

Finding the best newspaper subscription deal is no longer an arduous task. Subscribe now to theSun, delivered to your doorstep.



SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE

**We are now a 7-day Paper**

starting from April 2025, featuring the latest news and trends.  
Get local, world, business, entertainment & sports stories in 32 Full Colour pages

## Police to quiz contractor over work near disaster site

Statements recorded from residents in probe into claims excavation work linked to incident.

Report on page 3

## 'My most terrifying day in Bangkok so far'

Malaysians recount moments when tremors from Myanmar quake rocked Thai capital.

Report on page 4

## Embrace AI upskilling to stay relevant, workers urged

Expert calls for collective effort to make artificial intelligence education more accessible and inclusive.

Report on page 5



**AFTERMATH ...** A lone firefighter cuts a sombre figure as he walks near a row of houses destroyed in the gas pipeline blaze. - REUTERSPIC

# Gas line jitters

Putra Heights inferno fuels concerns of residents living in close proximity to pipeline at condominium complex in Puchong.

Report on page 2



Nurhayati Ramli, a resident in Jalan Putra Harmoni is relieved that her cat was rescued from her home.  
— ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

## NGO coordinating efforts to help animals affected by blaze

BY DEEPAKSHMI MANICKAM  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**SUBANG:** Stray Animal Feeders of Malaysia (SAFM) has mobilised a coordinated effort to assist animals affected by the fire in Putra Heights.

Working alongside local authorities, the Fire and Rescue Department, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and veterinary clinics near the affected area, SAFM is ensuring that animals in distress receive necessary medical attention and food.

SAFM president R. Kalaivanan said although access to the restricted zone remains limited, the organisation is focusing on providing free first aid, treatment and pet food through its collaborating clinics.

"We are also working with local rescuers and feeders who are prepared to foster affected animals if needed.

"Every life matters, and by working together, the community can be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves."

Kalaivanan said public involvement is crucial, particularly in reporting lost or injured animals, which helps SAFM track and reunite pets with their owners.

He said at present, SAFM does not require financial aid or donations, but it will notify the public if additional resources are needed.

However, he added that SAFM needs the public to report sightings of affected animals.

This is not the first time SAFM has stepped up in disaster relief efforts. The organisation has been actively involved in flood relief operations across Malaysia, including in Taman Sri Muda, Hulu Langat, Johor, Terengganu, Kelantan and Pahang.

To facilitate free first aid and treatment for affected animals, SAFM is collaborating with several veterinary clinics.

Ministre' of Pets Veterinary Clinic in Putra Heights is offering medical care and free pet food, operating from 10am to 7pm, SubangVet SS14 is providing similar services from 10.30am to 10.30pm while Putra Heights Veterinary Clinic and Faith Veterinary Clinic and Surgery are both offering care and pet food from 10am to 6pm and 10am to 6.30pm respectively.

## Injured being treated at Serdang Hospital

**SERDANG:** Individuals hurt during the gas pipeline inferno and explosions in Putra Heights are being treated at the Serdang Hospital for burns and breathing complications.

The massive fire, which occurred at 8.10am on Tuesday, triggered a blaze and loud blasts that sent tremors through the surrounding area.

The inferno damaged many homes and vehicles, leaving residents in shock. Investigations into the cause of the fire are ongoing.

Khoo Poi Lai, 72, suffered severe burns on both her legs while her husband has been warded in

the intensive care unit due to inhalation of fumes.

Speaking to reporters at Serdang Hospital yesterday, Alex Khoo, 82, who was waiting to meet his sister, recounted the terrifying moments during the incident.

"She wanted to give up because the road was so hot, burning her legs. But her children dragged her out."

Alex described how the fire spread rapidly, leaving the family with nothing.

"They lost everything — their house, car, furniture. There was no time to pack anything."

Despite her injuries, Khoo is stable and has

been transferred to a ward in the hospital.

"The burns are severe. The road was so hot that even slippers melted," Alex said.

When asked about the government's announcement of immediate financial aid for victims, he welcomed the move.

"That's good. That's what they need right now."

As the family processes the tragedy, Alex said they are still uncertain about his sister's discharge.

"I haven't spoken to my sister yet, but they have lost everything and will need all the help they can get." — BY DEEPAKSHMI MANICKAM

# Residents staying near gas pipelines living in fear

➤ Anxiety, safety concerns high following massive Putra Heights fire that affected 364 individuals from 74 families, with numerous houses and vehicles damaged

BY KIRTINEE RAMESH  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** The massive blaze in Putra Heights on Tuesday has heightened fears among Klang Valley residents, particularly those living near gas pipelines.

The large fire that erupted along a Petronas gas pipeline affected 364 people from 74 families and damaged 237 houses and 225 vehicles in the residential area.

The flames from the fire were exceptionally high, with the orange glow visible from several kilometres away.

At Koi Prima, a high-rise condominium complex in Jalan Pinggiran Mas, Puchong, residents are worried about a similar gas pipeline located close to their homes.

Residents of the complex, which consists of 1,008 residential units, now fear for their safety following the tragic incident in Putra Heights located less than 14km away.

Gugan Ravi, 34, the general manager of a building maintenance company who lives in Koi Prima, expressed concern over the safety risks posed by the pipeline, which was laid last year.

"The gas pipeline is about 20m to 30m from our residence, with the valve station located about 100m away," he told *theSun*.

"We are worried about our safety and

traumatised even by the sound of thunderstorms," said Gugan.

He added that residents heard, at odd hours in February, sounds akin to gas being released, raising fears of potential gas leaks or malfunctions.

Gugan said further compounding their worries is the ongoing construction of another high-rise condominium within a 200m radius of the valve station, which would increase population density and raise additional safety questions.

He claimed residents had not been informed by the authorities or the property management company about the proximity of the pipeline or the safety measures in place.

"The integrity of our building is now a major concern. New and existing tenants alike remain unaware of emergency protocols and inspections necessary to ensure safety.

"Our priority as residents is safety. Living near a gas pipeline requires strict safety measures and regular monitoring."

Gugan urged the authorities and the gas company to ensure proper safety protocols, including regular inspections, maintenance schedules and emergency response plans.

