Town, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia.
 - By electronic means
The written notice may also be lodged electronically via email at infopbahb@pba.com.my.
 - Any alteration to the instrument appointing a proxy must be initialled. The Company shall be entitled to reject an instrument of proxy that is incomplete, improperly completed, illegible, or where the true intentions of the appointor are not ascertainable from the instructions of the appointor specified on the instrument of proxy.

Personal data privacy:
By submitting an instrument appointing a proxy(ies) and/or representative(s) to attend, speak and vote at the EGM and/or any adjournment thereof, a member of the Company:

- consents to the collection, use and disclosure of the member's personal data by the Company (or its agents) for the purpose of the processing and administration by the Company (or its agents) of proxies and representatives appointed for the EGM (including any adjournment thereof) and the preparation and compilation of the attendance lists, minutes and other documents relating to the EGM (including any adjournment thereof), and in order for the Company (or its agents) to comply with any applicable laws, listing rules, regulations and/or guidelines (collectively, the "Purposes");
- warrants that where the member discloses the personal data of the member's proxy(ies) and/or representative(s) to the Company (or its agents), the member has obtained the prior consent of such proxy(ies) and/or representative(s) for the collection, use and disclosure by the Company (or its agents) of the personal data of such proxy(ies) and/or representative(s) for the Purposes; and
- agrees that the member will indemnify the Company in respect of any penalties, liabilities, claims, demands, losses and damages as a result of the member's breach of warranty.

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NOTICE OF FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF M K LAND HOLDINGS BERHAD



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Forty-Seventh Annual General Meeting (“47th AGM”) of the Company will be held at Ballroom 1, Level 1, KLGCC Convention Centre, 1A Jalan Bukit Kiara, 60000 Kuala Lumpur on Thursday, 26 November 2026 at 10.30 a.m. to transact the following businesses:

AGENDA

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 together with the Reports of the Directors and the Auditors thereon.

(Please refer to Explanatory Note 1)
2. To re-elect the following Directors who are retiring pursuant to Clause 93 of the Constitution of the Company and being eligible, have offered themselves for re-election: -

(Please refer to Explanatory Note 2)
- (a) Felina binti Mustapha Kamal

RESOLUTION 1
- (b) Yeong Weng Cheong

RESOLUTION 2
- (c) Datuk Lukman Sheriff bin Alias

RESOLUTION 3
3. To approve the payment of Directors’ fees up to RM450,000 payable to the Non-Executive Directors for the period from 27 November 2026 until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2027.

RESOLUTION 4
(Please refer to Explanatory Note 3)
4. To approve the payment of Directors’ benefits up to RM250,000 for the period from 27 November 2026 until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2027.

RESOLUTION 5
(Please refer to Explanatory Note 3)
5. To re-appoint BDO PLT, the retiring auditors for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix the remuneration of auditors.

RESOLUTION 6
(Please refer to Explanatory Note 4)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

To consider if thought fit, with or without any modification(s), to pass the following resolution:

- ORDINARY RESOLUTION**
AUTHORITY TO ISSUE AND ALLOT SHARES PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 75 AND 76 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016

6. “THAT pursuant to Sections 75 and 76 of the Companies Act 2016, Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad (“Bursa Securities”) (“Listing Requirements”) and the approval of the relevant regulatory authorities, where such approval is required, the Directors of the Company be and are hereby empowered to issue and allot shares in the capital of the Company, grant rights to subscribe for shares in the Company, convert any securities into shares in the Company, or allot shares under an agreement or option or offer (“New Shares”) from time to time, at such price, to such persons and for such purposes and upon such terms and conditions as the Directors may in their absolute discretion deem fit, provided that the aggregate number of such New Shares to be issued, to be subscribed under any rights granted, to be issued from conversion of any security, or to be issued and allotted under an agreement or option or offer, pursuant to this resolution, when aggregated with the total number of any such shares issued during the preceding 12 months does not exceed ten per centum (10%) of the total number of the issued shares (excluding any treasury shares) of the Company for the time being (“Proposed General Mandate”).

RESOLUTION 7
(Please refer to Explanatory Note 5)
- THAT such approval on the Proposed General Mandate shall continue to be in force until:

a. the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company held after the approval was given;

b. the expiration of the period within which the next Annual General Meeting is required to be held after the approval was given; or

c. revoked or varied by resolution passed by the shareholders of the Company in a general meeting,

whichever is the earlier.

THAT the Directors of the Company be and are hereby also empowered to obtain the approval from Bursa Securities for the listing of and quotation for such New Shares on the Main Market of Bursa Securities.

THAT authority be and is hereby given to the Directors of the Company, to give effect to the Proposed General Mandate with full powers to assent to any conditions, modifications, variations and/or amendments as they may deem fit in the best interest of the Company and/or as may be imposed by the relevant authorities.

AND FURTHER THAT the Directors of the Company, be and are hereby authorised to implement, finalise, complete and take all necessary steps and to do all acts (including execute such documents as may be required), deeds and things in relation to the Proposed General Mandate.”
7. To transact any other business of which due notice shall have been given in accordance with the Companies Act 2016 and the Company’s Constitution.

By Order of the Board

TAN BEE HWEE
(SSM PC No.: 202008001497) (MAICSA 7021024)
SYARINA BINTI ISMAIL
(SSM PC No.: 202108000310) (MAICSA 7060700)
Company Secretaries

27 October 2026

NOTES:

1. For the purpose of determining a member who shall be entitled to attend and vote at the 47th Annual General Meeting (“AGM”), the Company shall be requesting the Record of Depositors as at 19 November 2026. Only a depositor whose name appears on the Record of Depositors as at 19 November 2026 shall be entitled to participate in this AGM.

2. A member entitled to participate in this AGM is entitled to appoint not more than two proxies to participate instead. A proxy may but need not be a member of the Company and a proxy appointed to participate in this AGM shall have the same rights as the member to speak at a meeting.

3. Where a member of the Company is an authorised nominee as defined under the Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act 1991, it may appoint at least one (1) proxy but not more than two (2) proxies in respect of each securities account it holds with ordinary shares of the Company standing to the credit of the said securities account.

4. Where a member of the Company is an exempt authorised nominee which holds ordinary shares in the Company for multiple beneficial owners in one securities account (“omnibus account”), there is no limit to the number of proxies which the exempt authorised nominee may appoint in respect of each omnibus account it holds.

5. Where a member or the authorised nominee or an exempt authorised nominee appoints two (2) or more proxies, the proportion of the shareholdings to be represented by each proxy must be specified in the instrument appointing the proxies.

6. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointer or attorney duly authorised in writing or, if the appointer is a corporation, either under Seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney duly authorised.

7. If the appointer is a corporation, this form must be executed under its common seal or under the hand of its attorney duly authorised and accompanied by a statement reading “signed under Power of Attorney which is still in force, no notice of revocation having been received”. A copy of the Power of Attorney, which should be valid in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which it was created and is exercised, should be enclosed in the Proxy Form.

8. The appointment of a proxy may be made in a hard copy form or by electronic means in the following manner and must be deposited at the Company’s Share Registrar, Vistra Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Tricor Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd.), not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for holding the 47th AGM, i.e. by **10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 24 November 2026** or adjourned 47th AGM at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote:
- i. **In Hard Copy Form**
In the case of an appointment made in hard copy form, the instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority, shall be deposited at the Company’s Share Registrar, Vistra Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Tricor Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd.), at Unit 32-01, Level 32, Tower A, Vertical Business Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur or alternatively, deposited in the drop box located at Unit G-3, Ground Floor, Vertical Podium, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur.

ii. **By Vistra Share Registry and IPO (My) Portal (The Portal)**
In the case of an appointment made via electronic means, the proxy form can be electronically submitted to the Share Registrar of the Company, Vistra Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Tricor Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd.), via The Portal at “<https://srmy.vistra.com/>” (Kindly refer to the Administrative Guide for the 47th AGM on the procedures for electronic lodgement of proxy form via The Portal).
9. Please ensure ALL the particulars as required in the proxy form are completed, signed and dated accordingly.

10. Last date and time for lodging the proxy form is **Tuesday, 24 November 2026 at 10.30 a.m**

11. Please bring an **ORIGINAL** of the following identification papers (where applicable) and present it to the registration staff for verification:
(i) Identity card (NRIC) (Malaysian), or
(ii) Police report (for loss of NRIC)/ Temporary NRIC (Malaysia), or
(iii) Passport (Foreigner).

12. Any authority pursuant to which such an appointment is made by a power of attorney must be deposited with the Share Registrar of the Company at Vistra Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Tricor Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd.), Unit 32-01, Level 32, Tower A, Vertical Business Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur or alternatively, deposited in the drop box located at Unit G-3, Ground Floor, Vertical Podium, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for holding the 47th AGM i.e. by **10.30 a.m on Tuesday, 24 November 2026** or adjourned 47th AGM at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote. A copy of the power of attorney may be accepted provided that it is certified notarially and/or in accordance with the applicable legal requirements in the relevant jurisdiction in which it is executed.

13. For a corporate member who has appointed a representative, please deposit the ORIGINAL certificate of appointment with the Share Registrar of the Company at Vistra Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Tricor Investor & Issuing House Services Sdn. Bhd.), Unit 32-01, Level 32, Tower A, Vertical Business Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur or alternatively, deposited in the drop box located at Unit G-3, Ground Floor, Vertical Podium, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for holding the 47th AGM, i.e. by 10.30 a.m. on **Tuesday, 24 November 2026**. The certificate of appointment should be executed in the following manner:
(i) If the corporate member has a common seal, the certificate of appointment should be executed under seal in accordance with the constitution of the corporate member.
(ii) If the corporate member does not have a common seal, the certificate of appointment should be affixed with the rubber stamp of the corporate member (if any) and executed by:
(a) at least two (2) authorised officers, of whom one shall be a director; or
(b) any director and/or authorised officers in accordance with the laws of the country under which the corporate member is incorporated.

14. It is important that you read the Administrative Guide for the conduct of the 47th AGM.

Explanatory Notes on Ordinary Business / Special Business:

1. Explanatory Note 1
To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

This Agenda item is meant for discussion only as the provisions of Sections 248(2) and 340(1)(a) of the Companies Act 2016 do not require a formal approval of the shareholders for the Audited Financial Statements. Hence, this Agenda item is not put forward for voting.
2. Explanatory Note 2
Re-election of Directors

Pursuant to Practice 5.7 of the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance, the profiles of the Directors who are standing for re-election as per Agenda item 2 is set out in the Board of Director’s profile of the Annual Report 2026. Based on the recommendation of Nomination and Remuneration Committee (“NRC”), the Board supports the re-election of Felina binti Mustapha Kamal, Yeong Weng Cheong and Datuk Lukman Sheriff bin Alias as Directors of the Company based on the following justifications:

• **RESOLUTION 1**

To re-elect Felina binti Mustapha Kamal who is retiring pursuant to Clause 93 of the Constitution of the Company and being eligible, has offered herself for re-election.

Felina binti Mustapha Kamal has extensive experience in operational matters of the Group. She heads the Board of Directors and is primarily responsible for the proper management and functioning of the Board. She has ensured that the Board plays a full and constructive role in setting Company’s strategies and that the decisions made by the Board are in the best interests of the Company and adequately reflect the consensus of the Board.

• **RESOLUTION 2**

To re-elect Yeong Weng Cheong who is retiring pursuant to Clause 93 of the Constitution of the Company and being eligible, has offered himself for re-election.

Yeong Weng Cheong has vast experience in the construction industry and gained much relevant hands on and practical experience in property development over the years. He is able to provide the Board with a diverse set of expertise and perspective.

• **RESOLUTION 3**

To re-elect Datuk Lukman Sheriff bin Alias who is retiring pursuant to Clause 93 of the Constitution of the Company and being eligible, has offered himself for re-election.
- Datuk Lukman Sheriff bin Alias has vast experience in legal field which will enhance the Board’s diverse set of experience, expertise, and independent judgement. He has devoted sufficient time and attention to his professional obligations, enabling informed and balanced decision-making. His vast experience in his field further enhances the Board’s diversity of experience, expertise, and independent judgement.

Felina binti Mustapha Kamal, Yeong Weng Cheong and Datuk Lukman Sheriff bin Alias (collectively, “Retiring Directors”) do not have any interest, position or relationship might have with any parties which could influence, or reasonably be perceived to influence, in a material respect their capacity to bring an independent judgement to bear on issues before the Board and all of them act in the best interest of the Company as a whole.

The Board through NRC has conducted a separate assessment which includes the following and has satisfied with the contribution and performance of the Retiring Directors: -
(a) Contribution and performance of each individual Director;
(b) Independence of the Independent Non-Executive Director, where relevant; and
(c) Fit and proper assessment.

The Board agreed with the NRC’s recommendation that the Directors who retire in accordance with Clause 93, of the Company’s Constitution are eligible to stand for re-election. The Retiring Directors had abstained from deliberations and decisions on their own eligibility to stand for re-election at the Board Meeting. Details of the assessment are disclosed in the Corporate Governance Overview Statement and NRC Report.
3. Explanatory Note 3
Directors’ Fees and Benefits

Section 230(1) of the Companies Act 2016 provides, amongst others, that “the fees” of the directors and “any benefits” payable to the directors of a listed company and its subsidiaries shall be approved at a general meeting. In this respect, the Board recommended the following to the shareholders for approval at the 47th AGM:

• **RESOLUTION 4**

To approve the payment of Directors’ fees up to RM450,000 payable to the Non-Executive Directors for the period from 27 November 2026 until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2027.

• **RESOLUTION 5**

To approve the payment of Directors’ benefits up to RM250,000 for the period from 27 November 2026 until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2027.

Directors’ Fees

The NRC has reviewed the Directors’ fees and recommended the Directors’ fees to the Board for consideration. The Board agreed with the NRC’s recommendation that the Directors’ fees provided are still competitive and at par with prevalent market rate.

The proposed Ordinary Resolution 4, if passed, will give authority to the Company to pay the Directors’ fees on a monthly basis for a period from 27 November 2026 until the next AGM of the Company to be held in 2027, as and when their services are rendered. The Directors’ fees for this period are based on the following fee structure:

	Monthly fees
Non-Executive Directors	RM7,000
	Additional monthly fees
NRC Chairman	RM1,000
ARMC Chairman	RM1,500

The quantum of the Directors’ fees remains unchanged as compared with the year 2025/2026.

Directors’ Benefits

The Directors’ benefits comprise meeting allowances and other emoluments i.e. Directors’ indemnity insurance and medical benefits payable to the Directors. The meeting allowances are as set out below:

Type of Benefits	Description	Amount
Meeting Attendance Allowance	Chairman of the Board	RM2,500 per meeting
	Member of the Board	RM2,000 per meeting

In determining the estimated total amount of benefits for the Directors, the Board considered various factors including the number of scheduled meetings for the Board and the Board Committees. The estimated number of the Board, Board Committees and general meetings are scheduled to be held for the period from 27 November 2026 until the next AGM of the Company to be held in 2027 (“**Relevant Period**”), accordingly.

Payment of the Directors’ benefits comprises meeting allowances and other emoluments, i.e. directors’ indemnity insurance and medical benefits will be made by the Company as and when incurred after the passing of the proposed Ordinary Resolution 5 by the shareholders at the 47th AGM.

The Board is of the view that it is just and equitable to pay the Directors’ benefits as and when incurred, particularly after the Directors have discharged their duties, responsibilities and rendered their services to the Company throughout the Relevant Period.

The proposed Ordinary Resolution 5, if passed, will give authority to the Company to pay the Directors’ benefits of up to RM250,000 for a period from 27 November 2026 until the next AGM of the Company to be held in 2027.

4. Explanatory Note 4

Re-appointment of External Auditor

The Board has through the ARMC considered the re-appointment of BDO PLT as Auditors of the Company. The factors considered by the ARMC in making the recommendation to the Board to table their re-appointment at the 47th AGM are disclosed in the Corporate Governance Overview Statement of the Annual Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

- **RESOLUTION 6**

To re-appoint BDO PLT, the retiring auditors for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix the remuneration of auditors.

