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RM17 mln investment to improve livestock breeds, production

The Sabah government has allocated approximately RM17 million under the Sabah Ruminant Project this year to improve livestock breeds and boost the productivity of cattle and goat farming in the state.

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WORLD

'Boost defence cooperation to tackle security threat'

Asean must strengthen unity, deepen practical defence cooperation and promote frank dialogue to tackle regional security threats and growing risks to food and energy security, Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said on Wednesday.

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SPORTS

ACLE: Munoz hails JDT's 'control' of Thai Port FC

Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) head coach Xisco Munoz hailed his side's tactical maturity and relentless intensity after the Southern Tigers outclassed Thailand's Port FC 3-0 in their AFC Champions League Elite (ACLE) clash at Sultan Ibrahim Stadium on Tuesday night.

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Sabah completes 291 devt projects this year

Federal devt expenditure performance rises to 71.78 per cent, while Sabah secures RM18.7 billion under Budget 2027

Nancy Lai

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's federal development expenditure performance has improved to 71.78 per cent as of Oct 26, up from 52.07 per cent on Aug 10 this year, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor.

He said Sabah completed 291 development projects this year, including Sekolah Menengah Sains Sabah in Kota Kinabalu and SK Buit Hill in Penampang.

"This demonstrates that we are capable of successfully implementing development projects, and this positive performance should be sustained," he said when chairing the State Development Action Council (MTPNg) meeting at Menara Kinabalu here on Wednesday.

Hajiji urged all ministries, departments and implementing agencies to intensify efforts to ensure the optimal utilisation of remaining development allocations before the end of the 2026 financial year.

He said priority should be given to projects with substantial unspent allocations and those facing implementation constraints that could cause delays or turn them into ailing projects.

"Issues involving technical approvals, land acquisition, utility relocation, procurement and contract management must be identified and resolved through effective coordination.

"Every development allocation is a responsibility entrusted to us and must be translated into tangible benefits for the people.

Hajiji (front, right) and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun (left) in a photo call with other officials at Menara Kinabalu.

"Approved allocations should result in facilities and improvements that the people of Sabah can feel," he said.

Meanwhile, Hajiji welcomed the RM18.7 billion allocation for Sabah under Budget Madani 2027, an increase from RM17.6 billion this year, describing it as a reflection of the federal government's continued commitment to meeting the state's development needs.

He said the allocation would support efforts to strengthen basic infrastructure and improve public well-being, with key priorities including Phase 1B of the Pan Borneo Highway in Sabah and electricity supply improvement projects.

These include the STATCOM System projects at Dam Road and Segaliud in Sandakan, as well as

the Southern Link Transmission Line in Sipitang.

Hajiji also highlighted the nearly RM1.3 billion allocation to upgrade 682 dilapidated schools in Sabah and Sarawak, noting that it would help improve learning environments and educational facilities.

Hajiji called on the relevant ministries and agencies to make thorough preparations to ensure projects were implemented according to established priorities and schedules.

He also reminded agencies that MTPNg meetings should focus on resolving implementation issues rather than merely discussing problems.

"I am confident that through close cooperation between the federal and state governments, as well as the commitment

of all implementing agencies, Sabah's development agenda can continue to be driven sustainably and inclusively, in line with the aspirations of Sabah Maju Jaya 2.0," he said.

Hajiji stressed that development success should not be measured solely by the amount of allocations or the number of projects implemented, but by the extent to which these improved the quality of life and well-being of Sabahans.

He also welcomed newly appointed Sabah Federal Secretary Datuk Zul Hadi Ahmad, expressing hope that cooperation between the Federal and State Governments would be further strengthened to ensure effective implementation of the state's development agenda.

Sabah to receive remaining RM900 mln special grant this year

KUALA LUMPUR: The federal government has pledged to disburse the remaining RM900 million in special grant to Sabah this year, subject to the completion of procedures for a new Special Grant Order.

In a written reply to Tuaran MP Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau in the Dewan Rakyat on Wednesday, the Finance Ministry (MOF) said RM600 million had been paid to the Sabah government on June 12, 2026.

The remaining RM900 million would be disbursed once the procedures for the new order were completed, including the drafting and gazetting of an order by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong under Article 112D of the Federal Constitution.

The new order would replace the Special Grant Order for Sabah 2025, or P.U.(A) 271/2025, with the ministry reaffirming its commitment to completing the necessary procedures within this year.

MOF said federal revenue collected in Sabah from 2022 to 2024 was estimated at about RM10 billion annually, comprising the five per cent cash payment from petroleum revenue and other direct and indirect taxes.

It added that the interim special grant had increased from

RM125.6 million in 2022 to RM300 million in 2023 and RM600 million in 2025.

For 2026, the grant was set at RM1.5 billion, as announced by the Prime Minister on May 30.

Meanwhile, Madius questioned the ministry's reply for failing to provide details on how the federal government's net revenue from Sabah was calculated, including the formula used and a specific timeline for implementing the state's 40 per cent revenue entitlement.

He said clarity on the calculation mechanism and implementation schedule was important to ensure Sabah's financial position and constitutional rights were addressed transparently.

In his original question, Madius had asked MOF to state the federal government's net revenue from Sabah for 2022 to 2025, the amount of special grant paid, the calculation method, and the measures and timeline for implementing Sabah's 40 per cent entitlement under the Federal Constitution.

The ministry said negotiations on the amount of the special grant would continue through the Malaysia Agreement 1963 Implementation Action Council (MTPMA63), in accordance with Articles 112C and 112D of the Federal Constitution.

Security personnel conduct inspections in a squatter settlement during the Gasak Laut Operation and integrated enforcement operation in Kunak.

10 detained as enforcement operation yields RM269,439

KUNAK: Ten individuals were detained during an integrated enforcement operation in the district on Tuesday, with the total value of compounds, seizures and estimated penalties reaching RM269,439.26.

The Gasak Laut Operation and Kunak District Integrated Operation were conducted by the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM), involving 202 officers and personnel from 19 departments and enforcement agencies.

ESSCOM Commander Datuk Victor Sanjos said the operation focused on inspections of business premises, detecting possession of fish bombs and taking action against various offences under the respective agencies' jurisdictions.

He said the operation also targeted smuggling, the misappropriation of controlled and subsidised goods, untaxed goods and the presence of illegal immigrants (PATI) in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (ESSZONE).

"The integrated operation also aims to strengthen the presence of security forces and improve coordination and information-sharing among agencies to ensure more effective enforcement," he said in a statement yesterday.

During the operation, the Immigration Department detained six individuals after checking 64 people, while the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) detained four individuals for drug-related offences after inspecting 12 premises and 60 individuals.

"The Sabah Labour Department issued five compounds totalling

RM170,000 following inspections at 10 business premises involving 45 workers.

"The Royal Malaysian Customs Department also seized cigarettes with an estimated value, including duties, of RM30,939.26 after inspecting six premises," he said.

Meanwhile, Victor said Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd seized seven kilogrammes of electrical cables worth an estimated RM3,000 after inspecting 22 houses.

"The Sabah Ports and Harbours Department seized nine pump boat engines, one outboard engine and one boat, with a combined estimated value of RM10,000.

"The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) identified five suspected cases for further investigation, with maximum estimated penalties of RM50,000, subject to the findings of the investigation and legal proceedings.

"The Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) also issued compounds totalling RM5,000 and one compliance notice, while the Kunak District Council issued a RM500 compound against premises operating without valid licences," he said.

Victor said ESSCOM would continue intensifying similar operations in line with the 'No Day Without Operations' principle to safeguard security and public order along Sabah's east coast.

He also urged the public to report suspicious activities or security incidents to the ESSCOM Operations Centre at 089-863181 or via WhatsApp at 011-63311072.

Mustapha sets two-week deadline for flood mitigation proposals

Mariah Doksil

KOTA KINABALU: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak) Datuk Mustapha Sakmud has given relevant authorities two weeks to identify and submit proposals for immediate flood mitigation projects in Kota Kinabalu, particularly in flood-prone areas around Sepanggar.

He said the proposals would be submitted to Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK) for assessment and implementation, with priority given to measures that could be carried out quickly to reduce flood risks.

Mustapha, also the Sepanggar MP, said the directive followed a special Kota Kinabalu District Disaster Committee coordination meeting at DBKK headquarters here on Wednesday.

He said the meeting reviewed the latest disaster statistics and identified factors contributing to the increasing number of floods and landslides.

Relevant agencies, parliamentary and state assembly representatives, and the Unit Pemimpin Pembangunan Masyarakat (UPPM), have been tasked with identifying suitable projects, including river dredging, drain maintenance and the construction of additional drainage channels.

"We need to anticipate the impact of these conditions. The important thing now is to make

Mustapha (centre) chairs the Kota Kinabalu District Disaster Committee coordination meeting at DBKK headquarters.

every effort to address and reduce flood risks, particularly in identified hotspots around Kota Kinabalu," he said.

Mustapha stressed the need for immediate action as changing weather patterns and increasingly unpredictable rainfall could worsen flooding in the city.

He said information from the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) indicated that the Northeast Monsoon had already begun, while the El Nino phenomenon was expected to persist until the end of the year.

"Whether we have enough time or not, we must implement these measures because flooding will continue to occur.

"What matters now is that we do our best to overcome the problem and reduce the risks," he said.

Mustapha identified

heavier-than-expected rainfall and inadequate drainage maintenance as among the main factors contributing to flooding in Sepanggar, Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP), Indah Permai and Inanam.

He said some existing drainage systems, particularly in older housing estates, were no longer adequate to cope with current rainfall patterns and surrounding development.

"Drainage infrastructure in older housing estates had often been designed according to rainfall patterns and development conditions at the time they were built, which might no longer be sufficient today," he said.

He cited Taman Wijaya Park and Kampung Rampayan as examples of areas where surrounding development had affected drainage conditions.

"This is why we need to find

more drastic measures to help the people and reduce flood risks," he said.

For immediate measures, Mustapha said river dredging, maintenance of existing drains and the construction of alternative drainage channels would be prioritised in identified flood hotspots.

On long-term measures, Mustapha said the second phase of the Sungai Rampaian flood mitigation project was expected to be included under the second rolling plan (RP2).

The project is aimed at reducing flood risks along Sungai Rampaian, including areas extending towards Bukit Mansiang.

He also urged residents in flood-prone areas, particularly around Kota Kinabalu and the Sepanggar, to remain vigilant as the Northeast Monsoon progressed.



Yap briefs Jamawi (left) and Ruslan during the livestock assistance and farm input handover ceremony in Penampang.

RM17 mln investment to improve livestock breeds, production

Jenne Lajjun

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah government has allocated approximately RM17 million under the Sabah Ruminant Project this year to improve livestock breeds and boost the productivity of cattle and goat farming in the state.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industry Minister Datuk Jamawi Jaafar said the initiative aimed to help farmers increase production by replacing older, less productive livestock with higher-quality breeds.

"Most of our livestock farmers are still using older, less productive breeds. Through this assistance, we hope to increase livestock production and improve breed quality," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after officiating at the livestock assistance and farm input

handover ceremony under the Sabah Ruminant Project 2026 at the Penampang District Veterinary Services Department (DVS) office recently.

According to him, 43 farmer received assistance under the programme, comprising 22 beef cattle farmers, 19 goat farmers and two dairy cattle farmers.

He said the recipients were selected based on their participation in specialised courses, applications for assistance and involvement in livestock farming activities.

The livestock supplied had good breeding potential, which would help farmers expand their herds and improve overall productivity, he added.

Jamawi said farmers receiving beef and dairy cattle could expect their first calves within approximately two to three months after the initial care period, while the goats supplied

were between one year and one year and two months.

He said the programme would continue next year, with the same level of assistance planned annually until 2030.

"Continuous monitoring would be carried out by DVS officers in their respective districts to ensure the livestock were properly cared for and the assistance was used for its intended purpose," he said.

However, he warned that recipients who neglected or sold their livestock without the department's permission risked forfeiting their security deposits and being blacklisted from future assistance programmes.

Also present were assistant minister I Datuk Haji Ruslan Muharam; deputy permanent secretary Maria David Edick; Sabah DVS Director Dr Zul Bahar Haji Mohd Rashid; and Eco Yap Fresh Milk owner Datuk Yap Yun Fook.

MITI backs BIMP-EAGA special economic zone in Lahad Datu

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) has backed a proposal to establish a BIMP-EAGA Special Economic Zone at the Palm Oil Industrial Cluster (POIC) Lahad Datu, potentially positioning Sabah as Malaysia's 'Eastern Gateway'.

Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani said POIC Lahad Datu had strong potential to become a regional industrial and logistics hub, given its extensive land area, port facilities and opportunities to develop storage and logistics infrastructure.

He said the industrial cluster, which spans more than 4,400-acre, could also support the expansion of the palm oil value chain, including processing, refining, oleochemicals and palm kernel crushing.

"Sabah and Sarawak together produced nearly nine million metric tonnes of crude palm oil (CPO) annually, accounting for about 45 per cent of Malaysia's total production of around 20 million tonnes," Johari said in his winding-up speech.

He proposed that consultants work with the Sabah government to develop a proposal identifying suitable industries and



Johari (right) seen with Ewon.

investment opportunities before submitting it to the Finance Ministry and Economy Ministry.

"MITI would then assess which industries could be developed under the proposed special economic zone," he said.

Penampang MP Datuk Ewon Benedick welcomed Johari's support for the proposal and invited him to visit POIC Lahad Datu to assess its potential.

Ewon had proposed during

the debate on Budget 2027 on Oct 13 that POIC Lahad Datu be designated as a BIMP-EAGA Special Economic Zone to strengthen Sabah's role in regional trade and investment.

BIMP-EAGA, or the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area, aims to promote economic cooperation and development among participating areas in the four countries.

‘Retain 12 Chinese language periods per week in SJKC timetable’

Nancy Lai

KOTA KINABALU: The Education Ministry should retain 12 Chinese language periods per week in the official timetable of Chinese national-type primary schools (SJKCs), instead of leaving the decision to individual headmasters, says Likas assemblyman Tham Yun Fook.

He said the ministry's proposed 2027 curriculum, which reduces the minimum number of Chinese language

periods for Year One pupils from 12 to 10 per week, could result in inconsistent implementation among schools.

Although Deputy Education Minister Wong Kah Woh had said headmasters could add two periods to maintain the existing arrangement, Tham said this would not adequately address the issue.

"The ministry should not simply delegate the decision to individual headmasters and leave each school to resolve the issue on its own," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said differences in staffing, resources and administrative capacity could prevent some schools from providing the full 12 periods, potentially creating unequal learning opportunities for pupils.

Tham stressed that sufficient teaching time was essential for pupils to develop Chinese language proficiency, including character recognition, reading comprehension, writing and communication skills, and urged the ministry to consider Dong Jiao Zong's proposal to formally retain 12 Chinese

Junz calls for comprehensive recovery plan for Sepanggar Port

KOTA KINABALU: Parti Warisan (Warisan) vice-president Datuk Junz Wong has called on Industrial Development, Entrepreneurship and Transport Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick to present a comprehensive recovery plan for Sepanggar Bay Container Port within 30 days to address persistent congestion and operational delays.

The Tanjung Aru assemblyman said the state government's disclosure that federal approval was still required to gazette the port for 24-hour port operations raised concerns over planning and coordination.

While welcoming the state cabinet's approval, he stressed that businesses needed a firm implementation timeline.

Junz also questioned whether sufficient Customs personnel, transport operators and supporting facilities were available to sustain round-the-clock operations, as well as who would bear the additional overtime costs.

On road safety, he called for a thorough investigation into a recent fatal accident involving container unloading along Sepanggar Port Road.

He urged the authorities to strengthen enforcement and take preventive measures to avoid similar incidents.

Junz welcomed the temporary trailer parking area at Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park but questioned whether it would be sufficient to ease congestion.

He also sought an update on the temporary additional container yard, which was



An aerial view of Sepanggar Bay Container Port, Sabah's principal container port and a vital gateway for trade and economic development.

expected to be completed by March but was reportedly still not ready in July, according to the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers Sabah Branch.

Junz further questioned the progress of 10 interim action plans monitored by Ewon's port logistics task force, calling for details on their implementation and measurable results.

He noted that although DP World took over SBCP's management and operations in Sept 2024, businesses were still waiting for improvements, while the port expansion project had reportedly been delayed until Oct 2027.

He urged the government to disclose key performance indicators, including container dwell time, truck turnaround time, vessel waiting time and yard utilisation, to allow the public and industry players to assess the port's performance.

Junz also called for clear responsibilities among the relevant government agencies, Sabah Ports Sdn Bhd and DP World to ensure accountability.

"Ewon may not have created every problem at Sepanggar Port, but as the Minister now responsible, he must be accountable for delivering the solutions," he said.

AG-Public Prosecutor separation must ensure true independence — Shafie

KOTA KINABALU: The proposed separation of the Attorney General and Public Prosecutor roles must go beyond structural changes to ensure genuine independence from political interference, said Parti Warisan (Warisan) president Datuk Seri Panglima Mohd Shafie Apdal.

Welcoming the federal government's proposal, he said the reform was an important step towards strengthening the rule of law and restoring public confidence in the justice system.

However, Shafie stressed that separating the two offices alone would not guarantee an independent prosecution system.

"The Public Prosecutor must be independent of the Executive but accountable to Parliament," he said in a statement.

He said public confidence in the justice system depended on ensuring that decisions to prosecute or drop charges were based solely on evidence and the law, rather than political considerations, particularly in cases involving politicians and influential individuals.

Shafie welcomed proposals for Parliament to be involved in appointing the Public Prosecutor and for the office to submit annual reports.

However, he said parliamentary oversight should extend beyond these measures.

He proposed empowering a bipartisan parliamentary select committee to scrutinise the office's policies, administration, expenditure and overall performance.

At the same time, he

cautioned that Parliament must not interfere in individual prosecution decisions, stressing that politicians from either side should have no say in determining who should be prosecuted or whose charges should be dropped.

Shafie also called for a fair and transparent appointment process, security of tenure and protection against political pressure or arbitrary dismissal.

He said these safeguards must be enshrined in the Constitution and legislation rather than depend on the goodwill of any prime minister or government.

"The Public Prosecutor must be independent in making decisions but accountable for how the institution is run. Independence must never mean freedom from accountability," he said.

Shafie said the true test of prosecutorial independence was whether the law could be enforced equally against government leaders, opposition politicians and ordinary Malaysians.

He urged the Parliamentary Special Select Committee to ensure the proposed reforms established genuine independence, meaningful parliamentary accountability and safeguards that would endure beyond the present government.

"We want an institution that serves the law and not the government of the day," he said, noting that no one should be above the law regardless of position, political connections or influence.

AKPS detains couple with nearly RM3 mln in undeclared cash

JOHOR BAHRU: The Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS) detained a Malaysian couple suspected of attempting to take nearly RM3 million in undeclared cash out of the country at the Sultan Iskandar Building (BSI) Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex on Tuesday.

AKPS deputy director-general (Operations) Datuk Mohd Nasaruddin M. Nasir said the couple, aged 41 and 42, were detained at about 11.40 am while passing through the vehicle inspection zone heading towards Woodlands, Singapore, in a white Toyota Alphard.

He said an inspection by three AKPS officers uncovered RM1,971,697 and SGD300,000 in cash stored in three boxes, a paper bag and a black backpack in the rear passenger area.

"Further checks were carried out after the driver behaved suspiciously when questioned and was instructed to open the luggage compartment and passenger seats for inspection," he said at a press conference at the AKPS BSI office on Wednesday.

Mohd Nasaruddin said the couple, who are from Johor and run a business, were believed to be travelling to Singapore for a holiday.

However, he said the actual purpose of taking such a large amount of cash to the republic and the reasons for failing to declare it were still under investigation.

Mohd Nasaruddin said both individuals were also brought to court this morning for a remand application.

"The vehicle has also been seized before being handed over to the Customs Department for further action," he said.

He said individuals carrying cash exceeding or equivalent to USD10,000 across the country's borders, either into or out of the country, were required to declare it to the authorities.

"AKPS is committed to tightening controls at all entry points into the country to curb violations of the law that could affect national revenue," he said.

Mohd Nasaruddin said the case was being investigated under Regulation 55(1)(b) of the Customs Regulations 2019. — Bernama

‘Claims of JALB project allocation cuts, cancellations unfounded’

Mariah Doksil

KOTA KINABALU: Claims that the Madani government has cut or cancelled rural road (JALB) project allocations in Sabah and Sarawak are unfounded, with national funding rising to RM2.27 billion in 2027, said Datuk Mustapha Sakmud.

The Sabah Keadilan Leadership Council chairman said the increase in allocations reflected the federal government's continued commitment to rural infrastructure development, stressing that the postponement of new Letters of Acceptance (SST) should not be misconstrued as the cancellation of approved development projects.

He said the national JALB allocation had increased to RM2.11 billion in 2026 and RM2.27 billion in 2027, compared with previous years when the allocation had never reached RM1 billion before the Madani administration.

"The RM1.09 billion allocation

only began in 2023. This is clear evidence of the commitment of the administration led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in meeting the needs of Sabah and Sarawak," he said in a media statement yesterday.

Mustapha said the Ministry of Finance had also approved an additional RM500 million in expenditure for 2026 to help settle outstanding payments to JALB contractors.

He said the additional funding demonstrated that the government was not reducing financial support but was instead taking steps to ensure existing project commitments could be fulfilled.

According to Mustapha, the issue requiring attention was the level of contractual commitments and expenditure exceeding approved annual allocations, which had contributed to payment arrears and delays affecting contractors.

He said the directive issued on Sept 10, 2026 to defer the

issuance of new SSTs was a financial control measure aimed at preventing outstanding payments from continuing to accumulate, rather than a blanket order to cancel development projects.

Mustapha added that the government had instructed the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW) to prepare financing projections up to 2027 based on contracts already awarded.

He said the exercise was important to ensure existing projects could continue through more systematic, transparent and accountable financial management.

Mustapha also challenged those alleging that Sabah and Sarawak were victims of project cuts or cancellations to substantiate their claims with evidence, including lists of affected projects, allocation amounts and their cancellation status.

He said such allegations

should not be made based on assumptions alone.

Highlighting the government's broader development commitment, Mustapha said Budget 2027 had increased the federal allocation for Sabah from RM17.6 billion to RM18.7 billion, while Sarawak's allocation rose from RM15.1 billion to RM16.2 billion.

A further RM3.3 billion had been allocated for road projects in both states, including the continued development of strategic road networks, he said.

Mustapha stressed that development in Sabah and Sarawak remained a long-term investment priority for the Madani government, with rural connectivity and efforts to narrow regional development gaps continuing to receive attention.

"The need to improve rural roads, enhance connectivity and narrow the development gap between regions has never been sidelined," he said.

Yong questions POIC Lahad Datu special economic zone proposal

KOTA KINABALU: Former chief minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee has questioned the proposal to establish a BIMP-EAGA Special Economic Zone at POIC Lahad Datu, saying the site had already been approved for a free zone.

The former POIC Sabah chairman said the federal government approved the free zone in 2022 on the Sabah government's recommendation, with land allocated and the project included in the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP).

In a statement yesterday, Yong said initial implementation work was understood to have begun last year, and urged the state government to clarify the project's status.

He said the proposed free zone was intended to combine free trade and free industrial activities, offering tax and import and export duty exemptions to facilitate international trade.

He questioned why the state was proposing another economic zone at the same location instead of proceeding with the approved free zone.

Yong also suggested locating the proposed BIMP-EAGA Special Economic Zone in Tawau, which he said was strategically positioned to serve trade with Indonesian Kalimantan, Sulawesi and the southern Philippines.

He said Tawau offered both maritime and overland transport links to Kalimantan, while its disused barter trade centre could be revived at relatively low cost to support regional commerce.

"Let Lahad Datu maintain its trajectory as an international hub for trade and industry at the free zone. Do not downgrade Lahad Datu to a regional status," he said.

Yong noted that Lahad Datu had developed beyond its previous geographical isolation and was now the only district in Sabah with an international ferry service to neighbouring countries.

He called for the state government to clarify its plans for the Lahad Datu free zone while considering Tawau as

Financial aid for students' educational visit to State Assembly

Paul Ukau Ungkiu Singgon

KENINGAU: Parti Gagasan Rakyat Sabah (Gagasan Rakyat) Keningau division chief Datuk Azman Ruslan has provided financial assistance to 15 student leaders from SMK Bingkor for an upcoming educational visit to the Sabah State Legislative Assembly in Kota Kinabalu.

Azman said the visit would broaden the students'

understanding of leadership, state administration and the legislative process.

"Exposing rural students to the workings of the state legislature would help them understand how decisions were made and how elected representatives served their communities," he said.

Azman, who is also a lawyer and Sabah Net Sdn Bhd chairman, expressed hope that the visit would provide valuable firsthand experience in governance and

inspire the students to take an active interest in community development.

He added that young people from rural areas should be given opportunities to broaden their horizons and develop their leadership potential.

The assistance was presented to student leader Adwa'insyirah Wareesha Samsurian, in the presence of Gagasan Rakyat Liawan constituency coordinator Upillin Abdul Samad Abdul Rahman.

Assoc welcomes hospital school plan for children receiving treatment

KENINGAU: The Bingkor Community Welfare Association (PKMB) has backed a proposal to establish a hospital school in Keningau to ensure children receiving medical treatment can continue their education.

Its chairman Yazid Mohd Hasnan Tawik @ Charles said education should not be interrupted simply because children were hospitalised.

He said a SDH would provide a vital link between healthcare and education, allowing young patients to continue learning while recovering from illness.

The proposal was raised by Sabah Net Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Azman Ruslan, who is also Parti Gagasan Rakyat Sabah (Gagasan Rakyat) Keningau division chief.

Yazid praised Azman for highlighting the significance need to ensure sick children, particularly those from rural communities, did not fall behind in their studies.

"Education is the right of every child in Keningau," he said, describing the proposal as a meaningful initiative that deserved support.

He said a Hospital School would be more than just a classroom in a hospital, as it would help preserve children's educational opportunities while they underwent treatment.

PKMB, which represents the multiracial community in Bingkor, expressed its readiness to work with the Education Ministry and Health Ministry to help realise the proposal.

Three detained to assist investigation of art studio break-in

SHAH ALAM: An art studio owner lost nearly RM2,000 after the studio in Bandar Bukit Tinggi, Klang was believed to have been broken into by three men on Oct 24.

The South Klang district police chief ACP Lim Jit Huey said that in the incident around 4.20 am, three suspects were believed to have prised open the grille door and wooden door of the premises before stealing the complainant's belongings.

"Acting on information, the police arrested three men aged between 22 and 30 years on Oct 27. All the suspects have past criminal and drug records," he said in a statement on Wednesday. — Bernama



Sabah entrepreneur Jenny Ngu wins international award

HONG KONG: Sabah entrepreneur Jenny Ngu has received the 2026 Asia International Most Influential Outstanding Female Entrepreneur Award in recognition of her leadership and initiatives in cross-border trade, tourism and economic collaboration.

The award was presented during the 9th Asia International Brand Festival Awards Ceremony and Asia CEO Alliance Inauguration Ceremony.

Ngu was also officially appointed Senior Honorary Director of the Asia CEO Alliance.

She currently holds several leadership positions in regional organisations, including founder of Sabah Malaysia My Second Home Consultants Association (Sabah-MM2H), Trade Commissioner of the BRIC-ASEAN Trade Independent Commission for Trade and Economy, and Chairperson/National Director of Miss International Malaysia and Miss

International Hong Kong.

The high-profile ceremony was organised by the Asia CEO Alliance, with Hong Kong Economic Times (HKET) as its media partner, bringing together corporate figures from across Asia.

Ngu expressed her appreciation for the recognition, acknowledging the support of the Sabah Government, the guidance of senior figures, and the contributions of her team and the event organisers.

She also expressed gratitude to those who had supported her throughout her work.

Ngu said she hoped to use her international networks to continue supporting Sabah by facilitating business ties, promoting tourism interest and creating trade opportunities for the state where possible.

The recognition highlights her efforts to support female entrepreneurship and strengthen regional connectivity between Sabah and international markets.

Banks ready to support SMEs under expanded RM10 bln fund

KUALA LUMPUR: The banking industry through the Association of Banks in Malaysia (ABM), Association of Islamic Banking and Financial Institutions Malaysia (AIBIM) and Association of Development Finance Institutions of Malaysia (ADFIM) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting affected small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including microenterprises, following the doubling of Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) SME Stabilisation Relief Facility (SME SRF) allocation to RM10 billion.

In a joint statement, the associations said the expanded

facility would help affected businesses access working capital and appropriate financial assistance.