Another resident, Nagarajan Subramaniam, 43, emphasised that the gas distribution station, constructed last year, has been a major source of anxiety.



A Koi Prima resident taking a photo of the gas facility that is located close to the residential complex.  
— ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

"Since last year, when they started the distribution station construction, we have been very concerned about the safety of our residents.

"Apart from the fire hazard, we are also disturbed by the maintenance work being carried out at night."

He added that initially, residents were told that this would only take place during the commissioning stage, but continued nighttime activities and loud noises have left many frustrated and uneasy.

He said a lack of communication has also left many feeling vulnerable and uncertain about potential risks.

"The only visible pipeline marking is along the main road near Taman Mas.

"What we learnt from the Putra Heights incident is that pressure on the gas pipeline likely caused a weak point to burst, leading to the fire. Considering the situation around our condo, we are very worried."

Another concern is the presence of heavy vehicles passing near the condominium to a construction site nearby, which could put additional stress on the gas pipeline and the structural integrity of the buildings.

In addition, illegal dumping in the vicinity raises yet another safety issue, as the proximity of waste disposal to the pipeline could lead to unforeseen hazards.

"Authorities should provide clear information about the location and construction of pipelines. To prevent incidents, regular maintenance and monitoring are crucial," Nagarajan said.

As fears grow, Koi Prima residents are urging authorities and gas pipeline operators to take immediate action and implement safety measures to prevent untoward incidents.

## 'Ensure contractors adhere to safety protocols'

BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Developers must oversee the work being performed by their contractors at any approved project site to ensure compliance with safety protocols, said Subang Jaya City Council councillor Mohd Tarmizi Lazim.

"They should inspect all the works being carried at the location and make sure that their contractors abide by all safety rules and procedures," said Mohd Tarmizi, who is in charge of Taman Putra Heights and Kampung Bukit Lanchong.

He said there were no issues regarding the project, as it had gone through all necessary processes before it received approval and planning permission from the local authorities in 2022.

"The developer is building shophots at the site. We understand that the project has already reached 80% completion and the contractors are working on the infrastructure," he told *theSun*.

Kota Kemuning state assemblyman Preakas Sampunathan urged all parties to allow the authorities to complete their investigations before making any speculative comments.

Meanwhile, the Academy of Professors Malaysia Science, Technology and Innovation Cluster highlighted the need to protect the "right of way" for the pipeline.

"Maintaining the integrity of pipeline corridors requires ongoing public awareness, responsible land use practices and enforcement by relevant authorities."

## Ministry to give RM1,000 aid to staff, students affected by fire

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Education Ministry will provide RM1,000 in aid to its staff, teachers and students affected by yesterday's gas fire incident.

Its minister Fadhlina Sidek said as of yesterday morning, 107 teachers and students had been identified as affected, with four still receiving treatment in hospital.

She said the aid would be disbursed as soon as possible after all data had been collected and verified by the Selangor Education Department.

"The ministry's staff and students are among those

impacted by this incident, including our children from 23 schools in the area, so the ministry is taking full responsibility for their welfare.

"(The department) has also informed me that some of the victims have lost everything, everything has been completely destroyed. So I have also asked them to provide assistance in that regard.

"This aid will also be supported by Yayasan Guru Tun Hussein Onn and Yayasan Didik Negara," she said after visiting the victims at the relief centre at Putra Heights Mosque yesterday. — Bernama



Residents Adli Hafifi (left) and Muhammad Iqbal showing the damage to their motorcycles and helmets following the gas pipeline fire incident.

— ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

# Contractor to be quizzed in gas fire probe

Investigations ongoing as K9 and forensic teams assess site while residents from less affected areas allowed limited access

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Police will soon call in the contractor believed to have carried out development work near the site of the gas pipeline fire at Jalan Putra Harmoni in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya, on Tuesday after confirming their identity.

Subang Jaya police chief ACP Wan

Azlan Wan Mamat said no contractors have been summoned so far, as the identification and involvement of the parties are still being verified.

"Further action will be taken once the investigation is complete, including consulting local authorities and Petronas to verify whether a work

permit was issued," he said at the incident control post in Subang Jaya yesterday.

Wan Azlan also addressed widely shared social media claims that excavation work had caused the incident.

So far, police have recorded statements from victims receiving treatment at hospitals and temporary relief centres to assist with the ongoing investigations, Bernama reported.

In an update, Wan Azlan confirmed that small fires are still burning in several affected houses.

To manage the situation, the Fire and Rescue Department has deployed a fire engine with six personnel to monitor the area in case of further fires.

"(The department) will conduct a thorough assessment of the damage to the affected homes and remain on standby as there may be embers that could reignite the fire. We are working to ensure the fire does not spread to other houses," he said.

He added that, for now, only residents from less affected areas are allowed to return to retrieve essentials and important documents under

police escort.

"Residents in the more severely affected areas are asked to remain patient. We will provide updates as the situation progresses," he said.

Additionally, the K9 Unit and Forensic Investigation Unit from Bukit Aman are involved in assessing the site, focusing on criminal elements and ensuring the safety of residents' property with 24-hour monitoring.

Wan Azlan said according to Petronas monitoring, no gas had been detected in the pipeline involved as of 7am yesterday.



The situation at the site was fully under control, with the fire completely extinguished as at noon yesterday. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

## 20 agencies begin probe, safety checks at blast site

**SUBANG JAYA:** About 20 agencies will begin investigations and safety inspections at the site of the gas pipeline fire at Jalan Putra Harmoni, Putra Heights, Subang Jaya.

The agencies include the Royal Malaysia Police, Fire and Rescue Department (JBPM), Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), the Public Works Department, local government authorities and the district office.

Subang Jaya police chief ACP Wan Azlan Wan Mamat said Jalan Persiaran Harmoni was closed in stages as of this morning to facilitate the movement of security forces, but will be reopened in stages.

"A briefing will be held with all the agencies involved to conduct investigations and take

follow-up action at the scene," he said at the incident command post yesterday.

Meanwhile, JBPM director-general Datuk Nor Hisham Mohammad said his department had begun several key activities, including assessing damage to houses and vehicles affected by the gas pipeline explosion.