5. Explanatory Note 5

Authority to issue Shares pursuant to Sections 75 and 76 of the Companies Act 2016

The proposed Ordinary Resolution 7 is proposed to seek for a renewal of the general mandate for the Directors to issue and allot shares pursuant to Sections 75 and 76 of the Companies Act 2016 (“the Act”). The proposed Ordinary Resolution 7, if passed, will give the Directors of the Company from the date of the above meeting, authority to issue and allot shares in the Company up to 10% of the total number of the issued shares (excluding treasury shares) of the Company for the time being for such purposes as the Directors consider would be in the best interest of the Company. The authority will continue to be in force until the conclusion of the next AGM of the Company, or at the expiry of the period within which the next AGM is required to be held after the approval was given, whichever is earlier, unless revoked or varied by the Company at a general meeting.

As at the date of this notice, no new shares in the Company were issued pursuant to the general mandate to the Directors for issuance of shares pursuant to the Act, obtained at the 46th AGM held on 4 December 2025 and which will lapse at the conclusion of the 47th AGM. Hence, no proceeds were raised from the previous general mandate.

The general mandate sought will enable the Directors of the Company to issue and allot shares, including but not limited for further placing of shares for purpose of funding investment(s), working capital and/or acquisitions, at any time to such persons in their absolute discretion without convening a general meeting as it would be both costs and time-consuming to organise a general meeting.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Tenth Annual General Meeting ("10th AGM") of Techbond Group Berhad ("the Company") at Danau 3, Kota Permai Golf & Country Club, No. 1, Jalan Anggerik Vanilla 31/100A, Kota Kemuning, 40460 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan on **Friday, 27 November 2026 at 10.00 a.m.** for the following purposes:

AGENDA

- To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports.
[Please refer to Note (a)]
- To re-elect the following Directors retiring in accordance with Clause 127 of the Constitution of the Company and being eligible, have offered themselves for re-election:
i. Ms. Tan Siew Geak; and
ii. Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil
[Please refer to Note (b)]
(Resolution 1)
(Resolution 2)
- To approve the payment of Directors' fees to the following Directors for the financial year ending 30 June 2027:
i. Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh: RM84,000.00;
ii. Ooi Guan Hoe: RM72,000.00;
iii. Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil: RM72,000.00;
iv. Yap Choi Foong, being a representative for PPB Group Berhad: RM72,000.00
[Please refer to Note (c)]
(Resolution 3)
(Resolution 4)
(Resolution 5)
(Resolution 6)
- To approve the payment of Directors' benefits of up to RM24,000.00 for the financial period from 1 January 2027 until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
[Please refer to Note (d)]
(Resolution 7)
- To re-appoint Grant Thornton Malaysia PLT as Auditors of the Company for the ensuing year and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
[Please refer to Note (e)]
(Resolution 8)

SPECIAL BUSINESS

To consider and if thought fit, to pass, with or without modifications, the following resolutions:

- Ordinary Resolution**
Authority to Issue Shares Pursuant to Sections 75 And 76 of the Companies Act, 2016
(Resolution 9)
"THAT subject to the Companies Act, 2016, the Constitution of the Company and the approvals of the Securities Commission, Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad ("Bursa Securities") and other relevant governmental and/or regulatory authorities, if applicable, the Directors of the Company be and are hereby empowered pursuant to Sections 75 and 76 of the Companies Act, 2016 to issue shares in the Company at any time at such price, upon such terms and conditions, for such purposes and to such person or persons whomsoever as the Directors may in their absolute discretion deem fit, provided that the aggregate number of shares issued pursuant to this resolution does not exceed ten per centum (10%) of the total issued share capital of the Company for the time being; AND THAT such authority shall continue to be in force until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company.
THAT pursuant to Section 85 of the Companies Act, 2016, read together with Clause 15 of the Constitution of the Company, approval be and is hereby given to waive the statutory pre-emptive rights of the shareholders of the Company to be offered new shares ranking equally to the existing issued shares of the Company arising from any issuance of new shares pursuant to Sections 75 & 76 of the Companies Act, 2016."
[Refer to Explanatory Note (f)]
- Ordinary Resolution**
Proposed Renewal of Authority for Purchase of Own Shares by the Company
(Resolution 10)
"THAT subject always to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2016, the Constitution of the Company, the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities and other relevant statutory and/or regulatory requirements, the Company be authorised, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to buy-back such amount of Shares in the Company as may be determined by the Directors of the Company from time to time, through Bursa Securities, upon such terms and conditions as the Directors may deem fit and expedient in the interests of the Company, provided that:
(i) the aggregate number of Shares bought-back does not exceed 10% of the total issued and paid-up ordinary share capital of the Company at any time;
(ii) the maximum amount of funds to be allocated for the shares buy-back shall not exceed the Company's audited retained earnings and/or share premium account at any point in time;
(iii) the Shares purchased shall be treated in the following manner:
(a) the purchased Shares shall be cancelled; or
(b) the purchased Shares shall be retained as treasury shares for distribution as dividend to the shareholders and/or resale on Bursa Securities in accordance with the relevant rules of Bursa Securities and/or cancellation subsequently; or
(c) part of the purchased Shares shall be retained as treasury shares and the remainder shall be cancelled; or
(d) in such other manner as Bursa Securities and other relevant authorities may allow from time to time.
(e) any combination of (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.
AND THAT the authority conferred by this resolution shall commence upon the passing of this resolution until:
(i) the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company following the general meeting at which such resolution was passed, at which time the authority will lapse unless renewed by ordinary resolution, either unconditionally or subject to conditions; or
(ii) the expiration of the period within which the next AGM after that date is required by law to be held; or
(iii) revoked or varied by resolution passed by the Company in general meeting; whichever occurs first.
AND FURTHER THAT authority be and is hereby given to the Directors of the Company to take all such steps as may be necessary or expedient (including without limitation, the opening and maintaining of central depository account(s) under the Securities (Central Depository) Industry Act, 1991, and the entering into and execution of all agreements, arrangements and guarantees with any party or parties) to implement, finalise and give full effect to the Proposed Share Buy-Back with full powers to assent to any conditions, modifications, revaluations, variations and/or amendments (if any) as may be imposed by the relevant authorities and with full power to do all such acts and things thereafter (including without limitation, the cancellation or retention as treasury shares of all or any part of the Shares bought-back) in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Constitution of the Company, the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities and all other relevant statutory and/or regulatory requirements."
[Refer to Explanatory Note (g)]
- Ordinary Resolution**
Proposed Continuation in Office of Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh as Independent Non-Executive Director
(Resolution 11)
"THAT authority be and is hereby given to Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh who has served as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company for a cumulative term of more than nine (9) years, to continue to act as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company."
[Refer to Explanatory Note (h)]
- Ordinary Resolution**
Proposed Continuation in Office of Mr. Ooi Guan Hoe as Independent Non-Executive Director
(Resolution 12)
"THAT authority be and is hereby given to Mr. Ooi Guan Hoe who has served as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company for a cumulative term of more than nine (9) years, to continue to act as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company."
[Refer to Explanatory Note (i)]
- Ordinary Resolution**
Proposed Continuation in Office of Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil as Independent Non-Executive Director
(Resolution 13)
"THAT authority be and is hereby given to Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil who has served as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company for a cumulative term of more than nine (9) years, to continue to act as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company."
[Refer to Explanatory Note (j)]
- To transact any other business of which due notice shall have been given in accordance with the Companies Act, 2016 and the Constitution of the Company.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

WONG YOUN KIM (F) (MAICSA 7018778) (SSM PC NO. 201908000410)
Company Secretary
Kuala Lumpur
27 October 2026

NOTES:

- A member of a Company shall be entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to exercise all or any of his rights to attend, participate, speak and vote at meeting of members of the Company. A member may appoint not more than two (2) proxies in relation to a meeting, provided that the member specifies the proportion of the member's shareholdings to be represented by each proxy. A proxy may but need not be a member of the Company.
- Where a Member of the Company is an authorised nominee as defined under the Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act, 1991 ("SICDA"), it may appoint not more than two (2) proxies in respect of each securities account it holds with ordinary shares of the Company standing to the credit of the said securities account.
- For a member of the Company who is an exempt authorised nominee which holds ordinary shares in the Company for multiple beneficial owners in one (1) securities account ("omnibus account"), there is no limit to the number of proxies which the exempt authorised nominee may appoint in respect of each omnibus account it holds. An exempt authorised nominee refers to an authorised nominee defined under SICDA which is exempted from compliance with the provisions of subsection 25A(1) of SICDA.
- Where a member or the authorised nominee appoints more than two (2) proxies, or where an exempt authorised nominee appoints more than one (1) proxy in respect of each omnibus account to attend and vote at the same meeting, the appointments shall be invalid unless the proportion of shareholdings to be represented by each proxy is specified in the instrument appointing the proxies.
- The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing signed by the appointor or by his attorney who is authorised in writing. In the case of a corporation, the instrument appointing proxy(ies) must be made either under its common seal or signed by an officer or an attorney duly authorised.

- The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and shall be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company at B-25-2, Block B, Jaya One, No. 72A, Jalan Prof Diraja Ungku Aziz, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia or via electronic means through the <https://binamanagement.com.my> not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time set for the meeting or any adjournment thereof.
- Any authority pursuant to which such an appointment is made by a power of attorney must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company in accordance with Note (vi) above not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for holding the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") or adjourned general meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote. A copy of the power of attorney may be accepted provided that it is certified notarially and/or in accordance with the applicable legal requirements in the relevant jurisdiction in which it is executed.
- For a corporate member who has appointed a representative, please deposit the ORIGINAL OR DULY CERTIFIED certificate of appointment at the Registered Office of the Company in accordance with Note (vi) above. The certificate of appointment should be executed in the following manner:
 - If the corporate member has a common seal, the certificate of appointment should be executed under seal in accordance with the constitution of the corporate member.
 - If the corporate member does not have a common seal, the certificate of appointment should be affixed with the rubber stamp of the corporate member (if any) and executed by:
 - at least two (2) authorised officers, of whom one (1) shall be a director; or
 - any director and/or authorised officers in accordance with the laws of the country under which the corporate member is incorporated.
- For the purpose of determining a member who shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting, the Company shall be requesting Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd to make available to the Company a Record of Depositors as at 19 November 2026 and only a depositor whose name appears on the Record of Depositors shall be entitled to attend the meeting or appoint proxy(ies) to attend and vote in his/her stead.

Explanatory Notes to the Agenda:

- Audited Financial Statements**
This item is meant for discussion only. The provisions of Section 340(1)(a) of the Companies Act, 2016 require that the audited financial statements and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon be laid before the Company at its AGM. As such, this Agenda item is not a business which requires a resolution to be put to vote by shareholders.
- Re-election of Retiring Directors pursuant to Section 127**
The Board of Directors through its Nomination Committee ("NC") had assessed and supported the re-election of the retiring Directors, Ms. Tan Siew Geak and Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil. The NC had conducted the annual Board Effectiveness Assessment ("BEA"), in the areas of performance, contribution to interaction, quality of input, understanding of their roles and independence of Independent Directors. A fit and proper assessment was also conducted by the NC on the Directors who are standing for re-election under Clause 127 of the Constitution to ensure that they have the essential quality and integrity as well as the relevant character, experience, competence, time and commitment to discharge their roles as Directors. Based on the results of the BEA, the Board of Directors concluded that the performance of the retiring Directors was satisfactory and that they met the Board's expectation in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. They have relevant experience, skills, expertise and finance knowledge that are beneficial to the Company. They also devote adequate time in discharging their duties and responsibilities as Directors, work constructively with other Board members, attend meetings with well preparation and will continue to bring value and insights to the Board.
The retiring Directors, being eligible, have offered themselves for re-election at the 10th AGM. The profiles of Directors standing for re-election are set out on pages 6 and 8 of the Annual Report 2026. All Directors standing for re-election have abstained from deliberations and decisions on their own eligibility to stand for re-election at the 10th AGM of the Company.
- Payment of Directors' Fees**
This resolution is to facilitate the payment of Directors' fees on a current financial year basis, calculated based on the current board size. In the event the Directors' fees proposed are insufficient (due to enlarged Board size), approval will be sought at the next AGM for additional fees to meet the shortfall.
- Payment of Directors' Benefits**
This resolution is to facilitate payment of Directors' benefits for the period from 1 January 2027 until the next AGM of the Company. In the event the Directors' benefits proposed are insufficient (e.g. due to more meetings or enlarged Board size), approval will be sought at the next AGM for additional fees to meet the shortfall.
Directors' benefits include allowances for travel and training programmes for Directors and other emoluments payable to Directors. In determining the estimated total, the Board had considered various factors including the number of scheduled meetings for the Board and Board Committees and covers the period from 1 January 2027 until the next AGM of the Company (the due date for which the next AGM should be held).
- Re-appointment of Grant Thornton Malaysia PLT**
The Board had at its meeting held on 8 October 2026 approved the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Management Committee ("ARMC") to re-appoint Grant Thornton Malaysia PLT as auditors of the Company. The Board and ARMC collectively agreed that Grant Thornton Malaysia PLT has met the relevant criteria prescribed by Paragraph 15.21 of the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities.
- Renewal of Authority to issue shares pursuant to Sections 75 and 76 of the Companies Act, 2016**
The proposed Resolution 9, if passed, will give the Directors of the Company, from the date of the above Annual General Meeting, authority to issue and allot shares from the unissued capital of the Company for such purposes as the Directors may deem fit and in the interest of the Company. The authority, unless revoked or varied by the Company in general meeting, will expire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
THAT pursuant to Section 85 of the Companies Act 2016, read together with Clause 15 of the Constitution of the Company, approval be and is hereby given to waive the statutory pre-emptive rights of the shareholders of the Company to be offered new shares ranking equally to the existing issued shares of the Company arising from any issuance of new shares pursuant to Sections 75 & 76 of the Companies Act 2016.
As at the date of this notice, no new shares in the Company were issued pursuant to the authority granted to the Directors at the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 2025 and which will lapse at the conclusion of the Ninth Annual General Meeting.
The authority will provide flexibility to the Company for any possible fund-raising activities, including but not limited to further placing of shares, for purpose of funding future investment project(s), working capital and/or acquisitions.
- Proposed Renewal Authority for Purchase of Own Shares by The Company**
The proposed Ordinary Resolution 10 if passed, will empower the Company to purchase and/or hold up to ten per centum (10%) of the issued and paid-up share of the Company. This authority unless revoked or varied by the Company at a General Meeting will expire at the next Annual General Meeting.
Further information on the Proposed Renewal Authority for Purchase of Own Shares by the Company is set out in the Share Buy-Back Statements to Shareholders of the Company which is dispatched together with this Annual Report.
- Proposed Continuation in Office of Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh as Independent Non-Executive Director**
In line with the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance, the Board of Directors has assessed the independence of Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh, who was appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company on 2 January 2018 and whose tenure will reach nine (9) years on 2 January 2027. Following the assessment, the Board has recommended him to continue to serve as Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company based on the following justifications:
 - Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh has fulfilled the criteria under the definition of Independent Director as stated in the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities, and hence, he would be able to provide an element of objectivity, independent judgement and balance to the Board;
 - His length of services on the Board of more than nine (9) years does not in any way interfere with his exercise of objective judgement or his ability to act in the best interests of the Company and Group. In fact, Dato' Hamzah Bin Mohd Salleh, has been with the Company for more than nine (9) years, is familiar with the Group's business operations and has devoted sufficient time and commitment to his role and responsibilities as Independent Director for informed and balance decision making; and
 - He has exercised due care during his tenure as Independent Director of the Company and has discharged his duties with reasonable skill and competence, bringing independent judgement and depth into the Board's decision making in the interest of the Company and its shareholders.
- Proposed Continuation in Office of Mr. Ooi Guan Hoe as Independent Non-Executive Director**
In line with the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance, the Board of Directors has assessed the independence of Mr. Ooi Guan Hoe, who was appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company on 2 January 2018 and whose tenure will reach nine (9) years on 2 January 2027. Following the assessment, the Board has recommended him to continue to act as Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company based on the following justifications:
 - Mr. Ooi Guan Hoe has fulfilled the criteria under the definition of Independent Director as stated in the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities, and hence, he would be able to provide an element of objectivity, independent judgement and balance to the Board;
 - His length of services on the Board of more than nine (9) years does not in any way interfere with his exercise of objective judgement or his ability to act in the best interests of the Company and Group. In fact, Mr. Ooi Guan Hoe, has been with the Company for more than nine (9) years, is familiar with the Group's business operations and has devoted sufficient time and commitment to his role and responsibilities as Independent Director for informed and balance decision making; and
 - He has exercised due care during his tenure as Independent Director of the Company and has discharged his duties with reasonable skill and competence, bringing independent judgement and depth into the Board's decision making in the interest of the Company and its shareholders.
- Proposed Continuation in Office of Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil as Independent Non-Executive Director**
In line with the Malaysian Code on Corporate Governance, the Board of Directors has assessed the independence of Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil, who was appointed as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company on 2 January 2018 and whose tenure will reach nine (9) years on 2 January 2027. Following the assessment, the Board has recommended her to continue to act as Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company based on the following justifications:
 - Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil has fulfilled the criteria under the definition of Independent Director as stated in the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Securities, and hence, she would be able to provide an element of objectivity, independent judgement and balance to the Board;
 - Her length of services on the Board of more than nine (9) years does not in any way interfere with her exercise of objective judgement or his ability to act in the best interests of the Company and Group. In fact, Puan Selma Enolil Binti Mustapha Khalil, has been with the Company for more than nine (9) years, is familiar with the Group's business operations and has devoted sufficient time and commitment to her role and responsibilities as Independent Director for informed and balance decision making; and
 - She has exercised due care during her tenures as Independent Director of the Company and has discharged her duties with reasonable skill and competence, bringing independent judgement and depth into the Board's decision making in the interest of the Company and its shareholders.