According to BNM's report, RM3.8 billion in financing under the facility's initial RM5 billion allocation had been approved as at Sept 30, 2026, benefiting more than 6,800 SME accounts.

An additional RM5 billion announced under Budget 2027 brings the total allocation to RM10 billion, extending affordable working capital support to more affected businesses.

The SME SRF is designed to support viable SMEs facing

temporary cash-flow pressures arising from the conflict in the Middle East, including disruptions to global trade and supply chains, to help them sustain their business operations.

The three associations said participating member institutions would continue assisting eligible SMEs in understanding the facility's requirements, preparing applications and identifying financing options suited to their business needs.

Beyond providing new financing, banks would also work with businesses

experiencing financial difficulties to assess appropriate assistance, which could include repayment flexibility or restructuring existing financing facilities, depending on their circumstances.

The associations would also support outreach and financial education initiatives to help SMEs better manage their finances and obtain reliable information on available assistance.

These efforts would complement the banking industry's ongoing engagement with businesses to identify

challenges early and explore practical solutions.

The SME SRF is available to affected SMEs across all economic sectors until June 30 next year or until the allocation is fully utilised, whichever comes first.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can obtain the list of participating banks through BNM's website at <https://www.bnm.gov.my/funds4sme> or contact their banks directly.

Contact details for member banks can also be obtained through the respective associations' official websites.

KVC students publish four final-year research articles

KENINGAU: Students from four programmes at Keningau Vocational College (KVC) have published four research articles in the fourth volume of IDEA'S, an academic journal jointly published by Tawau Community College and Penampang Community College.

Published on Oct 15, 2026, the articles documented findings from the students' final-year projects, which form part of the vocational college curriculum.

Culinary Arts student Ceatelean Grace Terrence developed a food product for children with thalassaemia and observed their reactions

to the food at Keningau Hospital, with the hospital's permission and under parental supervision.

Meanwhile, Construction Technology students Donivia Diane David and Nur Syazwa Alwani Juhaineh examined land acquisition issues linked to the construction of the Pan Borneo Highway.

Their research involved interviewing residents of a village in Sipitang and visiting the Sipitang Land and Survey Department to obtain reliable information.

In another study, five Welding Technology students – Nur Alia Ayuni M. Husrin, Dylan Iyander

Lucas, Andrew Mark Dalubatan, Hakimi Abdul Halil and Mohd Shukur Roslan – collaborated with local farmers to develop a food waste processing machine for compost production.

The four research article was produced by Electrical Technology students Claijster Christian Sylvester, Alleyson Voo and Alleyya Deeva Tommy, who developed a demonstration model of an electrical power distribution system as a teaching aid.

All four projects were carried out under the guidance of their respective teachers.

KVC director Lumang anak

Lang commended the students for completing their final-year projects and evaluating their effectiveness through research published in academic articles.

He said the achievements reflected the quality of vocational education in preparing students to undertake research and gain firsthand experience in scholarly inquiry.

He added that the publications demonstrated how vocational education could equip students with practical skills while encouraging critical thinking, investigation and the application of knowledge to real-world challenges.



The team representatives with their published research papers.

Man jailed 18 months for assault and threat charges

Suraini Andokong

KOTA KINABALU: The Magistrates' Court here has sentenced a man to a total of 18 months behind bars for assaulting his brother-in-law and threatening his sister.

In the first case, Magistrate Wan Farrah Fariza Wan Ghazali sentenced Wendy Doivit, 42, to seven months' jail after he pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 323 of the Penal Code for voluntarily causing hurt, read together with Section 326A of the same Code.

The indictment provides for a jail term of up to one year, or a fine, or both, upon conviction.



Around The Courts

Wendy admitted injuring his 48-year-old brother-in-law at an unnumbered house in Kepayan on Oct 22. The prosecution told the court that Wendy kicked the victim and when the victim tried to defend himself with his hand, Wendy kicked his right thumb.

He then chased after the victim, but the latter could not move because he was in pain. An eyewitness then helped the victim to leave the scene.

In the second case, Magistrate Dzul Elmy Yunus sentenced Wendy to 11 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 506 of the Penal Code for criminal intimidation.

The offence carries a jail term of up to two years, or a fine, or both upon conviction.

Wendy admitted making a verbal threat against his sister, aged 49, at the same place on Oct 21. The facts of the case stated that on the day of the incident, the victim had asked Wendy to lower the volume on his mobile phone as their father was ill.

In response, Wendy uttered threatening words of wanting to harm his sister. The court ordered both jail terms to run consecutively.

Federal Court allows Najib to attend leave-to-appeal hearing

PUTRAJAYA: The Federal Court on Wednesday allowed Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's application to attend the hearing of his application for leave to appeal in a bid to revive his RM1.9 million lawsuit against former Attorney-General Tan Sri Tommy Thomas.

A three-judge panel chaired by Chief Judge of Malaya Datuk Seri Hashim Hamzah allowed the application after Najib's counsel, S. Bala Ravi, requested an order to produce (OTP) to enable the former prime minister to attend the proceedings from prison.

The order would allow Najib to attend the leave-to-appeal hearing and, should leave be granted, the substantive appeal hearing.

Also on the panel were Federal Court judges Datuk Mohd Nazlan Mohd Ghazali and Datuk Azmi Ariffin.

The leave-to-appeal application is scheduled to be heard on Nov 26.

Najib, 73, filed a notice of motion on Feb 10 this year seeking leave to appeal against the entire Court of Appeal decision, which upheld the High Court's order striking out his lawsuit. He has submitted three questions of law for the Federal Court's consideration.

On Jan 13 this year, a three-judge Court of Appeal panel upheld the High Court's decision to strike out the suit, ruling that the action was premature because the relevant criminal proceedings had not commenced when the lawsuit was filed.

On Nov 25, 2022, the High Court allowed Thomas's application to strike out the suit without a full trial.

Najib, the former Pekan Member of Parliament, filed the lawsuit on Oct 22, 2021, alleging that Thomas had abused his power in bringing charges against him in connection with the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) case.

In the suit, Najib alleged that Thomas had acted with malicious intent in prosecuting him in cases involving 1MDB and International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC).

The charges included abuse of power under Section 23 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 and several counts of money laundering under the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

Najib is seeking, among other relief, a declaration that Thomas committed misfeasance in public office. He is also claiming RM1.9 million in special damages for expenses incurred in appointing an audit team to review documents and prepare his defence in the criminal proceedings.

Thomas served as Attorney-General from June 4, 2018, to Feb 28, 2020. — Bernama

Man jailed 8 months for concealing stolen car battery

KOTA KINABALU: A man was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday for assisting in the concealment of stolen property.

Mohd Shahrulnizal Hardi, 27, pleaded guilty before Magistrate Dzul Elmy Yunus to a charge under Section 414 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to seven years' jail or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

He committed the offence by concealing a stolen car battery in a bush along Jalan Bantayan on Oct 22, 2026.

The prosecution was conducted by deputy public prosecutor Akaash Singh, while the accused was unrepresented.

Chegubard jailed four months for defamatory statement against King

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Port Dickson Bersatu division chief Badrul Hisham Shaharin, better known as Chegubard, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment by the Sessions Court on Wednesday for making a defamatory statement that could harm the reputation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia.

Judge Norma Ismail handed down the sentence against Badrul Hisham, 48, after ruling that the defence had failed to raise reasonable doubt at the end of the defence case.

The court ordered him to begin serving the sentence on the same day.

However, the judge granted his application to stay the execution of the sentence pending an appeal to the High Court and increased his bail by RM5,000 to RM15,000.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Nursyuhada Husna Sulaiman prosecuted, while Badrul Hisham was represented by lawyer Muhammad Rafique Rashid Ali.

On June 24 this year, High Court Judge Noor Ruwena Md Nurdin ordered Badrul Hisham to enter his defence after allowing the prosecution's appeal against an earlier decision by the Sessions Court to acquit and discharge him at the close of the prosecution's case.

On Nov 4 last year, Judge Norma had acquitted and discharged him, ruling that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case.

Badrul Hisham was charged on April 29, 2024, with making a defamatory statement, knowing that it could harm the reputation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The offence was allegedly committed at the Office of the Comptroller of the Royal Household at Istana Negara at 6 pm on Jan 22, 2024.

The charge was framed under Section 500 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment, a fine, or both upon conviction. — Bernama

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Employers cannot lower job qualifications to cut pay

KUALA LUMPUR: Employers cannot arbitrarily lower job qualification requirements based on employees' educational qualifications to avoid paying the stipulated starting salaries if amendments to the National Wages Consultative Council Act 2011 (Act 732) are implemented.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan said the amendments would incorporate educational qualification levels to enable the mandatory setting of minimum starting salaries for graduates in the future.

"Once this element is incorporated, employers cannot simply or arbitrarily disregard employees' qualifications when determining their positions," he said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat on Wednesday.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Wan Razali Wan Nor (PN-Kuantan), who raised concerns that employers might lower the qualification requirements for positions from degree level to diploma or Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) level to avoid paying the stipulated starting salaries for graduates.

Wan Razali also asked whether the government had taken steps to engage with public and private higher education institutions to ensure that the programmes they offer are aligned with labour market demands.

In response, Khairul Firdaus said the Department of Manpower (JTM) assessed the effectiveness of training programmes based on several aspects, including the suitability of training standards and content to industry needs, the use of more than 2,000 National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS) as the basis for curriculum development, and industry involvement in training implementation.

The assessment also took into account the balance between theory and practical training, workplace training, skills upgrading in new technologies, and workers' ability to adapt to changes in job functions and current technology.

Responding to a question from Syerleena Abdul Rashid (PH-Bukit Bendera) on when amendments to Act 732 would be tabled to make the implementation of a RM2,500 starting salary mandatory, he said the National Wages Consultative Council (MPGN) was updating the basic starting salary guidelines based on the Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupations (MASCO).

He said the guidelines would be published alongside the implementation of a new Minimum Wages Order, which would take effect in June 2027 and include a basic starting salary of RM2,500 per month for graduates and semi-skilled workers, as announced in Budget 2027. — Bernama

'Pan Borneo delays highlight management, implementation failures'

KOTA KINABALU: The delays in the Sabah Pan Borneo Highway project reflect failures in its management and implementation rather than the project itself, opined Parti Warisan (Warisan) Wira chief Khairuddin Daud.

He said the highway, launched in 2016 and initially scheduled for completion in 2021, was now targeted for completion in 2030.

"Ten years after its launch, the people of Sabah are still waiting for a highway that was supposed to be completed in 2021," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

Khairuddin questioned the effectiveness of the Project Delivery Partner (PDP) model, which was terminated in 2019, noting that the project was already significantly behind schedule before its termination.

He also questioned why implementation problems persisted nearly seven years later if the PDP's termination was the main cause of the delays.

Citing the Auditor-General's Report 2/2026, Khairuddin said only four of the 35 work packages had been fully completed as of March 31, 2026, while nine were classified as sick projects and another 13 were behind schedule.

The report also highlighted 57 Variation Orders worth RM513.99 million that were approved beyond the authorised limits.

"These are not political accusations, but official audit findings," he said, calling for accountability over contractor performance, extensions of time and the effective use of public funds.

Khairuddin said the prolonged delays were particularly disappointing for Sabah's younger generation, many of whom were still in school when the project was launched but were now working and building their lives without the promised highway being completed.

He said the delays affected more than road construction, as they also held back economic opportunities, business development and job creation.

"Sabah's younger generation is not asking for special treatment. We simply want equal opportunities to progress, just like young people in other states," he said.

Khairuddin urged the federal and Sabah governments to explain the corrective measures being taken to address the shortcomings highlighted in the audit report.

He also called on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) investigation to identify those responsible based on evidence, regardless of their positions or the administrations they served.

He said the termination of the PDP should not be used to deflect responsibility for earlier shortcomings or the failure to resolve problems subsequently.

"We do not want to inherit excuses and prolonged administrative failures. We want to inherit progress," he said.

Khairuddin added that the Pan Borneo Highway was intended to connect Sabahans, improve safety and create economic opportunities, rather than become the subject of prolonged political disputes.

Address recurring flash floods, rep urges DBKK

KOTA KINABALU: Luyang assemblyman Samuel Wong has urged Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK) to conduct a comprehensive assessment of flash flood-prone areas along Jalan Gunung Bintang and Lorong Muntahan following increasingly serious flooding.

The affected locations are near Lok Tien Dim Sum along Jalan Gunung Bintang and Kedai Kopi Tenom Ngiong Chap along Lorong Muntahan.

Wong said the recurring floods had affected businesses and residents in the Jindo and Taman Dixon areas, as the roads served as important access routes for the local community.

He recently visited the affected locations with representatives from DBKK's Engineering, Landscape and Cleaning Departments to assess the situation and hear concerns from shop owners.

"I have requested DBKK to conduct a thorough assessment of these flood-prone areas to identify the root causes of the recurring flash floods and determine what measures are needed to address the problem effectively," he said.

Wong said the assessment should determine whether the flooding was caused by inadequate drainage capacity, blocked drains, insufficient water flow or other contributing factors.

"If drainage capacity is insufficient or the existing drainage system requires upgrading, DBKK should identify the necessary improvements and propose appropriate solutions," he said.

He stressed that the issue should not be treated merely as a recurring inconvenience during heavy rain, adding that residents and businesses needed a long-term solution rather than temporary measures taken only after flooding occurred.

Wong said the floods could disrupt access, affect daily activities and create additional difficulties for residents who relied on the roads for their daily journeys.

"Residents and business owners deserve a proper solution to this recurring problem. We need to identify the root cause, determine the necessary infrastructure improvements and ensure that appropriate action is taken to reduce the risk of future flash floods," he said.



Wong (right) visits one of the flood-prone areas along Jalan Gunung Bintang and Lorong Muntahan with DBKK officers.



Members of the KRT Kampung Toboh Baru and residents taking part in the 'gotong-royong' activity.

Madiyem Layapan appointed SOPIA deputy chairman

KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Madiyem Layapan has been appointed deputy chairman of the Sabah Oil Palm Industry Authority (SOPIA), a new agency under the state Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industry (MAFFI).

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industry Minister Datuk Jamawi Jaafar presented the letter of appointment to Madiyem at a brief ceremony here on Tuesday.

Madiyem, 66, has extensive public service experience, having served in several ministries and held positions as permanent secretary and district officer.

He was also chief executive officer of Invest Sabah Berhad before serving as general manager of the Sabah Padi and Rice Board (LPBS), his last position before the appointment.

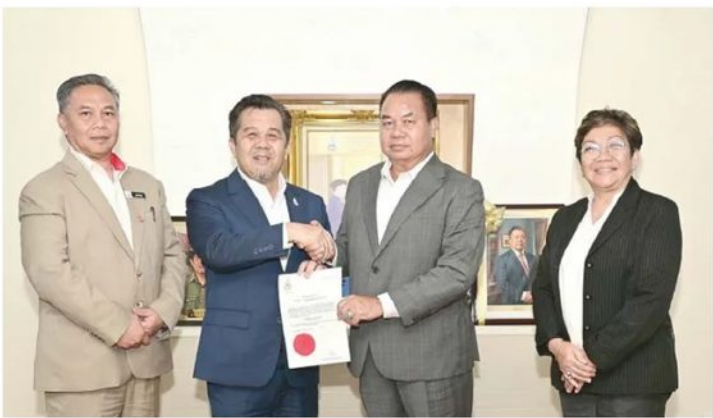
SOPIA was established to oversee the cultivation, development and direction of Sabah's oil palm industry.

Jamawi said the appointment was part of efforts to strengthen the agency's management and ensure the industry's development was carried out in a more structured manner.

"SOPIA was expected to work with industry stakeholders and coordinate existing roles and approaches to avoid duplicating initiatives already in place," he said.

Discussions had also been held with the federal Plantation and Commodities Minister to ensure SOPIA's role and implementation were aligned with broader efforts to develop the oil palm industry, he added.

Also present at the ceremony were MAFFI permanent secretary Datuk Jifrin Mohamad and SOPIA general manager Julia Majail.



Jamawi (second left) presents the letter of appointment to Madiyem as others look on.

Kpg Toboh Baru neighbourhood watch holds clean-up activity

KENINGAU: The Kampung Toboh Baru Neighbourhood Watch Committee (KRT) recently organised a 'gotong-royong' (work party) activity to clean the area around its signboard at the village entrance.

The initiative aimed to improve the village's surroundings while strengthening unity and cooperation among residents.

The activity was led by KRT Kampung Toboh Baru chairman Rozie Gitang and her deputy Julianah Pagut, with about 10 committee members and local residents participating.

Among those present were assistant secretary Peter Nansi Tundou, senior citizens bureau committee member Gabrine Ahmad, Sarimah Pagut, women's bureau committee member Emilia Gitang, Norita and Bibianah Thadius, as well as representatives from the Youth Neighbourhood and Neighbourhood Friends committees.

Rozie said maintaining the signboard area was important to ensure the village name and community information remained clearly visible to residents and road users.

"Besides making the area more attractive, this activity reflects the residents' concern for their surroundings and strengthens the spirit of neighbourliness," she said.

Rozie and Julianah thanked all participants for their commitment and contributions to the activity.

Location data from foreign apps can become strategic intelligence — Experts

KUALA LUMPUR: The continuous collection of location data by foreign navigation applications does more than reveal users' daily routines, it could also be processed into strategic intelligence, potentially compromising national security and sovereignty.

Cybersecurity expert and former CyberSecurity Malaysia (CSM) chief executive officer Datuk Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab said navigation applications typically collect a wide range of data, including travel histories, timestamps, IP addresses, device sensor data and frequently visited locations.

He said that while individual data points might seem harmless, aggregating them over time can create detailed digital movement profiles that reveal users' personal information, home addresses, workplaces, and movement patterns.

"This is where the concepts of data collection and inference become critical. For instance, a senior government official's consistent movement from home to a ministry, security meeting venues, and airports can reveal insights into the individual's role, professional network, and operational priorities.

"The risk becomes even more acute when this location data is combined with open-source information, such as an individual's job title and organisational affiliation," he told Bernama.

Amirudin said modern data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) could transform routine location data into actionable intelligence, potentially revealing meeting frequencies and the times civil servants enter or leave sensitive facilities.

On digital sovereignty and the implications of foreign laws governing applications such as Waze, he stressed that Malaysia did not need to reject all foreign technology.

Instead, the government must have a clear understanding of who controls the data, where it is processed and which legal jurisdictions apply, he said.

He described a ban on using Waze for official government business as a reasonable precaution but stressed that such a measure should be backed by transparent risk assessments and the development of robust local alternatives.

"The correct approach to digital sovereignty is through risk assessment, rather than simply banning an application based solely on who owns it," he said.

Meanwhile, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) digital transformation expert Prof Dr Nurhizam Safie said the use of foreign navigation platforms to map remote areas and strategically significant routes through crowdsourced data could pose risks from military and geopolitical perspectives.

He said in the event of a conflict, mapping data held by foreign entities could potentially be exploited for tactical military planning, including invasion strategies, without users being aware of how their data was being used.

To address this vulnerability and reduce reliance on external service providers, Nurhizam called on the government to strengthen strategic partnerships with local technical agencies, particularly the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM).

"JUPEM possesses a highly comprehensive national mapping and geospatial database. Efforts to strengthen local alternative applications should involve close collaboration with the department.

"Through initiatives such as GovTech under the National Digital Department, we can leverage JUPEM's mapping data and our own satellite infrastructure to develop applications that are truly sovereign and remain under government oversight," he said.

Nurhizam also urged the government to maximise existing infrastructure, including the Public Sector Data Centre (PDSA) in Putrajaya, to host and process data on self-hosted servers.

He said this would help ensure that data collected by local navigation applications, such as TuJu, was not transferred to, stored on, or placed under the control of third parties through overseas database servers.

"To ensure more comprehensive protection, the provisions under the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) should also be reviewed and strengthened, particularly those concerning data localisation and procedures for cross-border data transfers," he said. — Bernama

GPS to use 2021 polls results for seats distribution

Samuel Aubrey & Jude Toyat

KUCHING: Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) will use the results of the 2021 state election as the basis for allocating seats among its component parties for the upcoming 13th Sarawak Election.

GPS chairman Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said the coalition will discuss the details of the distribution based on the number of seats won by each component party in the previous polls.

"We will discuss the details based on the seats won by the respective candidates previously," he told reporters after chairing the GPS supreme council meeting today.

In the 2021 state election, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) contested 47 seats; Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), 18; Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS), 11; and Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), six.

PBB won all 47 seats, while SUPP secured 13. PRS also won the 11 seats it contested, while PDP secured five of its six seats.

Opposition parties, namely Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) and the Democratic Action Party, won four and two seats, respectively.

However, GPS' composition changed after PSB was dissolved in 2024, with three of its assemblymen joining PDP in April that year.

Another PSB assemblyman, Batu Lintang's See Chee How, had earlier quit the party in 2022 to become an independent. On Tuesday, he submitted his application to join SUPP.

Having absorbed the three former PSB assemblymen, PDP



Abang Johari (right) and top GPS leaders pose prior to the start of the meeting. — Information Department photo



now holds eight seats. Two of those 'absorbed' seats – Bawang Assan and Engkilili – were contested by SUPP in the 2021 election.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari said GPS would contest all 82 seats in the coming election.

He said although the Election Commission (EC) has yet to announce the election date, the coalition is ready for the polls with preparations already underway.

Asked when GPS would announce its candidates, he said the list would be made public before nomination day.

Abang Johari also confirmed that some incumbent representatives, including ministers, would make way for new candidates but declined to identify them.

He affirmed that some of those intending to step aside were from PBB.

"I cannot tell you yet, but they

definitely are (stepping down). Let's wait until after the EC announces the election dates," he added.

Speculation has been rife over possible changes to GPS' candidate line-up, particularly involving long-serving elected representatives.

On Oct 23, Abang Johari said some GPS incumbents had indicated their willingness to step aside for new candidates.

He stressed that the changes should not necessarily be seen as them being dropped by the coalition.

"It is not that they have been dropped, but some have decided to withdraw," he said.

School axe attack: Police awaiting forensic psychiatric report on teen suspect

KUCHING: Police are awaiting a forensic psychiatric report on the 16-year-old student involved in an axe attack on a teacher at a private school here before drawing any conclusions about his mental state during the Oct 21 incident.

Acting Sarawak Police Commissioner DCP Shaifullizan Ishak said the assessment is necessary to establish whether the student was aware of his actions or was acting in a state beyond his control at the time.

"We are still waiting for the forensic psychiatric report. I cannot draw any conclusions until we receive the report," he told a press conference here yesterday.

He said the student remained hospitalised and was receiving treatment, while the forensic psychiatric assessment is still in progress.

Saifullizan said police had completed their investigations and submitted the investigation papers to the deputy public prosecutor on Oct 26 for further consideration.

He stressed that the decision on whether to charge the student rested with the prosecution, which would take the forensic psychiatric findings into account.

"The psychiatric specialists will prepare a report on whether the act was committed while he was conscious of his actions or in a state beyond his control.

"The prosecution will determine whether charges should be brought. Our responsibility as the police is to investigate," he said.

On when the forensic psychiatric report would be ready, Saifullizan said no definite timeframe could be given as the assessment was still in progress.

"We can only wait. It may take a month, or it may depend on the circumstances. But I hope

the relevant parties will give this case their attention because it has attracted considerable public interest," he said.

On whether bullying could have been a factor in the incident, he said police had so far found no evidence linking the attack to bullying.

He also declined to speculate on claims that the student had been influenced by online games, stressing that police could only comment on findings supported by evidence.

He revealed that the police had recorded statements from 38 witnesses, including students, teachers, security guards, medical specialists, and the student's parents.

Among the items seized were an axe, a knife, firecrackers, a computer, and other electronic devices, which had been sent for forensic examination.

Police are still awaiting the forensic analysis of the electronic devices, while investigations had established that the student purchased the axe online.

Regarding the firecrackers seized, Saifullizan said examinations indicated that they remained classified as firecrackers rather than more powerful explosives.

He also said the 42-year-old victim of the attack suffered a minor wound on her left hand, which did not involve muscle or bone, and has since been discharged from hospital.

The case is being investigated under Section 324 of the Penal Code and Section 6(1) of the Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act 1958.

Saifullizan also urged the public against speculating on the case or sharing unverified information, particularly as it involved a minor whose rights must be protected under the law.



Sagah (seated, centre), IPG Batu Lintang Campus director Yahya Sedik (seated, second left) and others take a group photo.

Sagah: Sarawak not seeking full education autonomy

KUCHING: Sarawak is not seeking full education autonomy due to the massive expenditure involved, said caretaker Minister for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn.

He pointed out that the annual cost of paying teachers' salaries alone was about RM50 billion.

"We cannot afford to spend that amount of money. Imagine how many teachers there are and how many schools. For us to spend that money, we might as well do it for other developments.

"At the same time, don't forget that all of our taxes are taken by the federal government and also because it's under their authority to look after education," he added.

He said this when met after officiating the 4th International Conference on Educational Research and Innovation (iCERI) 2026, here yesterday.

Sagah explained that administrative issues between the state and the Ministry of Education (MoE) had been

We cannot afford to spend that amount of money. Imagine how many teachers there are and how many schools. For us to spend that money, we might as well do it for other developments.

Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn

resolved.

"Don't get the wrong sense of the meaning of autonomy. As long as there is ease of doing business, it is enough for us," he said.

He also cited the agreement to allow the use of English in the teaching of Mathematics and Science as an example of progress in state education autonomy.

"And we have the Sarawak Dual Language Programme Assessment Test (UP-DLP), that's good enough," he said.

Meanwhile, he said Sarawak is introducing artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalisation in all teachers training institutes (IPG) syllabuses to help educators use

the technology in their work, said Dato Sri Roland Sagah Wee Inn.

He said in this regard, the state was still behind other developed countries but was "catching up".

"AI and digitalisation... kids learn about it very fast and when it comes to training teachers, they are also very fast with it.

"It is something of interest and something new for them. At the same time, it eases them in doing their work," he said.

Sagah added the initiative was already being introduced in schools, although the number of trained teachers was not yet sufficient.

Dr Sim: SUPP central committee to discuss See's application to join party

KUCHING: The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) Central Committee will have to discuss Batu Lintang incumbent See Chee How's application to join the party before deciding whether to accept him into the fold or not.

SUPP president Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian said all applications to join the party must be considered by its higher authority before any decision is made, including his candidacy in the coming state election.

"Anyone can apply to join the party, but every application must be considered by the higher body," he told reporters.

He was met after attending the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) Supreme Council meeting chaired by GPS chairman Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari

Tun Openg at the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) headquarters here yesterday.

Dr Sim was asked about the status of See's application and his chances of contesting in the coming 13th Sarawak election.

See submitted his application to join SUPP on Tuesday – a day after the dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly (DUN).

His application form was handed to SUPP central organising secretary Datuk Matthew Chen in the presence of Dr Sim and SUPP secretary-general Datuk Sebastian Ting.

See was first elected as Batu Lintang assemblyman in the 2011 state election under the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) ticket and retained the seat in 2016.

He was sacked from PKR in

April 2020 following internal differences before joining Parti Sarawak Bersatu (PSB) the following month.

In the 2021 state election, See defended the Batu Lintang seat on a PSB ticket, defeating GPS candidate Sih Hua Tong by a narrow majority of 93 votes in a five-cornered fight.

He resigned from PSB in August 2022 and continued serving as an independent assemblyman up until the DUN's dissolution.

See's application to join SUPP comes amid preparations for the state polls, with his political future and possible candidacy now subject to the party's decision on his membership.

The Election Commission will meet on Nov 6 to set the key dates for the election.

9 busted for desecrating graves, theft in Miri

KUCHING: Nine local men aged between 16 and 73 have been arrested in connection with a series of grave-breaking and theft cases in Miri, said acting Sarawak Police Commissioner DCP Saifullizan Ishak.

Saifullizan said the suspects were detained during a special operation conducted by the Miri district police headquarters' Criminal Investigation Division between Oct 11 and 17.

"Investigations revealed that two of the suspects had previously served prison sentences for similar offences, but allegedly resumed their activities upon release and recruited others to join them.

"The activities took place beginning in August. Following our investigations, we managed to solve all 15 cases and obtained admissions from the suspects regarding their involvement," he told a press conference here yesterday.

Saifullizan said three suspects had previous criminal records, while urine screening tests conducted on all nine returned



A police photo displayed during the press conference shows six of the suspects pointing to one of the graves they had targeted in Miri following their arrest. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

negative.

Police also seized several items to assist investigations, including a hammer, screwdriver, necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings, old coins and purchase receipts.