He said a team had been placed on standby to respond to any potential flare-ups.

"We will work with TNB to assess the electrical wiring situation, especially any exposed cables, to determine whether it is safe or if further action is needed to allow immediate reconstructions in the area," he said.

Nor Hisham said the department was also inspecting the structure of houses that were

burnt or damaged in the explosion to ensure residents' safety.

"If they are unsafe or dangerous, we may carry out demolition work, for example, removing roofs," he said.

He added that the department had mobilised teams from Malacca, Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur and JBPM headquarters to speed up investigations and help facilitate the return of affected residents to their homes as soon as possible.

A check by Bernama at the scene found dozens of affected residents had gathered as early as 7.30am yesterday to check on the status of their homes and await their turn to retrieve essential items and important documents.

## 'Construction project had received approval'

**PETALING JAYA:** The development project currently under way near the site of the underground gas pipeline fire on Tuesday had received approval from the local authorities.

Subang Jaya Mayor Datuk Amirul Aziz Abd Rahim said the project is not within Petronas' Right of Way (ROW) and was granted planning permission in 2022.

"The project went through the appropriate approval process, including obtaining permission from Petronas to use the ROW for the Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) route.

"In addition, the contractor involved is also among the panels approved by IWK and Petronas," he said at the site of the incident in Putra Heights yesterday.

Commenting on social media allegations linking the project to Tuesday's disaster, Amirul Aziz said no official response would be issued at this time as detailed investigations are still being conducted by Petronas, the police and relevant authorities.

"At this time, what is being spread on social media is not an official statement. We need to wait for the results of the investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire and explosion," he said.

Amirul Aziz also acknowledged that the project was initially scheduled for completion in December last year but was slightly delayed due to the process of obtaining the Certificate of Completion and Compliance.

"I am not sure about the exact cause of this delay as it is outside my jurisdiction. It may involve financial factors or others, but what is certain is that all approvals were obtained according to the prescribed procedures.

"The project complies with all the conditions and regulations set by the authorities," he said.

In the aftermath of the disaster, numerous allegations have circulated on social media regarding the cause of the gas pipeline explosion and fire at Jalan Putra Harmoni, Putra Heights.



# Malaysians in Bangkok recount tremor trauma

➤ Effects of Myanmar quake that claimed at least 20 lives described as worst in 28 years

**BANGKOK:** Malaysian residents in the Thai capital, especially those in high-rise buildings, were jolted by a powerful earthquake in Myanmar last Friday, leaving many in shock.

The powerful 7.7-magnitude quake struck Myanmar's Sagaing Region at around 1pm local time, followed by a second earthquake measuring 6.4 in magnitude, triggering tremors in Thailand.

Malaysian Dr Hwee Khim Boo, 63, said this was the first time she had encountered tremors after living in Bangkok for more than 30 years.

Hwee said when the tremors hit Bangkok, she was at work in her office in the Sam Phran district and did not immediately realise what

was happening.

"I was in my office on the second floor when all of a sudden, the table and the blinds started shaking. My first thought was: 'Am I having an episode of vertigo?'"

"Then I looked out through my glass door, and all of my employees had stood up. One of my staff members then asked me to evacuate as the building was shaking," she told Bernama when contacted recently.

Hwee, who is also chairman of the Malaysian-Thai Chamber of Commerce, said the tremors lasted over a minute and all employees gathered at a meeting point before a headcount was conducted, Bernama reported.

"Afterwards, I felt dizzy and had a headache until the next morning."

Chairman of Malaysians and Indians in Bangkok Dr Silva Kumar, who resides at the Shiva Tower in the Sukhumvit district, said the tremor was more intense than the one that struck Bangkok three years ago.

"In my 28 years in Bangkok, this was the worst. Three years ago, we felt a mild tremor, but it was nothing significant. This time, the

building we live in, which has a heavy and strongly built structure, swayed for about a minute.

"It was scary, unimaginable and we were unprepared. In fact, all the residents in my building felt the same," he said.

Another Malaysian, Ten Voon Teng, 72, who has lived in Thailand for 46 years, said it was the most terrifying day for him in Bangkok.

Ten said he realised that it was an earthquake when he saw wires swinging violently and began to feel dizzy.

"I have experienced earthquake tremors before, but the one last week was the worst because the entire city of Bangkok felt the tremors. We are grateful that no damage occurred to our double-storey house in Min Buri district. After inspecting our home, we decided to continue staying there," he said.

As of Tuesday, the tremors in Thailand's capital and had claimed at least 20 lives and injured 32.

Dozens remain missing at a construction site in the Chatuchak district near Bang Sue Grand Station, which collapsed.

## Aid payment hike lauded all round

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The increase in the amount of Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) assistance to RM2,100 compared with RM1,200 last year has been described as a "Syawal gift".

At a time when Muslims are still in the mood to celebrate Aidilfitri, a senior citizen recipient from Kelantan, Rosli Abd Ghani, 64, said the assistance credited on the second day of Hari Raya was a windfall.

"Alhamdulillah, this is the first time I have received Sara assistance and it will help cover my family's daily expenses, and also for the Aidilfitri festive season such as buying Raya cookies," he said.

In Terengganu, Sara recipient Zakaria Awang, 49, said the assistance would ease his financial burden as he has spent a lot of money for the Aidilfitri preparations.

Sara recipient from Malacca, Raziah Ismail, 32, considers the assistance she received as a great help in her daily expenses.

"As a housewife with four children in school, the (amount) eases the burden of daily expenses such as buying cooking oil and eggs," she said.

Many recipients described the amount of Sara assistance, which increased by 75% this year, as a tremendous boost to help them cover daily expenses as well as their children's schooling costs.

In Pahang, Mohd Badrul Rizaman Jusoh, 42, said the Sara initiative has provided benefits for heads of families like him, especially for the schooling expenses of his four children aged between seven and 16.

"The money received will also be used to buy oil and rice because these are the main needs of our family. I spend almost RM100 every month to buy these basic items," he said.