This visual is human-created, AI aided.

Trade surplus leans on E&E

Diversification and stronger domestic supply chains emerge as key priorities

ECONOMY

By AIDA AHMAD

aidaahmad@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's exports have never been bigger, but the engine behind them may be slowing.

In the first nine months of 2026 (9M26), shipments rose 34% to RM1.57 trillion, and electrical and electronics (E&E) supplied nearly two-thirds of the gain.

E&E exports climbed 49.5% to RM766.38bil, lifting the sector's share of total exports to 48.8% from 43.7% a year earlier.

But with the artificial intelligence (AI) theme now facing financing headwinds and concentration risk, analysts fear a slowdown in capital expenditure spend and a new US tariff shock will have a spill-over effect on Malaysian E&E exports.

The same sector generated RM171.87bil of the RM232.38bil trade surplus, about 74% of the total.

If demand for E&E exports eases, the rest of the economy may need to pick up the slack. Non-E&E exports grew 21.9% to RM804.94bil for 9M26. But their share slipped to 51.2% from 56.3%, and agricultural exports fell 8.5%.

Sunway University economics professor Yeah Kim Leng said the problem is structural.

The non-E&E sector is highly diversified but fragmented, he said, and built heavily on traditional commodity and resource-based goods such as rubber, timber, plastics, metals and consumer products.

"These industries face rising competition and slow demand in foreign markets.

"Unlocking growth requires targeted export financing, diversification into non-traditional markets such as Central Asia, Africa and Latin America and deeper

"Miti has already committed to curbing indiscriminate imports and developing local production of imported materials and semi-finished goods through SME vendor programmes."

Yeah Kim Leng

domestic supply chain integration to reduce import dependence," he told *StarBiz*.

The numbers show the strain.

Official Statistics Department's rubber statistics noted that Malaysia's natural rubber exports fell by 20% month-on-month in February to 33,897 tonnes.

However, Malaysia's cumulative palm oil exports rose by 4.3% year-on-year (y-o-y) during 9M26, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Council.

For January through August 2026, palm oil exports had already exceeded 10.4 million tonnes, up 8.2% y-o-y alongside 12.6 million tonnes of crude palm oil production helped by new export destinations.

According to the Statistics Department's *Mining of Petroleum and Natural Gas 2Q26* release, Malaysia's weighted average lifting price did jump to US\$114.50 a barrel in the second quarter of financial year 2026 (2Q26), but it rose from US\$84 a barrel in 1Q26. The overall crude oil production fell 5.5% y-o-y in 1Q26.

Brent crude oil prices averaged US\$80.20 in 1Q26 and surged to US\$103.30 in the 2Q, staying elevated near US\$83 to US\$90 through July and August 2026 due to Middle East supply concerns.

Yeah said the solution rests on three

linked priorities.

The first is deepening domestic supply chains to capture more value.

"The Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) has already committed to curbing indiscriminate imports and developing local production of imported materials and semi-finished goods through small and medium enterprise (SME) vendor programmes," he said.

The second is scaling up SME export participation through targeted financing and market access.

He said support from the Malaysia External Trade Development Corp (Matrade) under the Export Resilience and Market Diversification Fund must deliver on its aim of broadening the exporter base.

Non-traditional markets are growing, though not yet at the pace of the surge elsewhere – exports to Africa, Central Asia, South Asia and Latin America rose 21.5% to RM136.36bil, against 34% for total exports.

The third is backing the winners.

"Concentrate support on proven high-value non-E&E segments, specifically petroleum products, optical and scientific equipment, machinery and parts, liquefied natural gas, oleochemicals, automotive parts, pharmaceuticals, metal furniture

and aerospace, rather than diffusing resources across all categories," Yeah said.

Miti data showed September machinery exports were up 38.4% and optical and scientific equipment rose 43.2%, while Matrade said oleochemicals posted double-digit growth over the nine months.

Yeah suggested several cross-cutting reforms, including lowering regulatory and compliance costs for SME exporters, strengthening Matrade's role in linking SMEs to multinational supply chains while supplying market intelligence on new destinations, and extending tax incentives for trade exhibitions.

His scorecard is not headline export growth but the non-E&E trade surplus, the SME share of exports and domestic value added.

On the surplus, there is progress – but from a very low base.

Malaysia's non-E&E trade barely broke even in 2025, with a surplus of RM12bil against RM145bil for E&E.

For now, Yeah said E&E can keep leading. The current surge is powered by an unusually strong global AI and semiconductor upcycle.

"Malaysia sits deep in that supply chain, with about 6.5% of global semiconductor-related exports, and strong order books should carry the benefits into 2027," he said.

But the momentum is cyclical, not structurally secure. The same concentration that makes E&E the growth engine makes it vulnerable, he added.

Yeah said the high 2026 base will mechanically slow growth next year, adding that US Section 301 negotiations remain unresolved, and 14.5% represents the US share of Malaysia's total aggregate exports across all industries.

"Worries about an AI bubble and data centre capacity constraints loom.

> TURN TO PAGE 2

AI boom set to continue

Industry players see lasting impact on businesses

TECHNOLOGY

By YVONNE TAN
yvonne@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Amid layers of criticism and scepticism, the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI) in today's business world is a real phenomenon that is here to stay, industry players say.

While the economic returns and real-world productivity as a result of artificial intelligence (AI) remain somewhat heavily debated, AI is only just starting to make its impact felt at all levels of society.

Trident Analytics chief research officer Peter Lim Tze Cheng reckons AI is "creating a wave that is much bigger than the founding of Internet and 4G".

"Take Anthropic and OpenAI as an example," he told *StarBiz*.

"Just barely few years after both companies started charging for their services, they have generated revenue of US\$100bil combined. This is the first time we are seeing businesses with such exponential growth in revenues."

Lim, a keen follower of global developments within the semiconductor and related industries noted however that when it comes to AI, there are essentially two main cycles.

"First, is the AI usage cycle. This will not reverse or face a down trend, I believe.

"Second, is the AI data centre capital expenditure cycle. I think there will come a time when the invested capacity exceeds the demand but my view is that we are still very far off from this scenario as the demand remains massive," Lim added.

Founder and chief executive officer of Capital Dynamics Tan Teng Boo said the AI Revolution is something that is "real and irreversible".

"Its impact on Malaysia will be immense and will be felt at multiple levels including in politics, business, economics and investment," he said.

"Take Anthropic and OpenAI as an example. Just barely few years after both companies started charging for their services, they have generated revenue of US\$100bil combined. This is the first time we are seeing businesses with such exponential growth in revenues."

Peter Lim Tze Cheng

The fund manager said semiconductors and AI-related sectors had become some of the main investment themes in global stock markets, including in Malaysia.

He pointed out that in the United States, Micron Technology, Inc's share price had risen more than 260% year-to-date by late September while in China, AI and semiconductor-related fresh initial public offerings had been snapped up by investors.

On Bursa Malaysia, Tan noted that technology group Mi Technovation Bhd had seen a strong stock performance this year, underpinned by an unprecedented boom in the global semiconductor industry, with the International Data Corp (IDC) forecasting total semiconductor revenue to reach US\$1.29 trillion this year from US\$842.8bil last year.

Tan said driven by the AI revolution, semiconductor technology had been "turned upside down".

"It is moving towards faster computing, higher memory bandwidth, smaller and more energy-efficient transistors, and greater integration of chips to meet the rapidly growing demands of AI.

"Consequently, semiconductor technology has undergone significant developments."

According to IDC's Worldwide AI and Generative AI Spending Guide, Asia/Pacific AI and generative AI investment, including

China and Japan, is set to grow from US\$121.5bil in 2025 to US\$555.2bil by 2030, a compound annual growth rate of 35.5%.

In a statement, IDC said this growth reflects enterprises moving generative AI and agents beyond isolated pilots and into core, enterprise-wide operations.

"Agentic AI and orchestration platforms emerge as key catalysts, enabling enterprises to unify predictive, generative, and prescriptive capabilities within a single governance framework rather than managing them as separate initiatives," it said.

In the statement, data and analytics, IDC Asia/Pacific senior market analyst Vinayaka Venkatesh said the next phase of AI adoption in Asia/Pacific will be defined by how effectively organisations can move from experimentation to scaled, operational deployments.

IDC said the pace of AI investment varies across markets, reflecting differences in enterprise AI governance maturity, local and sovereign compute capacity, financial services and public sector demand, and the ability of enterprises to scale AI across existing technology environments.

"These factors are shaping both the pace and composition of AI investment across the region, even as software and information services continue to account for the largest share of spending," the research and data company said.

Selling pressure pulls Bursa Malaysia lower

KUALA LUMPUR: 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 5pm, the FBM KLCI dropped 7.2 points, or 0.45%, 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, its highest level yesterday, 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 2.9 billion units worth

RM2.15bil from last Friday's 3.18 billion units worth RM2.69bil.

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 infrastructure and the potential returns on such investments.

"Back home, buying interest shifted towards energy stocks, supported by persistently high crude oil prices.

"We believe bargain hunting will emerge

given the recent weakness, particularly in stocks that have corrected sharply despite having sound fundamentals.

"Nevertheless, subdued liquidity, elevated oil prices and uncertainty ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision this week could limit any rebound.

"We expect the FBM KLCI to trade within 1,590 to 1,620 for the week," he told *Bernama*.

Among the heavyweight stocks, Malayan Banking Bhd fell eight sen to RM9.98, Public Bank Bhd and Tenaga Nasional Bhd each trimmed two sen to RM4.73 and RM13.28, respectively, CIMB Group Holdings Bhd lost five sen to RM7.10, and IHH Healthcare Bhd gave up six sen to RM7.84. — *Bernama*

Record exports raise questions over growth sustainability

> FROM PAGE 1

"With E&E at roughly half of all exports, a downcycle or a shift in AI investment sentiment could sharply reverse momentum," Yeah said.

For 2025, Miti noted that E&E exports totalled RM712bil against E&E imports of RM567bil, an import-to-export ratio of 79.6%. In 9M26 the ratio was 77.6%, against 79.4% a year earlier.

Bank Negara Malaysia has said domestic value added in Malaysia's E&E exports is low compared with other countries, reflecting a strength in assembly, packaging and

testing. Not everyone sees the cycle as a risk.

Economist Geoffrey Williams said E&E growth is "completely sustainable into 2027" because the outlook will not change despite negative sentiment.

He sees no need for policy changes beyond liberalising tariffs and non-tariff barriers with trade partners, warning that protectionism invites reciprocal barriers overseas.

Rising imports, he said, signal stronger domestic activity, from consumers as well as for re-export.

Technology, AI and semiconductors lead the growth, he said, but oil and gas and

palm oil also contribute, and the government should seek palm oil markets without environmental, social and governance barriers.

"New markets would widen options for exporters because traditional ones may be saturated, though the benefits will build slowly," Williams added.

Going forward, Yeah said the medium-term question is whether Malaysia can climb from assembly and testing toward design, advanced packaging and research and development before the cycle turns.

That is precisely what the National Semiconductor Strategy aims to do.

SKA Capital bags RM89mil TNB contracts

KUALA LUMPUR: SKA Capital Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary, SKA Rekabina Sdn Bhd, has accepted a letter of award (LoA) from Ibrahim & Sons Engineering Sdn Bhd for six contracts awarded by Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), with a combined value of RM89.28mil.

The contracts involve the installation, testing and commissioning of 11-kilovolt (kV) and 33kV underground cables and related accessories, the construction of two 33/11kV main distribution substations in Kuantan, Pahang, and Chendering, Terengganu, as well as underground cable laying and jointing works for TNB's distribution network in Selangor.

"The projects shall be effective from the date of acceptance of the LoA and are expected to be completed within 18 months from the date of commencement," said SKA Capital in a Bursa Malaysia filing yesterday.

The acceptance of the LoA is not expected to affect its share capital or the shareholdings of its substantial shareholders. — *Bernama*

SSF Home plans RM42mil land acquisition

PETALING JAYA: SSF Home Group Bhd is proposing to acquire three parcels of leasehold land totalling 52,611 sq m in Pulau Indah, Selangor, from IFFCO Foods Sdn Bhd for RM42.47mil.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, SSF said the proposed acquisition is in line with the group's long-term business strategy to enhance its warehousing and logistics capabilities, improve operational efficiency and support its future business expansion.

"The proposed acquisition will enable the group to construct its own warehouse facilities, thereby reducing its reliance on rented premises and providing greater flexibility in managing its warehousing and distribution operations.

"The strategic location of the lands is also expected to facilitate more efficient logistics operations and potentially result in long-term cost savings," the company said.

Econpile wins RM24mil job

PETALING JAYA: Econpile Holdings Bhd has secured a contract from REIN Architects Sdn Bhd on behalf of Beverly 37 Sdn Bhd for site clearance, retaining wall and piling works for a serviced apartment development in Kuala Lumpur, worth RM24.4mil.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, Econpile said the development comprises a block of 53-storey service apartment (315 units) with seven levels of podium parking, two levels of basement parking and ancillary facilities located off Jalan Tun Razak, Seksyen 67, Kuala Lumpur.

"Section 1 of the project which consists of site clearing, retaining wall and piling works shall be completed within six months from Nov 5, 2026.

"Section 2 of the project which consists of pile head cutting and demolition works shall commence within three months from the commencement of superstructure works and be completed within three months thereafter, in accordance with the main contractor's works programme."

GDB bags record RM1bil ParkCity Residences job

Order book rises to RM2.05bil despite lower 2Q profit

PROPERTY

PETALING JAYA: Construction group GDB Holdings Bhd has secured a RM1.017bil contract from Perdana ParkCity Sdn Bhd to build ParkCity Residences, a luxury residential development in Desa ParkCity.

Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Grand Dynamic Builders Sdn Bhd, GDB said it will undertake the construction of two residential blocks ranging from 49 to 63 storeys, comprising 433 apartments.

"The scope also includes a seven-storey podium housing residential amenities and car parking, alongside a two-storey basement car park.

"The project commences in November 2026 and is slated for completion in August 2031," it said in a statement.

GDB said the RM1.017bil contract was the largest residential award in the group's history, lifting year-to-date wins to a record RM1.81bil.

With the award, its total order book expands to about RM2.05bil, providing robust earnings visibility until 2031.

In the same statement, GDB executive director and acting group managing director Andy Lai Wee Young said the group is well positioned to deliver sustained performance in the coming years, given its strong project pipeline across Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

"Perdana ParkCity has entrusted GDB with its flagship developments for over a decade, reflecting its confidence in our exe-

"The group is well positioned to deliver sustained performance in the coming years, given its strong project pipeline across Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak."