He said grave-breaking cases were particularly sensitive due to the religious issues involved and

could cause anxiety among the community if left unaddressed.

The cases are being investigated under Section 297 of the Penal Code.

Saifullizan also urged members of the public with information on criminal activities to come forward and assist police investigations.



A drone photo shows smart transport robots at a container terminal of Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin. — Xinhua photo by Zhao Zishuo

China harnesses smart technologies to power transport upgrade

ZHENGZHOU: To drivers crossing the Guandu Yellow River Bridge in central China's Henan Province, it is just routine on a busy highway, but a sophisticated and invisible network of smart digital technologies is hard at work above and below the asphalt.

This system was built to meet a very practical challenge. Opened in October 2019, the eight-lane bridge had long faced heavy pressure in terms of maintenance and safety management. To address blind spots, slow response and low efficiency in traditional upkeep, a full-process smart operations model was introduced to manage the bridge.

In March 2025, the bridge operator set up a dedicated drone inspection unit equipped with two types of drones. Multi-rotor drones handle detailed checks of bridge surfaces, hazard verification and 3D modeling, while fixed-wing drones cover a 35-kilometre radius in a single flight for long-distance highway patrols.

Working alongside road administration teams and manual maintenance crews, the drones form an "air patrol plus ground watch" system intended to provide all-weather, area-wide coverage.

The bridge's intelligence capabilities extend beyond aerial patrols. A full-factor digital twin replicates the deck, guardrails, piers and ancillary facilities in a virtual environment. Radar-

vision devices help the system detect illegal parking, intrusions and facility abnormalities even at night or in fog. When a risk is identified, alerts are linked to the 3D model and pinpointed to specific locations, replacing the older practice of estimating positions by mile markers.

The upgrade is part of a wider push in central China's Henan, which has developed rapid road-condition detection equipment and a smart maintenance platform.

Shan Fei, general manager of Henan Transportation Development Research Institute Co., Ltd., said the province has completed digital data collection and 3D modeling for 31,000 kilometers of trunk highways, using positioning from China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and laser point cloud mapping. The resulting database covers 127 types of assets, including roadbeds, pavements, bridges, tunnels and traffic safety facilities, which he described as China's largest provincial-level digital foundation for highway assets.

"From a single milestone or bollard to a kilometer-long bridge or tunnel, every element is now under digital management," Shan said.

The Guandu bridge is a microcosm of China's broader push to fuse AI with transportation. According to Liu Wei, China's minister of transport, more than 7,800 kilometres of expressways have undergone

digital and intelligent upgrades. 60 automated terminals have been built, and about 27 million pieces of equipment across the sector are now using the BDS.

According to the Ministry of Transport, in 2025, 696 long-span bridges crossing rivers, seas and gorges were included in a three-level monitoring network linking national, provincial and individual bridge systems, with basic bridge data and monitoring and alert information shared instantly.

Policy support is also expanding. In September 2025, seven government departments, including the Ministry of Transport, issued guidelines on applying AI to transportation, setting out a timetable and roadmap for the sector.

In 2026, authorities launched an action plan to create typical application scenarios in areas such as intelligent driving, smart highways, intelligent supervision and smart shipping, aiming to roll out over 100 pilot projects and bring together more than 1,000 innovators.

"AI plus transportation has become the new central thread in boosting China's strength in transport," said Wang Yunpeng, chairman of the China Intelligent Transportation Systems Association, noting that a modern, comprehensive, multi-modal transport network is taking shape and accelerating toward digitalisation, intelligence, integration and green development. — Xinhua

China strengthens protection for growing snow leopard population

BEIJING: China's snow leopard population has doubled to about 5,000 from around 2,500 in 2013, reflecting progress in protecting the species and its habitat.

The latest figures were released by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration on Friday on the occasion of the International Day of the Snow Leopard which falls on Oct 23.

Snow leopards typically inhabit rugged terrain at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters and serve as an important indicator of the health of high-altitude mountain ecosystems. The species is classified as "vulnerable" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species and receives the highest level of wildlife protection in China.

China has the world's largest snow leopard population and protects more than 60 per cent of the species' global habitat, according to the administration. Its habitat covers about 2.08 million square kilometres across eight provincial-level regions.

China has taken a systematic approach to snow leopard

conservation since 2013. Its protection network includes two national parks and 78 other important protected areas in key snow leopard habitats. More than 800,000 square kilometers of habitat are under strict protection, while nearly 40 percent of the species' potential habitat is under standardized management.

The country is also using technologies such as infrared cameras and DNA analysis of fecal samples to monitor snow leopard populations, track their movements and study their breeding activity.

Sustained conservation efforts have improved snow leopard habitat quality and ecosystem integrity, alongside growth in the population and its reproductive vitality, the administration said.

In April, infrared cameras in the Helan Mountains in northwest China captured a reintroduced female snow leopard with her cub, marking the first time a snow leopard reintroduction project worldwide has resulted in cubs being born and successfully

raised in the wild.

Native to the Helan Mountains, snow leopards disappeared from the area in the 1950s due to habitat destruction and human disturbance. To restore the population, eight snow leopards have been introduced to the mountains so far. Several snow leopards, including those arriving naturally, have since established territories and hunt independently.

Signs of the species' presence are also emerging elsewhere. In Muli County of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, footage recorded this year confirmed the first sighting of a snow leopard in the prefecture, extending the known southeastern edge of the species' range, the administration said.

Looking ahead, China will focus on improving connectivity between habitats, protecting genetic diversity and refining measures to prevent and address human-wildlife conflict to sustain snow leopard population recovery, the administration said. — Xinhua



Snow leopards are pictured in Shiqu County of Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province. — Xinhua photo by Wen Zhenxiao

Displaced residents moving into prefab homes three days after Xizang quake

BAQEN, Xizang: Three days after the 7.0-magnitude earthquake damaged his home, Tsewang Khangshi was busy moving folding beds and quilts into his temporary new home.

On Sunday, the 36-year-old villager from Baqen County moved from a tent to a prefabricated house, which rescue workers had rushed against the clock to build in the wake of the quake that struck on Oct 22, killing 16 people and injuring 76 others.

More than 12,000 residents were evacuated, and 339 homes and 20 livestock sheds were damaged or destroyed, according to local authorities.

Baqen County in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, the epicenter of the earthquake, perches at an altitude of nearly 4,800 meters. Tiding over the cold winter has been a top concern for displaced residents like Tsewang Khangshi.

Large quantities of disaster relief supplies had arrived in the disaster zone in batches. As of 11am on Oct 24, 52,450 items or sets of disaster relief supplies had been sent to the quake zone, including 4,651 tents, 2,000 prefabricated houses, 11,772 folding beds, 5,715 quilts and other cold-weather necessities.

Within five hours of the earthquake, the first tents had been erected. All affected residents, including Tsewang Khangshi's family, had moved into temporary tent shelters by Oct 23.

His family moved into a prefabricated house on Oct 25. "We are so happy we can move into a prefabricated house," he said, packing quilts, clothes and



Children play at a resettlement site of a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua photo by Tenzin Nyida

folding beds into his vehicle — all relief supplies delivered in the immediate aftermath of the quake.

The high altitude, low temperatures and strong winds have posed challenges for both residents and rescue workers. Gusts reached up to 13 meters per second, making it difficult to keep warm, particularly at night.

To provide better protection against the harsh weather, construction teams and power workers have worked around the clock to build sturdier, warmer temporary homes.

The first 60 prefabricated housing units in the earthquake zone were completed at 2.10am on Oct 25, and electricity was connected to the units by 8pm on the same day.



A drone photo shows prefabricated houses at a resettlement site of a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua photo by Gaesang Namgyae

"We will ensure that affected residents have safe shelter, warm clothing and bedding, hot meals and clean drinking water," said Pan Zhiqing, Party chief of the Nagqu Municipal Emergency Management Bureau. "As more prefabricated units are completed, we will gradually move residents out of tents and into better-heated housing."

As the new housing units became available, families began moving in, cleaning their rooms and arranging furniture.

The sound of people carrying belongings and chatting filled the settlement in the afternoon sunshine.

Outside, workers went from door to door, checking electrical wiring and the sealing of windows and doors against drafts. "All the prefabricated houses are fitted with chimneys for stove use, and we must ensure residents can stay warm through the winter," said Zhang Xuhui, a construction team leader with China Railway. — Xinhua



Residents carry daily necessities in a quake-hit village in Maru Township of Baqen County, Nagqu City, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. — Xinhua photo by Tenzin Nyida

Rybakina eyeing year-end No.1 spot in Tokyo

TOKYO: Elena Rybakina said Tuesday that she had "definitely got more attention" since becoming world number one as she looks to clinch the year-end top ranking this week in Japan.

The Moscow-born Kazakh player became world number one for the first time last month after winning the US Open, replacing Aryna Sabalenka at the summit.

The achievement punctuated Rybakina's rise in a year in which she also won the Australian Open in January and now has three Grand Slam career titles.

The 27-year-old said she was exhausted mentally and physically after her US Open win but she bounced back to claim her fourth title of the season last week at the Ningbo Open in China.

She has already secured her place at next month's season-ending WTA Finals at Indian Wells.

Rybakina can also clinch the year-end number one ranking if she beats fellow Kazakh Yulia Putintseva in her first match at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

"The earlier I can confirm it the better," she said.

"For me it's important just to get some matches and be prepared for the final eight."

"If I can make sure here after a win that I am going to stay number one then great, if not I will have another chance at the final eight."

Rybakina took some time off after the US Open and returned at the China Open, losing to 118th-ranked Alina Charaeva in the first round.

For me it's important just to get some matches and be prepared for the final eight.

Elena Rybakina



Elena Rybakina

She missed the Wuhan Open with a foot injury before beating Leylah Fernandez in the Ningbo final.

Rybakina said being world number one was not enough to satisfy her.

"It was another goal which I achieved which is great, and now there is another one," she said.

"Definitely I got more attention, no matter where I go, which is nice."

Rybakina said she was still dealing with her foot issue but was "getting better every day".

"After the US Open I didn't do much and in Beijing I wasn't at my best at all," she said. — AFP

Knicks rally over Pistons for first win of season

NEW YORK: The NBA reigning champion New York Knicks finally got their first win of the season, beating the Detroit Pistons 111-97 Tuesday with 27 points from Karl-Anthony Towns and 23 from Jalen Brunson.

The Knicks, who broke a five-decade title drought in June but had lost their three opening games this season, overcame another slow start at Madison Square Garden to pull clear in the second half.

They avoided the ignominy of being the first reigning champions since 1969 to start the following season 0-4.

"We got to remember that Rome wasn't built in a day. This is a new year, new team," said last season's NBA Finals MVP Brunson, who added seven assists.

"Adversity started early, so we just got to fight back."

The Pistons — who had won their first three games of the season — started fast, going 13 points clear at the beginning of the second quarter thanks to free-scoring Paul Reed and Cade Cunningham.

Brunson struggled early, shooting just 1-for-9 in the first half. But the Knicks pulled together for a remarkable rally, edging a single-point lead at halftime and roaring 25 points



Cade Cunningham of the Detroit Pistons brings the ball down the court against Mikal Bridges of the New York Knicks. — AFP photo

clear by the end of the third quarter.

They restricted the Pistons to a combined 25 points across the entire second and third quarters.

"I think we were just able to get stops, run a little bit, create a good enough lead, knowing that they were going to have a run in them to fight back," said

Brunson.

With a home game against Charlotte looming Wednesday, and his team 21 points down, Detroit coach J.B. Bickerstaff emptied the bench with seven-and-a-half minutes remaining.

The Knicks' starters remained on court, and top-scorer Towns finished the night with 20

rebounds.

The Pistons, who finished with the best regular-season record in the NBA Eastern Conference last year, are now 3-1. Reed top-scored with 22, while Cunningham had 19 points, eight assists and nine rebounds.

Elsewhere, Victor Wembanyama helped the San Antonio Spurs to a 130-103 win over the Sacramento Kings with 29 points, 10 rebounds, five blocks and two steals.

The Spurs, who lost to the Knicks in last season's finals, had endured their own slow start to this campaign with two opening losses, but moved to 2-2.

San Antonio were rampant in a first half they led 80-54, with Wembanyama pouring in 23 points before the interval, and their lead barely dipped in a comfortable second half.

Julian Champagnie scored 26 points. The Kings sank to 0-4.

With Boston trailing by a single point at the very end of overtime, Jayson Tatum sank a game-winning buzzer-beater to ensure the Celtics won a thriller 125-124 against the winless Brooklyn Nets.

A tense game in which neither team ever opened a double-digit lead had ended 117-117 after regular time. Tatum scored 40 points plus eight assists. — AFP

Carrick to remain Man Utd boss for Chelsea clash

LONDON: Michael Carrick is set to remain in charge of Manchester United for this weekend's Premier League match away to Chelsea, according to media reports on Tuesday.

Carrick's future at Old Trafford has been the subject of intense speculation after a miserable run of eight games without a win.

Sunday's 3-0 humbling at home to Bournemouth left the English giants just one point above the Premier League relegation zone.

But the BBC, Sky Sports and Britain's Press Association all reported that former United and England midfielder Carrick would take the team to Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Carrick arrived at United's Carrington training ground on Tuesday to oversee a routine training session.

The BBC cited "sources" as saying the 45-year-old would be given a chance by the United hierarchy to turn things around.

Carrick was handed a two-year deal in May after overseeing an impressive revival as caretaker boss following United's struggles under Ruben Amorim.

The club recovered to finish third in the Premier League, earning a return to the Champions League.

But United have won just two of 12 matches in all competitions so far this season, with a return

of seven points from eight league games representing their worst start to a league season in 40 years.

Carrick avoided directly answering questions about his future following the Bournemouth loss.

The United boss acknowledged the crowd at full-time as fans chanted his name in a show of support for the beleaguered manager, but they vented their anger at the players and club hierarchy.

United great Wayne Rooney, who played alongside Carrick at Old Trafford, took aim at the players following a string of poor performances. — AFP



Carrick reacts during the match at Old Trafford. — AFP file photo

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS
DRAW NO: 6205/26 DATE: 28-10-2026
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
7986	3692	4564

Special	Consolation
6545 1829 3897 0604 5024	8841 0261 7817 2494 8186
6533 7194 7866 1136 8418	4519 4489 4877 8658 2277

4D JACKPOT
Jackpot 1 **RM 14,517,303.22**
7986 + 3692 3692 + 7986
7986 + 4564 4564 + 7986
3692 + 4564 4564 + 3692

Jackpot 2 **RM 749,898.14**
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Fireball 4
4D Zodiac
1st Prize 7986 +
2nd Prize 3692 +
3rd Prize 4564 +
4th Prize Special Prize +
5th Prize Consolation Prize +
6th Prize Any 4D drawn number

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL
5D
1ST 9 7 4 0 5
2ND 5 7 7 5 8
3RD 9 3 4 5 1
4TH 7 4 0 5
5TH 4 0 5
6TH 0 5

6D
1ST 4 5 5 6 2 4
2ND 4 5 5 6 2 4 or 5 5 6 2 4
3RD 4 5 5 6 2 4 or 5 6 2 4
4TH 4 5 5 6 2 4 or 6 2 4
5TH 4 5 5 6 2 4 or 2 4
6TH 4 5 5 6 2 4 or 2 4

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SUPREME 2 7 26 28 43 49
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POWER 3 21 23 37 38 52
Jackpot **RM 21,002,642.03**

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Jackpot 1 **RM 1,947,677.33**
Jackpot 2 **RM 100,000.00**

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DIRIWAN RESULT
PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL
Draw: 4271/26 Date: 28.10.2026

SABAH 4D
1ST PRIZE 8473 2ND PRIZE 9482 3RD PRIZE 4808
LUCKY 1232 3147 3554 7025 7152 7157 7225 7601 8767 9266
CONSOLATION 0579 2107 3546 3885 3915 4050 5071 6746 7481 9885

SABAH 4D JACKPOT
JACKPOT 1 RM 8,390,609.15
8473 + 9482 9482 + 8473
8473 + 4808 4808 + 8473
9482 + 4808 4808 + 9482
JACKPOT 2 RM 147,586.35
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Lucky Prizes

SABAH 3D
1ST PRIZE 544 2ND PRIZE 529 3RD PRIZE 292

SABAH LOTTO 6/45
JACKPOT 1 03 10 15 19 40 43 + 13 RM 943,679.94
JACKPOT 2 RM 16,410.44

SABAH LOTTO 6
Group 1 5 3 7 1 2 + 18 JACKPOT 1 RM 176,576.00
Group 2 4 2 3 7 2 + 04 JACKPOT 2 RM 9,931.52
Group 3 0 5 6 6 6 + 25 JACKPOT 3 RM 9,414.12
Group 4 0 5 2 7 7 + 13 JACKPOT 4 RM 12,898.15
Group 5 7 0 6 4 5 + 06 JACKPOT 5 RM 7,687.72

SABAH LOTTO 5
Group 1 3 8 3 6 + 12 JACKPOT 1 RM 33,796.20
Group 2 0 4 9 9 + 10 JACKPOT 2 RM 3,958.28
Group 3 2 4 8 1 + 21 JACKPOT 3 RM 2,630.52
Group 4 1 0 3 8 + 23 JACKPOT 4 RM 641.26
Group 5 8 0 7 3 + 19 JACKPOT 5 RM 5,825.01
Group 6 0 3 0 2 + 14 JACKPOT 6 RM 1,025.69
Group 7 9 1 1 6 + 08 JACKPOT 7 RM 1,386.11
Group 8 3 6 6 8 + 04 JACKPOT 8 RM 1,144.22

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Winning Results
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Draw No: 442/26 Date: 28-10-2026
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1st prize 8243
2nd prize 9987
3rd prize 2051

special 7092 1947 8380 2148 3797 1890 2014 6959 7338 0416
consolation 8799 1740 8595 7278 5184 8324 2912 7630 9153 6598

4 JACKPOT
Jackpot 1 **RM 2,904,116.54**
8243 + 9987 9987 + 8243
8243 + 2051 2051 + 8243
9987 + 2051 2051 + 9987

Jackpot 2 **RM 164,384.83**
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.
Both Jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. For the next Draw, please visit www.magnum4d.com or enquire at any of our agencies

Group 3 Prize — One of the pair matches any of 1 of the Top 3 Prizes.
Group 4 Prize — One of the pair matches any 1 of the Special Prizes.
Group 5 Prize — One of the pair matches any 1 of the Consolation Prizes.

WINNING NUMBERS
PRIZE MONEY GUARANTEED IN FULL
There's Magic in Numbers
DRAW DATE: 28-10-2026 DRAW NO: 6152/26 VENUE: PERAK TURF CLUB

3D 1st 694 2nd 382 3rd 450
1+3D 1st 2694 2nd 6382 3rd 3450

STARTERS
9734 7257 5042 1252 9108
8339 8614 9088 9886 6365

CONSOLATION
1488 9732 1544 0862 6598
4289 8227 5147 3811 8100

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PRIZE PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL
Draw No.: 136/26 Date: 28/10/2026

1ST PRIZE 2843 2ND PRIZE 0431 3RD PRIZE 6216

SPECIAL
9678 9947 4027 3673 7673
4877 1892 7339 2666 6067

CONSOLATION
1451 3537 0477 1765 7093
3870 6945 1160 0544 9822

4D JACKPOT
JACKPOT 1 **RM 3,193,830.46**
2843 + 0431 0431 + 2843
2843 + 6216 6216 + 2843
0431 + 6216 6216 + 0431

JACKPOT 2 **RM 176,188.20**
Winning combination any 1 of top 3 and any 1 of special prizes.

3rd prize - match ONE 4-digit number against any one of top 3 prizes in any order.
4th prize - match ONE 4-digit number against any one of special prizes in any order.
5th prize - match ONE 4-digit number against any one of Consolation prizes in any order.

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(250177-P)
Visit www.stc4d.com for Live Draw & Free Web Services

Singapore 4D
Draw Date: 28-10-2026 Draw No: 5554
SINGAPORE POOLS
1st Prize 5150 2nd Prize 1329 3rd Prize 6204

Special Consolation
0767 1050 0012 0586
4427 6077 1304 2163
6115 6590 2651 2779
7051 7277 3093 6712
7416 8645 6851 9204

SPECIAL CASH SWEEP
Draw No: 5364/26 Date: 28/10/2026

1+3D 3D BIG
1st Prize 0127 127
2nd Prize 6948 948
3rd Prize 0192 192

Starter Consolations
4595 4441 4390 6001
6246 7109 8631 0241
2313 2102 0471 2598
6513 3066 0823 4136
2393 0541 9455 0214

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Arteta despair as 4th tier Fleetwood stun Arsenal

FLEETWOOD, United Kingdom: Mikel Arteta said Arsenal's stunning League Cup defeat by fourth-tier Fleetwood was "a very sad day" as the Premier League champions suffered one of the most embarrassing results in their history.

Arteta's side crashed out 5-3 on penalties in an incredible fourth round upset after the tie finished 1-1 in normal time.

Arsenal's Bruno Guimaraes had his penalty saved by Jay Lynch in the shoot-out and Conor Haughey scored Fleetwood's winner.

Aaron Loupalo-Bi's first-half goal had put Fleetwood ahead before Viktor Gyokeres equalised after the interval.

Arsenal's 16-year-old rising star Max Dowman was sent off for violent conduct in the closing stages.

Arteta paid the price for prioritising Sunday's Premier League trip to Liverpool as his

decision to make nine changes backfired spectacularly.

The Gunners boss conceded Arsenal could have no complaints, admitting it was a painful moment in his reign.

"First of all, congratulations to Fleetwood for going through the next round. The manner that they have done it, and for us a very sad day," Arteta said.

"There is nothing to criticise the players for their attitude, their application. The determination, you could see that was there from the start, even with 10 men. But we conceded a really poor goal to start with that gave them some momentum.

"Obviously we have so much of the ball, so many chances, and if you want the margins to be bigger than going to the penalties, you need to capitalise

on that. And we didn't. It's football, that's the beauty of this competition. It's a very sad day."

Arsenal had moved level on points with Premier League leaders Manchester City after a 2-0 victory over Everton on Saturday.

But instead of extending their run of 11 wins from their 13 previous games, Arteta's team returned to north London red-faced after a loss that ranks among the darkest days in the club's glittering history.

"You don't capitalise, then you cannot go through to the next round. Unfortunately, we are out," Arteta said.

Although it looked a harsh decision to send off Dowman for aiming a kick towards Harrison Neal, Arteta was unimpressed with the 16-year-old, giving him a stern word as the midfielder trudged off.

"It's difficult to see on the cameras like that, so I prefer to watch it back properly and then I can assess the situation," Arteta said when asked what he told Dowman.

Fleetwood made a mockery of the 84 places between the clubs in the English football system with a defiant display that stopped Arsenal establishing any momentum. — AFP



Fleetwood Town's Jake Batty (right) vies with Arsenal's Max Dowman during the match. — AFP photo

The Borneo Post Reaching Out to you

SABAH, MALAYSIA
DI PEJABAT PENOLONG PEMUNGUT HASIL TANAH
TAWAU

SIASATAN TANAH PPHT (TAWAU) NO. 169 TAHUN 2026

SCHEDULE XXIV
(Under Section 120 of the Land Ordinance, 1930)

NOTICE OF LOSS OF DOCUMENT OT TITLE

APPLICATION having been made to the Collector at Lands Office, Tawau by AMBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD for a certified copy of CL 105395471 in the district of Tawau on the ground SAIFUR MULUK BINTI FAZAL DAD KHAN DAN LISNA BINTI YAKUNG SALLEH is the registered owner thereof and that issue document of title has been lost/destroyed:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 120 of the Land Ordinance, notice is hereby given that, unless within Three (3) month of the date of publication of this notice good cause be shown to the Collector of Land Revenue for refusing this application, the certified copy applied for will, subject to the provisions of the said section, be issued.

ACL R NO. 10.0169/2026

Date of hearing is fixed on 07th day of January, 2026 (Thursday) at 09.30 am.

Dated at Tawau this 18th day of September, 2026

Signed by
BINNIFIS JOHN BIOU @ BONIFACE

ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF LAND REVENUE TAWAU

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA
DALAM MAHKAMAH
RENDAH SYARIAH
NEGERI SABAH
DI KENINGAU

PERMOHONAN NO:
2608-L0612-311-0457

DALAM PERKARA Harta
Pusaka Simati:
ROJIMAN BIN ASAB
No. KP/Surat Mati:
610205-12-5121 / SB 228596

Kepada:
Ahl waris dan sesiapa
berkenaan

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN
GAN TI

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa
NATHASYA BINTI ROJIMAN
akan memohon ke Mahkamah
Rendah Syariah Keningau
pada 04 NOVEMBER tahun
2026 jam 09:00 pagi, untuk
pembahagian harta pusaka
simati yang berikut:-

a) KERETA NISSAN NAVARA
NO. PENDAFTARAN:
SU2346D
b) WANG TIDAK DITUNTUT
BERJUMLAH: RM369.56

Sesiapa berhajat menentang
permohonan hendaklah
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afidavit bantahan di Mahkamah
ini dan menyampaikan salinan
kepada pemohon sebelum
tarikh tersebut, atau hadir di
Mahkamah pada tarikh itu.

Pendaftar
Mahkamah Rendah Syariah
KENINGAU

Notis difailkan oleh
NATHASYA BINTI ROJIMAN,
Alamat penyampaian KG.
KOTA AYANGAN, 89000
KENINGAU.

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA
DALAM MAHKAMAH
RENDAH SYARIAH
NEGERI SABAH
DI KENINGAU

PERMOHONAN NO:
2608-L0612-311-0458

DALAM PERKARA Harta
Pusaka Simati:
MUSAMAH @ MELATI BINTI
MUNARAH
No. KP/Surat Mati:
680419-12-5040 / SB 304662

Kepada:
Ahl waris dan sesiapa
berkenaan

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN
GAN TI

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa
NATHASYA BINTI ROJIMAN
akan memohon ke Mahkamah
Rendah Syariah Keningau
pada 04 NOVEMBER tahun
2026 jam 09:00 pagi, untuk
pembahagian harta pusaka
simati yang berikut:-

a) MOTOSIKAL YAMAHA NO.
PENDAFTARAN: SU1570D

Sesiapa berhajat menentang
permohonan hendaklah
memfailkan notis bantahan dan
afidavit bantahan di Mahkamah
ini dan menyampaikan salinan
kepada pemohon sebelum
tarikh tersebut, atau hadir di
Mahkamah pada tarikh itu.

Pendaftar
Mahkamah Rendah Syariah
KENINGAU

Notis difailkan oleh
NATHASYA BINTI ROJIMAN,
Alamat penyampaian KG.
KOTA AYANGAN, 89000
KENINGAU.

IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KOTA MARUDU
AT THE STATE OF SABAH

SUIT NO. KMD-A72M-34-9/2026 (CC)

BETWEEN
BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA BERHAD
[Reg. No.: 200801010522 (811810-U)] ... PLAINTIFF

AND
JABERIL BIN JUATI [NRC NO.: 900213-12-5039]
[Trading as GERAJ MAKAN DESA SAMPARITA (GMSD)] ... DEFENDANT

ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER

To: JABERIL BIN JUATI [NRC NO.: 900213-12-5039]
[Trading as GeraJ Makan Desa Sampa rita (GMSD)]
Kg. Sampa rita,
Peta Surai 687,
89108 Kota Marudu, Sabah,
and/or
JABERIL BIN JUATI [NRC NO.: 900213-12-5039]
[Trading as GeraJ Makan Desa Sampa rita (GMSD)]
Kampung Bombong 2,
Jalan Tandek,
89100 Kota Marudu, Sabah.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court at Kota Marudu in Suit No. KMD-A72M-34-9/2026 (CC) by BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA BERHAD [811810-U] of Tingkat 3, Bangunan Agrobank, Leboh Pasar Besar, Peta Surai 10815, 50726 Kuala Lumpur and principal office at Leboh Pasar Besar, 50726 Kuala Lumpur having a branch office at Cawangan Kota Marudu, Lot 22, Blok D, Pekan Baru Goshen, Peta Surai 460, 89100 Kota Marudu, Sabah in which the Plaintiff's claim is for the sum of RM6,275.57 as at 31.05.2026, Ta'widh at the rate of 1% per annum on the overdue amount of the Facility from 01.06.2026 until the date of maturity of the facility or date of Judgment, whichever comes first and thereafter at the Islamic Interbank Money Market (IIMM) rate until the date of full and final settlement; cost of RM391.00 and advertisement charges and that it has been ordered that service of the Summons in the said action be effected on you by this advertisement.