In Penang, recipient Mohd Hasbibollah Abdul, 48, said the Sara assistance he received has eased the burden on expenses for basic necessities such as rice, cooking oil and flour.

A housewife from Perlis, Robedah Nayan, 38, said she is happy with the increase in assistance, that eases the cost of family expenses borne by her husband, a lorry driver.

In Sarawak, Minjon Pawang, 67, who has been receiving Sara assistance since April last year, said the assistance she received was very helpful in easing the burden of personal expenses since the death of her husband in 2022.

Sara assistance recipient in Sabah, Frankey Geoffery, 50, also expressed appreciation to the Madani government, which he said was very concerned about helping the people, especially the needy.

The Finance Ministry on March 26 announced the expansion of the implementation of Sara to 5.4 million recipients starting April 1, an increase of almost eight times compared with the existing 700,000 recipients.

Apart from basic food, Sara credit can also be used to purchase personal hygiene items, medicines and school supplies. — Bernama

## Smart team recovers four bodies from rubble

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (Smart) has recovered four bodies from the rubble of an earthquake that hit the Sagaing region in Myanmar last week.

In a statement, the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) reported that the remains of a man and a woman were retrieved on Monday, while as of noon local time on Tuesday, the bodies of two more female victims had been recovered.

"The search and rescue operations are being carried out jointly with local rescue teams. Despite the extreme heat, the mission to (find) victims remains our top priority," Nadma said.

Tuesday marks the third day of deployment for Smart in its humanitarian mission and search-and-rescue (SAR) efforts in Myanmar. It is currently the only foreign SAR team operating in Sagaing.

According to Nadma, based on impact reports confirmed by Myanmar's Department of Disaster Management, the earthquake has killed 1,659 people and injured 3,535, while 284 are reported missing.

The safety of the 50 Smart personnel deployed in Sagaing remains a top priority, especially as there have been reports of ongoing airstrikes by the Myanmar military in conflict areas and the risk of landmines, particularly around temples.

"At present, the on-ground security risk is minimal, and the team's safety is continuously monitored by the Local Emergency Management Authorities and Myanmar police."

However, the team continues to face challenges, including aftershocks, which pose a potential hazard to personnel working under collapsed structures.



Members of Smart conducting SAR operations in the Sagaing region. — PIC COURTESY OF SMART

"Key logistical concerns include ensuring a steady supply of drinking water and fuel to sustain operations.

"Hygiene issues must also be given priority, especially after handling (human remains). Team members undergo decontamination after each operation, and adequate water supply is available for washing of clothing," Nadma added.

Mandalay, Bago, Magway, northeastern Shan State, Sagaing and Naypyidaw were among the worst-affected areas.

On Sunday, two Royal Malaysian Air Force A400M aircraft carrying Smart personnel landed at Naypyidaw International Airport. The team then travelled 270km overland to Sagaing to begin their SAR operations. — Bernama

## Report lodged over racist X posts

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Office of the National Unity Minister has lodged a report with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) regarding a racist and provocative statement on social media uploaded by an individual on platform X.

National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Dagang

wants the individual to be investigated and appropriate action taken in accordance with Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998.

"The National Unity Ministry is committed to ensuring the harmony and unity of Malaysians continues to be preserved. Therefore, any form

of statement or action that can undermine unity and fuel hatred is completely unacceptable.

"I would like to remind all parties to be more ethical in the use of social media and avoid any actions that could trigger racial and religious tensions," he said in a post on X.

Aaron also called for a joint rejection of any

form of extremism, provocation and slander that could affect the peace of the country.

X user @AmirRidhwann had earlier sent two posts, dated March 5 and 26, that were critical of the Indian community. But recent checks revealed the posts have been deleted. — Bernama

# Upskill to stay competitive, employees urged

► To thrive in artificial intelligence era, workers must adapt and move with the times: Expert

BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** The rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping Malaysia's workforce, unlocking new opportunities while also posing challenges for employees and businesses alike.

The question is no longer whether AI will transform jobs – it already has – but how Malaysia can ensure its workforce is ready to thrive in this new landscape.

TalentCorp Group CEO Thomas Mathew underscored the urgency of upskilling, stressing that AI is not about wholesale job replacement but job evolution.

"AI is not here to take away jobs, it's here to redefine them," he told *theSun*.

To stay ahead, Mathew said workers must equip themselves with relevant digital skills.

He also highlighted three industries in which AI is making the biggest impact – finance, manufacturing and services.

In these fields, automation and digital tools are transforming conventional jobs.

"In the financial sector, AI is already handling fraud detection, risk assessment and customer service automation.

"Banks and financial institutions are investing in AI-driven chatbots and machine learning-powered risk analysis, reducing reliance on conventional roles," he said.

Manufacturing – long at the forefront of automation – is also evolving, with AI-driven

robotics, enhancing efficiency and precision.

"Predictive maintenance, quality control and smart supply chains are the new reality.

"While manual labour is reduced, we're seeing rising demand for engineers, data scientists and AI specialists," he added.

In the services sector, AI is reshaping customer interactions, retail experiences and even healthcare.

"From virtual assistants to AI-assisted medical diagnostics, the transformation is undeniable.

"AI helps with early disease detection, but human doctors still interpret results and make the final call," he said.

Malaysia's trajectory mirrors global AI trends, with the World Economic Forum predicting that AI will displace 85 million jobs worldwide by this year, while simultaneously creating 97 million new roles.

Mathew emphasised that Malaysia is no exception.

"If we don't embrace AI upskilling and reskilling now, our workforce risks falling behind."

A recent report by the Statistics Department supports this, revealing a surge in demand for tech-centric roles such as data analysts, AI specialists, cybersecurity experts and digital marketers.

"Yes, certain traditional jobs may fade, but the future belongs to those willing to learn and adapt.

"The workforce must evolve alongside AI,

not be left behind by it," he said.

However, a significant obstacle remains – the digital divide.

Many workers, particularly in rural areas, still lack access to quality AI-related training and education.

"The key challenge is ensuring that upskilling opportunities are available to all Malaysians, not just those in urban centres," Mathew said.

This is where collaboration between government, industry and educational institutions is essential.

He said bridging this gap requires a collective effort to make AI education more accessible and inclusive.