Andy Lai Wee Young

cution capabilities, quality workmanship and timely delivery."

GDB said it has built a strong working relationship with Perdana ParkCity since 2013, having delivered One Central Park, Westside III and Park Regent at Desa ParkCity.

"GDB has also demonstrated exceptional performance within the construction sector, with Metrohub 4 achieving a Qlassic (Quality Assessment System in Construction) score of 90% and Park Regent a BuildQAS score of 85.5%, both ranking among the highest in the industry."

For its second quarter ended June 30, 2026 (2Q26), GDB's net profit dropped to RM13.2mil from RM21.75mil in the previous corresponding period, while revenue slipped to RM142.48mil from RM180.86mil a year earlier.

In a statement, the company said the decrease in revenue was mainly due to existing projects nearing completion, namely the KL International Hospital project in Bukit Jalil, Logistic Hub project in

Shah Alam, the Metrohub 4 Logistic Hub project in Klang.

It said lower profit during 2Q26 was in line with the lower revenue recorded, coupled with an increase in administrative expenses resulting from the group's expanded structure to support its expansion into Sarawak and Sabah, as well as its diversification into other businesses.

Going forward, the company said it would continue to pursue new contract opportunities to capitalise on improving market conditions, supported by sustained public and private investment in the building construction sector.

"The group will continue to closely monitor its operating environment through regular assessments to ensure prudent financial and operational management amid evolving regulatory requirements, geopolitical uncertainties and global trade tensions.

"Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the group remains cautiously optimistic about its performance for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2026," it added.

Pansar awarded RM170.86mil Samalaju works

PETALING JAYA: Pansar Bhd has secured a RM170.86mil contract from KKB Engineering Bhd for civil and structural subcontract works under the second phase of a water infrastructure upgrade project in Samalaju, within the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, Pansar said the scope of work involves civil and structural works for the construction and completion of buildings and infrastructure for a 160 million litres per day (mld) raw water intake and pumping mains, a 120 mld water treatment plant and the associated facilities.

"The contract period is 36 months and the project is scheduled to commence in November 2026.

"The contract is expected to contribute positively to the earnings and net assets of the group as the project progresses during the contract period," it said.

Aneka Jaringan wins RM53.4mil piling contract

PETALING JAYA: Aneka Jaringan Holdings Bhd (AJHB) has secured a RM53.35mil contract from EDP Consulting Group Sdn Bhd, on behalf of IOI Rio Mall Sdn Bhd, IOI Hospitality Sdn Bhd and IOI Rio Towers Sdn Bhd for bored piling works at the Rio City Town Centre development in Selangor.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, AJHB said the contract commenced on Oct 20, 2026, and will expire on Aug 19, 2027.

The commencement date was agreed between AJHB via its wholly-owned subsidiary, Aneka Jaringan Sdn Bhd, and the employer and was adopted during the final negotiation to ensure that the delivery of works will not be delayed.

"The contract is expected to contribute positively to AJHB's consolidated earnings and net assets for the financial year ending Aug 31, 2027, over the duration of the contract," AJHB added.

ACE Market-bound MyDCD eyes sustained growth

By **VICTORIA ARUL**
victoria.lavinia@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: MyDCD Bhd expects its RM1.32bil order book and planned operational expansion to help sustain its growth momentum following its upcoming listing on Bursa Malaysia's ACE Market.

Chief executive officer Chris Ow Yong said the group's order book provides sufficient projects to sustain its operations and earnings visibility over the next few years.

"We expect our data centre (DC) business to continue growing, supported by the ongoing expansion of the digital economy," he said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday at the launch of its prospectus.

As at Sept 30, 2026, MyDCD's outstanding order book of RM1.32bil was equivalent to 1.98 times its revenue for the financial year ended June 30, 2026 (FY26).

The order book comprised RM1.27bil of DC-related mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection (MEPF) integration projects and RM53mil for maintenance services. The outstanding order book is expected to be progressively recognised as revenue up to FY32.

The engineering services firm's work scope covers the MEPF integration process, from engineering support and equipment

supply to installation, testing and commissioning. The group noted that Malaysia's MEPF construction market grew at a compound annual growth rate of 15% between 2023 and 2025, reaching RM10.4bil in 2025.

The market subsequently expanded by 18.1% in the first half of FY26 compared with the corresponding period last year.

Ow Yong said MyDCD's experience across multiple industries and project types had helped it establish long-standing customer relationships, some spanning 15 years.

"As project requirements become more demanding, having the right technical capabilities, experienced personnel and working capital is essential," he explained.

Beyond construction, MyDCD expects its maintenance business to become a growing source of recurring income as more completed DC projects enter the maintenance phase.

Ow Yong said the group had been maintaining some of the DCs it built as far back as 15 years ago, while maintenance contracts were growing steadily despite construction continuing to account for a larger share of its revenue.

He said maintenance contracts typically commence one to two years after a project is completed. As the group completes more DC projects, it expects to secure additional

maintenance opportunities, strengthening its integrated construction and maintenance capabilities.

TA Securities Holdings Bhd head of corporate finance Ku Mun Fong said MyDCD's maintenance revenue accounted for 2.9% of its total turnover in FY26.

"Maintenance services generally carry higher margins and are expected to contribute positively to the company's overall profitability as the business expands," he said.

MyDCD launched its initial public offering (IPO) prospectus ahead of its scheduled debut on the ACE Market on Nov 17, 2026.

At an IPO price of 56 sen per share, the company is expected to raise RM268.8mil in total gross proceeds, of which RM187.6mil will accrue to the group.

It is expected to have an indicative market capitalisation of RM1bil upon listing.

Ow Yong said the IPO proceeds would support project execution, including the provision of performance bonds, while strengthening the group's workforce and upgrading its information technology systems to support growth.

Applications for the IPO opens today and will close at 5pm on Nov 2, 2026.

TA Securities is the principal adviser, sponsor, underwriter and placement agent for the IPO exercise.

TeleChoice unit renews RM4.15bil U Mobile agreement

KUALA LUMPUR: Singapore Exchange Mainboard-listed TeleChoice International Ltd's unit, Planet Telecoms Managed Services Sdn Bhd (PTMS), will continue providing end-to-end supply chain services to U Mobile Sdn Bhd after renewing a contract valued at an estimated S\$1.3bil (RM4.15bil).

In a joint statement, it said the renewed contract, which reflects an expanded scope of services and carries a higher annual value than the initial S\$500mil three-year contract announced in February 2024, will take effect from February 2027 for three years, with an option to extend for a further two years.

Under the agreement, PTMS acts as U Mobile's procurement partner, managing its device supply chain and overseeing the entire product lifecycle, including stock management, warehousing, order fulfilment and distribution, while financing device inventories and providing insurance coverage for deliveries. — Bernama

International traffic rises at regional airports

PETALING JAYA: Non-core airports under Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) have registered a higher passenger traffic despite softer passenger movements across the group's local network.

In a statement, the airport operator said its Subang, Penang and Ipoh airports saw a growth in passenger movement – recording 59,000, 348,000 and 31,000 international passenger movements, respectively.

For the first nine months of 2026, the group's Malaysian airport operations handled 75.2 million passengers, down 2.4% year-on-year. International traffic however, grew 4.5% to 41.3 million passengers.

MAHB managing director Datuk Mohd Izani Ghani said the results showed the importance of strengthening regional connectivity.

"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."

LEE HENG GUIE



Comment

THE debate over wage regulation through the setting of the minimum wage floor centres on balancing workers' living standards with business competitiveness.

The ultimate economic impact of minimum wage floors and institutionalised bargaining power is determined by market structure, implementation speed, and macroeconomic conditions.

Amid strong arguments on both sides (proponents and opponents), the ultimate impact of the wage regulations is not uniform. Instead, it depends entirely on prevailing market conditions, how the specific policies are structured and implemented, and broader socioeconomic goals.

Businesses and employees share a symbiotic relationship. Employee well-being and business performance exist in a direct, causal loop where worker satisfaction drives a firm's productivity and profitability.

Businesses' value propositions are to increase sales, drive profit, and retain high-performing talent. Businesses must align their commercial execution with clear performance-based compensation and productivity-linked wages, as well as a sustainable human resource management framework that defines employee role alignment, clear recognition, and personal career development opportunities.

AI and wage power

The setting of wage floors alone cannot fix deep-seated structural issues like a shortage of high-value industries or skill mismatches in the broader labour supply.

Employees balance their financial needs, such as a commensurate productivity-linked wage, with a conducive workplace environment when evaluating their job satisfaction.

Achieving this balance requires employers to address both direct financial compensation and the quality of the workplace culture. Fair wages serve as a baseline, while extended benefits – such as skill development, career pathways, and financial well-being programmes – anchor productivity improvement and long-term job satisfaction.

Within reasonable limitations and risks, state intervention in wage-setting and labour markets is considered justified and necessary when market mechanisms fail to ensure fair living standards for low-paid workers, correct market and wage bargaining power imbalances compared to large employers, or promote social cohesion, as fair pay ensures social community stability.

However, state intervention is a double-edged measure. Overly rigid or aggressive wage-setting can limit freedom of contract and create compliance burdens for businesses, especially those with thin margins.

The unintended economic effects arising from setting a minimum wage too high relative to workers' productivity mean that companies must adjust their business strategies to manage total payroll costs, especially in labour-intensive industries.

These adjustments include slowing down hiring or hiring selectively, cutting working hours, reducing overtime, allowing greater workforce flexibility, increasing reliance on part-time or temporary staff, and restructuring allowances and discretionary benefits.

Higher minimum wages act as a significant catalyst forcing companies to restructure toward automation, particularly in industries heavily reliant on routine, low-skilled labour.

This industrial transition is driven by a shifting economic reality: as the statutory minimum wage rises, the capital-to-labour cost ratio flips. This flip makes technology investments financially viable compared to cheap manual labour, incentivising companies to substitute human workers with automation, machines, robotics, or software.

When the cost of human labour crosses a certain threshold, the return on investment

for technology becomes highly attractive, shifting companies from the operational status quo to active restructuring.

Various empirical findings and studies in countries that implemented minimum wage regulations show a clear causal link between rising low-skilled workers' wages and increased automation innovation.

A 10% increase in the minimum wage increases the likelihood of industrial robot adoption by roughly 8% in sectors like manufacturing. Also, a 1% increase in low-skilled wages can lead to a 2% to 5% rise in automation technology patents and development.

Moreover, a 10% increase in the minimum wage raises the probability of a manufacturing or routine-task firm adopting robots or automated systems by roughly 8% to 11%.

Structural challenges remain. The setting of wage floors alone cannot fix deep-seated structural issues like a shortage of high-value industries or skill mismatches in the broader labour supply.

The Khazanah Research Institute confirmed that the growth of Malaysia's tertiary-educated workforce has severely outpaced the creation of high-skilled jobs, leading to widespread underemployment.

Raising wages alone cannot address skill mismatches or create sufficient high-value employment opportunities.

This oversupply and structural misalignment of the tertiary-educated workforce relative to high-skilled jobs depresses entry-level wages and overall employee compensation.

> SEE NEXT PAGE

How Donald Trump's energy dominance turned into hubris

By RON BOUSSO

WHEN Donald Trump returned to the White House in 2025, "energy dominance" was the bedrock of his economic and foreign policy plans.

But an unpopular war with Iran and soaring household fuel costs have now made energy policy a major liability for the US president heading into next month's mid-term elections.

Ironically, it was the US position as the world's top oil and gas (O&G) producer, perhaps more than anything else, that enabled Trump to pursue foreign policy goals that may turn out to be the costliest of his political career.

In the first two years of Trump's second term, vast US O&G resources emboldened Washington abroad, strengthened its hand in trade disputes and underpinned a broader effort to restore US geopolitical dominance.

Yet, the Iran war exposed the central weakness in that vision: dominating energy production does not mean controlling energy prices.

What began as a pursuit of US energy independence evolved into a doctrine of energy dominance.

That is now looking like energy hubris.

Unleashing American energy

The foundations of Trump's strategy were laid long before his return to office last year.

The development of cost-effective techniques to tap the country's onshore shale basins transformed the United States into the world's largest producer of natural gas in 2009 and petroleum in 2018.

By 2022, it was the leading exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG), giving Washington unprecedented influence over global energy markets.

US crude production rose from around 5.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2010 to nearly 14 million bpd today, around a fifth of global supplies, while the country also accounts for more than a quarter of global

LNG exports. No single nation has ever occupied such a commanding position in the global energy system.

Trump sought to turn that advantage into a governing doctrine.

On his first day back in office, he declared a national energy emergency and ordered the government to "unleash American energy", prioritising oil, gas, coal and nuclear power while sidelining renewables.

Within weeks, he made "energy dominance" official US policy, establishing the National Energy Dominance Council and reviving his familiar "drill, baby, drill" slogan as the purported cure for elevated inflation and economic anxiety.

In an October 2025 proclamation, Trump summed up the philosophy as "maximum production, maximum prosperity, and maximum power".

Energy policy is foreign policy

This doctrine extended far beyond domestic energy policy.

The administration's national security strategy, published last December, explicitly linked US influence in the Western Hemisphere to energy dominance, drawing on the 19th-century Monroe Doctrine that sought to oppose European political intervention in the region.

In a little over a year, the administration wielded US oil and LNG exports in trade negotiations, promoted energy deals as part of efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war, and highlighted Greenland's resource wealth in a push for greater influence over the Arctic territory.

The high-water mark for Trump's energy doctrine arguably came early this year after Washington removed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in a swift military operation.

The United States subsequently took control of Venezuelan oil exports and revenues, forced through changes to the country's hydrocarbons legislation that displaced Chinese companies, and secured an unprecedented agreement granting it access to a

fifth of Venezuela's oil reserves.

By February, Trump's vision of building an economy and foreign policy around abundant fossil fuel resources appeared to be taking root.

The United States possessed not only more energy than any rival, but also the ability to use that abundance to shape trade, diplomacy and security.

Trump's decision to go to war with Iran in late February put that doctrine to the test.

The Iran quagmire

The president initially claimed that the joint campaign with Israel against Iran would last only a few weeks.

He also repeatedly indicated that vast US O&G resources, together with newfound access to Venezuela's oil wealth, would shield the economy from any resulting spike in energy costs, which he also suggested would be brief.

Those assumptions have not aged well.

The war launched on Feb 28 led to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of global energy supplies used to flow, triggering one of the largest energy disruptions in modern history.

Middle Eastern producers cut output and rerouted exports where possible, while major importers across Asia reduced consumption.

This caused oil prices to nearly double in the first two months of the conflict, with global benchmark Brent crude peaking at US\$118 a barrel in March.

That was well below the record US\$145 reached in 2008, when Iran-related geopolitical tensions, surging Chinese demand and a weakening US dollar drove prices higher.

It was also far less than many had feared, largely thanks to reduced Chinese oil imports, ample crude stocks and the surprising adaptability of global markets.

But it still represented a severe shock.

Moreover, the risk premium from the Iran war is becoming entrenched. Even though crude flows from the Middle East have most-

ly recovered, Brent is trading around US\$110.

The conflict has also spread across the Middle East, pulling in most of Washington's Gulf allies, most notably the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, which have suffered multiple deadly attacks by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis.

This has upended the market's confidence in the security of Middle Eastern crude, unravelled longstanding supply routes and sent shipping prices skyrocketing.

Trump wanted to put his stamp on global energy markets, but this was clearly not what he had in mind.

Pain at the pump

In one respect, the 2026 energy shock has vindicated Trump's strategy.

The war cemented the US' position as the world's top supplier of crude, refined fuels and LNG, delivering enormous profits to domestic producers and exporters and allowing the United States to expand its position in the global market.

Energy independence certainly offered US consumers some protection against the energy shock, particularly compared with Asian economies, where prices and demand destruction were much more extreme this year.

But that protection has been far from iron-clad.

US petrol prices at the pump climbed above US\$4.60 a gallon in May, the highest level since 2022, while diesel surged to a record US\$6.50 a gallon in September as global refining capacity was squeezed.