If you desire to defend the said action you must enter appearance within fourteen (14) days from the date hereof and TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the Plaintiff may proceed therein to Judgment and execution.

Dated the 29.10.2026

MESSRS FERNANDEZ & CO.
Advocates for the Plaintiff
No. 143, Jalan Tangki,
Dezsons Building, Karamunsing,
(Opp. Palace Hotel)
P.O. Box No. 13634,
88844 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. 286596/KKJG

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STATE OF SABAH
IN THE SESSIONS COURT AT SEMPORNA
SUIT NO. SEM-A52NCvC-19-9/2026

BETWEEN
SABAH CREDIT CORPORATION ... PLAINTIFF

AND
SARLIN SYAHIRA BINTI AB BASARUN
(NRC NO. 061029-12-1060)
(TRADING AS "WARISAN TUNGGAL GROUP") ... DEFENDANT

ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER

To: SARLIN SYAHIRA BINTI AB BASARUN
(NRC No. 061029-12-1060)
(Trading as "Warisan Tunggal Group")
c/o Warisan Tunggal Group
Jalan Perumahan LPFB, Lorong 5,
Simpang Kiri, No. 02, YK House,
Kg. Musallah, 91308 Semporna, Sabah.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Sessions Court at Semporna under Suit No. SEM-A52NCvC-19-9/2026 ("the Action") by Sabah Credit Corporation of Kota Kinabalu in which the Plaintiff claims against the Defendant for the sum of RM134,279.22 as at 08.09.2026, penalty interest at the rate of one per centum (1%) per month on the outstanding sum calculated from 08.09.2026 until the date of actual repayment, statutory interest on the Judgment Sum at the rate of 5% per annum from the date of Judgment until the date of full settlement, costs in the sum of RM1,966.00, the Plaintiff's legal fees and or other expenses on a full indemnity basis and such further and other relief as this Honourable Court may deem fit to grant for the Facilities offered by the Plaintiff to you.

And that it has been ordered that service of the Writ of Summons in the Action on you be effected by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the Action, you must within Fourteen (14) days from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the Registry of the Sessions Court at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. In default of such appearance, judgment may be entered against you.

Dated this 29th day of October 2026.

Messrs Lai & U
Advocates & Solicitors
23-2, 2nd Floor, Lorong Lintas Plaza 2, Lintas Plaza,
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
(Advocates for the Plaintiff, Sabah Credit Corporation)
(LAU/LIT/400(31)-WL/DL) 286357/KKJG

STATE OF SABAH
IN THE SESSIONS COURT AT KOTA KINABALU
SUIT NO. BKI-A52NCvC-134-9/2026

BETWEEN
SABAH CREDIT CORPORATION ... PLAINTIFF

AND
ARAJAIL BIN ALPIISA
(NRC NO. 750304-12-5375)
(TRADING AS "WIRAS ENTERPRISE") ... DEFENDANT

ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER

To: ARAJAIL BIN ALPIISA
(NRC No. 750304-12-5375)
(Trading as "Wiras Enterprise")
c/o Waris Enterprise
No. 2-2-37B, Lot 39,
Tingkat 1, Lorong Plaza Wawasan,
Wisma San Hin, 88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Sessions Court at Kota Kinabalu under Suit No. BKI-A52NCvC-134-9/2026 ("the Action") by Sabah Credit Corporation of Kota Kinabalu in which the Plaintiff claims against the Defendant for the sum of RM122,493.33 as at 03.09.2026, penalty interest at the rate of one per centum (1%) per month on the outstanding sum calculated from 03.09.2026 until the date of actual repayment, statutory interest on the Judgment Sum at the rate of 5% per annum from the date of Judgment until the date of full settlement, costs in the sum of RM1,916.00, the Plaintiff's legal fees and or other expenses on a full indemnity basis and such further and other relief as this Honourable Court may deem fit to grant for the Facilities offered by the Plaintiff to you.

And that it has been ordered that service of the Writ of Summons in the Action on you be effected by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the Action, you must within Fourteen (14) days from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the Registry of the Sessions Court at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. In default of such appearance, judgment may be entered against you.

Dated this 29th day of October 2026.

Messrs Lai & U
Advocates & Solicitors
23-2, 2nd Floor, Lorong Lintas Plaza 2, Lintas Plaza,
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
(Advocates for the Plaintiff, Sabah Credit Corporation)
(LAU/LIT/400(30)-WL/DL) 286358/KKJG

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT TAWAU

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. TWU-28NCC-12-10/2026

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 465(1)(e) AND
466(1)(a) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016

AND

IN THE MATTER OF
ASIA RAINFOREST TOUR SDN BHD (Co.
No. 201801000568 (1262581-H))

BETWEEN
HONG LEONG BANK BERHAD
(Co. No. 19340100023 (97141-X)) ... PETITIONER

AND
ASIA RAINFOREST TOUR SDN BHD
(Co. No. 201801000568 (1262581-H)) ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for the winding-up of the abovenamed company by the High Court was on the 16th October 2026, presented by Hong Leong Bank Berhad (Co. No. 119340100023 (97141-X)). And that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the High Court in Sabah and Sarawak at Tawau at nine o'clock in fore noon, on the 16th 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 at Consumer Collections - Legal Operations, Level 2, Tower A, PJ City Development, 15A, Jalan 219, Section 51A, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

The Petitioner's solicitor is Messrs Alex Pang & Co, of Lot 1-4, 2nd Floor, Block A, Damai Plaza, Phase 1, Jalan Damai, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

MESSRS. ALEX PANG & CO
SOLICITOR 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 Alex Pang & Co 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 the firm, or his or their solicitors (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post insufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 15th December 2026.

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA
DI MAHKAMAH TINGGI
SYARIAH TAWAU

PERMOHONAN NO.
2607-H0512-311-0332
DALAM PERMOHONAN
PEMBAHAGIAN HARTA
PUSAKA SIMATI
AB RAHMAN BIN MURSIDO

NORFAZRINAH BINTI
AB RAHMAN
NO. KP/DLL - 941119-12-6116
PEMOHON

Kepada,
SESIAPA YANG BERKENAAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN
GAN TI (KLAN) MENURUT
PERINTAH MAHKAMAH

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN
BAHAWA NORFAZRINAH
BINTI AB RAHMAN
memohon kepada Mahkamah
Tinggi Syariah Tawau pada
14th DESEMBER 2026, ber-
samaan hari ISNIN, jam 08.00
PAGI dalam DALAM PER-
MOHONAN PEMBAHAGIAN
HARTA PUSAKA SIMATI AB
RAHMAN BIN MURSIDO atas
alasan dan cara pembahagian
yang terkandung dalam
Afidavit Permohonan. Maka
diperintahkan supaya satu
penyampaian notis kepada
SESIAPA YANG BERKENAAN
dan lannya hendaklah dilak-
sana segera klian di AKHBAR
TEMPATAN.

AMBIL PERHATIAN jika
kamu berhajat menentang
permohonan ini, atau jika
kamu mempunyai kepingin-
an ke atas harta-harta
Simati, kamu atau Peguam
Syarie kamu bolehlah
membuat semakan di
Mahkamah ini mengenai
fakla-fakla permohonan yang
tersebut dan bolehlah selepas
itu memfailkan di Mahkamah
ini dan menyampaikan satu
salinan kepada Pemohon,
NOTIS/AFFIDAVIT BANTAHAN
tidak melebihi daripada tiga
(3) hari sebelum tarikh permo-
nahan ini didengar.

Pada 19 haribulan
OKTOBER tahun 2026

PENDAFTAR
MAHKAMAH TINGGI
SYARIAH TAWAU

Notis ini difailkan oleh
NORFAZRINAH BINTI AB
RAHMAN Yang Alamat
Penyampaian Kuantingnya
KUATERS KAKITANGAN
FELDA UMAS 2/3, FELDA
UMAS, TAWAU.

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT
IN SABAH AND SARAWAK
AT TAWAU

IN BANKRUPTCY
MATTER NO.
TWU-29NCC-48-3/2026 (HC)

[In The Matter of Sessions
Court Civil Suit No.
TWU-A52M-24-4/2025 (SC)]

Re: Yun Jing Leei
(NRC NO. 830216-12-5180)
- The Debtor

Ex Parte:
RHB Islamic Bank Berhad
(Company No. 200501003283
(680329-V))
- A Creditor

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE
OF CREDITOR'S PETITION

To: Yun Jing Leei
Of No A 11, Taman
Mutlaira, Bandar Mutlaira,
Jalan Hospital, 91300
Semporna, Sabah
And/or
H3, Lorong Bemban,
Taman Pook Tain,
Luyang, 88300
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

TAKE NOTICE that a
Creditor's Petition has been
issued against you by this Court
at the request of RHB Islamic
Bank Berhad c/o Messrs M F
Poon, Hiew & Associates,
Advocates & Solicitors,
Mezzanine Floor, Lot 1, 2 & 3,
Block B, Taman Grandview,
Jalan Buli Sim-Sim, P.O. Box
49, 90700 Sandakan, Sabah
and the Court has on the
07.10.2026 ordered that the
publication of this Creditor's
Petition by way of
advertisement in English in one
issue of The Borneo Post shall
be good and sufficient service
of the Creditor's Petition upon
you.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE
that the said Petition will be
heard at High Court at Tawau
on Wednesday, 09.12.2026 at
9.00 a.m., which day you are
required to appear, and if you
do not appear, the Court may
make Bankruptcy Order against
you in your absence.

The Creditor's Petition dated
14.08.2026 and the Order of
Substituted Service dated
07.10.2026 can be inspected
by you on application to this
Court.

Dated 29.10.2026

DEPUTY REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT
IN SABAH AND SARAWAK
AT TAWAU

This Notice is advertised by
Messrs M.F. Poon, Hiew &
Associates, Solicitors for the
Creditor whose address for
service is at Mezzanine Floor,
Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block B, Taman
Grandview, Jalan Buli SimSim,
P.O. Box 49, 90700 Sandakan,
Sabah.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

[CONTACT US @] Kota Kinabalu - 088 318 811, Labuan - 087 417 285, Tawau - 089 777 262, Sandakan - 089 274 191, Lahad Datu - 089 896 177

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MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK COURT AT KOTA KINABALU
APPLICATION FOR EXECUTION NO. BKI-36-6/3/2025 (HC1) (SUIT NO. BKI-B52NCC-V-104-7/2024 (SC6))
BETWEEN
TENZA RESOURCES SDN BHD ... JUDGMENT CREDITOR (COMPANY NO. 908790-H) AND
KAYA BERSAMA SDN BHD ... 1ST JUDGEMENT DEBTOR (COMPANY NO. 201901022212 (1331541-A)) BORNEO PERFECT SDN BHD ... 2ND JUDGEMENT DEBTOR (COMPANY NO. 199501024546 (353751-K)) LEE YOON LEE ... 3RD JUDGEMENT DEBTOR (NRIC NO. 650712-05-5005)
PROCLAMATION OF SALE
IN PURSUANT to an Order for Sale by the High Court at Kota Kinabalu made on 8th day of June 2026, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to sell the undermentioned property by Public Auction to be held at the Court House, Kota Kinabalu on 12th November 2026 at 10.00 a.m. to be conducted by Messrs Property Auction House Sdn Bhd under the supervision of the Court Bailiff.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
Title No. : Provisional Lease No. 026171451
Titled Land Area : 10.30 acres (4.168 hectares), more or less
The Property : Vacant agriculture land
Tenure : Leasehold 99 years commencing from 01st January 1955
Location : Within locality of Kampung Labak, Kinarut, Papar, Sabah
Reserved Price : RM 882,000.00
All interested bidders are required to register with the Auctioneer appointed by the Sheriff who shall submit the following:
(1) An amount equivalent to 10% of the reserved price to be paid to AKAUNTAN NEGARA MALAYSIA
(2) Board of Directors' Resolution and Written Authorisation where the bidder is a company bidding through an authorized person
(3) Written authorization where the bidder is acting as a proxy
A deposit of 10% of the reserved price to be paid by BANKER'S CHEQUE, CASHIER'S ORDER or BANK DRAFT ONLY in favour of AKAUNTAN NEGARA MALAYSIA immediately after the fall of the hammer and the balance of the purchase price is to be made to AKAUNTAN NEGARA MALAYSIA shall be paid WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS from the date of auction.
Failure to pay the balance as stipulated above will result in FORFEITURE of the deposit.
The auction and all bidders shall be SUBJECT TO the Conditions of Sale, details of which may be obtained from: -
1. The Sheriff High Court Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Tel.: 088-286100
2. Messrs. K.F Chong & Co Advocates & Solicitors Lot 31, 1st Floor, Block C, Damai Plaza Phase 1, Luyang Commercial Centre 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
3. Messrs. Property Auction House Sdn Bhd Unit A-3-6, 3rd Floor, Block A, Plaza Tanjung Aru, Jalan Mat Salleh, 88150 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Tel: 088-221266/088-221262
Dated the 26th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026
-Signed-
THE DEPUTY SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KOTA KINABALU

We are a local based company (Solar Farm) in Kuala Penyu, Sabah and we invite suitable qualified personnel to fill the following vacant position:-
CHARGE MAN
● Must own Certificate of Competency as a Charge man (PJ-A4) .
● Minimum 2 years experience in the related field.
Please write-in application and submit a complete resume together with relevant certificates, contact number and a recent passport-sized photograph to the following address:-
KUALA PENYU SOLAR SDN BHD
Lot 33, 3rd Floor, Block E
Damai Plaza III, Luyang
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
Email: kualapenyusolar@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION TO CREDITORS
THE ESTATE OF WONG KEE UNG (NRIC NO.: 541109-13-5091/K584455)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the abovenamed Deceased, who passed away on 27th September 2021 are required on or before 28th December 2026 (2 months after the date of advertisement) to submit the particulars of their debts or claims against the Deceased to the Executor of the Estate. The Executor shall not be liable to any person submitting the particulars of the debts or claims after 28th December 2026 (2 months after the date of advertisement) or in default of proving the said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice by the Executor.
Dated this 29th October 2026
Executor of the Estate
ROCKWILLS TRUSTEE BERHAD
Wisma Rockwills, No.62, Jalan 2/131A,
Off Jalan Kiang Lama, 58200 Kuala Lumpur
(Tel. 03-7781 1993) (Ref. No. RWT/EST/WKU/F10122894/AT/SYAZ/MNS)

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IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KOTA MARUDU AT THE STATE OF SABAH
SUIT NO. KMD-A72M-31-8/2026 (CC)
BETWEEN
BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA BERHAD (Reg. No.: 200801010522 (811810-U)) ... PLAINTIFF
AND
DASKOO BIN BONONG (NRIC No.: 910120-12-5039) [Trading as PEMBORONG MULA JADI ENTERPRISE] (Reg. No.: 21RSS11840511) ... DEFENDANT
ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER
To: DASKOO BIN BONONG (NRIC No.: 910120-12-5039) [Trading as PEMBORONG MULA JADI ENTERPRISE] (Reg. No.: 21RSS11840511) (Kampung Mandamali, Pitas, 89100 Kota Marudu, Sabah).
TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court at Kota Marudu in Suit No. KMD-A72M-31-8/2026 (CC) by BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA BERHAD [811810-U] of Tingkat 3, Bangunan Agrobank, Leboh Pasar Besar, Peti Surat 10815, 50726 Kuala Lumpur and principal office at Leboh Pasar Besar, 50726 Kuala Lumpur having a branch office at Cawangan Beaufort, Lot 13 & 13A, Ground & First Floor, Block B, New Beaufort, 89900 Beaufort, Sabah in which the Plaintiff's claim is for the sum of RM14,208.85 as at 31.05.2026; To/with at the rate of 1% per annum on the overdue amount of the Facility from 01.06.2026 until the date of maturity of the facility or date of Judgment, whichever comes first and thereafter at the Islamic Interbank Money Market (IIMM) rate until the date of full and final settlement, cost of RM1,166.00 and advertisement charges and that it has been ordered that service of the Summons in the said action be effected on you by this advertisement.
If you desire to defend the said action you must enter appearance within fourteen (14) days from the date hereof and TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the Plaintiff may proceed therein to Judgment and execution.
Dated the 29.10.2026
MESSRS FERNANDEZ & CO. Advocates for the Plaintiff No. 143, Jalan Tangki, Dezzons Building, Karamunsing, (Opp. Palace Hotel) P.O. Box No. 13834, 88844 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. 288595/KKJOLA

IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT BEAUFORT IN THE STATE OF SABAH
SUIT NO. BFT-A72M-37-8/2026 (MC)
BETWEEN
BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA BERHAD (Reg. No.: 200801010522 (811810-U)) ... PLAINTIFF
AND
AAZAMAIN BIN AG SAGAP (NRIC No.: 650822-12-5537) ... DEFENDANT
ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER
To: AAZAMAIN BIN AG SAGAP (NRIC No.: 650822-12-5537) Pusat Teknologi Pendidikan Bgh, Beg Betung 15, 89609 Beaufort, Sabah. and/or AAZAMAIN BIN AG SAGAP (NRIC No.: 650822-12-5537) Kampung Palu - Palu, 89740 Kuala Penyu, Sabah.
TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court at Beaufort in Suit No. BFT-A72M-37-8/2026 (MC) by BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA BERHAD [811810-U] of Tingkat 3, Bangunan Agrobank, Leboh Pasar Besar, Peti Surat 10815, 50726 Kuala Lumpur and principal office at Leboh Pasar Besar, 50726 Kuala Lumpur having a branch office at Cawangan Beaufort, Lot 13 & 13A, Ground & First Floor, Block B, New Beaufort, 89900 Beaufort, Sabah in which the Plaintiff's claim is for the sum of RM14,208.85 as at 31.05.2026; To/with at the rate of 1% per annum on the overdue amount of the Facility from 01.06.2026 until the date of maturity of the facility or date of Judgment, whichever comes first and thereafter at the Islamic Interbank Money Market (IIMM) rate until the date of full and final settlement, cost of RM591.00 and advertisement charges and that it has been ordered that service of the Summons in the said action be effected on you by this advertisement.
If you desire to defend the said action you must enter appearance within fourteen (14) days from the date hereof and TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the Plaintiff may proceed therein to Judgment and execution.
Dated the 29.10.2026
MESSRS FERNANDEZ & CO. Advocates for the Plaintiff No. 143, Jalan Tangki, Dezzons Building, Karamunsing, (Opp. Palace Hotel) P.O. Box No. 13834, 88844 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. 288595/KKJOLA

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KOTA KINABALU IN THE STATE OF SABAH
IN BANKRUPTCY NOTICE NO. BKI-29NCC-541-8/2026 (SUIT NO. BKI-B52-24/8-2016 (SC4))
RE: KHAIRIAH @ SITI KHAIRIAH BT S. MOHD (NRIC NO. 750328-12-5142/H091642) ... JUDGMENT DEBTOR
EX-PARTE: SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (REGISTRATION NO. 199901002270477170-A) ... JUDGMENT CREDITOR
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF LEAVE APPLICATION TO COMMENCE BANKRUPTCY NOTICE AGAINST GUARANTOR
In the matter of a Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support both issued on the 13th day of August, 2026 (by Court Order dated 9th day of October 2026)
To: KHAIRIAH @ SITI KHAIRIAH BT S. MOHD (NRIC NO. 750328-12-5142/H091642) HOSPITAL DUCHESS OF KENT, SANDAKAN 6-4C, TINGKAT 4, LORONG MESRA 2, TAMAN MESRA, BARU 4, 90000 SANDAKAN, SABAH.
TAKE NOTICE that a Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support has been issued against you in this Court SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) and the Court has ordered the said Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support to be served on you by advertisement of this Notice in English once in any local newspaper and that such advertisement shall be deemed good and sufficient service of the said Notice upon you, AND TAKE NOTICE that within seven (7) days after service of this Notice on you, excluding the day of such publication you must pay to SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) the sum of RM236,849.68 claimed by them as being the amount due as at 12th day of February, 2020 on a final Judgment obtained by them against you in the Session Court at Kota Kinabalu dated 06th day of October, 2016 whereon execution has not been stayed, or you must secure or compound for the said sum to SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) satisfaction or on to the satisfaction of the Court, or you must satisfy the Court that you have a counter-claim, set-off or cross demand against them which equals or exceeds the sum claimed by them and which you could not set up in the action on which the Judgment was obtained.
This Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support can be inspected by you on application to the Court.
Dated the 29th day of October, 2026
BY ORDER OF COURT
DEPUTY/SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KOTA KINABALU
This Notice is inserted by Messrs Tan, Arthur Borine & Partners., Advocates for the Judgment Creditor, whose address for service is at Lot 1-2-4B & Lot 1-2-5B, 2nd Floor, Kolam Centre Phase II, Jalan Lintas, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
Tel: 088 270957
Fax: 088 270967
Email: admin@tanarthurborine.com 288056/KKJFNC

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT TAWAU IN THE STATE OF SABAH, MALAYSIA
IN BANKRUPTCY NOTICE NO. TWU-29NCC-131-6/2026 (SUIT NO. TWU-22M-6/10-2019)
RE: DONALD BIN HANAPI (NRIC NO. 650914-12-5497) ... JUDGMENT DEBTOR
EX-PARTE: SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (REGISTRATION NO. 199901002270477170-A) ... JUDGMENT CREDITOR
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF LEAVE APPLICATION TO COMMENCE BANKRUPTCY NOTICE AGAINST GUARANTOR
In the matter of a Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support both issued on the 30th day of June, 2026 (by Court Order dated 13th day of October 2026)
To: DONALD BIN HANAPI (NRIC NO. 650914-12-5497) KAMPUNG BUGAYA, JALAN TANJUNG KAPOR, PETI SURAT 127, 91307 SEMPORNA, SABAH.
TAKE NOTICE that a Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support has been issued against you in this Court SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) and the Court has ordered the said Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support to be served on you by advertisement of this Notice in English once in any local newspaper and that such advertisement shall be deemed good and sufficient service of the said Notice upon you, AND TAKE NOTICE that within seven (7) days after service of this Notice on you, excluding the day of such publication you must pay to SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) the sum of RM6,422,066.61 claimed by them as being the amount due as at 12th day of February, 2020 on a final Judgment obtained by them against you in the Session Court at Tawau dated 12th day of February, 2020 whereon execution has not been stayed, or you must secure or compound for the said sum to SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) satisfaction or on to the satisfaction of the Court, or you must satisfy the Court that you have a counter-claim, set-off or cross demand against them which equals or exceeds the sum claimed by them and which you could not set up in the action on which the Judgment was obtained.
This Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support can be inspected by you on application to the Court.
Dated the 29th day of October, 2026
BY ORDER OF COURT
DEPUTY/SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT TAWAU
This Notice is inserted by Messrs Tan, Arthur Borine & Partners., Advocates for the Judgment Creditor, whose address for service is at Lot 1-2-4B & Lot 1-2-5B, 2nd Floor, Kolam Centre Phase II, Jalan Lintas, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
Tel: 088 270957
Fax: 088 270967
Email: admin@tanarthurborine.com 288056/KKJFNC

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KOTA KINABALU IN THE STATE OF SABAH, MALAYSIA
IN BANKRUPTCY NOTICE NO. BKI-29NCC-542-8/2026 (SUIT NO. BKI-B52-24/8-2016 (SC4))
RE: JULIANA BADIN (NRIC NO. 650111-12-5012) ... JUDGMENT DEBTOR
EX-PARTE: SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (REGISTRATION NO. 199901002270477170-A) ... JUDGMENT CREDITOR
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF LEAVE APPLICATION TO COMMENCE BANKRUPTCY NOTICE AGAINST GUARANTOR
In the matter of a Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support both issued on the 13th day of August, 2026 (by Court Order dated 9th day of October 2026)
To: JULIANA BADIN (NRIC NO. 650111-12-5012) TAMAN KUALA MENGATIL LORONG 13, NO. 14, 88450 KOTA KINABALU.
TAKE NOTICE that a Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support has been issued against you in this Court SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) and the Court has ordered the said Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support to be served on you by advertisement of this Notice in English once in any local newspaper and that such advertisement shall be deemed good and sufficient service of the said Notice upon you, AND TAKE NOTICE that within seven (7) days after service of this Notice on you, excluding the day of such publication you must pay to SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) the sum of RM236,849.68 claimed by them as being the amount due as at 12th day of February, 2020 on a final Judgment obtained by them against you in the Session Court at Kota Kinabalu dated 06th day of October, 2016 whereon execution has not been stayed, or you must secure or compound for the said sum to SMEB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 477170-A) satisfaction or on to the satisfaction of the Court, or you must satisfy the Court that you have a counter-claim, set-off or cross demand against them which equals or exceeds the sum claimed by them and which you could not set up in the action on which the Judgment was obtained.
This Summons-in- Chambers and Affidavit In Support can be inspected by you on application to the Court.
Dated the 29th day of October, 2026
BY ORDER OF COURT
DEPUTY/SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KOTA KINABALU
This Notice is inserted by Messrs Tan, Arthur Borine & Partners., Advocates for the Judgment Creditor, whose address for service is at Lot 1-2-4B & Lot 1-2-5B, 2nd Floor, Kolam Centre Phase II, Jalan Lintas, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
Tel: 088 270957
Fax: 088 270967
Email: admin@tanarthurborine.com 288056/KKJFNC

KENYATAAN SEBUTHARGA
JABATAN TANAH DAN UKUR SABAH
KENYATAAN SEBUTHARGA
SEBUTHARGA ADALAH DIPELAWA DARIPADA PEMBEKAL-PEMBEKAL TEMPATAN YANG BERDAFTAR DENGAN PUSAT PENDAFTARAN KONTRAKTOR KERJA, BEKALAN DAN PERKHIDMATAN NEGERI SABAH SECARA TERBUKA BAGI SEBUTHARGA BERIKUT:-

No Sebutharga	Tajuk Sebutharga	Kod Bidang	Tempoh Penyiaapan
JTU66/2026	PERKHIDMATAN KAWALAN KESELAMATAN YANG DILENGKAPKAN DENGAN SENJATA API UNTUK MENGHANTAR KUTIPAN HASIL DI IBU PEJABAT, PEJABAT TANAH DAERAH TAWAU, SANDAKAN, LAHAD DATU, KUDAT, PUTATAN, PENAMPANG, PAPAR, BEAUFORT DAN KENINGAU	220302	1 TAHUN
JTU67/2026	PERKHIDMATAN MENCUCI DAN MEMBERSIHKAN BANGUNAN PEJABAT UNIT HAL EHWAL ANAK NEGERI SABAH (PANTAS) KOTA KINABALU	220401	1 TAHUN
JTU69/2026	PERKHIDMATAN KAWALAN KESELAMATAN DI BANGUNAN PEJABAT TANAH DAN UKUR DAERAH BELURAN	220302	1 TAHUN
JTU70/2026	PERKHIDMATAN KAWALAN KESELAMATAN DI BANGUNAN PEJABAT TANAH DAN UKUR DAERAH KENINGAU	220302	1 TAHUN
JTU71/2026	PERKHIDMATAN KAWALAN KESELAMATAN DI BANGUNAN PEJABAT TANAH DAN UKUR DAERAH KOTA BELUD	220302	1 TAHUN
JTU72/2026	PERKHIDMATAN KAWALAN KESELAMATAN DI BANGUNAN PEJABAT TANAH DAN UKUR DAERAH LAHAD DATU	220302	1 TAHUN

1. BORANG SEBUTHARGA, SYARAT-SYARAT DAN SPESIFIKASI AKAN DIJUAL SECARA ONLINE MELALUI E-COMMERCE DI [WWW.JTU.SABAH.GOV.MY](http://www.jtu.sabah.gov.my) (GAREWAY TO JTU E-SERVICE) MULAI TARIKH 28 OKTOBER 2026 HINGGA 5 NOVEMBER 2026 SECARA ONLINE SAHAJA. BORANG SEBUTHARGA TIDAK AKAN DIJUAL SELEPAS TEMPOH DINYATAKAN.
2. PEMBEKAL YANG INGIN MENYERTAI SEBUTHARGA DI ATAS ADALAH DIKEHENDAKI MENYEDIAKAN RESIT CETAKAN SABAH PAY BERNILAI RM 20.00 SEBAGAI BUKTI BAYARAN BORANG SEBUTHARGA.
3. PEMBELIAN BORANG SEBUTHARGA SECARA ONLINE ADALAH HANYA KEPADA PEMBEKAL. UNTUK MAKSUD INI, PIHAK PEMBEKAL HENDAKLAH MENDAFTAR KE SISTEM E-COMMERCE (SEKALI SAHAJA) SERTA MEMASUKKAN KOD BIDANG BEKALAN/PERKHIDMATAN PUKONSA DAN TARIKH TEMPOH SAH SUIJIL PENDAFTARAN PUKONSA DI DALAM SISTEM E-COMMERCE. SALINAN SUIJIL PENDAFTARAN ASAL PUSAT PENDAFTARAN KONTRAKTOR KERJA, BEKALAN DAN PERKHIDMATAN NEGERI SABAH (PUKONSA) HENDAKLAH DIMASUKKAN KE DALAM SISTEM (FORMAT PDF).
4. BORANG SEBUTHARGA YANG TELAH LENGKAP DIISI HENDAKLAH DIMASUKKAN KE DALAM SAMPUL SURAT YANG BERLAKRI (SEALED ENVELOPE) DAN DITULIS PADA RUANGAN DI ATAS DAN DIALAMKATKAN KEPADA: SETIAUSAHA JAWATANKUASA SEBUTHARGA JABATAN TANAH DAN UKUR KOTA KINABALU
5. BORANG SEBUTHARGA HENDAKLAH DIHANTAR DAN DIMASUKKAN TERUS KE DALAM PETI SEBUTHARGA (QUOTATION BOX) DI TINGKAT BAWAH, WISMA TANAH DAN UKUR, KOTA KINABALU SEBELUM PUKUL 10.00 PAGI PADA 6 NOVEMBER 2026 (JUMAAT)
6. BORANG SEBUTHARGA YANG LEWAT DITERIMA PADA WAKTU YANG DITETAPKAN DI ATAS AKAN DITOLAK.
7. KERAJAAN TIDAK TERIKAT UNTUK TAWARAN TERENDAH ATAU MANA-MANA TAWARAN.
PENGARAH JABATAN TANAH DAN UKUR WISMA TANAH DAN UKUR JALAN PERWIRA, 88200 KOTA KINABALU

This Notice is inserted by Messrs Tan, Arthur Borine & Partners., Advocates for the Judgment Creditor, whose address for service is at Lot 1-2-4B & Lot 1-2-5B, 2nd Floor, Kolam Centre Phase II, Jalan Lintas, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.
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Rybakina eyeing year-end No.1 spot in Tokyo

>8



Arteta despair as 4th tier Fleetwood stun Arsenal

>9

ACLE: Munoz hails JDT's 'control' of Thai Port FC

ISKANDAR PUTERI: Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) head coach Xisco Munoz hailed his side's tactical maturity and relentless intensity after the Southern Tigers outclassed Thailand's Port FC 3-0 in their AFC Champions League Elite (ACLE) clash at Sultan Ibrahim Stadium on Tuesday night.