TalentCorp has been working proactively to future-proof Malaysia's workforce, advocating continuous learning and skills development.

"But businesses must also step up, investing in their employees to ensure they aren't left behind in the AI revolution. The responsibility doesn't rest solely on the government.

"Employers must invest in their people's growth, fostering a culture of lifelong learning," he said.

The government has already introduced several initiatives to drive AI literacy, including incentives for businesses that upskill their workforce.

Despite the disruptions AI may bring, Mathew remains optimistic about Malaysia's ability to navigate the shift successfully.

"Malaysia has a young and dynamic workforce," he said.

With the right policies and mindset, he believes the country can harness the potential of AI for economic growth and job creation.

He said ultimately, AI should not be viewed as a threat but as a powerful tool to enhance productivity and spark innovation.

## Datuk Keramat Market set for redevelopment

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The infrastructure redevelopment crisis at the nearly 50-year-old Datuk Keramat Market is expected to be resolved soon as it has been listed as one of the potential sites identified for development through urban renewal.

A Bernama survey of the market, which was built on a former mining site and inaugurated in 1977 by then prime minister Tun Hussein Onn, found the premises now in a deteriorating state.

Despite its ageing condition, many stalls remain operational, selling fresh produce such as chicken and meat, kitchen essentials and offering tailoring services – making it a key hub for the local community.

One of the market's earliest traders, Shuhaili Abdul Shukur, 62, said the redevelopment should involve the Datuk Keramat Branch of the Federal Territory Malay Hawkers and Small Traders Association to preserve the market's traditional heritage design and features.

Shuhaili, who began by helping her parents sell meat at the market, said most traders supported upgrading efforts for improved safety and comfort.

However, she added that traders were concerned about being relocated to unsuitable sites.

She said they had been informed about the planned redevelopment, with work expected to begin this year.

"We were told that during the redevelopment process, more than 300 businesses operating at the market will be temporarily relocated to a nearby area," she said.

Meanwhile, a coconut milk trader, identified only as Tengku Ghazali, 63, expressed gratitude that the government was finally taking steps to improve the market's infrastructure, despite the high costs involved.

"If possible, we hope the modifications will retain the original heritage features of this market," he said. – Bernama

## Slight drop in dengue cases in Kelantan

**KOTA BHARU:** The number of dengue fever cases in Kelantan declined to 42 in Epidemiological Week 12, from March 16 to 22, compared with 45 cases the previous week.

State Health Department director Datuk Dr Zaini Hussin said no fatalities were recorded during the period.

"In Kota Bharu, 15 dengue cases were reported, followed by seven in Tanah Merah, six in Bachok, four in Pasir Puteh and three in Pasir Mas.

"Meanwhile, Gua Musang and Machang recorded two cases each, while Jeli, Kuala Krai and Tumpat reported one case each," he said yesterday.

He added that the cumulative number of dengue fever cases in Kelantan from Jan 1 to March 22 showed an increase of 3.5%, with 593 cases compared with 573 in the same period last year. – Bernama



Mohideen Abdul said the state government had implemented short-term measures such as sandbags to reduce erosion, but the problem persists. – MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

## Batu Ferringhi facing acute coastal erosion problem

**GEORGE TOWN:** Batu Ferringhi, a renowned tourist destination in Penang, continues to attract visitors both domestically and from abroad with its pristine beaches and breathtaking natural scenery.

However in recent years, the area has been increasingly affected by coastal erosion, raising serious concerns among locals and tourists alike.

The sand used as breakwaters is now scattered along the shoreline, further highlighting the severity of the issue.

The ongoing erosion calls for urgent attention from authorities to preserve the

beauty of Batu Ferringhi as one of Malaysia's top tourist destinations.

Trader Siti Khadijah Kalsom, 52, said the worsening erosion had made many tourists anxious about their safety, directly affecting her business, which has seen a noticeable decline.

"Many tourists are now more cautious when visiting and this has significantly impacted our business. Sales have slowed down.

"Many people used to come to this part of the beach (eroded area) for picnics. But now, no one wants to. When they see the condition of this area, they turn back and look for another spot because they feel unsafe and the place is

no longer appealing," she said when met at Batu Ferringhi.

Siti Khadijah, who sells picnic equipment at her stall, said she was especially concerned during the rainy season, which could worsen the erosion and further impact local businesses.

For tourist K. Arvind, 30, the erosion made him and his family hesitant about having a picnic as safety was a major concern.

Admitting he was somewhat "caught off guard" by the situation, the engineer – who has been on a five-day holiday in Penang since last Saturday – said he had no prior knowledge of

the erosion issue.

"I was staying at a nearby hotel and had brought all our picnic gear, but after seeing the eroded condition of the beach, we had to find another spot. It's really disappointing because we weren't aware of this problem before coming," he said.

Meanwhile, Penang Consumers Association (CAP) president Mohideen Abdul Kader expressed deep concern over the aggressive coastal erosion affecting several areas of Batu Ferringhi Beach.

He said residents, traders and CAP are all alarmed by the worsening situation. – Bernama

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Leaving behind a decade-long career in banking for agriculture might seem like an unlikely path, but driven by passion and a quest for fulfilment, Logan Tee made the bold move.

Tee, 40, turned his passion for gardening into a business venture in 2021 by establishing Amaneco, an aquaponics farm-cafe that integrated fish farming and hydroponic crop production.

He said his interest in gardening, sparked during the Movement Control Order in 2020, led him to explore aquaponics, a sustainable farming method.

"I was at a stage where my bank job became more about networking and corporate politics than actual learning. I wanted something more fulfilling."

Determined to make the switch despite having zero knowledge of aquaponics, Tee dedicated a full year to studying farming techniques.

He also did some research on how to operate the business before taking the plunge into the industry.

In 2021, Tee and his partner started on a modest 6,000sq ft farm in Bukit Jalil and moved to a larger one-acre plot in Kajang in 2023.

Tucked away near Pusat Flora Cheras, Amaneco currently cultivates close to 30 varieties of leafy vegetables, including different types of lettuce, curly kale, Tuscan kale and spinach, Bernama reported.