Those increases rapidly became a political problem for the White House as cost-of-living concerns moved to the forefront of the campaign ahead of the midterms on Nov 3.

The administration sought to contain the fuel-price spike by pulling almost every available lever, including easing biofuel blending mandates and, most controversially, reaching a diesel supply agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

> SEE PAGE 6

West River wins RM17.85mil M&E contracts

PETALING JAYA: West River Bhd, via its wholly-owned subsidiary West River Engineering Sdn Bhd (WRE), has secured two separate residential mechanical and electrical (M&E) engineering subcontracts with a combined value of RM17.85mil.

In a statement, the ACE Market-listed integrated M&E company said the projects comprise a RM11mil electrical works subcontract for a development in Puchong, Selangor, and a RM6.85mil air conditioning and mechanical ventilation nominated subcontract for Park Green, Pavilion Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur.

"The RM11mil fixed-price subcontract was awarded by China Construction Development (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd for the supply, delivery and installation of electrical works at a proposed development along Persiaran Bandar Metro Puchong, Taman Mutiara Puchong.

"Undertaken for Interpile (M) Sdn Bhd, the development comprises a 34-storey residential apartment block with 526 units and a seven-storey podium containing parking facilities and a recreational floor."

West River said WRE's scope for the Puchong project includes electrical systems and associated infrastructure, testing and commissioning, technical coordination, quality assurance and compliance with the relevant engineering specifications and regulatory requirements.

"The works will follow the main contractor's construction programme, with the main contract scheduled for completion on Nov 17, 2028."

Separately, BUCG (M) Sdn Bhd issued WRE a letter of award for the RM6.85mil nominated subcontract at Park Green.

"The project for Regal Path Sdn Bhd comprises two serviced-apartment blocks with a total of 453 units, together with basement levels, a 10-storey podium and resident facilities."

West River said the two residential subcontracts complement the group's project portfolio across residential and industrial developments.

Margin squeeze looms for Press Metal

However, firm's underlying fundamentals remain intact

CORPORATE

PETALING JAYA: Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd's earnings are expected to come under pressure in the second half of this year.

This comes as moderating aluminium prices and rising raw material costs weigh on smelting margins, with improving global supply conditions potentially limiting the upside for the metal's prices into 2027.

The company could see further pressure on profitability as aluminium supply recovers, although its underlying fundamentals remain intact amid the changing market environment.

Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB) Research expects Press Metal's core earnings to reach RM600mil to RM650mil in the third quarter of financial year 2026 (3Q26).

It represents a 10% to 17% decline quarter-on-quarter, but a 1% to 9% increase year-on-year.

This would bring its nine-month core earnings to RM1.93bil to RM1.98bil, accounting for 75% to 77% of the research house's full-year forecast.

The anticipated sequential decline reflects lower average spot aluminium prices on the London Metal Exchange of US\$3,228 per tonne in 3Q26, compared with US\$3,564 per tonne in the preceding quarter.

Average spot alumina prices, meanwhile, rose to US\$347 per tonne from US\$318 per tonne.

"The worst of the primary aluminium supply crunch is likely over as the narrative now increasingly shifts to a potential surplus in 2027," HLIB Research pointed out.

"The worst of the primary aluminium supply crunch is likely over as the narrative now increasingly shifts to a potential surplus in 2027. The gradual resumption of Gulf smelter operations and increasing exports from China and Indonesia should ease aluminium supply tightness."

Hong Leong Investment Bank Research

"The gradual resumption of Gulf smelter operations and increasing exports from China and Indonesia should ease supply tightness," the research house further elaborated.

"Emirates Global Aluminium reported that the restart of its Al Taweelah smelter was ahead of schedule in August – reaching approximately 25% of its 1.6 million tonnes per annum capacity – and will return to full production by 1Q27," the research firm noted.

HLIB Research maintained a "hold" rating on Press Metal, but lowered its target price to RM7.44 a share from RM8.22 based on the five-year mean price-to-earnings ratio of 25 times pegged to financial year 2027 earnings per share.

According to HLIB Research, Indonesia's nameplate aluminium capacity is expected to double from two million tonnes in 2026 to more than three million tonnes in 2027, although actual output could be constrained by power availability.

These developments – together with

demand-side pressures and higher risk-free rates amid a hawkish US Federal Reserve stance – have contributed to aluminium prices retreating to around US\$3,000 per tonne.

In the meantime, HLIB Research said input costs are moving in the opposite direction.

The research house noted alumina prices have climbed to US\$370 per tonne since mid-October, supported by recovering downstream demand from the Middle East and additional demand from Indonesia's new refineries. Guinea's proposed bauxite export quota system also presents an upside risk to prices.

Carbon anode prices have risen to a multi-year high of 6,000 yuan per tonne, driven by elevated petroleum coke and coal-tar pitch costs.

"With the softer aluminium average selling prices and rising alumina and carbon anode costs, we foresee tapering smelting margins in the near-term," HLIB Research said.

Skill diffusion to emerge as the primary driver of salaries

> FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

What happens when artificial intelligence (AI) sets wages?

The impact of AI on wages remains uncertain, as the technology will likely boost pay for some workers while lowering demand and earnings for others. As a result, wage growth could vary across occupations, industries and skill levels.

The key economic challenge of AI on the labour market is the dual pressure of compressing hiring in high-exposure cognitive and routine occupations while simultaneously widening wage and skill gaps between workers with specialised AI capabilities and those in non-skilled or displaced roles.

AI could drive considerable job creation and destruction, though the net impact on overall employment depends on firms' business transformation.

By automating routine tasks while generating new roles in areas like AI engineering, data science, and compliance, this technology will drive massive labour reallocation.

Employees must be able to acquire new skills and apply them correctly to remain productive and boost their long-term earning power.

The rapid adoption of AI is fundamentally reshaping the labour market and wage structures by affecting the value of skill sets (skill premiums), task structures and quality, as well as hiring decisions, depending on the responsiveness of the

labour market.

If firms compete for a limited pool of AI-capable workers, the value of AI skills will rise, bidding up wages.

AI is shifting wage power by rewarding workers with specialised technical skills over traditional qualifications, while lower-skilled, semi-skilled, and routine cognitive roles face downward wage pressure, suppressing workers' pay for routine tasks.

Employees who are equipped with AI fluency, critical thinking, and adaptable technical skills achieve higher wages and career growth, while those in routine administrative or manual roles face a greater risk of displacement.

In an evolving AI economy, skill diffusion – the speed and scale at which workers acquire and adapt to new technological competencies – will become the primary driver of wages, largely eclipsing the effectiveness of statutory minimum wage floors.

While statutory pay floors (like minimum wage laws) establish a legal baseline, they struggle to keep pace with a market where technological disruption shifts the premium on human labour overnight.

The future wage landscape will be fundamentally reshaped by AI integration, economic dynamics, and a premium on human-centric skills.

AI will drive wage polarisation and a two-track labour market by substituting routine cognitive tasks while amplifying

high-skill human-AI collaboration.

With this shifting skill premium, those who master skill diffusion will command exponential rewards, while those who cannot will face severe downward wage pressure regardless of legal wage baselines.

To navigate the "hourglass" labour market created by AI – a structure where AI expands high-skill/high-wage roles and low-skill/low-wage roles while squeezing out the middle class – businesses, employees, and the government must transition from defensive containment to proactive adaptation.

This requires a shift towards developing specialised technical skills and achieving a successful co-integration of machine-human capabilities.

For businesses, the focus must shift from using AI purely for short-term cost-cutting to leveraging it as a long-term source of competitive advantage and talent cultivation.

Companies must prepare their employees for the AI transition by combining strategic planning, practical training, upskilling, certification, role redesign, and a supportive workplace culture.

Competing solely on wages is no longer enough to attract and retain talent; job quality, workplace culture, continuous learning opportunities, clear career pathways, and credible skill recognition increasingly matter.

For employees, the priority must be to move away from static skill sets and adopt

a resilient, dynamic, tech-augmented career strategy, which is the baseline for professional survival in an AI-driven economy.

Workers should learn to use AI tools as force multipliers for daily tasks rather than viewing them as competition, focusing on learning prompt engineering, workflow automation, and using AI to handle 60% of baseline research or administrative tasks.

They must commit to continuous learning to better equip themselves for this evolving human-machine transformative power, actively upskilling to turn technological disruption into a strategic opportunity.

For policy-makers, the priority must be to urgently modernise education systems for AI by shifting from restrictive bans to structured integration, digital literacy, and equitable access.

The focus should be on scale and inclusion within AI upskilling policies to prevent economic inequality, targeting three key actions: (i) Modular training: implementing stackable micro-credentials for flexible learning; (ii) Credible certification: standardising qualifications to validate non-traditional education; and (iii) Small and medium enterprise support: providing subsidies and incentives for continuous learning in small businesses.

Lee Heng Guie is the executive director of the Socio-Economic Research Centre. The views expressed here are the writer's own.

Solarvest to see gains amid RE push

PETALING JAYA: CIMB Research views Solarvest Holdings Bhd as a key beneficiary of Malaysia's renewable energy (RE) push.

In an initiation of coverage report, the research house highlighted the clean energy solutions provider's sizeable order book of RM2.37bil.

It expects potential new wins from the sixth phase of Malaysia's Large Scale Solar programme (LSS6) and Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (Cress), alongside rising recurring income from solar generation, to drive a 37.7% three-year compound annual growth rate in the group's core net profit from financial year 2026 (FY26) to FY29.

"There is a strong earnings visibility, and based on the 2.65 gigawatts of solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity on offer, we estimate RM10bil worth of engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) contracts are up for grabs.

"Assuming a 15% market share, we forecast Solarvest to secure RM1.8bil in new contracts," CIMB Research wrote in the report.

The group has completed over one gigawatt-peak (GWp) of solar PV projects across utility-scale and rooftop installations, with cumulative capacity expected to exceed 3.5GWp upon completion of LSS5+ projects.

In addition to that, Solarvest's partnership with Brookfield Asset Management will strengthen its competitiveness under Cress through access to global capital, operational expertise, and an extensive corporate off-taker network.

"We factor in RM900mil and RM300mil of Cress-related EPCC wins in FY27 and FY28, respectively," CIMB Research said.

The research house added Solarvest's EPCC order book could see upside if the company exceeds the assumed 400 megawatt (MW)-peak of Cress wins for FY27 to FY28, against its 300MW to 500MW target.

The forecast had not yet factored in potential wins from LSS7, which could be introduced in 2027.

CIMB Research has set a sum-of-parts based target price of RM4.65 a share for the stock.

"Trading at 26.1 times 2027 price-to-earnings ratio, Solarvest is priced in line with solar PV peers.

"We believe the group deserves a valuation premium given its superior earnings growth prospects and proven execution track record."

According to the research house, there is an additional upside of 37 sen per share to Solarvest's target price for its solar assets, assuming the company maintains a 5% market share across the next five LSS programmes (LSS7 to LSS11).

It noted that downside risks include sharp fluctuations in solar panel prices, project execution delays, and changes in government policies.

TNB strengthens overseas green shift

Greater Bess deployment expected to support grid

UTILITIES

PETALING JAYA: Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) strategic investment in its London-based wholly-owned subsidiary Vantage RE Ltd will further strengthen the utility giant's renewable energy (RE) diversification overseas, according to Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB) Research.

Based on a recent site visit to Vantage in the United Kingdom, the research house said the company provides valuable expertise in RE development, grid integration, financing, technology and environment, social and governance (ESG) practices to support TNB's RE growth in Malaysia as well as the country's National Energy Transition Roadmap and Net Zero Emissions target by 2050.

Furthermore, the UK's strong policy push toward net zero, rising RE penetration and significant grid investment also underpin the energy sector's long-term growth potential.

On advanced ESG sustainability, HLIB Research said Vantage, as an RE developer, must ensure environmental sustainability (including biodiversity) and protect surrounding communities' livelihoods, ensuring they are not negatively impacted but instead benefit from various projects under UK regulations, which "we believe should also be practised in Malaysia".

"The portfolio of Vantage provides relatively stable generation throughout the year, as the seasonality of solar is partly offset by wind generation."

Hong Leong Investment Bank Research

Vantage currently has 906 megawatts (MW) of operational RE capacity across solar, onshore and offshore wind, and the battery energy storage system (Bess), with a further 114.5MW of onshore wind in Scotland and 245MW of Bess across England, Wales and Scotland in its development pipeline.

"The portfolio provides relatively stable generation throughout the year, as the seasonality of solar is partly offset by wind generation," HLIB Research noted.

Going forward, growth in the UK electricity market is expected to be driven primarily by offshore and onshore wind, solar and nuclear power.

Thus, the increasing penetration of intermittent RE will also require greater deployment of Bess to support grid flexibility and stability.

"Furthermore, this points to significant

long-term investment opportunities across the UK RE sector," added HLIB Research.

In the meantime, the research house expects TNB to post stronger earnings for the second half of its financial year 2026.

This will be well supported by higher electricity demand driven by El Nino, haze conditions, and data centre growth, alongside a normalised tax rate falling below 25%.

HLIB Research maintained a "buy" call on TNB with an unchanged target price of RM18.15 a share.

It noted the utility group is well positioned to benefit from resilient economic growth in 2026, supported by the implementation of the new return mechanism for contingent capital expenditure and a lower effective tax rate projected for financial year 2026 (FY26) to FY28.

Festive spending set to boost Pavilion-REIT profit

PETALING JAYA: Analysts are expecting a stronger fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2026 (4Q26) relative to 3Q26 for Pavilion real estate investment trust (Pavilion-REIT), supported by year-end festivities and school holiday footfall, alongside steady contributions from hotels under the trust's master leases.

Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB) Research said Pavilion-REIT's 3Q26 core net profit of RM92.9mil (plus 4.3% quarter-on-quarter and minus 1.8% year-on-year) brought nine-month 2026 earnings to RM287.7mil.

This fell slightly below the research house's and consensus expectations, accounting for 70.1% and 71.8% of their respective full-year forecasts.

The shortfall was mainly due to lower-than-expected revenue at the Pavilion KL Mall and Elite Pavilion Mall on softer advertising income, the research house said.

HLIB Research noted that at Pavilion KL Mall, the reconfiguration of the 68,800 sq ft

of surrendered Parkson space into 37 specialty lots remains on track.

Approximately 80% of the area is now committed (up from more than 50% previously), with tenants expected to open progressively from November.

Given the staggered openings, HLIB Research expects the bulk of the contribution to come through in the financial year 2027 (FY27), with occupancy recovering to around 96%.

On the other hand, HLIB Research expects Pavilion Bukit Jalil's occupancy to recover gradually to 95% after easing slightly in 3Q26.

Looking ahead to FY27, lease expiries are broad-based, led by Pavilion Bukit Jalil, followed by Intermark (34%), Elite Pavilion (21%), and Pavilion KL (20%).

Meanwhile, rental reversion guidance remains intact at the mid-single digits, and renewal discussions at Pavilion Bukit Jalil have already started, with positive reversions expected, it added.

HLIB Research kept a "buy" call on the

REIT with a target price of RM1.91 a unit.

AmInvestment Bank (AmInvest) Research said there was more upside to come for the REIT.

Reconfiguration works at Parkson Level 3 remain on track, with phased openings slated from November.

Upon completion, rents are projected to double, while occupancy should recover from the current 93% towards pre-refurbishment levels of 96% to 97%, the research house said.

However, there is more in the pipeline, with another 2% of net lettable area earmarked for tenant remixing from 2027 onwards, AmInvest Research said.

It noted that despite the 10-year Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) yield retreating to less than 4%, Pavilion-REIT's price had yet to recover.

"We believe much of the rate anxiety is already priced in, with the REIT offering a 7% yield and a wide 3.1-percentage-point spread versus MGS," the research house said.

Cheap and reliable energy essential for economic growth

> FROM PAGE 4

This dynamic underscores the difference between commanding supply and controlling prices.

Oil, LNG and refined fuels are internationally traded commodities.

US producers sell them at prices shaped by global supply and demand. They don't typically reserve cheap energy for American households.

While Trump briefly floated the idea of a diesel export ban, officials ultimately rejected it.