Reflecting on the team's overall display, Munoz expressed pride in the consistent performance shown throughout the match, particularly in controlling the tempo and tactical aspects of the game.

"Congratulations to the players because it was an amazing night. It was a very good performance, and I think they had control in all aspects of the game," Munoz said during the post-match press conference.

Despite the positive result, attention turned toward the condition of key striker Bergson Da Silva, who had to be substituted late in the game and



It was a very good performance, and I think they had control in all aspects of the game.

Xisco Munoz

Munoz stated that the coaching staff were awaiting official medical feedback and hopes the

injury is not serious, especially with a demanding schedule of crucial matches ahead.

Meanwhile, Port FC head coach Bozidar Bandovic acknowledged that JDT displayed superior quality and fully deserved the victory.

"I must congratulate the opponent. They were better on the field. First half they dominated. They had some crosses and shooting outside of the box, but they were better.

"We had some counterattacks. Second half we start a little better.

"And of course we concede the goal from cross and the shoot outside of the box. After conceding second goal on the transition and the third it was a little difficult," he added.

The win has given the Southern Tigers a boost ahead of their upcoming away fixture against Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC at the Jeonju World Cup Stadium in South Korea on Nov 3. — AFP



JDT's Juan Molina Martinez (right) is blocked by Port FC's Manuel Bihir during the match. — Bernama photo

M'sia only Southeast Asia team in Tier B of U15 World Cup

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia emerged as the only team from Southeast Asia to advance to Tier B at the 2026 FIFA Under-15 (U-15) World Cup and Festival in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The national youth squad, coached by P. Maniam, achieved this proud feat after finishing Group H as runners-up with three wins, one draw, and one defeat, thereby qualifying for the Round of 32 of Tier B.

Tier B is the second-highest tier of the tournament, bringing together teams ranked from 33rd to 64th best.

Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) president Datuk Ab Ghani Hassan described the achievement as proof of the national youth players' ability to compete on the international stage, while also reflecting the positive development of the country's grassroots football.

"I am happy and satisfied with the performance shown by the national U-15 squad, thereby proving the capability of the national youth lineup to compete on the international stage," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

Ab Ghani added that the achievement deserves recognition as it reflects the effort, commitment, discipline, and high fighting spirit shown by the players.

Malaysia is scheduled to face South Africa in the Tier B Round of 32 on Thursday. The inaugural tournament saw the participation of 191 countries previously divided into 24 groups, and the final group standings will determine the placement for the Tier A to F competitions scheduled to take place from Oct 28 to 30. — Bernama

Cats eyeing first ACL2 win in Gangwon clash

KUCHING: Kuching City FC will aim to get their AFC Champions League Two (ACL2) campaign back on track when they face South Korean side Gangwon FC in a Group H match at Gangneung Stadium in South Korea on Thursday.

The match presents the Cats with an opportunity to claim their first victory in the continental competition after collecting just one point from their opening two matches.

The Cats opened their campaign with a 2-1 defeat away to Cambodia's Phnom Penh

Crown FC on Sept 17 before earning a 1-1 draw against Hong Kong's Kitchee SC at the Taha Ariffin Stadium on Oct 15.

The draw against Kitchee saw the Sarawak side move to third in the four-team group, level on one point with Gangwon, while Kitchee occupy second place with two points and Phnom Penh Crown lead the standings with six points. The top two teams from each group will advance to the knockout stage.

Kuching City will host Gangwon at the Taha Ariffin Stadium on Nov 5.

Mbappe says sorry but furore rages on in China

BEIJING: Kylian Mbappe struggled to dissipate anger on Chinese social media on Wednesday despite apologising for his comments on Mao Zedong that cost him several commercial deals in the huge market.

Mocking Mao remains strictly taboo 50 years after the former leader's death, and Mbappe has been dropped by several Chinese brands and state television has scrapped broadcasts of the Spanish league.

The Real Madrid player apologised on Tuesday for saying that the funniest internet meme involving him was of his face photoshopped onto "some guy – I think he's a Chinese dictator", an apparent reference to Mao.

Mbappe's original joke was not reposted – or had been scrubbed – from China's tightly-controlled social media, with state media omitting any references to Mao, saying instead that the footballer had made "inappropriate remarks concerning China".

But the footballer continued to



People walk past a bus featuring Mbappe on a street in Shanghai. — AFP photo

face a torrent of criticism from Chinese users on Wednesday.

"His remarks were hurtful toward China and the Chinese people, so they cannot be translated," wrote one user on social media platform Weibo.

Chinese social media app

Xiaohongshu had meanwhile frozen Mbappe's account, where he has over a million followers, preventing him from gaining any new ones. The same was done on the Weibo app, with a notice stating that "the user has been banned from following due



Mbappe has been shut out of Chinese social media Weibo. — AFP photo

to violating laws or the Weibo Community Convention".

Some Chinese media reports said global brands like Dior and Hublot had removed their Mbappe-related content on Weibo.

An AFP search on Dior and

and a half hours, it's very mental," Wong said.

"The mall run is definitely better because the treadmill feels like a hamster run. You just keep repeating the routine."

Eddie Chang, lead coach for X-Run, said they had to present a carefully laid-out plan to get approval from the mall for the runs.

They had to consider factors like walkway width, tight corners and holding the run early in the morning before the shops open.

"The biggest challenge for outdoor training is the weather. Humidity is very high, plus the haze now, the impact is doubled and tripled, so it's very hard to manage," Chang told AFP.

"By converting to indoors, you definitely reduce all the impact from the outdoor experience and continue running."

The air quality improved this week but on Wednesday Singapore remained one of the 20 most polluted major cities in the world, according to Swiss-based air quality monitor IQAir.

The two running clubs are likely to extend the mall runs if poor air quality persists, and plan to ask more malls to open their doors to them.

"I believe there will be opportunities. This is something new in the sports scene," Beh said.

"Hopefully, with the permission of building management, this can spread out to other sports groups." — AFP



Fitness enthusiasts run inside a mall due to haze situation outside in Singapore. — AFP photo

Runners swap streets for shop malls in hazy Singapore

SINGAPORE: The pounding of running shoes echoes through a Singapore shopping mall as fitness enthusiasts desperate to exercise take refuge from choking haze.

Smoke from wildfires in neighbouring Indonesia has sent air quality in the city-state plummeting to its worst levels in more than a decade in recent weeks, cancelling outdoor activities.

Those seeking exercise, including runners training for international events, have found an unconventional alternative: air-conditioned shopping malls.

On Saturday more than 80 runners turned the corridors of Marina Square shopping centre into makeshift running tracks, clocking laps past storefronts on two floors before shops opened for business.

There are strict rules.

"No sprinting, no overtaking, no shouting or yelling," Eugene Beh, 52, founder of Singapore Runners Club, told about 60 members before their run.

Spitting and wiping sweat on the floor are also banned.

Beh said they had to cancel several runs outdoors because of the haze, blown in by the wind from forest and peatland fires in Borneo and Sumatra.

Angeline Zeng, 57, who works in banking, completed 10 loops at the mall, or about 10 kilometres (six miles).

With a half-marathon in Taipei in less than a week and a full

marathon in December, Zeng needs to clock as much mileage as she can.

Since treadmills at her neighbourhood gym are often full, she and her fellow runners were excited when they heard about the mall runs.

"We were like, wow, we didn't expect that at all," she told AFP.

"I love it because the aircon makes you feel like you're running overseas where there's cold temperatures, so it's really great," Zeng added.

But she said that circling inside the mall becomes "boring" after a while.

"Maybe for shorter runs this is okay but if you need to do long runs, maybe not so suitable," she said.

Singapore Runners Club member Doris Tan, 42, said she thought running indoors would be a bit suffocating.

"I didn't expect it to be so cool... but if you have to ask me, I still prefer outdoors," she told AFP.

Paul Wong, a 54-year-old retiree from a club called X-Run, completed 21 loops inside the mall, or about 21 km.

With just over a month until the Singapore International Marathon – which many other fellow runners are also training for – Wong would have to run up to 80 km per week, but the haze has forced him indoors.

"For the last two weeks I've been running close to 100 kilometres on the treadmill. The longest I've run is 28 km for two

Meanwhile, professional men's doubles pair Chia Weijie-Teo Ee Yi were unable to complete their match against England's second seeds Ben Lane-Sean Vendy.

After dropping the first game 14-21, Weijie-Ee Yi retired while trailing 7-11 in the second game after 20 minutes into play. — Bernama

Hublot's Weibo page with Mbappe's Chinese name produced no results. Offline too, the Mbappe brand appeared to be scrubbed from stores.

When AFP visited the Adidas flagship store in Beijing's Sanlitun shopping district, Real Madrid jerseys were available for sale, but none bearing Mbappe's name.

Mbappe merchandise including unofficial jerseys, beanies and caps remains available on retail app Taobao.

Chinese state media have previously praised Mbappe as a "footballing sensation" and "talent", with the striker well-loved by fans in the country.

His face is plastered on billboards, on electrolyte drinks and across social media.

Mbappe is also sometimes affectionately referred to as "Guigui", meaning "turtle" in Chinese, for his resemblance to a character from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie. — AFP

SOCSCO honours The Borneo Post with media award

Jenne Lajjun

KOTA KINABALU: The Borneo Post received the Best Coverage Award 2025/2026 from the Social Security Organisation (SOCSCO) during the latter's Dinner Event with the media at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) recently.

The award was presented by SOCSCO Sabah director Dr Mohd Ali Hindia.

During the event, Dr Mohd Ali also said many people were remained unaware of the protection provided by SOCSCO, associating the organisation with compensation involving accidents and deaths.

"Today, a large part of our lives is protected.

"We have introduced several elements that have become SOCSCO services under workers' protection.

"Workers' protection is based on employed workers who contribute consistently on a monthly basis.

"This has been the main scheme implemented by SOCSCO since 1971," he said.

Dr Mohd Ali said in response to changing circumstances and the need to ensure that no one was left behind, a new scheme known as Lindung Kerjaya, was introduced in 2016.

He explained that the scheme was intended for individuals working in the private sector and provides protection for workers who lose their jobs because their employers become bankrupt, downsize, cease operations or



SOCSCO officials and media practitioners gather for a commemorative group photo during the dinner.

reduce their workforce.

He said SOCSCO also assisted those who had lost their jobs in finding new employment through its job placement services.

Dr Mohd Ali stressed that both Lindung Kerjaya and Lindung Pekerja, or Workers' Protection, were mandatory schemes.

Meanwhile, Lindung Kendiri, or Self-Employment Protection, was introduced in 2018 to provide protection for self-employed individuals.

"Participation is optional for most occupations.

"However, certain sectors, including e-hailing, p-hailing and transportation services involving drivers, are subject to mandatory coverage requirements," he said.

Dr Mohd Ali said SOCSCO was working to extend coverage to approximately 20 sectors, with participation remaining optional

for 17 occupations outside those subject to mandatory requirements.

"Freelancers, including those working in the media industry, could choose whether to contribute.

"Lindung Kasih, meanwhile, is a scheme specifically intended to protect women, particularly housewives," he said.

Explaining the scope of Lindung Kasih, Dr Mohd Ali said the plan was commonly associated with women and housewives, and its coverage was primarily intended for women rather than men.

He noted that the benefits could be particularly important in the event of a contributor's death, as eligible beneficiaries could receive protection.

He reiterated that Lindung Kendiri and Lindung Kasih were

optional schemes, except for the occupations subject to mandatory coverage requirements.

Dr Mohd Ali also explained that Lindung Pekerja fell under the employment injury and invalidity protection schemes.

"Invalidity refers to a permanent loss of physical ability or capacity that is not expected to recover," he said.

Under the Employment Insurance System (EIS), Dr Mohd Ali said eligible individuals who lose their jobs can receive assistance while seeking new employment opportunities.

"The system also provides access to career support, alongside the schemes for self-employed individuals and housewives," he said.

Addressing media practitioners who work part-time, Dr Mohd Ali encouraged them to consider

contributing to SOCSCO for protection.

He said even full-time media practitioners appointed as civil servants could voluntarily register under the relevant scheme themselves, providing details of their profession to obtain coverage and benefits.

He said the self-employment scheme operated on a prepaid basis, whereby contributors paid for coverage in advance, generally for the following year.

"However, SOCSCO also offered monthly contribution options for those who could not afford to pay the full amount upfront," he said.

He also highlighted the benefits available under the Employment Insurance System.

"One particularly important benefit is upskilling and training. Recently, the Prime Minister announced in the upcoming Budget that the training allowance and training fee allocation would be increased from RM5,000 to RM7,000," he said.

Dr Mohd Ali explained that workers seeking to upgrade their skills or obtain micro-credentials could apply under the programme, subject to eligibility requirements.

"Those who had lost their jobs for various reasons were encouraged to visit SOCSCO offices for assistance and advice on qualifying for training and job placement services to support their next career move," he said.

He emphasised that applying for assistance was not necessarily difficult, but incomplete

documentation was often the cause of delays.

He said some members of the public had blamed SOCSCO for slow processing, when the actual issue was frequently the failure to provide complete supporting documents.

"SOCSCO also operates according to key performance indicators and established guidelines.

"If the information is complete, we can settle the matter on the same day.

"The same applies to claims involving accidents. Everything depends on the supporting documentation.

"It is just like applying for a job or preparing a CV.

"If the information is incomplete, the details are missing or there are no supporting documents, the process becomes difficult," he said.

Dr Mohd Ali urged media practitioners to help raise public awareness of SOCSCO's services and promote the organisation's digital applications, including the MyFutureJobs applications.

He said registering with SOCSCO would allow users to receive information about a wide range of job vacancies, from low-skilled positions and so-called 3D jobs – dirty, dangerous and difficult – to highly skilled employment opportunities.

Also present were Chairman of the Sabah and Sarawak Industrial Court and Chairman of the Social Security Appellate Board of SOCSCO Sabah Datuk Indra Ayub and Sabah Journalist Association (SJA) president Mariah Doksil.

Govt to continue efforts to reduce reliance on foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will continue implementing measures to gradually reduce the country's reliance on foreign workers, in

line with the direction set out in the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

In a Facebook post on

Wednesday, Ahmad Zahid, who is also Rural and Regional Development Minister, said the efforts would take into account the actual needs of industries

while prioritising employment opportunities for Malaysians.

"I have also reviewed feedback from all ministries and agencies involved in the employment

of foreign workers. We have agreed on the need for collective decision-making to address issues and challenges in managing the quota mechanism and ceiling

for the employment of foreign workers, while ensuring that job opportunities for Malaysians remain our top priority," he said in the post. — Bernama

Mini opening of the Borneo Craft Festival Sarawak 2026

KUCHING: The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) through the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation (Malaysian Handicraft) held a Mini Opening of the Borneo Sarawak Craft Festival 2026 at the Kuching Waterfront, Sarawak. The ceremony was officiated by the Sarawak State Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

Also present were Yang Berbahagia Dato' Mohd Yusri bin Mohd Yusoff, Deputy Chief Secretary (Culture) of MOTAC, Yang Berusaha Encik Abdul Halim bin Ali, Director General of Malaysian Handicraft and Encik Mohd Fuad bin Ariffin, Director of Malaysian Handicraft (Sarawak Branch).

The Borneo Sarawak Craft Festival 2026 starting from 23 October to 1 November 2026 is one of the main components of the international-class Sarawak Regatta - Kuching Waterfront Festival 2026 program.

The festival aims to provide a platform for craft entrepreneurs to promote and commercialize Malaysian craft products to the

local community and tourists as well as to increase public knowledge and awareness of Malaysian craft products.

At this event, the guest of honor had the opportunity to visit the exhibition and meet entrepreneurs and craft communities involved in the Craft Product Sales activity booth.

The organization of FKB 2026 involved a total of 101 craft entrepreneurs covering the fields of textile crafts, land products, metal products, forest products and various crafts.

The craft sales activity also involved 19 Community Skills Development Projects (PPKK) for Crafts in the State of Sarawak.

Various interesting activities were also provided to visitors at FKB 2026 such as Business Matching, Craft Product Sales, Craft Product Exhibition, Come and Enter IKN Exhibition, Craft Product Manufacturing Demonstration, Knowledge Development, Talks on Craft Entrepreneurship and Visitor Encouragement Activities.

For further information, please contact Kraftangan Malaysia (Sarawak Branch) at 082-444205.



The Mini Opening Ceremony of the Borneo Sarawak Craft Festival 2026 was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak at Kuching Waterfront, Sarawak.



Visitors have the opportunity to buy Batik at the sales stall during the Sarawak Borneo Craft Festival.



Wood carving craft products at the Sarawak Borneo Craft Festival.

‘Boost defence cooperation to tackle security threat’

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean must strengthen unity, deepen practical defence cooperation and promote frank dialogue to tackle regional security threats and growing risks to food and energy security, Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the opening of the 20th Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in Cebu, the Philippines, Teodoro outlined three priorities to guide discussions: Asean unity, practical cooperation and frank dialogue.

He said internal stability and unity were essential for the bloc to sustain cooperation in an increasingly fragmented world.

He urged member states to uphold Asean centrality and the principles that bind the bloc, including mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the renunciation of the threat or use of force.

"And where such differences exist, including in the South China Sea, we shall settle them through peaceful and legal means," he said, as quoted in a statement issued by the Asean Committee on Media Affairs and Strategic Communications.

Teodoro said practical cooperation through the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) was crucial to building trust among Asean defence establishments and delivering tangible benefits for the people.

He cited progress in maritime security, the protection of critical underwater infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges.

He also called for broader cooperation to safeguard food and energy supplies against disruptions caused by conflicts beyond the region.

"This initiative gains in importance as Southeast Asia



Teodoro (centre) delivering his opening remarks during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Cebu, central Philippines. — AFP photo

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He cited progress in maritime security, the protection of critical underwater infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges.

He also called for broader cooperation to safeguard food and energy supplies against disruptions caused by conflicts beyond the region.

"This initiative gains in importance as Southeast Asia

braces for a super El Nino, which will likewise affect food, water, electricity, and connectivity in our respective countries," he said.

The Philippine defence chief also urged frank exchanges on threats to public safety and regional stability, acknowledging that each country's public pronouncements were guided by its national policies and diplomatic considerations.

"However, we hope we can speak amongst us in an

atmosphere of trust, confidence, and candour, especially in our bilateral meetings and other engagements on the sideline," he said.

Such discussions, he added, would help member states build mutual understanding, find common ground and address shared challenges.

The Philippines is hosting the 20th ADMM and the 13th ADMM-Plus on Oct 28–29 as part of its 2026 Asean chairmanship. — Bernama

Indonesia, Singapore agree to set up joint task force on forest fire accountability

JAKARTA: Indonesia and Singapore have agreed to establish a joint task force to hold companies responsible for forest and land fires accountable, including through financial intelligence sharing and cross-border evidence gathering.

The agreement was reached during talks between Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrmanatha Nasir and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan here on Tuesday, their first official meeting since Arrmanatha's appointment.

Arrmanatha said during the meeting, Singapore had offered to share data on companies linked to the fires, which Indonesia welcomed as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation in holding those responsible accountable.

"Indonesia is committed to working with Singapore and others to bring those responsible to justice. Smoke can cross borders, so can money."

"That is why we must follow the money trail these companies have left behind," he said at a

joint press conference following the bilateral meeting in Jakarta on Tuesday, according to video recordings published by local media.

Arrmanatha cited Singapore's recent issuance of preventive-measures notices to 10 companies potentially linked to the forest fires, while noting that Indonesia was conducting its own coordinated national investigations.

On Indonesia's part, he said hundreds of individuals and more than 50 corporations had been or were being investigated and prosecuted over forest and land fires, with some found guilty under Indonesian law.

Meanwhile, Balakrishnan during the press conference confirmed Singapore's agreement to the proposal, saying the joint task force would ensure closer coordination and information sharing between the two countries to deter future violations.

"We therefore expect the deterrent impact of this joint task force to make a difference," he said. — Bernama

Hegseth proposes 'ambitious' US-Asean defence framework at Philippine summit

CEBU, Philippines: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth proposed the creation of an "ambitious" new US-Asean defence framework on Wednesday, telling the bloc's leaders it could help them navigate "critically important" years ahead.

The United States has been seeking to boost its regional defence partnerships in recent years, citing the need to uphold what it terms a "free and open Indo-Pacific" as China has increasingly flexed its muscles in the region.

Hegseth, speaking before a meeting with defence chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cebu, praised what he called the region's "pragmatism" and "proud nationalism".

"We're not going to agree on everything, nor do we need to," he said, calling for cooperation where shared interests overlap.

"As we look to the future in this region, I'd like us to be even more ambitious... we propose that we work together to develop a US-Asean Framework for Defence Cooperation," Hegseth said, without offering details.

"A practical framework that guides our cooperation over the

next several years. I will note a critically important next several years."

He added that the United States was ready to begin the project as Singapore assumes the chairmanship of the Asean Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus in the coming year. The grouping includes not only the bloc's 11 member states but representatives from the United States, Japan, China, Australia and others.

Hegseth also called for the strengthening of "maritime domain awareness" and advanced cooperation among naval forces.

"These are not symbolic things; they are concrete demonstrations of what serious partners do, serious partners train together, learn together, plan together, and build the confidence and competence necessary to prevent conflict," he said.

US ally the Philippines has been engaged in years of confrontations with China over disputed areas of the South China Sea.

China's military and coast guard presence in contested areas of the critical waterway nearly doubled in September, Manila said this month. — AFP

NZ police seize 137kg of cocaine

WELLINGTON: New Zealand police have seized 137kg of cocaine, with an estimated street value of NZ\$40 million (about US\$22.7 million), from a shipping container in Auckland, reported Xinhua.

Police were called to a facility in south Auckland on Tuesday morning after staff became suspicious of several bags inside the container, Detective Inspector Karen Bright of the Counties Manukau Criminal Investigation Branch said in a

statement on Wednesday.

Police found 137 individual bricks of cocaine concealed in several bags, along with two Glock pistols, ammunition magazines and about 200 rounds of ammunition, Bright said.

She added that the cocaine seizure represented an estimated 1.37 million doses.

The shipment arrived from the Netherlands via Balboa, police said, adding that further inquiries were underway. — Bernama-Xinhua

Two hundred 'Cruise for life' passengers stranded in Cambodia

SIHANOUKVILLE, Cambodia:

Around 200 passengers who paid to live on a cruise ship while travelling the world were abruptly left in a Cambodian port after the company ran out of money, an official said on Wednesday.

US-based operator Villa Vie Residences announced on Tuesday it had "suspended operations in Cambodia" as it worked to address "extraordinary increases" in fuel costs following the Iran war.

The 200-metre Odyssey left Northern Ireland in October 2024 for a continuous voyage for which residents could buy or rent rooms for a holiday or for life – some passengers selling everything they had to pay for it.

However, passengers were given just seven hours to pack their bags and leave during a scheduled stop in the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville, according to Long Dimanche, deputy governor of Preah Sihanouk province.

He said in a statement 203 guests and 156 crew had arrived aboard the Bahamas-flagged ship from Thailand on Oct 23, and had been due to go on to Vietnam.

"The sudden order to disembark has left many retirees and remote workers homeless thousands of miles from their home countries," he said.

Some passengers took flights out while others remained in the city, he said, adding that the ship itself was due to refuel and leave

on Oct 31.

Randy Cassingham, a passenger on board who runs a cruise blog, wrote that the disembarkation order followed a "cascade of problems".

Under a post entitled 'Abandon Ship!', he said its Belfast launch was delayed by four months, while the ship never reached its capacity of 650 residents, peaking at around 350.

He said it was not a "luxury" ship but affordable – until the company started "begging for money".

Villa Vie said in its statement per-cabin monthly fuel expenses had gone from an average of US\$1,800 to an estimated US\$6,000 to US\$8,000 in parts of Asia.

"The company cannot simply pass increases of that scale on to residents, and the resulting shortfall has placed its current operating model under unsustainable financial pressure," it said.

Cassingham accused the company of doing "absolutely nothing to help" stranded passengers.

Villa Vie said it was "working with residents to coordinate disembarkation and identify temporary living arrangements".

"Villa Vie Residences recognises that this is a difficult and disruptive period for residents, crew members, and employees, and is working to support those affected as plans develop," it said. — AFP



Passengers walking down from Villa Vie Residences' cruise ship Odyssey as it is docked at Sihanoukville port in Preah Sihanouk province. — AFP photo

Asean special envoy leads humanitarian mission to Myanmar

MANILA: Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma Theresa Lazaro is leading the Asean humanitarian mission to Myanmar to help expand access to areas needing assistance, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported, citing the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Wednesday.

DFA spokesperson for Asean Affairs Dax Imperial said Lazaro will visit Shan State and hold meetings in Nay Pyi Taw from Oct 28 to 29 as the bloc seeks to advance humanitarian efforts in the conflict-hit country.

Imperial said there were no details on a possible meeting between Lazaro and detained Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"No details on such a meeting. For now, what we have is the humanitarian mission in Shan State and engagements in Nay Pyi Taw," Imperial said.

The mission comes as Asean presses for progress on its 2021 Five-Point Consensus, which calls for an end to violence, inclusive national dialogue and the delivery of humanitarian assistance without discrimination.

Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow expressed hope that Lazaro would make progress that she could report to Asean foreign ministers ahead of the bloc's upcoming leaders' summit in Manila.

"She is going there as the Asean special envoy, and we hope that there'll be good progress and some progress for her to report on when the Asean foreign ministers meet in Manila prior to the Asean Summit," Sihasak was quoted by Channel News Asia.

The mission is in partnership with the Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) based in Jakarta and is joined by representatives from Asean Missions and Japan based in Yangon.

The delegation will visit designated sites in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State on Oct. 28, kicking off the monthlong distribution of humanitarian support to communities in Kayin State, Southern Shan State, and Northern Shan State.

The AHA Centre and its implementing partner, the



Lazaro (centre) shaking hands with a man during an Asean humanitarian monitoring mission to support affected and displaced communities in Taunggyi, southern Shan State. — AFP photo

Myanmar Red Cross Society, will continue the delivery of food and essential non-food items to

affected communities through November 2026.