"We also have herbs such as rosemary, peppermint, basil, lemon balm and oregano, many of which are incorporated into the menu at the farm's cafe."

Additionally, the farm raises three types of freshwater fish, namely edible tilapia, jade perch and

# Harvesting **bounty** from hobby-driven venture

➤ Interest in gardening sparked during MCO leads former banker to set up farm-cafe integrating fish farming and hydroponic crops

ornamental koi.

"The fish are mainly sold to wholesalers and restaurants, with occasional direct sales to regular customers."

He said aquaponics farming is more sustainable as it is a recirculating water system where there is no need to keep changing water.

Tee also acknowledged the broader efforts by the government to revive Malaysia's agricultural industry, which faces stiff competition from neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

"The challenge now is to attract younger generations to farming and change their perception of agriculture. I think nowadays, youngsters are more interested in other things, so we have to try to change the perception of agriculture and get more young people involved in this industry."

Tee admitted that the initial

learning curve was steep, with water quality management one of the biggest challenges.

"Aquaponics requires maintaining a delicate balance suitable for both fish and plants, hence troubleshooting the system in its first year took considerable effort."

He said while the greenhouse minimises the impact of external weather conditions, prolonged rainy periods still affect crop growth by limiting sunlight exposure.

"Fortunately, I have a good (understanding) of business planning and accounting from my years in the financial industry. So it helped me a lot in running a start-up because I have to play multiple roles. Right now I am running the finance and accounting parts of the company as well."

He said aquaponics is a niche industry in Malaysia and the concept is very innovative yet commercially challenging.

Looking ahead, Tee said he and



Tee at his aquaponics farm in Kajang. —BERNAMAPIC

his business partner plan to fully develop the remaining two-thirds of the land within the next one to two years.

"The plan includes expanding from leafy greens to crops such as chillies, cucumbers, tomatoes, passion fruit and figs. So the idea for our cafe is to provide a farm-to-table experience for customers."

Tee also aspires to bring

aquaponics farming to other parts of Malaysia, leveraging technology to enhance efficiency and commercial viability.

"Our goal is not just to grow (farm) produce but to introduce sustainable, innovative farming to a wider audience. With the right technology and government support, we hope to make aquaponics a more prominent industry in Malaysia."

theSun

## "SUBSCRIBE NOW"

Finding the best newspaper subscription deal is no longer an arduous task. Subscribe now to theSun, delivered to your doorstep.

Stay informed **7 days** a week starting from **1st April 2025** with the latest news and trends

Get daily local, world, entertainment & sports stories in 32 Full Colour pages

only **RM1** per copy

HOT!

1-year subscription at normal price RM361\* (361 issues)

+ RM70 administration fee to get **2nd year free** \*Special offer only valid until 30th April 2025

1-year subscription (361 issues) for only **RM300\*** (Normal price RM361)

6-month subscription (180 issues) for only **RM160\*** (Normal price RM180)

#### PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NRIC: \_\_\_\_\_

Race:  Malay  Chinese  Indian  Others

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Commencement date: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Address:  Residence  Office

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DETAILS OF CURRENT NEWS VENDOR (IF ANY)

Vendor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact no: \_\_\_\_\_

For your convenience, you may call or send in your subscription particulars via any of the following:

Tel: KL/PJ 03-7781 4000, 03-7784 6688 (9.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Whatsapp No: +6018-292 9936

Post: P.O. Box 179, Jalan Sultan, 46720 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan

Attn: Subscription

Email: subscribe@thesundaily.com

\*Terms & Conditions apply

Important note: SMCBSB reserves the right to revise the price at any time without prior notice.



SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE



\*Not inclusive of vendor service charge

Pay to Maybank (Account number 508177700420). Account name: SUN MEDIA CORPORATION SDN BHD.

Enclosed is my payment of RM \_\_\_\_\_ payable to SUN MEDIA CORPORATION SDN BHD. (Please WhatsApp your bank-in slip to 0182929936 or email to [subscribe@thesundaily.com](mailto:subscribe@thesundaily.com))

**We are now a 7-day Paper**

Subscribe now for daily read of the Sun newspaper

# Aid groups request greater access to quake victims

► US\$12 million available in emergency funding for food, shelter, water, sanitation and mental health support: UN

**BANGKOK:** Myanmar's military government should free up movement by international aid workers to help survivors of the recent earthquake, even in areas controlled by groups opposing its rule, aid and human rights groups said.

The military has struggled to run Myanmar since overthrowing the elected civilian government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, reducing to tatters the economy and basic services.

With thousands injured and infrastructure crippled following Friday's 7.7-magnitude quake, regional authorities are struggling to cope and need support, the groups said.

"The situation remains critical, with disrupted communications and road access hampering response efforts, particularly in Sagaing," said the United Nations Office for Project Services.

More than 28 million people live in the six regions affected by the quake, it added in a statement, saying it has US\$12 million (RM53.42 million) in emergency funding for food, shelter, water, sanitation, mental health support and other services.

China's official Xinhua news agency said the death toll rose to 2,886 yesterday, with 4,639 injured, citing the military government.

The rural parts of Sagaing are mostly under the control of armed resistance groups fighting the military government, said the International Crisis Group.

"They will be among the most challenging for aid agencies to reach, given regime restrictions, a complex configuration of local administrations and control by armed resistance groups, and the persistent conflict."

It said even before the quake, information had been hard to gather from such areas because of a government blackout of internet and mobile phone networks as part of



Residents queuing for food and relief supplies after the earthquake in Amarapura. – REUTERS/SPIC

the conflict.

The military has dismissed as misinformation accusations that it committed widespread atrocities as it fought against a multi-pronged rebellion that followed the coup.

Human Rights Watch urged the military government to allow unfettered access for humanitarian aid and lift curbs impeding aid agencies, saying donors should channel aid through independent groups rather than only its authorities.

"Myanmar's military government cannot be trusted to respond to a disaster of this scale," Human Rights Watch Asia director Bryony Lau said in a report.

"Concerned governments and international agencies need to press the military government to allow full and immediate access to survivors, wherever they are."