Even though a ban might have brought down domestic prices initially, it would

likely have resulted in higher fuel prices over the medium term due to global market dynamics.

Energy security is national security

The administration's assertion last October that "energy security is national security" appears more relevant than ever.

The Iran war has shown that cheap and reliable energy is essential for economic growth, whether it powers heavy industry or the data centres underpinning the artificial intelligence race.

But the conflict has also changed the

meaning of energy security.

For countries dependent on imports, particularly many in Asia, the shock has revealed the risks of relying heavily on distant suppliers, vulnerable shipping routes and a concentrated global refining system. Their response is likely to be broader diversification: securing more suppliers, expanding domestic fossil fuel production where possible, accelerating renewable power and shifting more transport towards electricity.

That will not kick the United States off its lofty energy perch, but it will likely weaken the allure of O&G for many countries over the coming years.

Trump likely felt emboldened to embark on the Iran war – something his predecessors had balked at – precisely because US energy independence made a Middle East adventure seem less risky than it had when the United States was heavily reliant on Gulf O&G.

But the conflict has, perhaps permanently, undermined Trump's promise that energy dominance would guarantee low prices and economic security at home.

Hubris can be a dangerous thing.

Ron Bousso is a columnist for Reuters. The views expressed here are the writer's own.

Citaglobal to sell Manjaran stake for RM50mil

PETALING JAYA: Citaglobal Bhd has entered into a conditional share sale agreement with Berjaya Property Bhd (BProperty) for the disposal of its 20% stake, comprising 1.6 million shares, in Manjaran Sdn Bhd for RM50mil.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, Citaglobal said the consideration will be satisfied entirely through the issuance of 178.57 million new BProperty shares at 28 sen apiece.

Upon completion, Manjaran will cease to be an associate of Citaglobal, which will hold a 3.39% stake in BProperty, based on its enlarged share capital of 5.27 billion shares as at Sept 30, 2026, after accounting for the new shares issued under a separate subscription agreement and the proposed disposal.

"The proposed divestment allows the group to realise its investment in Manjaran at the implied valuation of RM250mil, representing a 25% uplift over the implied valuation of RM200mil at which the initial acquisition and the BProperty subscription were undertaken, within one year from the completion of the initial acquisition."

Matang suspends CFO for probe

KUALA LUMPUR: Matang Bhd has suspended its chief financial officer (CFO) and acting chief operating officer (COO), Tan Theng Hwee, from her duties with immediate effect to facilitate an internal investigation.

In an announcement to the stock exchange, the group said the suspension was an interim measure during an investigation into several governance, operational, and management conduct matters.

During the suspension period, the duties and responsibilities of the CFO and acting COO will be temporarily assumed by Hoi Siew Chien, a consultant and adviser, on an interim basis, to ensure orderly management and continuity.

"The board wishes to emphasise that the investigation is currently at a preliminary stage and no findings of wrongdoing have been established against Tan."

Unitrade gets Finnish waste tech licence

PETALING JAYA: Unitrade Industries Bhd said its 60%-owned subsidiary Winnson Ecotech Sdn Bhd has entered into a technology transfer and licensed manufacturing agreement with Molok Oy, a waste collection solutions specialist in Finland.

Molok is part of SULO Group, the European leader in pre-collection waste management solutions serving municipalities, collection operators and businesses.

According to a statement by Unitrade, Molok shall transfer its manufacturing technology and know-how to Winnson Ecotech to manufacture locally a specified Molok Classic semi-underground waste collection container, described as "a value-engineered five cu m, two-hook hard container with lid".

Bright outlook for Sunway

Property, construction and healthcare to drive growth

CORPORATE

PETALING JAYA: Sunway Bhd's upcoming third quarter of financial year 2026 (3Q26) results will be supported by its key subsidiaries, Sunway Construction Group Bhd and Sunway Healthcare Holdings Bhd, which are slated to deliver year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in net profit, says CGS International (CSGI) Research.

Sunway is expected to release its 3Q26 results in late-November.

For construction, the research house expects an acceleration in its order book of RM10.5bil.

"This will mainly come from data centres (DCs), although construction pre-tax margins should have normalised to 10% to 12% from 4Q25 to 2Q26's 13% to 17% margins that were lifted by early completion incentives and the finalisation of accounts for one DC," said CSGI Research in a recent report.

As for healthcare, the research house expects both y-o-y and quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) growth in net profit with higher contributions from its new hospitals in Ipoh and Damansara, while the second half of financial year 2026 (2H26) is also typically a seasonally stronger period.

For Sunway's property development division, CSGI Research believes that 3Q26 presales will show q-o-q growth and the first nine months of financial year 2026 presales forecast should also be on track to hit its financial year 2026 (FY26) target of RM4.2bil, up by 11% y-o-y.

Moreover, 1H26 property presales was RM2.3bil, accounting for 55% of its FY26

"This will mainly come from DCs, although construction pre-tax margins should have normalised to 10% to 12% from 4Q25 to 2Q26's 13% to 17% margins that were lifted by early completion incentives and the finalisation of accounts for one DC."

CGS International Research

target. Overall, the research house is comfortable with its revised FY26 forecast earnings on Sunway, which assumes 8% growth y-o-y.

"We leave our FY26 earnings per share (EPS) forecast relatively unchanged, but raise FY27 to FY28 EPS forecasts by 5% to 7%," the research house added.

The raised FY27 EPS forecast factors in one Executive Condo project in Singapore, Novo Place with gross development value (GDV) of S\$790mil, which is a joint-venture with Hoi Hup Realty launched in November 2024 and has since been 100% sold.

This is due for handover in December 2027.

For FY28, the higher earnings forecast factors in another Executive Condo project in Singapore, Otto Place (GDV S\$1.05bil), which was launched in July 2025, has also been 100% sold, and is due for handover in 1Q28.

Meanwhile, CSGI Research said Sunway's share price has fallen by 20% over the past

three months and is now trading at 20 times the FY27 forecast price-to-earnings ratio, below mean levels since FY22.

"We acknowledge the stock still lacks a major re-rating catalyst with the failed takeover of IJM Corp Bhd and the listing of Sunway Healthcare in March 2026."

CSGI Research said there has been no material change in Sunway's business fundamentals, adding that "we argue it offers a more balanced exposure to the many pillars of a growing Malaysian economy (construction, property, healthcare) and should be a core holding in institutional investors' portfolios".

The research house has upgraded Sunway to an "add" call and revised its target price to RM5.20 per share.

Furthermore, the re-rating catalysts for the stock include stronger earnings from property and construction while the downside risks are slowing economy affecting its property sales and rising raw material costs.

Boycott calls yet to dent Oriental Kopi sales

PETALING JAYA: Oriental Kopi Holdings Bhd is expected to sustain its earnings momentum and expansion plans despite recent calls to boycott the Malaysian cafe chain over the language used in its menus, with overseas growth also set to widen its market reach.

The cafe chain operator has kept its target of opening about 10 new outlets annually from financial year ending Sept 30, 2027 (FY27), with its first Jakarta outlet scheduled to open ahead of its original timeline.

Following a meeting with management, Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB) Research said sales had remained resilient despite the controversy, with no significant changes in customer footfall reported so far.

"We remain constructive on Oriental Kopi, as our call with management suggests the recent boycott calls over its menu language have, thus far, not impacted sales.

"Critically, we gather that sales have held up thus far, with no significant changes in customer footfall at its outlets," it added.

The controversy began in early October after a social media user highlighted the absence of Bahasa Melayu translations in the group's menus in response to its patriotic "Maka Kami" social media post.

Management has completed the design of a new trilingual menu, with the reprinting cost estimated at RM150,000 for about 2,000 menu books.

HLIB Research said the expense was immaterial, representing about 0.2% of its FY26 core earnings forecast. Oriental Kopi is also in talks with media outlets and social media influencers to feature the revised menus once they are introduced.

Management clarified that the Chinese-language menu had not been withdrawn, as separate English and Chinese menus had always been available.

"Management noted the attention partly reflects the significant broadening of its customer base this year, which we view positively as it underscores the brand's nationwide appeal," it said, noting that Oriental Kopi's management has reacted proactively and constructively to rectify the situation.

HLIB Research expects Oriental Kopi's FY26 core net profit to meet its forecast of RM67mil, implying fourth quarter of FY26 (4Q26) core earnings of about RM18mil, compared with RM17mil in 3Q26. It noted that management also expressed confidence in its full-year earnings trajectory, while raw material prices remained stable

following discussions with major suppliers.

The minimum wage increase to RM2,000, effective June 2027, is expected to have a limited impact, as most local employees already earn above that level.

HLIB Research estimates that even if all foreign workers, who account for 30% to 40% of the workforce, are paid at the current minimum wage, the gross cost would amount to about 1% of Oriental Kopi's FY27 core net profit forecast before mitigation.

Expansion remains on track, with Aman Central, Merdeka 118, KL Midtown, Sutera Mall and Genting among the locations scheduled to open over the next two months.

Recent openings at Ombak KLCC and NU Sentral are performing in line with expectations. Overseas, the Jakarta outlet is targeted to open in 4Q26, ahead of the 12-month window announced in August.

Mauritius is expected to follow in the first half of FY27, while negotiations are under way to enter additional countries next year.

The group's fast-moving consumer goods exports to China also began in September, with encouraging initial orders.

HLIB Research reiterated its "buy" rating on Oriental Kopi with an unchanged target price of RM1.17 a share.

Nextgreen fertiliser segment to underpin 2H earnings

PETALING JAYA: Nextgreen Global Bhd (NGGB) fertiliser segment is expected to drive earnings growth in the second half of financial year 2026 (2H26), supported by higher sales of its higher-margin NexBooster liquid fertiliser sales and continued deliveries of NexCompost powder fertiliser.

BIMB Research said rising NexBooster sales and growing contributions from solid fertiliser, would support profit growth.

"Fertiliser contributed RM33.7mil, or approximately 76% of group revenue, in

1H26, underscoring its importance to NGGB's earnings outlook.

"NexBooster carries a higher gross profit margin than NexCompost. We therefore expect higher liquid fertiliser sales to remain an important driver of profit growth, complemented by growing gross profit contributions from solid fertiliser deliveries.

"NGGB's solid fertiliser granule production line was targeted to complete testing and commissioning by October 2026, potentially generating additional revenue

towards year-end. NGGB's liquid fertiliser plant has potential annual production capacity of 30 million litres, while its solid fertiliser facility has a combined annual capacity of 30,000 tonnes across powder and granule products," BIMB Research said.

It kept its "hold" call on NGGB with an unchanged target price of 76 sen based on 12 times forecast financial year 2027 earnings per share of 6.37 sen, citing execution risks and the absence of dividends despite encouraging growth prospects.

Chinese carmakers overtake Japan in Europe

EU weighs incentives favouring locally made cars

StarAsean+
CHINA

SHENZHEN: Chinese automakers outsold Japanese rivals in Europe for the first time over a full quarter, underscoring how quickly brands like BYD Co and Chery Automobile Co are gaining ground in the region.

Registrations of Chinese-branded cars roughly doubled from a year earlier in September to make up 12.7% of total sales across the region, led by hybrids, according to market researcher Dataforce.

That puts them ahead of Japanese manufacturers including Toyota Motor Corp at 11.9%.

While European manufacturers like Volkswagen AG (VW) or Renault SA still dominate the region, the speed of China's surge has been a surprise.

Five years ago, Chinese brands accounted for barely 1% of European sales. Japan's automakers, by contrast, have spent decades building their position in Europe.

Toyota has sold cars in the region since 1963 and now operates factories across the continent, while Nissan Motor Co has produced vehicles at its Sunderland plant in the United Kingdom (UK) since 1986.

China's offering is especially successful in the UK, where Chery's *Jaecoo 7 SUV* was the country's best-selling model in March and September.

“Registrations of Chinese-branded cars roughly doubled from a year earlier in September to make up 12.7% of total sales across the region, led by hybrids.”

Dataforce

The shift is a double whammy for Europe's struggling manufacturers.

China's drivers are deserting VW and BMW AG in their biggest market in favour of domestic rivals, who are churning out new models faster and at lower cost. And shrinking demand in China is forcing BYD and others to look for new markets.

Earlier this month, Chery, BYD and Geely's Zeekr showed off a range of new models at the Paris car show, offering well-priced cars like the *BYD Dolphin G DM-i*, a compact plug-in hybrid specifically developed for Europe.

Bringing their electric vehicle (EV) line-ups to Europe also positions them to benefit from a jump in demand as fuel prices hit record highs.

The European Union (EU) is trying to temper an expansion that is partly fuelled by state-backed subsidies.

After adding extra tariffs on China-made battery-EVs, the bloc this month agreed in principle to curb fast-growing imports of

hybrid cars from China.

Amid speculation of future measures, shipments of hybrids have accelerated.

Separately, the EU is considering new rules that would favour locally made cars when granting subsidies and other incentives.

The proposals include linking some company-car tax benefits to European production, a powerful tool in many countries like Germany where corporate and fleet buyers dominate.

Carmakers like Mercedes-Benz Group AG have welcomed the political backing, but warned of distortions to global supply chains, driving costs up.

Chinese manufacturers have been preparing to produce locally already.

Chery is preparing production in Barcelona and BYD is nearing the completion of a manufacturing site in Hungary.

Zhejiang Leapmotor Technology Co has started making its *B10 SUV* at Stellantis NV's plant in Zaragoza, Spain, as part of the companies' joint venture. — Bloomberg

Palantir's US\$170 jacket shows S. Korea appeal

SEOUL: Palantir Technologies Inc has spent years selling governments and companies its data analytics. In South Korea, it's also selling US\$170 windbreakers – and they are flying off the shelves.

Thousands of fans descended on a two-storey pop-up store in Seoul last week to snap up hoodies, T-shirts and hats bearing Palantir's logo, with a South Korea-exclusive windbreaker selling out within hours.

The frenzy underscores an unusual level of enthusiasm for a company better known elsewhere as a secretive military and surveillance contractor that has faced protests over its work with the US military and immigration authorities.

Palantir has increasingly sought to cultivate that fandom. It has released everything from tennis whites to a US\$239 French chore coat, using merchandise to build a more approachable public identity around a company whose core products most consumers will never encounter.

“We take the merchandise very seriously,” said Eliano Younes, Palantir's head of engagement. “For a lot of these folks, the only time they'll ever really get to touch Palantir is through the merchandise.”

That strategy has found greater success in South Korea where the government and some of its biggest industrial companies are pouring money into artificial intelligence (AI).

Sales from last week's event jumped 30% from 2025, while the country has at times ranked as Palantir's second-largest market after the United States for online merchandise, according to Younes.

That enthusiasm matters because South Korea is emerging as one of Palantir's promising avenues for overseas growth.

Chief executive officer Alex Karp last year called the country the “second most interesting market” after the United States.



Cultivating fandom: A customer looking at Palantir branded clothing inside the pop-up store in Seoul. The enthusiasm for its merchandise matters because South Korea is emerging as one of Palantir's promising avenues for overseas growth. — Bloomberg

The fandom also offers Palantir a way to cultivate a broader and more approachable public identity as it expands globally.

The company has faced criticism over its handling of data and its ties to the Donald Trump administration. But in Seoul, the company is making gradual inroads.

Since opening its South Korean office in 2022, Palantir has been expanding its presence. Last week, it signed a deal with Posco Future M to accelerate its AI-driven transformation. It also struck partnerships with South Korean telecommunications giant KT in March 2025 and defence firm LIG Nex1 in March.

Dan Do, who works in the dental industry, has been a Palantir investor since it went public in 2020.

Drawn initially to the company's “defend the West” narrative and government business, he later saw potential in its Foundry commercial software.

His frequent posts about Palantir on X earned him early access to the Seoul event, which he flew from Sydney to attend.

“The company puts a lot of effort into building community,” said Do, clutching an armload of streetwear to buy.

In South Korea, public and corporate enthusiasm for AI is high. Seoul's trend-driven consumer culture also gives Palantir an opportunity to present itself not simply as a defence contractor but as a technology brand with a devoted following, said Yoon Young-bin of OAAH Agency, an experience-curation service. — Bloomberg

Vietnam's certificate of deposit rates keep rising

HANOI: While savings interest rates have shown signs of cooling down, the rates on certificates of deposit (CDs) have kept rising by 0.1 to 0.3 percentage points per year.