Overall, the operation is

expected to reach more than 11,000 households through the distribution of 50-kilogram bags

of rice, family kits, and personal hygiene kits.

This mission marks AHA Centre's first delivery of humanitarian assistance in Northern Shan State, focusing on areas it has not previously reached.

On top of the humanitarian visit, Lazaro will lead the symbolic handover of a religious building, as well as the distribution of school kits to prefabricated school buildings built through contributions from the Philippines following an earthquake that severely affected central Myanmar in 2025.

"As Asean Chair, the Philippines has placed humanitarian assistance among its priorities on Myanmar."

"This humanitarian mission forms part of Secretary Lazaro's regional engagements that bring together several Myanmar stakeholders, including Myanmar authorities, representatives of Asean Member States and Dialogue Partners, and humanitarian actors in Myanmar," said the Department of Foreign Affairs. — Bernama-PNA

Cyclone Arnab lashes India coast, no deaths reported

KAKINADA, India: Ferocious winds and torrential rain lashed India's southeastern coast after a cyclone made landfall on Wednesday, but officials said there were no initial reports of deaths and the storm later began to ease.

Cyclone Arnab hit southeastern Andhra Pradesh state as a "very severe cyclonic storm", with winds of 125-135 kilometres per hour and gusts reaching 150 kph in the early hours of Wednesday morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Torrential rain was recorded – as much as 30 centimetres in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states, IMD said, with the storm due to weaken into a "deep depression" throughout Wednesday afternoon.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said there had been no reported deaths from the storm, congratulating government officers who had "worked tirelessly throughout the night".

Naidu "expressed satisfaction that no loss of life occurred due to the proactive measures taken", his office said in a statement.

"We are making every possible effort to minimise the impact of the cyclone ... and restore normalcy at the earliest," Naidu added.

Around 50,000 people were told to move to safer areas in Andhra Pradesh and another 48,000 in neighbouring Odisha.

"Our homes get flooded, and we have to stay in the water," said Rajeshwari, 65, who gave only one name and had been taken to a government-run shelter near Kakinada.

Overnight, gales battered



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel gathering near houses damaged by uprooted trees after Cyclone Arnab's landfall in Yanam, in India's Puducherry. — AFP photo

Thank God, there was not as much damage this time. The sea is very rough, several trees have fallen, and sheds and hoardings have been damaged.

Hussain

trees and heavy rain lashed the port city of Kakinada, close to the heart of the storm, as powerful waves crashed ashore. Residents on Wednesday emerged onto flooded streets to what appeared to be limited damage in the city.

Emergency officials were also busy clearing uprooted trees and other debris from affected roads in the coastal region.

"Thank God, there was not as much damage this time," said businessman Hussain, 43, who

uses one name.

"The sea is very rough, several trees have fallen, and sheds and hoardings have been damaged."

Sadiq, 40, a Kakinanda city resident, told AFP that the situation had become "very dangerous" on Tuesday night, but early warnings from authorities had helped people prepare.

"Many people locked their houses and moved to safer places", he said.

Cyclones, called hurricanes

in the North Atlantic and typhoons in the Pacific, are a regular menace in the Bay of Bengal and northern Indian Ocean.

The storm season, however, has been turbocharged by the El Nino weather phenomenon that has contributed to unprecedented warming.

Neighbouring Sri Lanka and Nepal had also issued warnings.

Nepal's disaster authority warned that the storm would move inland towards the Himalayas, bringing heavy rainfall and "a high risk of heavy snowfall, snowstorms and avalanches".

Nepal is still recovering from a catastrophic August 26 flood triggered by a glacial mountain collapse, which killed more than 1,400 people and left over 5,000 missing. — AFP



Australian mushroom murderer Erin Patterson will learn Friday if she has succeeded in overturning her conviction for killing three people with a poisoned beef Wellington lunch. — AFP file photo

Judges set to rule on Australian mushroom killer's appeal

SYDNEY: Australian mushroom murderer Erin Patterson will learn Friday if she has succeeded in overturning her conviction for killing three people with a poisoned beef Wellington lunch.

Patterson, 52, was found guilty last year of murdering her husband's parents and an elderly aunt in 2023 by serving them a beef-and-pastry meal laced with lethal death cap mushrooms.

A judge sentenced her to life imprisonment, eligible for parole after 33 years.

In August this year, her lawyers argued before the Court of Appeal in Melbourne that she had suffered a miscarriage of justice.

They alleged a litany of irregularities in the trial, including an "oppressive" cross-examination and unfair decisions on the admission of evidence.

Prosecutors also appealed, however, saying her 33-year non-parole period was "manifestly inadequate" – and she should never be allowed to walk free.

On Friday morning, the Court of Appeal will hand down its decision on both appeals, officials said.

On the conviction, the judges must decide whether there are

even grounds to give her leave to appeal.

If they agree to do so, the judges may dismiss the appeal or uphold it, in which case they may order a new trial or acquit her.

On her sentence, the court will either dismiss the prosecution's appeal or uphold it and re-sentence her. Patterson was not expected to attend in person.

Her trial last year drew podcasters, film crews and true crime fans to a courthouse in the rural town of Morwell, a sedate hamlet in Victoria better known for its prize-winning roses.

Audiences from New York to New Delhi followed every twist of what many now simply call the "mushroom murders".

The motive of the killings remains a mystery.

A 12-person jury found Patterson guilty in July last year of murdering her husband Simon's parents, Don and Gail Patterson, as well as his aunt, Heather Wilkinson, at her home in the Victorian farming village of Leongatha.

She was also found guilty of attempting to murder Heather's husband Ian, a pastor who fell gravely ill but eventually recovered. — AFP

Philippine drug war enforcer says bounty puts life in danger

MANILA: Ex-Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's top drug war enforcer said on Wednesday that a government bounty placed on his head put his life in "serious danger", and asked the Supreme Court to stop his arrest.

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have named sitting Senator Ronald 'Bato' Dela Rosa as one of eight "co-perpetrators" in the drug crackdown that killed thousands of drug suspects and drug users during the Duterte presidency.

The former national police chief has been in hiding since May, when officers attempted to serve an ICC warrant charging him with the crime against humanity of murder.

The Philippines designated him last week as an "armed and dangerous" fugitive, offered a 50 million-peso (US\$786,000) reward for his capture, and formed a police task force to find and detain him.

"In law enforcement practice, the designation signals to operating units that armed resistance should be anticipated, which is precisely the setting in which lethal force is most likely to be used," Dela Rosa said in a Supreme Court filing that he posted on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

"Coupled with a bounty and a declaration abandoning restraint, the designation places Petitioner Dela Rosa's right to life in present and serious danger," the 64-year-old said.

He asked the court to prevent



File photo shows Dela Rosa talking to the media during an interview at the Senate of the Philippines in Pasay, Metro Manila. Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's top drug war enforcer said on Wednesday that a government bounty placed on his head put his life in "serious danger", and asked the Supreme Court to stop his arrest. — AFP photo

law enforcement officers from arresting him and to block his surrender to the ICC.

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla welcomed the court filing, calling it "his right as a Filipino citizen", before accusing the former top policeman of employing a double standard.

"Sadly, he did not afford the same rights to the thousands killed in the drug war. They never had their day to prove their innocence nor be proven guilty. He was judge, jury and executioner," Remulla said.

Dela Rosa had ceased attending Senate sessions months before the ICC unsealed a November 2025 arrest warrant against him in May.

He emerged from months of hiding on May 11 to take refuge inside the Senate building, but slipped out days later following a standoff between security guards

and investigators attempting to arrest him during which shots were fired.

That same month, the Philippine Supreme Court rejected Dela Rosa's bid for a temporary restraining order to prevent his arrest.

It still has to rule on his petition to have the ICC arrest warrant against him declared illegal.

Duterte was arrested in Manila on March 11 last year and handed over to the ICC the following day.

The 81-year-old will stand trial on November 30 on charges of committing crimes against humanity during a crackdown on the drug trade.

Philippine police have said they killed more than 6,000 drug suspects in self-defence during Duterte's presidency from 2016 to 2022. — AFP

Afghan-Pakistan border clash kills one, injures five

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: A clash on the restive border between Afghanistan and Pakistan killed one person and injured five, Pakistan officials said Wednesday.

The countries went to war earlier this year and, with no permanent resolution reached on security issues, there have been sporadic attacks since a March truce.

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harbouring militants responsible for deadly attacks on its territory, an allegation the Taliban government in Afghanistan denies.

Homes and shops were targeted in the market town of

Angoor Adda during the cross-border fire from Afghanistan, according to the office of the deputy commissioner in Pakistan's South Waziristan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

It blamed the "unprovoked" attack on Afghanistan's Taliban authorities.

A senior administrative official in South Waziristan, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP the casualties were caused by mortar fire from Afghanistan.

Pakistani forces responded with a "brief operation targeting the Afghan side with artillery fire", targeting an

Afghan checkpoint, the official said.

They said they could not confirm any casualties on the Afghan side of the border.

A security official in Angoor Adda also confirmed the attack.

The governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Faisal Karim Kundi, condemned the "unprovoked and blatant aggression by the Afghan Taliban regime against civilian homes".

Hundreds of civilians have been killed in fighting between the two countries since October last year, according to figures from the United Nations' mission in Afghanistan. — AFP

Man charged with fraud over Bondi Beach shooting claim

SYDNEY: Australian police have charged a man with falsely claiming he was injured in a mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach in an attempt to gain financial compensation.

A father-and-son duo allegedly carried out the gun attack on a Jewish festival at the beach in December last year, killing 15 people and wounding dozens.

Detectives identified a 46-year-old man who allegedly made a false statement that he was injured in the Bondi

shooting and made subsequent fraudulent claims for compensation in the aftermath," New South Wales police said in a statement Wednesday.

Police said they arrested the man on Tuesday and charged him with publishing false and misleading material to obtain advantage.

He was given conditional bail, and is scheduled to appear in western Sydney's Parramatta Local Court on Nov 18.

One of the Bondi Beach gunmen, Sajid Akram, 50, was

shot and killed by police during the Dec 14 attack. An Indian national, he entered Australia on a visa in 1998.

His son Naveed, an Australian-born citizen, remains in custody facing a total of 78 charges including terrorism and 15 murders.

A Sydney court on Wednesday set Naveed Akram's committal hearing for Feb 24 next year, when he is set to appear by audio-video link from prison.

He has yet to enter a plea. — AFP

India vows swift action after India-born cheetah shot dead

NEW DELHI, India: India has vowed "swift action" after a cheetah was shot dead, the first such killing since the country began reintroducing the animals in 2022, the government said Wednesday.

The environment ministry said it had ordered a "high-level team for an on-ground investigation" into the shooting of the 19-month-old male, treating the incident

with "utmost gravity".

The India-born cheetah – whose mother was among those introduced to India from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa as part of efforts to restore the planet's fastest land animal – was shot as it prowled in forests outside a protected national park.

Asiatic cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952. The critically endangered subspecies,

once found across the Middle East, Central Asia and India, now survives in very small numbers in Iran.

Their African cousins were first reintroduced in September 2022 to India, to the Kuno National Park, 300 kilometres south of New Delhi.

The wounded cheetah was picked up on Sunday in forests in Madhya Pradesh state, outside

Kuno's boundaries, and taken for veterinary care.

"During the surgery, five firearm pellets were recovered from its body," the environment ministry said.

Despite efforts, the cheetah died on Tuesday.

"Medical examinations corroborated multiple internal injuries associated with the recovered firearm pellets," it

added.

The high-profile project, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been dogged by criticism over the deaths of several of the cats.

But experts in animal reintroductions say they often result in more than 50 percent mortality, especially in the initial phases.

The National Tiger Conservation

Authority, which oversees the cheetah project, said that survival rates and hunting successes are "comparable to other international cheetah reintroduction efforts, with recorded wild prey kills confirming successful adaptation to the Indian landscape".

The total cheetah population in the wild in India is around 60, including some 40 Indian-born cheetahs. — AFP

Netanyahu leads as Israeli votes counted

JERUSALEM: The camp of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was ahead of his rival's opposition bloc but still short of a majority on Wednesday after two-thirds of the votes were counted in Israel's pivotal general election.

Voters turned out in the highest numbers in decades to give their verdict on Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, who has pushed the country sharply to the right and unleashed a wave of wars in response to Hamas's Oct 7, 2023 attack.

Following the vote, both Netanyahu and his main rival Gadi Eisenkot vowed to form a government despite neither being projected to win a majority.

With 66 percent of ballots counted, Netanyahu's bloc was shown to have 54 of the 120 seats in the parliament.

Eisenkot's opposition bloc had 48 seats and the country's non-aligned Arab parties 18. The partial results are likely to change as more votes are

counted.

Exit polls had shown that Eisenkot, a former military chief and political novice, and his opposition bloc were neck-and-neck with Netanyahu's hard-right camp, with both winning about 51 seats, well away from the threshold for a majority.

The strongest gains went to Arab Israeli parties whose voters turned out in soaring numbers against Netanyahu, who has relentlessly warned that the minority would dilute the Jewish nationalist direction in which he has taken Israel.

The partial results suggest that Eisenkot's bloc would have enough seats for a majority if it entered into a coalition agreement with the Arab parties, something most of its members expressed reluctance to do on the campaign trail.

But Yair Golan, the head of Israel's main left-wing party, which is part of Eisenkot's camp, called for precisely that on Wednesday.

"We must no longer accept



Combo photo of Eisenkot (left) and Netanyahu. — AFP photo

Netanyahu's racist division between Jewish votes and Arab votes," he said on X.

"We have a responsibility. And we have an opportunity to form a government of change in partnership with Israel's Arab citizens."

Eisenkot had said during the campaign he would not govern with Israeli Arab lawmakers, echoing the position of Netanyahu, who has suggested a government relying on Arab votes would lack legitimacy.

Arab lawmakers could also give Eisenkot support in parliamentary votes on an ad hoc

basis, enabling him to maintain a minority government without joining a coalition.

A lack of clear majority for either camp could mean weeks spent trying to cobble together coalitions, with possible new elections on the horizon if negotiations fail.

A stalemate could in the immediate term benefit Netanyahu, who would remain caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed.

Full results are expected by Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Netanyahu, greeting cheering

supporters at a Jerusalem convention centre after 3am (0100 GMT) on Wednesday morning, called for a "strong government of the right" and said the "Jewish and Zionist majority must unite".

The 77-year-old prime minister, who has governed Israel on and off for nearly two decades, was unusually brief and did not directly claim victory.

US President Donald Trump claimed on Wednesday that his endorsement of Netanyahu had helped "a lot".

Speaking to supporters in Tel Aviv, 66-year-old Eisenkot issued a warning to Netanyahu, who observers say could use renewed war to push for a unity government.

"Netanyahu, don't you dare use Israel's security for your political needs," Eisenkot said.

He called Netanyahu "a caretaker prime minister, without a mandate or the people's trust".

The vote came as Israel faces increasing isolation on the world

stage, driven by the wars in Iran and Gaza, as well as soaring settlement construction and violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Eisenkot shares many of Netanyahu's views on security and has backed the Gaza offensive that has reduced the territory to rubble.

But he has vowed to create a more inclusive atmosphere inside Israel, repair its international standing and rein in violent West Bank settlers.

After a turnout of nearly 78 percent, the highest since 1999, Eisenkot said it would be a mistake to hold a second election and vowed to work "swiftly" to form a government.

"The public has voted for change," he said.

"A worthy leader would accept the people's vote of no confidence and announce his retirement from political life today."

Exit polls had shown Israeli Arab lists projected to win 18 or 19 seats, a sharp gain. — AFP



File photo shows a city hall employee removing a graffiti from the Bartholdi Fountain in Place des Terreaux, in Lyon after riots and looting occurred on the sidelines of nationwide cost-of-living demonstrations. The French parliament's upper house passed a bill Wednesday that would make protesters financially liable for damage caused during street demonstration. — AFP photo

French Senate passes bill to make protesters pay for unrest damage

PARIS, France: The French parliament's upper house passed a bill Wednesday that would make protesters financially liable for damage caused during street demonstrations, despite warnings from critics that it could curb the right to protest.

The bill was drafted in response to riots that followed Paris Saint-Germain's victory over Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League final in May.

But it has taken on added significance after weeks of protests over inequality and soaring prices culminated in some of the worst violence France has seen in years on Oct 17, when thousands of businesses across the country were damaged and looted.

The Senate passed an expanded version of the bill by 229 votes to 105, backed by a right-wing and centrist alliance which holds a majority.

The legislation has been sent to the National Assembly, which is split between France's political factions, for debate and voting.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, whom opinion polls place as the frontrunner to succeed Emmanuel Macron in next spring's presidential election, supports the legislation.

Speaking in parliament, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez stressed the "urgency" of responding to the damage and

scenes of chaos seen on Oct 17.

"We can no longer allow the vast majority of our fellow citizens to pay for a minority of vandals," he said.

Under the legislation, protesters could be ordered to pay up to 10,000 euros for damage caused during street demonstrations.

But critics argue that people who took no part in vandalism could nonetheless be held liable if they were deemed to have been associated with those responsible.

The bill introduces joint financial liability for anyone found to have "knowingly participated" in a group formed with the intent of carrying out acts of vandalism.

It would also apply to individuals who "voluntarily" continued to take part in a gathering likely to disrupt public order after two police dispersal warnings.

Welfare benefits and housing assistance could also be seized to help cover the cost of damages under the scheme, a provision that has drawn sharp criticism from left-wing parties and advocacy groups.

In the second reading, senators toughened the measure to include other social benefits such as the family supplement, back-to-school allowance and the employment bonus.

Left-wing lawmakers accused the government of an "authoritarian drift" at the expense of the freedom to demonstrate.

Communist senator Fabien Gay denounced what he called a "legal travesty that deliberately conflates protesters and rioters".

Green senator Melanie Vogel accused the government of responding to social demands with "collective punishment."

Supporters of the bill sought to reassure critics.

"We must not give the impression that this bill would criminalise a passer-by or a peaceful protester," said Olivier Bitz of the centre-right Horizons party.

The government has proposed introducing protest bans targeting the most violent individuals.

Late Tuesday, the Senate approved a bill allowing authorities to demand the rapid removal of social media content calling for "insurrection or taking up arms against the state".

"As we speak, there are calls circulating for next Saturday that are calls for insurrection. Those are the kinds of content we want to remove," the interior minister told senators.

Platforms would be required to remove such content within 24 hours, or they could face "blocking" or "delisting." — AFP

Defeated Bolsonaro on way to Ecuador after fleeing Brazil

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina: Defeated right-wing presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro was on his way to Ecuador after fleeing Brazil, Argentina's government said on Wednesday.

Bolsonaro, who lost Brazil's runoff election to incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Sunday, entered Argentina on Tuesday night before boarding a flight to Ecuador, the country's National Directorate of Migration said on X.

The 45-year-old entered Argentina "with valid travel documents and no legal impediment," it added, despite a court order banning his exit.

Bolsonaro, his wife and two daughters boarded "a private flight operated by the company Baires Fly S.A. bound for the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador," the government agency said.

According to data from the Flightradar24 website, the flight took off just after midnight (0300 GMT) on Wednesday from the Argentine town of Puerto Iguazu in the country's northeast.

Baires Fly did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

US media citing anonymous sources had earlier reported that Bolsonaro had arrived in the United States on Tuesday.

The US State Department said it would issue visas to Bolsonaro and his family but did not confirm their travel plans.

Brazil's Supreme Court banned



Flavio Bolsonaro

Bolsonaro from leaving the country and ordered him to hand over his passports.

He is under investigation for alleged corruption and money laundering, and with his election loss is also set to lose parliamentary immunity.

A police source told AFP that Bolsonaro's Brazilian and diplomatic passports had been canceled, but the senator has held Italian nationality since 2023, according to an Italian parliamentary document seen by AFP.

Reports of Bolsonaro's exit from Brazil came as a shock to his political camp.

"We still don't have any news about his whereabouts," Bolsonaro's campaign manager Rogerio Marinho told reporters in Brasilia on Tuesday.

"I received a text message from him this morning, where he said he would let some time pass today and then would talk with us, and that was it," he said.

"That was the only communication we had."

Iran president tells Putin region can solve problems without US

MOSCOW: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Tuesday that the Middle East can solve its problems without the involvement of the United States.

"I believe we are capable of resolving our problems in the region without relying on the United States," Pezeshkian said at a meeting with Putin on the sidelines of a summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow.

"Our trade is expanding and growing day by day. US actions in the region make it easier for us to move towards greater multilateralism and strengthen

our cooperation with you and other countries subject to unilateral US sanctions," he told Putin.

Putin said he discussed the war with Pezeshkian, expressing hope that the situation would improve.

"We spoke earlier, one-on-one, about the situation in the region – a situation that, undoubtedly, cannot help but cause concern," he said, adding that he hoped it would "evolve in a positive direction".

Pezeshkian said he was confident the will existed on both sides to expand cooperation in science, industry, culture, security and military affairs. — AFP

Africa Ebola outbreak passes 10,000 cases

KINSHASA: Africa's latest outbreak of Ebola has passed 10,000 confirmed cases, the vast majority of them in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Congolese health authorities said on Tuesday, with almost 5,000 fatalities.

According to the DRC's figures, 10,060 people have been infected and 4,887 have died since the virus was first detected in May in the vast central African country's deadliest outbreak in its history.

Cases have likewise been detected in Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, with the World Health Organization warning that Africa faces a "complex" task to contain an outbreak spanning the east, west and centre of the continent.

While some 2,684 have recovered from the virus in the DRC, the epidemic's fatality rate appears to be close to 50 percent, according to the Congolese National Institute of Public Health.

Among the many challenges facing the response is the lack of any approved vaccines or treatments for the rare Bundibugyo species of Ebola behind the epidemic.

After spreading under the radar for weeks, the virus was first detected in the northeastern Congolese province of Ituri, kicking off the DRC's 17th outbreak of the disease. — AFP



Handout photo released by Serbia's Interior Ministry shows the scene of an attack on a police officer guarding the Israeli embassy in Belgrade. — Photo by Handout / Serbian Ministry Of Interior Affairs / AFP

Serbian police kill attacker outside Israeli embassy

BELGRADE: Serbian police killed an attacker outside the Israeli embassy in Belgrade on Wednesday after an officer was targeted in a "terrorist attack", outgoing Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said.

"A minor whose identity has yet to be established ... attacked a member of the police with two knives while shouting 'Allahu Akbar'," Dacic said, also raising the terrorism threat to its highest level.

The interior ministry said in a statement the officer killed the attacker in self-defence but

suffered a minor knife wound to the face in the incident just after midnight early Wednesday morning.

Outside the embassy, AFP journalists saw heavily armed special police guarding its entrance and patrolling the street.

Dacic said security services had been monitoring the attacker, who was "known to be a supporter of the Islamic State" and was believed to be from the western city of Sabac.

"His Instagram profile

featured a black flag and the Islamic State emblem," he added.

Dacic said the terrorism threat level had been raised to its highest, or "red alert".

"This means tighter security checks and an increased police presence at sensitive sites, including infrastructure facilities and places where large crowds gather," he said.

Israel's foreign ministry confirmed in a post on X that no embassy personnel were injured and that it was investigating the incident. — AFP



Nad Zainal: Talent matters more than fame

PUTRAJAYA: Popularity may catapult an actor to fame overnight, but talent and work discipline ultimately determine whether they can remain relevant in the entertainment industry over the long term.

Actress Nad Zainal said recognition and fan attention alone were insufficient if performers failed to maintain professional work ethics, particularly on the filming set.

Nad, whose real name is Farah Nadia Zainal Abidin, said popularity could fade at any time, while talent backed by strong discipline could provide the foundation for a sustainable acting career.

“What matters is that we, as actors, understand the importance of discipline on set. We must not let popularity bring us down because it can disappear just like that.

“It is talent that allows us to remain relevant and sustain our careers,” she told reporters on the sidelines of the Seri Angkasa Awards 2026 (ASA2026) recently.

Commenting on claims that newcomers were more

interested in pursuing popularity than honing their acting skills, Nad said it would be unfair to generalise, as many young performers possessed natural talent.

She said the experiences of both herself and her husband, actor Ungku Ismail, when they first entered the industry showed that every actor had a different path to developing their abilities.

“Ungku did not attend acting classes like I did, but I believe he is talented. There are also other actors who have never attended acting classes but are equally talented,” she said.

The Best Actress in a Drama winner at the 2018 Screen Awards acknowledged that popularity and fan support continued to play an important role in an entertainer’s career.

However, she said receiving recognition from professional juries in the best acting categories brought a different kind of satisfaction, as performers were assessed based on the quality of their work.

“I have won in a popularity

category before, so I would not dismiss its importance. But how wonderful it would be to have our talent assessed by professional judges. Fans are important, but professional recognition is what every actor aspires to,” said Nad, who also won the Popular Female TV Actress award at the 2014 Berita Harian Popular Star Awards.

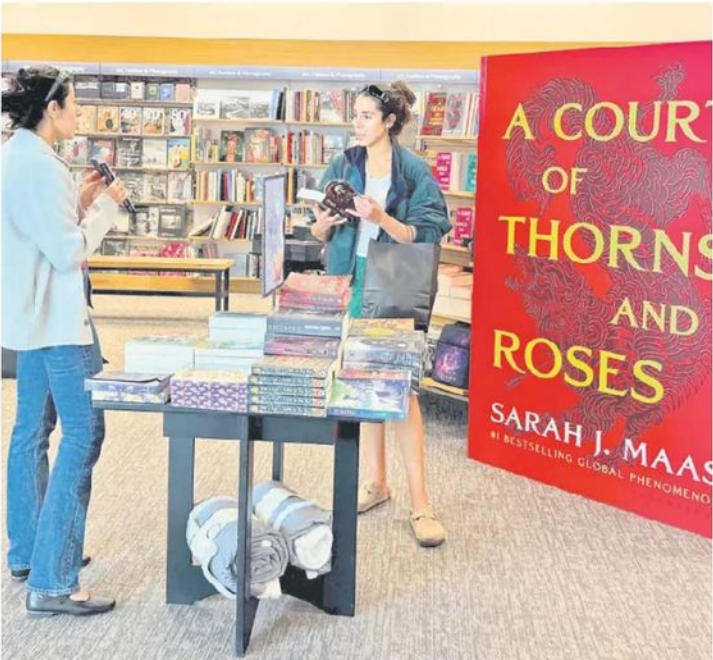
Nad was previously nominated for Best Supporting Actress in a TV Drama at ASA2026 for the telemovie Dosa Tak Terampun. The award went to Elizad Sharifuddin for Detik Waktu, broadcast on TV Okey.

She also achieved another milestone when she received her first-ever nomination for Best Actress at the 35th Malaysian Film Festival (FFM 35) for the film Denu, after nearly two decades in the acting industry.

In the category, Nad is competing against four other nominees: Mimi Lana for Polong, Sasha Abedul for Malam Terlarang, Aida Amron for Badak and Fish Liew for Pavane For An Infant. — Bernama



Nad Zainal and her husband Ungku Ismail speak to reporters on the sidelines of the Seri Angkasa Awards 2026 recently. — Bernama photo



Customers chat next to a large promotional display of Sarah J. Maas's book 'A Court of Thorns and Roses' at a bookstore in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photo

‘Faerie’ nights: ‘ACOTAR’ fans finally get their book

LOS ANGELES: Thousands of costumed fans lined up for Tuesday’s release of the sixth novel in Sarah J. Maas’s hit “A Court of Thorns and Roses” series, a leading force in the booming romantasy genre that is bolstering publishers’ bottom lines.

Waiting to get their hands on “A Court of Splintered Harmony,” readers thronged midnight parties at bookshops across the nation, including The Ripped Bodice in Los Angeles, where fans sporting “faerie” ears and wings took in performances by fire breathers and acrobats.

“To see the new one come out and have everyone around, this is really what we’ve been waiting for,” Taylor Capizola, the bookstore’s general manager, told AFP.

The series — known to fans by its acronym ‘ACOTAR’ — is one of the most successful in the romantasy genre — a heady combination of the swords-and-sorcery of ‘Game of Thrones’ and the breathless passions of Danielle Steel.

Maas, who has sold 75 million books in 40 languages, was the best-selling author in the United States in 2024.

“A Court of Thorns and Roses’ really is the backbone, is the foundation of this genre,” said Capizola.

Romantasy — a genre that also includes ‘The Fourth Wing’ series by Rebecca Yarros and ‘Quicksilver’ by Callie Hart — has been propelled by BookTok, the corner of TikTok where readers review and recommend titles in short videos.

But reviews are no longer enough for some fans.