Myanmar's military government yesterday said its troops fired warning shots when a Chinese Red Cross aid convoy failed to heed instructions to stop while driving in a conflict zone.

Its spokesperson Zaw Min Tun said the incident took place on Tuesday and the

Chinese Red Cross had not informed the government or the embassy of its presence in the area.

Australia has also announced AUD\$6.5 million (RM18 million) in humanitarian support for Myanmar, supplied "through thoroughly vetted international and local partners".

In a statement yesterday, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said: "We take proactive steps to ensure our assistance does not legitimise the military regime in Myanmar."

The military council has rejected requests from international journalists to cover the quake devastation, citing a lack of water, electricity and hotels.

In neighbouring Thailand, the death toll from the quake rose to 22 yesterday, with hundreds of buildings damaged.

Rescuers searched for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed skyscraper under construction in the capital Bangkok, where the death toll is 15, with 72 missing.

The government is investigating the collapse and initial tests showed that some steel samples from the site were substandard. – Reuters

## Potential sale of jets to Philippines approved

**WASHINGTON:** The United States said on Tuesday it has approved the possible sale of US\$5.58 billion (RM24.8 billion) in F-16 fighter jets to the Philippines, as Washington backs its ally amid rising tensions with China.

The State Department said it was green-lighting a sale that includes 20 jets and related equipment to the Philippines.

The sale would "improve the security of a strategic partner that continues to be an important force for political stability, peace and economic progress in Southeast Asia," it said.

It would also boost "the Philippine Air Force's ability to conduct maritime domain awareness".

A State Department spokesperson said yesterday the deal would be final only after "a signed Letter of Offer and Acceptance" was received from the "purchasing partner".

Philippine Defence Department spokesman Arsenio Andolong told AFP he had "not received any official notice of such a decision".

China warned Manila against the purchase, saying the Philippines was "threatening" regional peace.

"The Philippines' defence and security cooperation with other countries should not target or harm the interests of a third party," said foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun.

Manila and Washington have deepened their defence cooperation since President Ferdinand Marcos Jr took office in 2022.

In December, the Philippines angered China when it said it planned to acquire the US mid-range Typhon missile system in a push to secure its maritime interests.

Beijing warned such a purchase could spark a regional "arms race". – AFP

## US-Japan missile deal denounced

**SEOUL:** North Korea has criticised a recent agreement by Japan and the United States on co-producing air-to-air missiles as aggravating regional security risks and another example of Washington's push to militarise Japan, state media said yesterday.

Cooperation by the two countries in munitions production clearly has military and aggressive intentions aimed at countries in the region, KCNA state news agency.

The comments were attributed to an unnamed vice-general director of the North's Defence Ministry and did not name specific countries.

Advancing the deployment of such a weapon adds a "new element of strategic instability to the Asia-Pacific region", the official said.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth stressed the importance of Japan's role in deterring China's threat across the Taiwan Strait.

Such a positive recognition of Japan by Hegseth was in contrast with his criticism against European allies and US President Donald Trump's complaint that Tokyo has not done enough to support the presence of US military in the country.

It is a priority for North Korea to counter growing instability by bolstering its military deterrence, the official said. – Reuters

## S. Korea leader urges calm acceptance of court ruling

**SEOUL:** South Korea's interim leader yesterday called on the nation to calmly accept the Constitutional Court decision on the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol, as police ramped up security around the court ahead of the ruling tomorrow.

At a ministerial meeting on safety ahead of the ruling, acting President Han Duck-soo said he "strongly asked" politicians not to make comments that could incite violence.

"The government will not tolerate illegal or violent acts. No matter what decision is made, we must accept the results calmly based on the rule of law.

"If we can become one again with strength and wisdom, we can overcome this crisis of

confusion and conflicts."

Yoon was impeached by parliament on Dec 14 after being accused of violating his constitutional duty by declaring martial law in early December with no justifiable grounds.

If the court rules to oust him, a presidential election must be held within 60 days.

South Korean police have boost security in areas around the court, preparing to deploy all forces from midnight into the ruling day.

National police force acting chief Lee Ho-young said the area around the court would be turned into a "vacuum state" to restrict access and cordon off pro and anti-Yoon rallies to prevent potential clashes.

Vowing to act sternly against violence, he said police would arrest those who vandalise facilities, threaten justices or assault police officers.

Han has directed police to step up security for Constitutional Court justices.

Bracing for big rallies and a heavy police presence tomorrow, foreign embassies have issued alerts calling for extra caution.

The US embassy in Seoul yesterday said it would cancel routine consular operations, such as visa interviews, this afternoon and all of tomorrow.

The Chinese embassy has told its nationals to stay away from large political protests and not to participate in rallies. – Reuters

## Niger frees ministers of previous government

**NIAMEY:** Niger's junta said on Tuesday it has freed around 50 people, including ministers from the government it toppled in July 2023, in line with recommendations from the National Forum for Reconstruction in February.

Those freed include former ministers, a

journalist, a diplomat and soldiers accused of a coup bid in 2010. Former president Mohamed Bazoum is still in detention despite international calls for his release.

The national conference held in February strengthened the ruling government by

authorising President Abdourahamane Tiani to remain in power in Niger for the next five years.

"I wish to reiterate my commitment to work for forgiveness and reconciliation among Nigeriens," Tiani declared after his inauguration as president last week. – AFP

## New UK travel permit required for Europeans

**LONDON:** European visitors to Britain will have to purchase an electronic permit in advance for trips as the UK government follows other countries in seeking to strengthen immigration security by screening people before they cross its borders.

The Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme requires visitors who do not need a visa to enter Britain to purchase pre-travel authorisation online at a cost of £10 (RM57), rising to £16 from April 9. Irish citizens are excluded.

The regime was initially rolled out to non-European nationals last year, including visitors from the United States, Canada and Australia.

"Expanding ETA worldwide cements our commitment to enhance security through technology and innovation," Migration Minister Seema Malhotra said last month.

Britain's Home Office said applying for an ETA should be simple through the UK ETA app, with the vast majority of applicants receiving a decision automatically in minutes.