Following the State Bank of Vietnam's deposit rate cut directive last week, 20 banks have lowered their over-the-counter savings rates for six-month terms by 0.5 percentage points from the Oct 16 level.

However, the interest rates for CDs have continued to rise.

MB Bank is offering a rate of up to 8% per annum on three-month CDs for deposits of 300 million Vietnamese dong or more, 3.25 percentage points higher than the rate for a standard savings account of the same term. For deposits of one billion Vietnamese dong or more, the annual rate can reach 9.4%.

Similarly, VPBank is offering CD rates of up to 9% per annum, while BVBank provides a maximum rate of 8.2% per annum for terms ranging from six to 12 months.

The high CD rates showed that competitive pressure to attract capital remains, even as the general level of savings interest rates trends downward.

Truong Dac Nguyen, founder of investment firm Truong Nguyen, noted diverging interest rate trends across various deposit products.

While interest rates for standard savings accounts have edged downward, rates for other channels have continued to rise, signalling that banks remain driven by a need to secure capital, even at a higher cost.

Echoing this view, experts at SSI Research anticipated that the issuance of CDs and bonds will continue to accelerate, serving as an additional tool to help narrow the gap between credit growth and deposit mobilisation.

This shift indicated that banks are increasingly raising capital through longer-term instruments, which can help stabilise their funding bases and support the expansion of medium- and long-term credit.

However, a heavy reliance on CDs, particularly those with longer tenors, could also drive up the cost of capital if the issuance rates exceed those of conventional deposit products. — Viet Nam News/ANN

China-Europe rail tops 140,000 trips since 2011

SHENYANG: A Moscow-bound freight train left Puhe station in Shenyang, Liaoning province, last Thursday morning as the China-Europe Railway Express passed 140,000 trips nationwide since its 2011 launch, with Liaoning emerging as a key hub in Northeast China.

China Railway Shenyang Group has run 7,357 China-Europe trains carrying 731,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) since beginning the service in 2014, according to the company.

Annual dispatches rose from 351 trains in 2016 to 1,027 in 2025.

The 874 trains dispatched from January to September this year were up 24.7% year-on-year, a record for the period.

Shenyang's China-Europe freight train assembly centre opened in March 2023 and is the only national-level centre in Northeast China.

The 177,000 sq m site handles assembly, dispatch, storage, bonded warehousing and customs clearance. Since opening, it has dispatched more than 2,400 trains carrying over 250,000 TEUs for more than 2,000 companies. — China Daily/ANN

StarAsean+
VIETNAM

HUNG YEN: The northern province of Hung Yen is developing a socio-economic development plan based on three economic zones and two development corridors, with the aim of achieving double-digit economic growth and becoming a centrally governed city by 2030, chairman of the provincial People's Committee Nguyen Manh Quyen has said.

The framework is designed to make better use of the province's geographical advantages, strengthen regional connectivity and establish new growth drivers across industry, urban development, logistics, services and tourism.

The three economic zones comprise the northern growth hub, the central zone and the coastal zone, each with distinct development functions.

The northern growth hub, serving as a gateway to the Hanoi metropolitan area, occupies a strategic position bordering Hanoi, Bac Ninh and Hai Phong.

Located along the Lao Cai-Ha Noi-Hai Phong-Quang Ninh economic corridor, it is expected to become a centre for high-tech industry, urban development, services and logistics.

The Ha Noi-Hai Phong Expressway (CT04), National Highway 5, Ring Road 4 and the Ha Noi-Hai Phong railway support the connectivity of the region.

These transport links will help connect the capital region with the coastal plains and generate spillover growth for the province.

The central economic zone, located at the heart of Hung Yen's development space, will link the northern growth hub with the coastal zone.

It will also serve as an important connection within the Red River Delta and the coastal economic corridor.

As the province's administrative, political, cultural, and educational centre, the zone will help coordinate and balance development between the northern and

Hung Yen unveils zones, corridors in city status aim

Logistics, services and tourism among key priorities



Regional elevation: A farmer harvests chrysanthemums in Hung Yen. Transport links will help connect the capital region with the coastal plains and generate spillover growth for the province. — AFP

southern parts of Hung Yen.

Its economic structure will combine administration, urban development, clean industry, manufacturing, processing, trade, services and domestic logistics.

The Pho Hien urban area is designated as a regional centre for administration, culture, education and services.

The coastal economic zone, in the eastern and southeastern parts of the province,

is expected to become a new strategic growth engine.

Positioned along the northern coastal economic corridor between Hai Phong and Ninh Binh, it will serve as Hung Yen's gateway to the sea.

The area benefits from its coastal geography, ample available land, strong transport connections, and promising opportunities for seaports, economic zones, and renewa-

ble energy projects.

Its development orientation covers energy, manufacturing and processing, port logistics, coastal urban services and marine ecotourism and resort tourism.

The proposed model combines a free economic zone with a port city and green energy industries.

The coastal zone will comprise three functional sub-zones, namely an eastern urban and seaport area, an energy and manufacturing area, and a marine tourism and ecology area.

In addition to the three economic zones, Hung Yen plans to develop two major corridors.

The Red River ecological, economic and cultural corridor will extend along the river from the border with Ha Noi to the Ba Lat estuary.

Linked to the planned Red River Heritage Route, it will promote historical and cultural tourism as well as ecological tourism.

The industrial, urban and service corridor, associated with the CT16 expressway network and Longitudinal Route No 2, will serve as the backbone of the province's socio-economic development.

It will also strengthen trade and regional links with Ha Noi, Bac Ninh, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh and Ninh Binh, paving way for integrated development in industry, urban areas, services, logistics and innovation.

Through this spatial development framework, Hung Yen aims to improve regional connectivity, attract investment and build a balanced and sustainable economic structure as it works towards its 2030 development goals. — Viet Nam News/ANN

China, Australia firms ink lubrication solutions deal

PERTH: Chinese and Australian partners have signed a cooperation agreement in Perth, Australia, to provide integrated lubrication solutions to local companies in the mining, engineering and construction sectors, as well as other fields, to support the development of local industry.

PetroChina Lubricant Co, China Petroleum Technology and Development Corp and Australia's Brooks Group inked the pact on Oct 20, marking a step in the expansion of *KunLun Lubricating* – a brand under China National Petroleum Corp, the parent company of PetroChina – into Australia, with the partners moving from product trading toward joint channel development.

With a more comprehensive localised operating model, the Chinese lubricant brand is now engaging deeply in the global high-end industrial lubricant market.

Wang Wei, deputy general manager of PetroChina Lubricant Co, said the partnership brings together complementary strengths in technology and distribution, describing the agreement as a shift from product trading toward joint channel development.

“By combining *KunLun Lubricating*'s technical capabilities with Brooks Group's market knowledge and service network, the company aims to respond to customer needs, share business opportunities and create value,” he said.

Wang said he hoped the collaboration would provide a practical model for overseas business development and support stronger commercial ties between China and Australia.

Zhou Feng, president of the Perth branch of the China Chamber of Commerce, attended the signing ceremony and delivered a speech.

He said the cooperation offers an example

“By combining KunLun Lubricating's technical capabilities with Brooks Group's market knowledge and service network, the company aims to respond to customer needs, share business opportunities and create value.”

Wang Wei

of how Chinese industrial products and technologies can be matched with Australian market needs and local service capabilities.

Zhou added that the Chinese and Australian economies are complementary and that there is scope for further cooperation in resources, energy, equipment manufacturing and related industries.

Australia, an important market for mining and construction equipment, has seen demand for lubricants and greases increase across both sectors.

The partners see an opportunity to serve customers operating under demanding conditions with products and services that balance performance, cost efficiency and supply reliability.

Western Australia, a major mining region, is a key starting point.

Using Perth as a hub, the partnership plans to expand gradually into other mining and industrial regions, including South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland, serving mining operators, engineering contractors and equipment rental companies.

Starting in Perth, the partners aim to develop a locally supported cooperation

model that can be extended to other parts of the Australian market.

Brooks Group managing director Stuart Brooks said the company is Australia's largest privately owned construction equipment rental business, adding that the partnership followed extensive comparative testing.

By combining *KunLun Lubricating*'s lubrication solutions with Brooks Group's distribution channels and service capabilities, the partners aim to give more Australian customers access to a broader range of lubricant products and services.

Brooks expressed confidence in the partnership's prospects.

The partnership builds on *KunLun Lubricating*'s technical expertise and product validation.

By continuing to develop its products through sustained innovation, *KunLun Lubricating* said its products have received technical approvals from international manufacturers, including DaimlerChrysler, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, Volvo and MAN, and have been selected for factory-fill and service-fill applications by original equipment manufacturers, including XCMG Group. — China Daily/ANN

Infrastructure to drive Hanoi banks' profits

HANOI: The race to finance major infrastructure projects worth hundreds of billions of US dollars is opening up new opportunities for profit growth in the banking sector.

Experts said the banking sector's profit outlook for 2026 reflects not only the recovery of credit demand but also a fundamental shift in the composition of interest-earning assets, with major infrastructure projects emerging as a strategic, long-term pillar of lending and long-term pillar.

Analysts from Vietcombank Securities Co forecast that banking sector profits for the third quarter (3Q) and the full year of 2026 will remain on an upward trajectory, driven primarily by interest income.

The analysts said that state-owned banks and large private banks involved in infrastructure financing would be the main beneficiaries.

They projected credit growth of 15.6% for VietinBank in 2026, with an expected net interest margin (NIM) of 2.7% supported by policy measures.

VietinBank's pre-tax profit is forecast to rise by 18% in 3Q and 26% for the full year, driven in part by active debt recovery and the transfer of the VietinBank Tower project, which is estimated to generate a profit of approximately five trillion dong.

At Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam, credit growth is projected to reach 16.1%, driven primarily by the wholesale banking segment. NIM is expected to stand at 2.1%, and the non-performing loan ratio is anticipated to fall to 1.3% by year-end. — Viet Nam News/ANN

StarAsean+
INDONESIA

'Manageable' bond outflows

MSCI threat triggers US\$277mil Jakarta market selloff

JAKARTA: MSCI's warning about Indonesia's stock market has sparked immediate capital outflows from the bond market as well but has had only a limited impact on the rupiah exchange rate, according to the central bank.

Bank Indonesia (BI) executive Erwin Gunawan Hutapea revealed last Friday that inflows had been "rather good" from the end-September to mid-October, until MSCI announced a possible reclassification of the Indonesian equity market on Oct 16.

BI recorded outflows from both government bonds and BI's short-term bonds called Bank Indonesia Rupiah Securities.

While Erwin refused to provide the exact number of funds pulled out of the bond market on the day, his presentation slide showed a total outflow of five trillion rupiah (US\$276.5mil) from equities and bonds combined.

The Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) recorded a total outflow of

3.4 trillion rupiah on the day MSCI made the announcement, meaning the bond market recorded an estimated 1.6 trillion rupiah in outflows that day.

Erwin did not reveal how the bond market has fared since the announcement but said the outflow had been "manageable" and did not affect the rupiah exchange rate "excessively", adding that "we can still manage it well and hopefully the shock can slowly be digested by market participants".

MSCI on Oct 16 shocked the country by announcing the possibility of reclassifying Indonesia into what it calls a "standalone market", which is the bottom tier of the index compiler's system filled with countries at war like Ukraine and Palestine alongside markets with strict capital controls like Argentina, Lebanon and Nigeria.

The index provider's statement

"Should the spillover effect hit the rupiah harder beyond our volatility tolerance, the central bank would respond with market intervention to prevent a slide in the currency."

Erwin Gunawan Hutapea

suggests MSCI is unconvinced about the implementation of reforms to counter coordinated trading behaviour.

A "standalone market" classification would render the Indonesian stock market uninvestable for many global fund managers. Indonesia holds the emerging-market status.

MSCI had threatened to down-

grade the country to frontier market status following a review scheduled for November, before the index compiler suddenly announced the possible extreme reclassification two weeks ahead of November despite ongoing reforms including enhanced disclosure of shareholders holding more than 1% of a company, more granular investor classification

disclosure, high shareholder concentration reporting and a road map toward a minimum free float of 15%.

The IDX Composite index dropped by 11.57% the day MSCI made the announcement and the rupiah likewise was hit and got dragged below the psychological threshold of 18,000 per US dollar.

Erwin said the spillover effect from the capital outflows on the exchange rate was limited, but should it hit the rupiah harder "beyond our volatility tolerance", the central bank would respond with market intervention to prevent a slide in the currency.

BI governor Destry Damayanti said the monetary authority would shell out incentives to support the rupiah's exchange value that she labelled "a more targeted policy", suggesting raising interest rates was not the only tool in the box. — The Jakarta Post/ANN

Singapore minister sees limited impact from Indonesia gas supply cuts

SINGAPORE: Indonesia's move to cut gas exports to Singapore is unlikely to affect electricity prices significantly in the short term, as the reduction makes up less than 2% of the country's needs, according to Energy, Trade and Industry Minister Tan See Leng.

Singapore should instead be

looking at fluctuations in global prices, he told reporters in an interview on Oct 25 after the PAP's biennial conference.

This is because the unit price of gas is usually pegged to the movement of some of the key global indices, he noted.

Indonesia had said it would cut

natural gas exports to Singapore by 31 billion British thermal units (bbtud) per day from Oct 24.

This was framed in Indonesian media reports as part of President Prabowo Subianto's government moves to prioritise domestic energy needs amid growing concerns over energy security.

Tan gave the reassurance that Singapore has sufficient gas supply to meet its demand.

He said the Republic's central procurer and supplier of natural gas is ready to import more liquefied natural gas (LNG), and the country maintains a standby LNG facility.

The Energy Market Authority said the total reduction amounts to 17 bbtd over a period of 18 days. Singapore's total daily gas demand amounts to more than 1,000 bbtd.

It relies on natural gas for around 95% of its electricity needs. — The Straits Times/ANN

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55-storey office tower with 3 levels of basement car park

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≈ 2.33 million+ sq. ft.

Typical Net Lettable Area Per Floor
≈ 18,000 sq. ft.

Stage One:
Expression
Of Interest

Closing Date :
27 November
2026, 12pm

Potential for repurpose into serviced
apartment, hotel, lifestyle.

Excellent public transport connectivity.

Prime CBD and tourism location.

Tenure
Freehold

Marcus (E 2913)

+6013-929 2283

marcus.yeo@cbre-wtw.com.my

Queenie (PEA 3486)

+6011-2106 6009

queenie.ho@my.knightfrank.com



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As S. Koreans eat less rice, CJ looks overseas to grow Hetbahn

JINCHEON: For three decades, CJ CheilJedang has honed a seemingly simple recipe for instant rice under its *Hetbahn* brand, which more often than not stands in for microwavable rice itself in South Korea.

The nation's first aseptic-packaged cooked rice, debuted in 1996, now holds about 65% of the domestic market and has grown into a lineup of multigrain bowls, pot-cooked rice, porridge, cup meals and even rice-studded gelato.

Innovation continues at CJ's smart factory in Jincheon, North Chungcheong Province, where the company keeps pace with evolving palates at home and an overseas customer base that now accounts for a rising share of sales.

CJ Blossom Campus in Jincheon is South Korea's largest processed food plant, where automation runs through most of the *Hetbahn* operation, from manufacturing and packaging to warehousing and underground rail transport.

One of *Hetbahn*'s two plants in South Korea, the campus turns out about 280 million bowls a year on six lines.

The Busan plant lifts annual output to about 700

million. At the heart of both plants sits aseptic technology, which lets *Hetbahn* keep for nine months at room temperature without preservatives.

CJ imported its original aseptic line from Japan in 1996 and has kept improving it on its own.

"We brought in the same line and the same equipment, but our know-how has refined it so much that you can hardly call it the same equipment our competitors use," Oh Ye-jin, food research and development master at CJ CheilJedang, said last Wednesday.

"This aseptic process remains a production technology rivals cannot match."

The company said *Hetbahn* holds 267 patents, which carried it from white rice into multigrain, pot-cooked rice and sticky rice for global markets.