With no film or series in sight since Hulu dropped its adaptation in 2025, some are

now using AI to make their own trailers and short episodes of ACOTAR, propelling the series’ heroine Feyre to an even bigger audience.

The Maas Effect

Tuesday’s release of ‘A Court of Splintered Harmony’ is expected to be good news for Bloomsbury — home also to the ‘Harry Potter’ series.

The publishing house will be looking for a bump to turn around a year that saw first half revenue slip five percent and adjusted pre-tax profit down 30 percent.

“Sarah J. Maas is a publishing phenomenon,” Bloomsbury founder and Executive Chairman Nigel Newton said in 2024, when her novels carried the company to record profits.

She’s also a durable one: the original ACOTAR — which first came out in 2015 — has now spent 92 consecutive weeks on the New York Times paperback bestsellers list.

Such is the demand for Maas’s latest installment that several translations are being released almost simultaneously.

The German edition also came out Tuesday, and several other translations follow Wednesday, including Spanish and French.

At the midnight party in Los Angeles, fans said they were ready to jump straight in — despite the novel’s hefty 350-page count.

“I imagine most people will read it at least once or twice by the weekend,” said Natalie Jean, 44, who co-hosts the Sarah J. Maas podcast “LNP Deep Dives.”

“I’ll buy all the merch and I’ll buy all the books, I’ll buy every edition,” laughed her co-host Jackie Zebrowski, 39.

“And I’ll love it.” — AFP

LOS ANGELES: Pierce Brosnan and Helen Mirren have found they quite enjoy mob life, as they embody the dangerous and volatile criminal boss couple Conrad and Maeve Harrigan in ‘MobLand’.

The second season of the series finds the Harrigans locked in a power struggle, as internal divisions and external adversaries threaten the family.

Brosnan’s Conrad is impulsive yet vulnerable, confronting his own mortality after receiving a brain condition diagnosis.

Maeve, meanwhile, is maneuvering to expand her own power.

The second season of the series, which co-stars Tom Hardy and is co-directed by Guy Ritchie, premiered in September.

“I’m having the time of my life,” Brosnan told AFP in an interview.

The former James Bond actor credits screenwriter Jez Butterworth for the ‘orchestration’ of his ‘clever’ plot development.

“He kind of picks elements of you, or your performance from the past, and uses it within the context of the drama,” Brosnan said.

To embody Conrad, 73-year-old Brosnan had a process: “You sit quietly with a cup of tea, and you read the script, and you read the script many times over.”

“And you just let your imagination run free.”

Mirren, meanwhile, said she embraced the freedom her character offered, infusing the



Mirren onstage during the Opening Night Gala Screening of ‘A Talent For Murder’ and Award Presentation during the 29th SCAD Savannah Film Festival in Savannah, Georgia. — AFP photo

role with her own personal touch.

The 81-year-old has played Queen Elizabeth, Alfred Hitchcock’s wife and collaborator Alma Reville, and more recently the author Patricia Highsmith in ‘A Talent for Murder.’

‘Kudrat 1968’ hits RM3m in advance sales as fan screenings sell out in minutes

KUALA LUMPUR: Kudrat 1968: High Council has raked in RM3 million in advance ticket sales ahead of its nationwide cinema release today.

Astro Shaw announced the milestone on its official social media platforms last night, following strong demand for the film’s special screenings.

Tickets for the Malam Manifesto Kudrat 1968 gala premiere on October 26 reportedly sold out in less than an hour, while those for special fan screenings on October 31 were snapped up within five minutes of going on sale.

Fans also took to Instagram to celebrate the RM3 million milestone, with some joking about their contributions to the film’s advance sales.

One fan commented, “I’m one of the people who contributed to that RM3 million!” while another said, “The tickets sold out so quickly, and I was lucky enough to be one of those who



Zarif Ghazzi as Abbas (right) and Akmal Asyraf as Piji in ‘Kudrat 1968: High Council’, which has recorded RM3 million in advance ticket sales ahead of its cinema release today. — Photo courtesy of Astro Shaw

got them.”

Another wrote, “Okay, I contributed by buying two tickets! Hahaha.

“If I have the money, I’ll go watch it again.”

When playing real-life figures, she said: “You have to behave like a sort of detective.”

The challenge is “to penetrate the psychology of a real person and reflect it as truthfully as possible,” she said.

But fictional roles offer greater creative freedom, she added.

“It’s fabulous for the person to be in your own imagination,” Mirren said.

Haunted

The second season of ‘MobLand’ sees Conrad take on new dimensions.

The family patriarch’s “mental acuity is definitely in doubt now,” Brosnan said, “and he’s haunted by the blood on his hands.”

“He’s haunted by the past,” added Mirren, an evolution of character which adds “great color” to the story.

The couple are ‘very violent and they’re very ambitious’ — until suddenly, “it’s going a little bit off-piste,” she added.

Brosnan said as filming continues, he’s become “more reflective” on what’s next for Conrad.

“You wonder... am I going to end up with some nurse in a bed somewhere on dialysis or something like this? I have no idea.”

Rumors have swirled about alleged tensions between Tom Hardy and the show’s producers, but Paramount+ confirmed last month that a third season is in the works, with Hardy, Brosnan and Mirren set to return to the cast. — AFP

Kudrat 1968 serves as a prequel to the acclaimed Project: High Council series, which debuted in 2023, and expands the franchise following Kahar: Kapla High Council.

The project adopts a two-format storytelling approach, with a four-episode series available on Astro and Netflix and a film serving as the story’s conclusion.

The film follows Abbas as he returns to Kudrat, only to discover that the school has been placed under lockdown by authorities following the discovery of a student’s death that had been concealed.

Its cast includes Zarif Ghazzi as Abbas, Mierul Aiman as Kuda, Akmal Asyraf as Piji, Dai Fuad as Pa, Everts Gomes as Ghafar and Chech Harith as Mazli.

Produced by Astro Shaw, Kudrat 1968: High Council opens in Malaysian cinemas on October 29. — Malay Mail

Noah Wyle named People’s Sexiest Man Alive 2026

KUALA LUMPUR: American actor Noah Wyle, best known for his roles in medical dramas ER and The Pitt, has been named People magazine’s Sexiest Man Alive for 2026 at the age of 55.

The announcement marks another milestone for the Emmy-winning actor, whose career has enjoyed a resurgence following the success of HBO’s The Pitt.

In an interview with People magazine, Wyle admitted that he initially struggled to believe he had been selected for the annual title.

“I thought that sounded like a prank — just not in a million years did I think that this would be an honor bestowed on me,” he said.

His wife, Sara, 46, eventually persuaded him to embrace the recognition, telling him that his character as a husband and father made him deserving of the honour.

“She thinks I’m a good guy and that the kind of person that I am and the kind of father I am, the kind of husband I am, is worth promoting,” he told the magazine.

Wyle joked that his wife was particularly pleased with

the announcement because it reflected positively on her choice of partner.

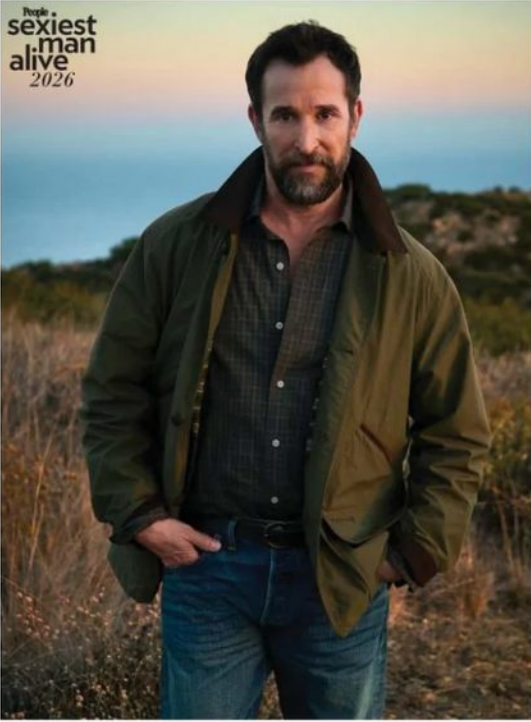
The actor, who has three children, Owen, 24, Auden, 21, and Frances, 11, also revealed that his family had reacted with a mixture of amusement and disbelief.

His son warned him that the publicity could attract criticism, while his older daughter was expected to tease him about the title for years to come.

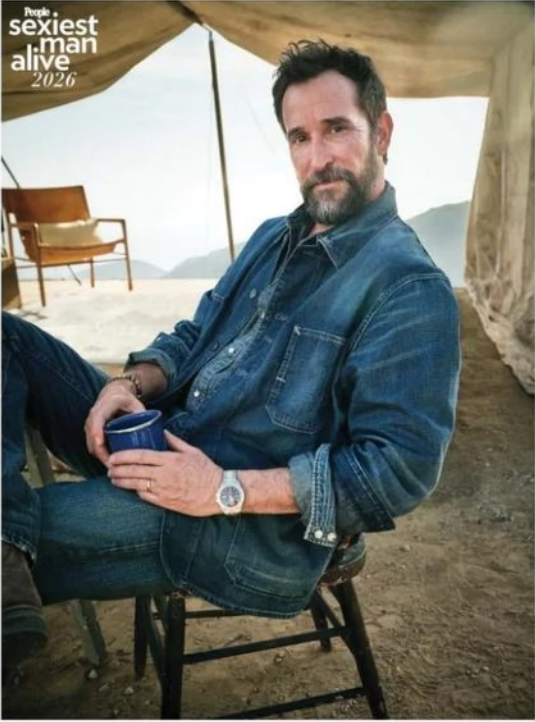
Wyle first rose to prominence in the 1990s as Dr John Carter in the long-running medical drama ER, appearing alongside George Clooney, who subsequently received People’s Sexiest Man Alive title twice.

More than three decades later, Wyle has found renewed success portraying Dr Michael “Robby” Robinavitch in The Pitt, a role that has earned him two consecutive Emmy Awards for outstanding lead actor in a drama series.

The series, which follows healthcare workers at a Pittsburgh emergency department, is scheduled to return for its third season in January 2027.



The Pitt’ actor Noah Wyle, 55, has been named People magazine’s Sexiest Man Alive for 2026. — Photo via Instagram/people



Reflecting on his career, Wyle said the success of The Pitt had allowed him to approach fame with greater maturity than when he first became a household name through ER.

Chinese-sponsored fashion show promotes Ethiopian culture, tourism

ADDIS ABABA: Face of Ethiopia, a Chinese company-sponsored fashion show, was successfully held on Sunday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with contestants showcasing and promoting rich cultures, heritages, traditions and tourist destinations of the East African country.

Twenty contestants competed at the final on Sunday, which was presented by the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism in collaboration with G-Power Manufacturing PLC, a Chinese-invested Ethiopian company specialized in clean and sustainable energy solutions.

“I feel great pride. I promise to promote my country’s cultures and tourism. I will make Ethiopia proud,” said Ruth Tewodros, 26, after being named as ‘Ethiopia Tourism Ambassador’ and winning a prize of 5 million birr

(about US\$30,500),outperforming over 5,000 contestants.

Ma Ning,chief executive officer of G-Power Manufacturing PLC, said his company has a vision of promoting the tourism sector in Ethiopia and creating more opportunities for Ethiopia-China cultural and tourism exchanges.

“We see a great opportunity to build a bridge between the two countries not only through business, technology, and energy, but also through culture and tourism,” Ma said.

“We want more Chinese visitors to discover Ethiopia beyond what they see online. We want African people to experience our history, our natural beauty, our food, our traditions, our music, and the warmth of our people,” Ma added.

Appreciating G-Power Manufacturing PLC for promoting Ethiopia’s culture

and tourism through digital means and entertainment, Endegen Abebe, Ethiopia’s state minister of culture and tourism, underscored the need for Ethiopia to follow suit and engage in image building and promote its rich culture through modern technologies.

The Face of Ethiopia fashion show aims to build the country’s image, promote its tourism, and showcase its cultural assets and rich history, Abebe said, urging the contestants to focus on community impact and humanitarian advocacy.

The East African nation, widely considered the cradle of humankind, is home to a dozen United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization World Heritage sites, recognized globally for their unique cultural and natural significance. — Xinhua



Penelope Cruz arrives for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ 14th Annual Governors Awards in Los Angeles. — AFP file photo

‘The Invite’ lands four nominations at Gotham Film Awards 2026

LOS ANGELES: Penelope Cruz, Rashida Jones and Sophie Okonedo are among the nominees at this year’s Gotham Film Awards.

“The Invite”, directed by Olivia Wilde with an all-star cast including Penelope, Seth Rogen and Edward Norton, is up for four awards at the prestigious ceremony, including a best supporting performance nod for the Spanish actress and best adapted screenplay for Rashida Jones and Will McCormack.

It will also compete in the best feature category, but faces tough competition from ‘Clarissa’, ‘Club Kid, The Debut’, ‘Dreams in Nightmares’, ‘Josephine’, ‘Mouse’, ‘Paper Tiger’, ‘Primetime’, ‘Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma’ and ‘Your Mother Your Mother Your Mother’.

In addition, ‘The Invite’ is also up for the Audience Award, which returns to the ceremony after a six-year absence, and the winner is voted for by Gotham members - and is presented to a movie director and producer.

The other Audience Award

nominees are ‘Backrooms’, ‘La Bola Negra’, ‘The Drama’, ‘Michael’, ‘Obsession’, P’roject Hail Mary’ and ‘You Can See Everything’.

Meanwhile, “Tender Loving Care’ is up for best director and original screenplay for Mike Leigh and best supporting performance for Kate O’Flynn.

Sophie is among the nominees for the lead performance award, thanks to her role in ‘Clarissa’, while the film is also up for an adapted screenplay gong for Chuko Esiri and breakthrough performer for India Amarteifio.

Other notable nominees include ‘All of a Sudden’, which is up for best international feature, best adapted screenplay for Ryusuke Hamaguchi and best supporting performance for Tao Okamoto.

‘As La Gradiva’ is also up for best international feature, breakthrough performer for Colas Quignrd and breakthrough director for Marine Atlan, who is also nominated for best original screenplay alongside Anne Brouillet. — Bang Showbiz



A contestant presents herself at Face of Ethiopia, a Chinese company-sponsored fashion show, held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, on Oct 25. — Xinhua photo by Michael Tewelde

He also recalled how becoming a father changed his priorities, prompting him to leave ER because he wanted to spend more time with his children.

Despite his Hollywood success, Wyle described himself as a homebody who enjoys preparing breakfast for his family, exercising, reading and walking his dogs.

He also revealed that washing dishes was among his favourite household responsibilities, describing the activity as therapeutic.

“I am the dish maven. The sink is my domain,” he told People.

Speaking about his marriage, Wyle said humour played an important role in maintaining a strong relationship, particularly when dealing with life’s challenges.

He also credited Sara with understanding his emotions and knowing how to comfort him during difficult moments.

Looking back on his personal and professional journey, Wyle said he was especially grateful for his wife, children, parents, friends, colleagues and mentors. — Malay Mail



James Gunn

James Gunn hits back at critics of ‘individual stories’ in MCU

JAMES Gunn has defended the “individual stories” in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), hitting back at critics saying they aren’t as “meaningful” as ensemble movies.

The director responded to a social media follower listing James’ movies – including the newly-released Clayface – alongside a caption which read: “What is this building towards???”

James then wrote in response: “DCU is just an alternate universe; we can enter at any location or time and tell THAT story. I dislike the idea that individual stories aren’t meaningful unless they lead to something else.

People not understanding this is strange to me, because Star Wars has essentially been doing this for 50 years across movies, shows, games and books, admittedly without the tonal variety.”

James also said that there is “connectivity” between his films – such as the story from Superman extending from the first movie into the sequel Man of Tomorrow.

Speaking about the Superman follow-up, he said: “(It) contains many characters we’ve introduced in other stories.” “But that doesn’t mean those other stories only exist to set up what’s happening there.

“I would love people to be seeing Clayface because it’s a great, fun horror movie unto itself, not because of where else Clayface will show up three movies from now.” — Bang Showbiz

Dutch broadcaster pulls out of Eurovision over Israel ‘sensitivities’

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands will not participate in next year’s Eurovision Song Contest, its public broadcaster NPO said Tuesday, citing “sensitivities” over Israel’s participation.

The Dutch withdrawal is the latest in a series of boycotts from countries unhappy at Israel’s inclusion in the annual music festival, given its military campaign in Gaza sparked by the October 7 Hamas attacks.

“We have known for some time that Israel’s participation elicits various reactions in society and causes discussion and division,” said Jurre Bosman, NPO’s media director, in a statement.

“Therefore, after consultation with the Board of Broadcasters, the NPO has decided to forgo participation in 2027,” added Bosman.

The Dutch decision brings to an end a series of flip-flops over its participation, highlighting the divisive nature of the debate in the country and more broadly.

In August, the AVROTROS broadcaster, which selects the Dutch entry and broadcasts the show, had pulled out, saying the event can “no longer be considered neutral” given divisions over the Gaza war.

But a month later, NPO stepped in to replace AVROTROS, saying it would take on the responsibility, only to reverse course with its decision on Tuesday.

Jet de Ranitz, NPO’s executive chairman, acknowledged their decision would disappoint many Dutch Eurovision fans and stressed that the contest would still be aired on the public

channels.

However, De Ranitz said: “We must conclude that it is currently too early to participate in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2027.”

“Due to the sensitivities surrounding the themes currently at play, we have decided to take a step back for the time being,” added De Ranitz.

‘Bangaranga’

In August, organisers announced they were excluding any country involved in an armed conflict from hosting the competition.

But that has not prevented withdrawals, with Ireland already announcing they will not take part and the head of the Spanish public broadcaster also coming out in favour of a boycott.

Earlier this month, the Czech public broadcaster pulled out, but cited spending cuts as the reason.

Next year’s contest, the world’s biggest live televised music event, will take place on May 15 in Bulgaria’s Black Sea city of Burgas.

It will be the first time the Balkan nation has hosted the contest, coming after Bulgarian singer Darina Yotova, known as Dara, won this year’s contest in the Austrian capital Vienna with the catchy floor-filler “Bangaranga”.

Since its launch in 1955, Eurovision has become the ultimate pop platform, catapulting Swedish icons ABBA to worldwide fame, as well as boosting the likes of Celine Dion, Cliff Richard and Olivia Newton-

John.

The 2026 competition was watched by 131 million viewers, down 35 million from the year before after five countries boycotted it over Israel’s participation.

The Netherlands, Iceland, Spain, Ireland and Slovenia all pulled out of the 2026 contest – with the latter three refusing to broadcast the show at all.

The Dutch took part in the very first Eurovision Song Contest back in 1956, and have won on five occasions.

Their most recent winner was Duncan Laurence, whose song Arcade won the contest in 2019, going on to top charts globally.

It became the first Eurovision entry to reach one billion streams on Spotify, according to the Eurovision website.

The head of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which organises the show, said he was “deeply sorry” that the Netherlands would not be taking part.

“We understand their decision, and we respect the strength of feeling behind it in the Netherlands,” said Martin Green in a statement.

“At the same time, we believe the Eurovision Song Contest matters in a divided world.”

NPO’s Bosman said the broadcaster was still talking with the EBU about the future of the contest.

“We are convinced that the event can once again become a place of music and connection, where there is room to make societal themes open for discussion,” said Bosman. — AFP

Highlights

Late buying lifts Bursa Malaysia to close slightly higher

LATE buying in selected heavyweight stocks, particularly utility counters, lifted Bursa Malaysia to close marginally higher yesterday, in line with regional markets.

At 5pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) rose 2.02 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 1,613.87 from Tuesday's close of 1,611.85. The benchmark index opened 2.64 points higher at 1,614.49 and moved between 1,609.44 and 1,615.87 during the trading session.

The broader market was positive, with gainers outpacing losers 658 to 418, while 524 counters were unchanged, 1,267 untraded, and 104 suspended.

Turnover decreased to 3.16 billion units worth RM2.28 billion from Tuesday's 3.37 billion units worth RM3.10 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said regional markets were mostly firmer, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street, with strong semiconductor earnings reinforcing optimism over artificial intelligence demand. He said investors remained focused on the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and upcoming earnings from major technology companies.

"On the domestic front, we maintain our cautiously optimistic view, supported by resilient economic fundamentals and relatively attractive valuations."

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA)

Average Retail Prices Of Selected Commodities In Kuching (28 October 2026)

COMMODITIES

VEGETABLES Prices (RM/Kg)

Round Cabbage	6.00
Spinach	6.00
Chinese Mustard	10.00
Chinese Kale	10.00
Bean Sprout	3.00
Cucumber	7.25
6.45Brijjal	6.00
Local Tomato	6.00
Highland Tomato	9.50
Long Bean	9.75
French Bean	13.73
Lady's Finger	10.00
Loofah	6.00
Pumpkin	6.00
Bitter Gourd	10.00
Lembiding (Midin)	10.00
Old Ginger	8.23
Young Ginger	8.90
Red Chili (Kulai)	16.00
Red Chili (Local/Oil)	20.50
Shallot	8.50
Onion (Bombay)	4.00
Onion (Holland)	4.82
Garlic	7.50
Imported Potato	3.40
Imported Carrot	4.33
Grind Coconut	10.00
Seed Coconut	3.00
Santan	9.00

POULTRY	
Crossbred Male/Female	TU
Kampung Male/Female	TU
Standard Chicken	10.70
Super Chicken	12.50
Fresh Meat Local	65.00
Imported Meat	40.00

EGGS* RM/BIJI	
Chicken Egg - Grade A*	0.56
- Grade B*	0.56
- Grade C*	0.54
- Salted Egg*	1.20

FRUITS* (RM/KG)/(RM/BIJI)	
Papaya	5.50
Exotica Papaya	5.25
Watermelon	5.47
Guava	6.63
Starfruits 10	4.88
Orange (Local)	4.68
Mas Bananas	6.17
Embut Bananas	2.50
Rastali Bananas	4.38
Honey Dew	6.85
Sarawak Pineapple	3.50

* Prices collected at Medan Niaga Satok

PPI up 12 per cent in September

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Producer Price Index (PPI) increased by 12.0 per cent in September 2026, from 10.7 per cent in August 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

On an annual basis, DOSM said among the main sectors in PPI, mining recorded a substantial increase of 54.1 per cent in September 2026, compared with 41.2 per cent in the previous month.

"This was primarily driven by the extraction of crude petroleum, which increased by 74.2 per cent," it said in its PPI Local Production report for

September 2026.

The PPI measures changes in the prices domestic producers receive for their goods and services, before they reach consumers.

DOSM said the manufacturing sector increased by 9.4 per cent, from 8.8 per cent in August 2026, mainly contributed by the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (35.0 per cent) and the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (12.9 per cent).

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector rose moderately

by 2.9 per cent, from 4.6 per cent in the preceding month, with animal production up 11.9 per cent.

The utility sectors also recorded increases, with electricity and gas supply and water supply rising by 5.5 per cent and 3.2 per cent, respectively," it said.

On a month-on-month basis, the PPI Local Production rose 1.6 per cent in September 2026, up from 1.0 per cent in August 2026.

The mining sector recorded a 10.3 per cent increase (August 2026: 6.7 per cent), driven by the extraction of crude petroleum

index (13.6 per cent).

The PPI local production increased by 10.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2026, from a 7.4 per cent increase in the previous quarter; the increase was contributed by all sectors, particularly mining (41.9 per cent) and manufacturing (8.8 per cent) sectors.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the PPI increased by 2.8 per cent, slower than a 6.8 per cent increase in the second quarter of 2026, mainly supported by the manufacturing sector (3.6 per cent). — Bernama

SKA Capital valued at RM0.92, offering 114 pct upside from IPO price



Rachel Lau
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KUCHING: ACE Market-bound SKA Capital Bhd (SKA Capital) has been assigned a fair value (FV) of RM0.92 per share by researchers at MBSB Investment Bank Bhd (MBSB Research), representing a potential upside of 114 per cent from its initial public offering (IPO) price of RM0.43.

In its IPO note, the research house said SKA Capital's IPO price translates to a price-to-earnings ratio (PER) of eight times its forecast financial year 2027 (FY27F) core earnings, a 52.7 per cent discount to the average forward PER of its listed peers.

MBSB Research believes the valuation discount is relatively steep, given the group's exposure to Malaysia's growing power infrastructure sector and its expanding engineering capabilities.

"We believe SKA deserves to trade at parity with its peers, underpinned by its established track record in high-voltage substation engineering, expanding EPCC and underground utilities capabilities, and exposure to Malaysia's ongoing power infrastructure investment upcycle," it said.

MBSB Research derived its FV of RM0.92 by pegging FY27F earnings per share (EPS) of 5.4 sen to a PER of 17 times, broadly in line with the 16.9 times average of its peers.

The research house expects SKA Capital's core earnings to grow 61 per cent year on year (y-o-y) to RM48.3 million

in FY27, supported by existing contracts and new project wins.

Revenue is projected to increase 72.3 per cent to RM397.4 million, from an estimated RM230.6 million in FY26.

Its outstanding order book stands at RM402.7 million after subsidiary SKA Rekabina Sdn Bhd secured six Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) related distribution infrastructure contracts worth RM89.3 million from Ibrahim & Sons Engineering Sdn Bhd.

The works cover underground cable installation and the construction of distribution substations across Peninsular Malaysia.

About 78 per cent of the order book comprises underground utilities engineering projects, with substation engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) and civil and structural (C&S) works accounting for 11 per cent each.

MBSB Research estimates SKA Capital's tender book at RM1.5 billion to RM2 billion, with potential new contract wins of RM350 million in FY27 and RM400 million in FY28.

"We remain optimistic on SKA's order-book replenishment prospects, underpinned by TNB's RM42.8b approved capital expenditure under regulatory period 4 (RP4), alongside growing demand for power infrastructure to support the rapid expansion of data centres (DCs) and industrial developments," it said.

Of TNB's RM42.82 billion approved capital expenditure under RP4, RM15 billion is expected to be invested in 2027.

MBSB Research also highlighted DC as a growth driver, with TNB's pipeline reaching 61 projects requiring up to 8.35 gigawatts of electricity as at June 2026. Of these, 42 projects totalling 5.65 gigawatts had already been connected to the grid.

Moreover, SKA Capital's acquisition of a 70 per cent stake in Relteny Engineering Services Sdn Bhd in February 2025 expanded its capabilities into larger, integrated engineering contracts.

Its underground utilities segment has also gained traction, generating RM25.7 million in revenue in the first five months of FY26, compared with RM9.5 million for the whole of FY25. The segment accounted for 21.5 per cent of group revenue in the five-month period.

However, MBSB Research cautioned that earnings depend on continued contract wins and timely execution, with customer concentration, project delays and margin pressure posing risks.

SKA Capital is scheduled to list on Bursa Malaysia's ACE Market on Nov 11, offering 168.1 million new shares and 72.4 million existing shares at RM0.43 each.

The public issue is expected to raise RM72.3 million, of which RM32.7 million is earmarked for working capital, RM21 million for performance bonds, RM12.1 million for machinery and equipment, and RM6.5 million for listing expenses.

The group targets a dividend payout of at least 30 per cent of annual profit after tax, implying a forecast FY27 dividend yield of 3.7 per cent at the IPO price.

Safran's N. Sembilan facility produces 27 pct of global carbon brake discs

KUALA LUMPUR: Safran Group's carbon brake disc manufacturing facility in Sendayan, Negeri Sembilan, accounts for 27 per cent of its global production, underscoring the importance of the Malaysian operation within Safran's global manufacturing network.

Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) chief executive officer Datuk Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim Sikh Abdul Majid said the facility produces carbon brake discs for aircraft built by Airbus, Boeing and ATR.

"A brake disc produced in Sendayan will definitely end up on an aircraft flying anywhere in the world," he said in his speech at the expansion of Safran Landing Systems Malaysia Sdn Bhd's carbon brake disc manufacturing facility in Sendayan and the opening of its new wheels and brakes maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility yesterday.

He said the new MRO facility complements Safran's manufacturing operations in Negeri Sembilan, allowing the company to provide manufacturing and aftermarket services within the same ecosystem, close to Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

He said aerospace components require MRO several times throughout an aircraft's working life, allowing Malaysia to retain economic value for decades after the initial sale.