Its pot-cooked line, for one, uses vacuum-pressure sterilisation to seal in toppings, and optimised moisture and heat treatment to keep their texture.

Those patents run through a production chain that begins at harvest, when CJ researchers check moisture in freshly threshed grain nationwide.

At the plant, each bowl

starts with grain milled that morning.

"CJ is the only rice maker in South Korea with its own milling system."

"To cook rice at its freshest point, we make same-day milling a rule," Oh said.

Production then follows eight steps: washing, soaking, filling, steam sterilisation, adding water, cooking, clean-room sealing and inspection.

To block spoilage-causing microbes, CJ runs a clean room that it likens to a semiconductor facility, with fewer than 100 dust particles per sq ft against about 20,000 in ordinary air.

Multilayer packaging then shuts out oxygen and withstands impact.

With freshness secured, the next frontier is what to make of the grain itself.

Hetbahn's research and development has expanded from grain blending into a nutrition design that adds protein and fibre and, through reconstituted rice, cuts carbohydrates and calories.

CJ aims to lift *Hetbahn*'s annual sales to the 1.5 trillion won (US\$1.13bil) range by 2028, up from a record of more than 1.1 trillion won last year. — The Korea Herald/ANN

Mike Ashley's Frasers says it's taken control of Hugo Boss brand

LONDON: Frasers Group Plc says it's taken control of Hugo Boss AG, pushing its stake above 50% and turning the German apparel brand into a subsidiary of UK billionaire Mike Ashley's retail empire.

With a fresh purchase of Boss shares, Frasers raised its holding to 50.08%, the British company said in a statement last Friday. Frasers previously held about 48% after an initial takeover bid fell short.

The UK company behind Sports Direct, Flannels and House of Fraser has built up its stake in Boss over the past few months and persisted in seeking a controlling position.

Last month, Frasers tightened its grip on Boss when chief executive officer Michael Murray, who is also Ashley's son-in-law, was named chairman of the German firm.

Frasers has a reputation for building up positions in European retailers and then seeking change, and has steadily expanded its stake in Boss since first

"In the latest transaction, we acquired 198,666 additional Boss shares at the previous offer price for a total of €7.63mil (US\$8.6mil). Boss shares closed last Friday at €38.41, giving the company a market value of just over €2.6bil."

Frasers Group Plc

investing in the brand in 2020.

In June, Frasers launched a €38-a-share takeover offer, though Boss advised shareholders not to accept it, arguing the price undervalued the company.

The German firm also stopped a share buyback programme early, effectively removing one way Frasers could have boosted its stake beyond 50% without buying additional shares.

In the latest transaction, Frasers said it

acquired 198,666 additional Boss shares at the previous offer price for a total of €7.63mil (US\$8.6mil). Boss shares closed last Friday at €38.41, giving the company a market value of just over €2.6bil.

Boss earnings are expected to be consolidated into those of Frasers and the German retailer will become a subsidiary, the UK company said.

Boss, known for its pricey suits and underwear, is in the midst of a second

turnaround plan under chief executive officer Daniel Grieder.

Frasers has been pushing more into luxury in recent years, taking stakes in British brands Mulberry and Burberry, and acquiring the storied department store chain Harvey Nichols out of administration in August.

Murray said in September that he saw "significant untapped potential" in Boss and said that his aim is to create "sustainable value for all shareholders and stakeholders".

Boss supervisory board chairman Stephan Sturm departed during that month, after the UK company repeatedly questioned its support for him.

Furthermore, the increase in Frasers' stake does not entail significant changes in terms of influence or with regard to day-to-day operations at Boss, a spokesperson for the German company said by phone.

Frasers declined to comment on its plans for the German brand beyond its statement. — Bloomberg

Musk's SpaceX closes US\$40bil deal in AI push

Investor unease soars in infrastructure buildout

NEW YORK: Elon Musk says SpaceX has closed a US\$40bil debt deal to pay for the chips needed to fuel its artificial intelligence (AI) ambitions.

People familiar with the discussions, though, told *Bloomberg News* that talks over pricing were still ongoing.

"SpaceX closed US\$40B of debt for graphics processing units (GPUs)," Musk wrote in a post on X, referring to Nvidia Corp's GPUs. He went on to suggest that debt markets had all but shut for neoclouds depending solely on revenue streams from AI data centres.

"That means the 200-plus neoclouds are going to see guppy-level death and consolidation," Musk wrote. "Some will make it through, but not many."

Musk's comments came on the heels of a tumultuous week for AI companies in debt markets as concern mounted over the industry's rapid spending, and limited profits so far to show for it.

With investors demanding increasingly large premiums to finance the AI buildout, the volatility roiled pricing discussions over the SpaceX debt, which is being structured as private bonds to be issued by an off-balance sheet entity.

As of late Sunday in New York, those conversations remained ongoing and the deal hadn't priced, people with knowledge of the discussions said.

The parties were still working on finalising the debt package, the people said.

More broadly in markets recently, much of the investor angst has been focused on the so-called neoclouds, which sell high-end computing power to technology companies.

Noting SpaceX's revenue from its Starlink business and rocket launchers, Musk sought to differentiate his company from those businesses.

"As of the past few weeks, debt markets have almost entirely shut off access to money for any company that doesn't have substantial revenue independent of AI data centres," Musk said in his post.

He later said that SpaceX won't buy any neoclouds, calling it "pointless".

SpaceX, which is rated investment-grade by the three largest credit graders, has seen the price of its own debt tumble in recent weeks.

Credit default swaps tied to SpaceX,



Private placements: Musk speaks via video link at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York. SpaceX's AI business is now profitable, bolstered by sales of computing capacity from its Memphis data centres to external customers. — Reuters

which are used to insure against losses on the company's debt, surged last week to a record 266 basis points at the close of trading last Friday, a level more typical of a junk-rated borrower.

Bankers led by Goldman Sachs Group Inc have been discussing the chips debt structure with investors led by Apollo Global Management Inc, with Apollo-backed Atlas SP slated to manage the entity, people familiar with the matter said last week, asking not to be identified discussing private information.

Pacific Investment Management Co has also considered investing, according to the people. The debt was expected to be issued in the form of private placements called 144a, the people said.

With the latest structure, SpaceX would avoid a repeat of a financing attempt last year by Musk's AI startup, xAI.

In that deal, an entity sought as much as US\$20bil of off-balance sheet debt through

a sale-leaseback agreement with Valor Equity Partners.

But SpaceX ultimately had to record about US\$13bil of that debt after it was declared a "failed sale-leaseback arrangement", according to SpaceX's latest earnings report.

The debt raise comes after strong third quarter earnings, with SpaceX's AI unit turning a profit for the first time.

The enterprise is increasingly driving revenue by selling computing power from its Memphis data centres to external AI labs and hyperscalers.

During SpaceX's earnings call, chief financial officer Bret Johnsen indicated that the company was in discussions with lenders over further borrowing.

"We have a lot of conviction that we are going to be able to do this in a very measured fashion," he said, pointing at the firm's investment-grade rating. — Bloomberg

Brookfield to open Doha office to deepen Mideast reach

DOHA: Brookfield Asset Management Ltd is opening an office in Qatar, deepening its presence in the Middle East where many countries are grappling with the economic fallout from the war.

"The office will be anchored by Brookfield's global credit platform, including Oaktree," the firm said in a statement on Sunday.

Brookfield manages about US\$20bil in assets across private equity, real estate, credit and infrastructure across the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

The move builds on its partnership with Qai, Qatar's artificial intelligence company and a subsidiary of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), to invest US\$20bil in artificial intelligence infrastructure in Qatar and international markets.

Qai has since been transferred to Doha Investment, which was unveiled last month to focus on domestic investments and is wholly owned by the QIA.

"Establishing our presence in Doha is a natural next step as we continue to grow our business in the region," said Jad Ellawn, Brookfield's managing partner and regional head of the Middle East.

"We see significant opportunity ahead and look forward to continuing to invest and deepen our collaborations here for the long term."

The expansion is the latest sign of global giants doubling down on the Middle East, which is home to sovereign wealth funds that oversee assets worth trillions of dollars.

In recent days, Advent International, Eurazeo, EQT AB and Pantheon have opened offices in Abu Dhabi, while Robinhood Markets Inc plans to launch its retail investing platform in the Middle East from a new Dubai base next year.

Before the conflict began, the QIA had been signalling a return to the large transactions that helped establish it as one of the world's biggest sovereign investors.

That prompted firms including BlackRock Inc's Global Infrastructure Partners to establish offices in Doha.

Now, Qatar's energy sales have taken a major hit.

An Iranian strike on Ras Laffan in March knocked out about 17% of the country's liquefied natural gas export capacity, with losses estimated at US\$20bil and repairs expected to take at least three years. — Bloomberg

Lula returns, markets brace for reality check

Investors await details of Brazil's fiscal strategy

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has won reelection on Sunday, defeating right-wing Senator Flavio Bolsonaro and setting up a test for financial markets, with investors expecting recent bets on a change of government to unwind in a volatile week ahead.

November futures for the Brazilian real were down 10% early in Asia while a Tokyo-listed Brazilian stock exchange-traded fund, the Nomura NF Ibovespa Link ETF, plunged 15%.

Markets had moved sharply in anticipation of a right-wing shift since Bolsonaro, the son of convicted former President Jair Bolsonaro, unexpectedly finished first in the opening round three weeks ago.

Stocks closed last Friday almost 7% above their level going into the first round, while the real currency was nearly 5% stronger against the US dollar.

Interest rate futures had indicated expectations that tighter public finances would allow borrowing costs to decline.

"We expected a sharp market reaction on Monday, with aggressive repricing, a sell-off in assets and interest rate futures likely to hit their upper limit shortly after the open," said Luis Felipe Vital, head of macro strategy at Warren Investimentos.

Over the next four years, Lula must slow the growth of Brazil's debt while protecting social programmes and investment.

For investors, the question is whether his gradual approach to fixing public finances can bring borrowing costs down.

Without confidence that he can deliver, lenders could demand higher interest rates, adding to the government's debt and making credit more expensive for businesses and households.

"Investors want a clear and credible commitment to fiscal discipline," said Alejo Czerwonko, chief investment officer for emerging markets at UBS Global Wealth Management.

"We expect the rally that followed the



Working relationship: Lula waves a Brazilian flag after winning the presidential run-off election in Sao Paulo. The president now faces the challenge of curbing debt growth while safeguarding social programmes and maintaining investment. — AFP

first round to be largely priced out, and sentiment to stay weak until a clear fiscal plan emerges."

Czerwonko said investors are looking for a halt to the spending that accompanied the campaign and a believable path to stabilise public debt.

"It also means a working relationship with an opposition-leaning Congress, because no fiscal plan passes without it," he added.

Lula's team aims to produce a budget surplus before interest payments of about 1.3% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.

That would leave money to cover part of the interest bill, reducing the need for fresh

borrowing. But public debt already exceeds 82% of GDP, while pensions and other legally required spending limit where savings can come from.

"Lula's policies have talked about spending cuts, but he's not gone into the details of how that is going to look like," said Divya Singaravelu, head of research at Meridian 1305 Capital.

She said the choice of the next Finance Minister would be an early signal to markets, adding: "We want to see what the 2027 budget and spending cap looks like."

Furthermore, whoever takes the job will need to explain how campaign commitments fit within those fiscal limits. — Reuters

Saudi Arabia to bolster Asian oil supply security

SINGAPORE: Saudi Arabia plans to store crude oil at Singapore's Jurong Rock Caverns from the second half of financial year 2027 (2H27) to strengthen supply security in the region, energy ministers from both countries say.

The move comes after the United States-Israeli war on Iran severely disrupted energy supplies to Asia shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, prompting countries to draw down inventories and raising concerns about stockpile levels globally.

Asia imported two-thirds of its oil supplies from the Middle East before the war.

"Saudi Arabia and Singapore are announcing our joint intent to establish an arrangement for Saudi crude oil to be stored at the Jurong Rock Caverns from 2H27," Tan See Leng, Energy, Trade and Industry Minister, told the Singapore International Energy Week conference.

"This arrangement enhances the resilience of the Saudi crude oil supply chain in South-East Asia, as well as contributing to Singapore's energy security and resilience in the event of supply disruptions."

Tan said Saudi Aramco would sign a memorandum of understanding with the Energy Market Authority and JTC Corp, and aimed to conclude negotiations in a few months' time.

"Bringing supply closer to key Asian markets would strengthen the flexibility of our supply network and support Singapore's security of supply and preparedness," Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud said in a video recording at the conference.

Located at a depth of 150 metres below the ground, the rock caverns at Jurong Island can store up to 1.47 million cb m, or roughly nine million barrels of liquid hydrocarbons such as crude oil and condensate.

Saudi Aramco currently stores crude in Japan and South Korea where local governments have priority to buy the supplies in the tanks in the event of an unexpected shortage. — Reuters

Japanese companies compensate users amid cyberattacks

TOKYO: Japanese companies are moving to pay compensation to users following waves of cyberattacks that have disrupted Internet services and raised concerns about economic stability.

GMO Internet Group, a leading provider of online financial services, said customers would be compensated for losses stemming from unauthorised access following a cyberattack on its foreign exchange trading service, and all customers would receive 5,000 yen (US\$32) as a gesture of goodwill, chief executive officer Masatoshi Kumagai said in a blog post on Sunday.

"The Internet itself is now starting to break down," said Kumagai, whose sprawling group includes Internet infrastructure and cryptocurrency trading.

Japan said last Friday it would set up a team to simulate cyberattacks using artificial intelligence (AI) to identify weaknesses in technology systems as organisations scrambled to curtail risks from flaws in the PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP) that underpins much of the Internet.

Japanese companies are being roiled by attacks with experts saying AI is helping automate tasks from scanning for software vulnerabilities to crafting phishing campaigns, making cybercrime faster, cheaper and harder to detect.

"The Internet is increasingly being transformed into a tool that malicious actors use to threaten and rob people," said Kumagai.*

"Reports may reflect both the threats organisations face and greater visibility into incidents that would previously have gone undetected, been underinvestigated, or remained undisclosed."

Satoshi Nagano

Shares of GMO, which had a market value of US\$2.6bil as of last Friday's close, slumped 15% to a four-month low against a 0.5% rise in Tokyo's benchmark index.

Government and company websites in Japan, Europe and elsewhere went offline last week after the disclosure of critical vulnerabilities in the PHP programming language prompted millions of hacking attempts.

Kumagai has urged the Japanese government to apply cyberdefence measures in response to the cyberattack, after the introduction of a cyberdefence system this month.

The system could involve steps such as attacking hostile servers to neutralise threats.

"Now is the time for the public and private sectors to work together to protect

Japan," wrote Kumagai.

GMO said it received a demand for money from a party believed to be behind the attack, along with a threat to disclose company and customer information if it did not comply.

GMO said it would not comply with the demand and would respond to the incident in coordination with police and other authorities.

The company, which will provide a free alternative service to its customers for six months, said it could not currently calculate the impact on earnings from the goodwill payments and compensation for losses.

White-hat hackers working for the company had identified security issues but the depth and speed of the response were insufficient, Kumagai wrote.

The scale of recent cyberattacks has exposed weaknesses in Japanese companies' ability to protect their wealth of customer data and raised the prospect of surging costs to beef up defences.

"Companies already have standard security measures in place, so if they want to strengthen them further, there is a possibility that the additional cost burden could be quite substantial," said Shoichi Arisawa, an analyst at IwaiCosmo Securities.

There have been 723 cybersecurity incidents in the year to Oct 20, according to data from TrendAI, exceeding the annual totals in 2025 and 2024.

"Reports may reflect both the threats organisations face and greater visibility into incidents that would previously have gone undetected, been underinvestigated, or remained undisclosed," said Satoshi Nagano, president of cybersecurity firm ESET Japan.

Furthermore, Park24, which operates the Times car-sharing service, said last Friday it would make 3,000-yen payments to customers following a personal data breach.

The company said it would no longer retain identity document images after completing registration verification and expects to book an extraordinary loss of 5.5 billion yen due to responses to the attack and compensation payments. — Reuters