Sikh Shamsul said Malaysia is already the third-largest MRO player in the Asia-Pacific region and was targeting RM55 billion in aerospace revenue by 2030, while increasing its share of the global MRO market from four per cent to five per cent under the Malaysia Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030. — Bernama

TOP 20 GAINERS					
STOCK	L/DONE	LACP	BUY	SELL	CHANGE
NESTLE	168,400	9,888.0	9,428.0	9,798.0	+370.0
MPI	262,400	4,278.0	4,130.0	4,214.0	+84.0
HEIM	341,900	1,304.0	1,284.0	1,304.0	+30.0
VITROX	2,679,600	1,112.0	1,084.0	1,106.0	+24.0
SOP	535,800	551.0	525.0	550.0	+22.0
F&N	204,600	2,020.0	1,970.0	1,990.0	+22.0
CARLSBG	103,800	1,286.0	1,270.0	1,278.0	+18.0
YTLPOWR	12,277,200	527.0	512.0	527.0	+17.0
BUSCAP	19,092,300	102.0	87.0	101.0	+16.5
MI	7,200,100	708.0	683.0	690.0	+15.0
FAREAST	500	420.0	410.0	410.0	+15.0
UWC	3,770,300	765.0	750.0	759.0	+14.0
PMETAL	3,303,700	689.0	668.0	686.0	+14.0
SKYECHIP	2,896,600	280.0	269.0	280.0	+13.0
PEKAT	2,275,800	300.0	288.0	300.0	+12.0
PPB	59,100	898.0	878.0	892.0	+12.0
PERJAYA	1,109,500	353.0	338.0	351.0	+11.0
KOBAY	1,466,700	228.0	216.0	227.0	+11.0
SPRITZER	379,300	370.0	362.0	369.0	+11.0
FRONTKN	4,755,100	523.0	508.0	517.0	+11.0

TOP 20 LOSERS					
STOCK	L/DONE	LACP	BUY	SELL	CHANGE
UTDPLT	305,800	2,956.0	2,906.0	2,932.0	-38.0
HLIND	50,900	1,638.0	1,616.0	1,622.0	-28.0
VITROX-C34	800,000	15.0	15.0	15.0	-27.0
AYER	900	775.0	775.0	775.0	-25.0
HSI-CWYC	205,000	40.5	40.0	40.0	-21.0
WPRTS	4,842,600	710.0	685.0	688.0	-20.0
UWC-C32	400,000	23.5	23.0	23.5	-18.5
KLCC	279,500	830.0	814.0	814.0	-16.0
DUFU	8,665,300	326.0	296.0	301.0	-16.0
ECOSHOP	8,917,600	143.0	127.0	128.0	-15.0
GENTINGCAU1	260,100	6.0	6.0	6.0	-14.0
ITMAX	223,800	456.0	443.0	443.0	-14.0
MAXIS	4,830,700	366.0	346.0	351.0	-14.0
HENGYUAN-WA2	075,200	0.294.0	294.0	294.0	-13.0
HENGYUAN7	147,100	409.0	395.0	399.0	-12.0
ALLIANZ	18,500	1,942.0	1,920.0	1,924.0	-12.0
LPI	122,900	1,320.0	1,306.0	1,308.0	-12.0
ECOSHOP-C150	000,000	3.0	3.0	3.0	-12.0
MBSB-C1C	20,000	3.5	3.5	3.5	-11.5
HIBSCS	5,113,300	239.0	230.0	231.0	-11.0

Closing Indices			
KLSE	FBMEMAS	12,067.00	(+27.71)
	FBWKLCI	1,613.87	(+2.02)
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS	443.18	(+1.35)
	INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	179.03	(+2.12)
	CONSTRUCTION	317.61	(+2.72)
	FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,579.24	(-21.79)
	ENERGY	846.37	(+0.63)
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	380.97	(+0.51)
	HEALTH CARE	1,587.69	(+1.93)
	TRANSPORTATION	1,020.96	(-1.30)
	PROPERTY	976.26	(-4.70)
	PLANTATION	8,646.83	(-7.43)
	FBMSHA	12,080.71	(+30.98)
	FBMAICE	5,481.92	(+63.29)
	TECHNOLOGY	76.82	(+1.38)

• S'PORE	STI	5,399.29	+2.26
• TOKYO	NIKKEI	63,954.19	+685.82
	TOPIX	3,991.71	-5.66
• HK	HANG SENG	23,094.83	+53.51
• AUST	ALL ORDS	8,971.40	+2.60

Commodities			
PEPPER			
Date: 28.10.2026			
* Average Pepper price (RM/tonne)			
SOUTHERN REGION			
	KUCHING	SERIAN	SRI AMAN
BLACK G1	24,210	24,710	24,000
WHITE G1	35,570	35,480	34,500
NORTHERN REGION			
	SARKEE	BINTANGOR	SIBU
BLACK G1	24,040	25,250	23,960
WHITE G1	35,440	36,250	34,400
Source: Malaysian Pepper Board http://www.mpb.gov.my			
COCOA			
Dealer's buying prices of dry cocoa beans (RM/MT)			
Centres in Sabah & Sarawak			
	SMC 1	SMC 2	
	High	Low	Avg
KUCHING	14,000	14,000	14,000
SARKEE	14,000	14,000	14,000
SIBU	14,000	14,000	14,000
TAWAU	14,500	14,500	14,500
TENOM	14,500	14,500	14,300
* Not Graded			
Source : Malaysian Cocoa Board			

Exchange Rates			
EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: Oct 28			
	SELLING	BUYING	BUYING
	TT/OD	TT	OD
1 US Dollar	4.1600	4.0140	4.0040
1 Australian Dollar	2.9430	2.8250	2.8090
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2400	3.1390	3.1310
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9540	2.8710	2.8590
1 Euro	4.6240	4.4740	4.4540
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.3680	2.2800	2.2640
1 Papua N Guinea Kina	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2400	3.1390	3.1310
1 Sterling Pound	5.5300	5.3540	5.3340
1 Swiss Franc	5.0400	4.8250	4.8100
100 UAE Dirham	114.2900	108.3700	108.1700
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.4120	3.1800	2.9800
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.6600	60.0000	N/A
100 Danish Krone	63.4200	58.3500	58.1500
100 Hongkong Dollar	53.4600	50.7800	50.5800
100 Indian Rupee	4.4600	4.1400	3.9400
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0239	0.0211	0.0161
100 Japanese Yen	2.6520	2.5290	2.5190
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	45.6700	42.0100	41.8100
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5600	1.3900	1.1900
100 Philippine Peso	6.5900	6.2000	6.0000
100 Qatar Riyal	115.0800	109.2500	109.0500
100 Saudi Riyal	111.7700	106.1100	105.9100
100 South Africa Rand	25.8500	23.3500	23.1500
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3100	1.1500	0.9500
100 Swedish Krona	43.0300	39.1900	38.9900
100 Thai Baht	12.8200	11.3700	10.9700

Scoreboard				
	UP	DOWN	+/-	TRADED
CONSUMER PRODS & SERVICES	55	42	64	161
INDUSTRIAL PRODS & SERVICES	80	48	59	187
CONSTRUCTION	16	16	17	49
TECHNOLOGY	32	9	20	61
FINANCIAL SERVICES	9	13	8	30
PROPERTY	25	20	35	80
PLANTATION	11	16	8	35
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS	4	8	8	20
CLOSED END FUND	1	0	0	1
ENERGY	14	12	10	36
HEALTH CARE	7	8	6	21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS& MEDIA	5	6	5	16
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	7	7	8	22
UTILITIES	4	5	4	13
BUSINESS TRUST	0	0	1	1
STRCWARR	291	149	165	605
ACE-MKT	92	58	103	253
BOND&LOAN	1	0	0	1
ETF	4	0	3	7
LEAP-MKT	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	658	418	524	1,600

Berjaya Construction to undertake RM1.2 bln Sanglang Port development project

KUALA LUMPUR: Berjaya Construction Bhd is set to undertake the design-and-build works for the Sanglang Port development project in Perlis, which has an estimated total development cost of RM1.2 billion, including initial construction costs of RM675 million.

In a Bursa Malaysia filing yesterday, it said the scope of works will encompass procurement, design development, engineering and construction delivery.

It said Sanglang Port is a strategic maritime infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing the state's maritime connectivity.

The project will complement the recently completed logistics infrastructure comprising the Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Free Commercial Zone-Perlis Inland Port (PIP) and the Chuping Valley Industrial Area, said the group.

"Working in collaboration with Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd (Mutiara Perlis), the owner cum developer of PIP and Sanglang

Port, Berjaya Construction will leverage its technical expertise and project delivery capabilities to support the development of the Sanglang Port's infrastructure," it said.

Berjaya Construction said the proposed development comprises two multi-user terminals, a roll-on/roll-off (RORO) terminal and a general cargo terminal along the four-kilometre trestle with water depths of up to 11.9 metres.

The group said the master plan also provides for five key

maritime activities, including RORO operations, fisheries facilities, general cargo handling, an energy hub and multi-user facilities.

"The proposed facilities are expected to cater to fisheries and international tuna landings, commodities, petroleum-related cargo and liquefied petroleum gas activities.

"The RORO terminal is also intended to enhance maritime connectivity between Perlis and Langkawi by facilitating the movement of vehicles and goods,

with round-the-clock operations envisaged, thus spurring tourism-related activities in the surrounding areas," it said.

Meanwhile, Berjaya Property Bhd group chief executive officer Syed Ali Shahul Hameed said the Sanglang Port development project represents a significant opportunity to strengthen Perlis' maritime infrastructure, enhance regional connectivity and support the growth of trade and industry.

"Berjaya Construction is

committed to leveraging its engineering expertise and project delivery capabilities to support the development of quality infrastructure that delivers long-term value.

"Through close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, we look forward to contributing to a project that could strengthen Perlis' position in maritime trade, logistics and energy-related activities while creating new opportunities for businesses and communities," he said. — Bernama

Nuclear could add to Malaysia's low-carbon, reliable energy mix

SINGAPORE: Nuclear power could be a viable long-term addition to Malaysia's energy mix, complementing renewable energy to deliver a system that is low-carbon, environmentally sustainable, secure and reliable.

World Nuclear Association Senior Programme Lead, Climate, Dr Jonathan Cobb said developing the right energy mix required combining different energy sources rather than viewing renewables, fossil fuels and nuclear power as competing options.

"The fact that nuclear energy generates electricity around the clock, 24/7, securely and reliably, it's a great complement working together with renewables, particularly intermittent renewables," he told Bernama on the sidelines of the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2026.

He said the objective was to develop an optimal combination of energy sources to deliver an effective and affordable electricity system.

Nuclear Technologies Offer Flexibility, But Costs Must Be Assessed Holistically

Cobb said advances in nuclear technology had expanded the options available to countries with different electricity grid capacities, including Malaysia.

While conventional nuclear reactors typically generate 1,000 to 1,500 megawatts, small modular reactors could produce up to around 300 megawatts, while micro-modular reactors could generate as little as five megawatts.

"So, there is a nuclear technology that is suitable for every electricity grid," he said.

On competitiveness, Cobb said countries should assess the overall costs of electricity generation, including backup power and storage for intermittent renewable sources, as well as the environmental costs of fossil fuels, including carbon dioxide emissions and other air pollutants.

He said the aim was to determine the optimal combination of energy sources to deliver the most effective system at the lowest overall cost.



Cobb says advances in nuclear technology had expanded the options available to countries with different electricity grid capacities, including Malaysia. — AFP photo

Financing, Local Supply Chains Key To Economic Benefits

Meanwhile, Cobb said Malaysia could explore several financing arrangements for a nuclear programme, including government-to-government vendor agreements, build-own-operate agreements, direct state financing, regulated asset base (RAB) schemes and contracts for difference (CfD).

"The important thing really is to ensure that there's the appropriate allocation of financial risk in any project," he said, adding that proper risk allocation could help lower overall financing costs.

Beyond electricity generation, nuclear projects could create employment during construction and operation, including highly skilled jobs over the reactors' potentially long operating lifetimes.

Cobb said domestic companies could also benefit by supplying components for nuclear plants, provided they met the required codes and standards. Engaging local suppliers before construction would help them develop the necessary capabilities.

"When you build a nuclear plant, often this is a large infrastructure project, a lot of people involved, and that means you get a lot of capital input into local communities," he said, adding that spending by workers could support local businesses.

Policy, Institutional Readiness Crucial Before Commitment

Meanwhile, Cobb identified policy development, institutional and infrastructure readiness, and project and programme preparedness as critical requirements for countries considering nuclear power.

He said Malaysia had a head start through its decades-old research reactor, which had helped establish regulatory capabilities and scientific expertise in reactor operations. However, a successful programme would require a firm, long-term government commitment, an appropriate nuclear policy and legal framework, and a regulator capable of assessing reactor designs and overseeing commercial nuclear facilities.

He also stressed the importance of developing domestic manufacturing and supply-chain capabilities.

For countries planning multiple reactors, Cobb said nuclear development should be treated as a continuous programme rather than a one-off project, allowing skills and experience to be transferred between projects while helping reduce costs.

Nuclear Expansion Driven By Energy Security, Safety

Cobb said the global nuclear industry was experiencing an acceleration rather than simply

making a comeback, driven by environmental concerns and growing energy security risks arising from disruptions to fossil fuel supplies.

He said 39 countries had signed a pledge to triple nuclear capacity between 2020 and 2050.

Among the countries are China, the Netherlands, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Italy.

On nuclear power safety, Cobb said the industry had strengthened its focus following the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear accidents, with lessons learned helping improve plant resilience.

"Nuclear is a very safe form of generation. Safety is at the heart of nuclear culture.

"There is a great focus and safety. We should have safety in everything we do, not just nuclear energy," he said.

He said the public should also consider the benefits nuclear energy could offer, including affordable and reliable electricity supplies and reduced air pollution compared with fossil fuel generation.

"What nuclear can offer, I think, is the thing that people are actually interested in: securing clean supplies," he said, referring to its potential to provide affordable, reliable electricity while avoiding the air pollution associated with fossil fuel generation. — Bernama



Photo shows SSF Glenmarie flagship store.

SSF to acquire 13 acres of industrial land for RM42.47 million

KUCHING: Home products retailer SSF Home Group Bhd (SSF) is proposing to acquire three parcels of leasehold industrial land in Pulau Indah, Mukim Klang, Selangor, for RM42.47 million.

Its wholly-owned subsidiary, SSF Sdn Bhd, has entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with IFFCO Foods Sdn Bhd for the proposed acquisition, which covers approximately 52,611.13 square metres, or 13 acres, of land.

The proposed acquisition is intended to strengthen the group's warehousing and logistics capabilities, improve operational efficiency and support future business expansion.

The vacant land is designated for industrial use, with SSF planning to develop its own warehouse and distribution facilities to reduce reliance on rented premises.

The group expects the facilities to provide greater flexibility in managing its warehousing and distribution operations, while the land's location in Pulau Indah could support more efficient logistics and potential long-term cost savings.

SSF executive director Lok Kok Khong said the acquisition marked an important step in the group's next phase of growth.

"By developing our own warehouse and distribution facilities, we aim to increase our warehouse capacity and achieve long-term cost savings compared with renting.

"This investment is expected to enhance our operational efficiency and scalability, while strengthening our asset base and reducing our exposure to rising rental costs over time, providing a stronger foundation to support our future business expansion," he said.

The proposed acquisition will be funded through a combination of internally generated funds and bank borrowings, with the group having secured bank borrowings of up to 90 per cent of the purchase consideration.

Subject to the fulfilment of the sale and purchase agreement's terms, the acquisition is expected to be completed within four months.

The proposed acquisition is not expected to materially affect the group's earnings for the financial year ending June 30, 2027.

SSF said the acquisition would support its long-term growth strategy by strengthening its operational capabilities and providing greater flexibility and efficiency as it expands its business presence in Malaysia.

Bursa's 3Q net profit rises 10 pct to RM70.20 mln

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia Bhd's net profit rose 10 per cent to RM70.20 million in the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2026 (3Q26), from RM63.84 million a year earlier.

The increase was driven mainly by contributions from its securities, derivatives and Islamic markets, as well as data-related businesses, excluding the exchange holding company.

Revenue grew 20.3 per cent to RM216.41 million from RM179.90 million in the same quarter last year, the stock exchange operator said in an announcement yesterday.

It said the securities market recorded a segment profit of RM104.6 million, up 11.5 per cent from RM93.8 million in 3Q25, on higher operating revenue.

Trading revenue grew 15.3 per cent to RM90.9 million from RM78.9 million, supported by a 13.5 per cent increase in average daily trading value (ADV) for on-market trades and direct business transactions to RM3.2 billion from RM2.8 billion.

The derivatives market posted a segment profit of RM16.5



For the nine months ended Sept 30, 2026, Bursa Malaysia's net profit rose to RM214.81 million from RM189.32 million a year earlier, while revenue increased to RM641.46 million from RM536.86 million.

million, up 34.9 per cent from RM12.2 million a year earlier, also driven by higher operating revenue.

Trading revenue rose 32.6 per

cent to RM35.8 million from RM27.0 million, mainly due to an increase in the number of crude palm oil futures (FCPO) and FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI

Futures (FKLI) contracts traded.

The Islamic market returned to profitability, recording a segment profit of RM2.8 million compared with a loss of RM0.5

million a year earlier, mainly due to lower operating expenses.

The data business recorded a segment profit of RM15.1 million, up 1.2 per cent from RM15.0 million in 3Q25.

In contrast, the exchange holding company's segment loss widened to RM3.3 million from RM1.7 million, mainly due to higher staff costs and professional fees.

The other segment, which comprises a multi-environment product exchange, a debt fundraising platform for small and medium-sized companies, a bond-trading reporting platform and an offshore market exchange, recorded a narrower loss of RM1.8 million in 3Q26, compared with RM2.0 million a year earlier.

For the nine months ended Sept 30, 2026, Bursa Malaysia's net profit rose to RM214.81 million from RM189.32 million a year earlier, while revenue increased to RM641.46 million from RM536.86 million.

In a separate statement, chief executive officer Datuk Fadl Mohamed said the exchange

had maintained momentum across its markets in the first nine months of the year, supported by stronger trading activity, continued fundraising and encouraging investor participation.

He said the 47 initial public offerings (IPOs) during the period, alongside a 27.6 per cent increase in securities market ADV and 19.3 per cent growth in average daily derivatives contracts, reflected healthy market participation.

Looking ahead, he said the board would focus on enhancing market vibrancy and participation while investing in the resilience and reliability of the exchange's market infrastructure.

"Enhancements to the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI and FTSE Bursa Malaysia Mid 70 indices, MY Value Up and efforts to deepen regional and international market linkages, including between Malaysia and Hong Kong, are among the strategic initiatives we are pursuing towards this end," he added. — Bernama



Affin Bank's loan growth to exceed FY26 target



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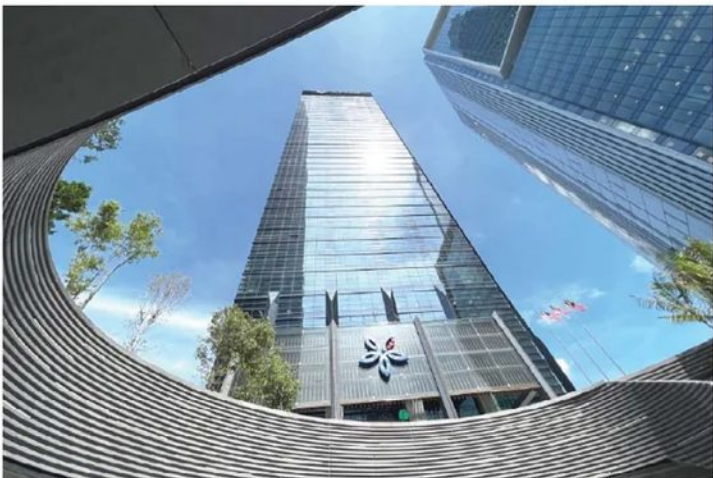
KUCHING: Affin Bank Bhd (Affin Bank) is expected to surpass its financial year 2026 (FY26) loan growth target, with expansion projected to reach around 12 per cent, but rising credit costs and persistent margin pressure could weigh on profitability.

In its company update, the research house at TA Securities Holdings Bhd (TA Research) said Affin Bank's management remained optimistic about its loan growth momentum, with the latest projection exceeding its original target of 10 per cent.

"Management indicated that loan growth remained robust through the third quarter (3Q), with FY26 growth expected to reach around 12 per cent, ahead of its original 10 per cent target," it said.

TA Securities also noted that the bank's existing loan pipeline appeared sufficient to sustain its current lending momentum through the remainder of the year.

While this is a positive development, TA Securities cautioned that the bank's profitability could remain under pressure from intensifying



TA Securities also noted that the bank's existing loan pipeline appeared sufficient to sustain its current lending momentum through the remainder of the year.

deposit competition, narrower net interest margins (NIM) and higher credit costs.

The research house highlighted growing repayment stress among retail borrowers, particularly lower-income households affected by rising living costs and energy prices.

Mortgages, hire purchase loans and credit cards were identified as areas of concern, while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were also facing weaker operating conditions and increasing competition from Chinese e-commerce platforms.

"Importantly, management

reaffirmed that the original FY26 credit cost guidance of 13 basis points (bps) may be understated, with expectations now shifting towards approximately 30bps, representing a 17bps upward revision," it said.

In response to the deteriorating credit environment, Affin Bank has tightened underwriting standards, strengthened collection efforts and adopted more granular credit analytics to identify vulnerable borrowers.

TA Securities said asset quality would remain a key area of focus in the bank's upcoming 3QFY26 results, particularly as

Management indicated that loan growth remained robust through the third quarter (3Q), with FY26 growth expected to reach around 12 per cent, ahead of its original 10 per cent target.

TA Securities Holdings Bhd

management anticipated higher demand for loan restructuring and rescheduling assistance in the second half of the year (2HFY26).

Nevertheless, the research house highlighted some encouraging developments in mortgage recoveries as the backlog of defaulted mortgage accounts awaiting auction resolution had declined to RM240 million from RM290 million in 2Q26, while recoveries increased to RM110 million from RM60 million.

These improvements could support a sequential recovery in the community banking segment's gross impaired loan (GIL) ratio in 3Q26, following its deterioration from 1.08 per cent to 1.19 per cent in 2QFY26.



Fadillah is seen during his winding up of the Supply Bill 2027 debate at policy stage for his ministry in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday. — Bernama photo

Govt prepared to re-engage with industry players on CRESS charge

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is prepared to re-engage with industry players to look at the possibility of improving the fee structure of the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (CRESS).

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said a system access charge (SAC) of 14 sen per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is borne by renewable energy developers, while a separate charge of four sen per kWh is paid by end-consumers of green energy.

Fadillah, who is also the Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, said the charge imposed on developers was initially set at 20 sen before being reduced to 14 sen following engagement sessions, while the four-sen charge imposed on end-users had already been in place before the announcement.

Confusion arose following media reports that combined the two charges into a single rate of 18 sen, he said when winding up the Supply Bill 2027 debate at policy stage for his ministry in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday.

Fadillah pointed out that the CRESS charge comprises three components: operation

and regulatory cost, market development cost, and system augmentation cost.

However, Yeo Bee Yin (DAP-Puchong), who interjected while Fadillah was explaining the matter, said the effective rate for electricity transmission under CRESS was, in fact, 18 sen per kWh.

Yeo said industry players had previously understood that the SAC was 14 sen until the Energy Commission gave a clarification on the combined SAC rate about two weeks ago, which disappointed them.

In response, Fadillah said the government has taken note of the concerns raised by industry players.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister said the Energy Commission is developing a comprehensive framework and guidelines on self-generation facilities, as well as the stipulated requirement for data centres to use at least 30 per cent renewable energy, as approved by the government.

He added that data centres are also encouraged to participate in CRESS to obtain green energy supplies directly. — Bernama

Malaysia calls for stronger global cooperation to ensure gas supply security

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has called for stronger international cooperation to ensure stable global gas markets and reliable energy supplies, emphasising that energy security is fundamental to industrial competitiveness, investment confidence and sustainable economic growth.

The Ministry of Economy said in a statement on Wednesday that natural gas is not merely a transition fuel, but a strategic pillar of energy security, industrial competitiveness and sustainable development for Malaysia.

As renewable energy deployment accelerates, natural gas will continue to provide the reliability and flexibility needed to support electricity systems and industrial activities, particularly amid rising energy demand across Asia and Asean, said the ministry.

"Against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, supply disruptions and price volatility, Malaysia emphasised the importance of market transparency, predictable policy frameworks and sustained investment across the natural gas value chain.

"Greater cooperation between



As renewable energy deployment accelerates, natural gas will continue to provide the reliability and flexibility needed to support electricity systems and industrial activities, particularly amid rising energy demand across Asia and Asean.

producers and consumers is essential to strengthening supply resilience and maintaining confidence in long-term energy investment," it said.

The ministry also said Malaysia reaffirmed the importance of deepening cooperation with members of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) and

observer countries in market intelligence, liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, infrastructure development and technology exchange.

This includes strengthening long-term energy cooperation with Russia based on reliable supply, commercial viability and mutual benefit.

"Malaysia remains committed to a pragmatic and balanced energy transition that safeguards energy security, affordability and environmental sustainability, to attract high-value investment, strengthening industrial productivity and sustaining long-term economic growth," it said. — Bernama

Penang, Johor, Selangor account for 80.5 pct of total September trade

KUALA LUMPUR: Penang, Johor and Selangor accounted for 80.5 per cent of Malaysia's total trade in September 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

In its Export-Import Statistics by State, September 2026 report released Wednesday, DOSM said Malaysia's total trade amounted to RM396.5 billion, comprising exports of RM215.1 billion and imports of RM181.4 billion.

"Penang remained the leading exporting state, accounting for 52.6 per cent of Malaysia's total exports, followed by Johor (17.5 per cent), Selangor (11.7 per cent),

Sarawak (5.3 per cent) and Kuala Lumpur (3.3 per cent). Penang also accounted for the largest share of Malaysia's imports, at 35.3 per cent, followed by Johor (24.2 per cent), Selangor (19.5 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (6.8 per cent) and Kedah (4.3 per cent)," it said.

DOSM said exports rose by RM75.9 billion, or 54.5 per cent, to RM215.1 billion in September 2026 from the same month a year earlier.

The increase was driven by higher exports from Penang, which rose by RM55.5 billion, followed by Johor (RM10.2

billion), Selangor (RM4.1 billion), Sarawak (RM3.5 billion), Kuala Lumpur (RM2.1 billion) and Negeri Sembilan (RM707.7 million).

Exports also increased in Perak (RM641.8 million), Pahang (RM297.7 million), Labuan (RM133.1 million), Kedah (RM73.5 million) and Kelantan (RM61.2 million).

However, exports declined in Sabah (RM459.1 million), Terengganu (RM383.3 million), Melaka (RM91.7 million) and Perlis (RM20.1 million).

Meanwhile, imports rose by RM62.6 billion, or 52.7 per cent, in

September 2026 compared with the same month a year earlier.

The increase was led by Penang, where imports rose by RM37.2 billion, followed by Johor (RM15.2 billion), Selangor (RM5.6 billion), Kedah (RM2.1 billion), Perak (RM870.4 million), Pahang (RM574.1 million), Sarawak (RM521.4 million) and Negeri Sembilan (RM374.9 million).

Imports also increased in Melaka (RM134.0 million), Terengganu (RM101.4 million), Kuala Lumpur (RM85.8 million), Sabah (RM39.1 million), Kelantan (RM16.3 million) and Labuan (RM14.3 million). — Bernama

Vertex Material, Sky-Dweller ink US\$2.2 bln offtake agreement to expand into India

KUALA LUMPUR: Vertex Material, a Malaysian advanced materials company, has signed a 15-year offtake agreement valued at approximately US\$2.2 billion with US-based Sky-Dweller Construction LLC to expand their existing commercial partnership in the United States and Canada into India.

The agreement, involving Vertex Material's proprietary copper-composite products, provides a long-term commercial foundation for the company's planned manufacturing scale-up while expanding its reach into major international markets.

Vertex Material chief executive officer Chris Lai said

the agreement expands the geographical coverage of the company's existing distribution arrangement with Sky-Dweller, which previously covered the US and Canada.

"With this expansion into India, we will cover most of the major economies in terms of our customer base," he said at the

press conference in conjunction of its signing ceremony between Vertex Material and Aurelius Materials here yesterday.

Sky-Dweller, part of Aurelius Materials, is a US-based construction and materials-supply company involved in commercial, residential and industrial construction,

strategic procurement, and the distribution of metals and specialised materials. In a separate statement, Vertex Material said the partnership combines its Malaysian materials-development capabilities with Sky-Dweller's commercial network, which supports customer relationships, specification matching and

international distribution.

Through Sky-Dweller's network, the partners aim to supply Vertex Material's copper-composite products for applications in industrial manufacturing, electrical and energy infrastructure, and electronics-related thermal management in India. — Bernama*