Applicants must provide a photo and biographic details, and answer questions on suitability and criminality. Once an applicant has successfully applied, their ETA is digitally linked to their passport.

An ETA allows multiple visits to the UK of up to six months over a two-year period.

Airlines, ferry and train companies will be responsible for verifying the ETA status of travellers before they board.

Budget airline easyJet said on Tuesday it did not expect the new permit requirement to dent demand for Europe to UK travel.

The United Kingdom received 22.5 million visitors from the European Union in 2023, up from 19 million in 2022, based on official data. — Reuters

## US Health Dept begins mass layoffs

**WASHINGTON:** The US Department of Health and Human Services on Tuesday began its mass layoffs, dismissing thousands of employees across various agencies, US media reported, according to Xinhua.

Significant budget cuts to divisions of the department have raised serious concerns about public health and scientific research.

"The Trump administration laid off thousands of federal health workers in a purge that included senior leaders and top scientists charged with regulating food and drugs, protecting Americans from disease and researching new treatments and cures," the *New York Times* reported.

"Infectious disease experts, including those addressing HIV, argued that the latest cuts would make the country less safe from infectious and chronic diseases," the report said.

The department announced last Thursday its plan to cut about 10,000 full-time employees as part of its "restructuring" effort.

Its full-time workforce will be reduced from 82,000 to 62,000. — Bernama-Xinhua

### BRIEFS LIVE FIRE SHOOTING DRILLS IN EAST CHINA SEA

BEIJING: China's military yesterday said it carried out long-range live fire shooting drills in the East China Sea. The drills involved precision strikes on simulated targets of key ports and energy facilities, and "achieved desired effects", said Shi Yi, a spokesperson for the Eastern Theatre Command. China's military began a second day of drills around Taiwan yesterday and for the first time gave them a code name, Strait Thunder-2025A. — Reuters

### VISA OF EX-COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT REVOKED

SAN JOSE: Former Costa Rican president and Nobel Prize winner Oscar Arias said on Tuesday the United States has revoked his visa to enter the country, weeks after he criticised US President Donald Trump on social media by saying he was behaving like "a Roman emperor". — Reuters



Supporters of Booker holding signs outside the US Capitol during his speech in Washington, DC on Tuesday. — AFP/IC

# Senator breaks record with 25-hour speech

► Protest against Trump's unconstitutional actions become rallying point for Democrats

**WASHINGTON:** A Democratic US lawmaker shattered a record for the longest speech in Senate history on Tuesday, staying on his feet for more than 25 hours to deliver a fiery protest against President Donald Trump's "unconstitutional" actions.

Senator Cory Booker's (pic) display of endurance meant he had to remain standing and could not even go to the bathroom.

The longest Senate speech on record before Tuesday was delivered by South Carolina's Strom Thurmond, who filibustered for 24 hours and 18 minutes against the Civil Rights Act 1957.

Booker, only the fourth Black senator to be popularly elected to the body, blew past that deadline as he topped out at 25 hours and five minutes.

"Thurmond's record always irked me. That the longest speech on our great Senate floor was someone who was trying to stop people like me from being in the Senate," he later told broadcaster MSNBC.

As he wrapped up his speech, he said: "This is a moral moment. It is not left or right. It is right or wrong."

Although Booker's talk-a-thon was not actually blocking the majority Republican Party from holding votes in the Senate, as would be the case in a true filibuster, his defiance quickly became a rallying point for beleaguered Democrats.

Booker, a former presidential candidate, seized command in the chamber at 7pm (2300 GMT) on Monday and finished at 8.05pm on Tuesday.

He lashed out at Trump's radical cost-cutting policies that have seen his top adviser Elon Musk, the world's richest person, slash entire government programmes without consent from Congress.

He said Trump's aggressive seizing of executive power has put US democracy at risk.

"Unnecessary hardships are being borne by Americans of all backgrounds. And institutions that are special in America are being recklessly, and I would say even unconstitutionally, affected, attacked, even shattered.

"In 71 days, Trump has inflicted so much harm on Americans' safety, financial stability, the core foundations of our democracy."



But he had words of encouragement, saying "the power of the people is greater than the people in power".

Booker later went into detail about how he withstood the physical demands of the speech.

"My strategy was to stop eating. I think I stopped eating on Friday and stopped drinking the night before," he told reporters in the Capitol.

The approach "had its benefits and downsides as different muscle groups start to really cramp up" with dehydration, he added. In a statement sent by his office, he said he was "tired and a little hoarse".

Democratic lawmakers, the minority in both the Senate and House of Representatives, have struggled over how to blunt Trump's efforts to downsize the government, ramp up deportations and shred much of the country's political norms.

"I want to thank you for holding vigil for this country all night," Senator Raphael Warnock told Booker on the floor.

Booker dedicated much of his speech to criticising Trump's policies but to pass the time he also recited poetry, discussed sports and entertained questions from colleagues.

"If you love your neighbour, if you love this country, show your love. Stop them from doing what they are trying to (do)." — AFP

## Girl drugged and committed in identity mix-up

**SYDNEY:** An 11-year-old girl was restrained, injected with anti-psychotic drugs and placed in a mental health ward after New Zealand police mistook her for a missing woman, a report said yesterday.

Health officials and police have scrambled to explain the mix-up, which has appalled political leaders and stoked outrage across the country.

The girl, who displayed "limited verbal ability", was crossing a bridge in northern Hamilton city when a passing police car mistakenly identified her as a missing 20-year-old female hospital patient, the review said.

Police drove the girl to hospital, where she

was admitted to an "intensive psychiatric care unit" despite one nurse suggesting she "resembled a child".

"Patient A lives with a disability that means she is not able to tell people about herself," said a review by the Health Ministry, referring to the girl.

After refusing to take drugs offered by staff, the girl was restrained and injected with anti-psychotic medication that is "rarely administered to children".

"Staff were working on the assumption that they were administering medication to an adult, not a child," read the review of the March 9 incident.

The girl spent more than 12 hours in

hospital until police realised their mistake and called her family to pick her up.

"I wish to start by apologising to this young person and her family for the trauma and distress that was caused," said senior health official Richard Sullivan.

"This report is a frank read. It is necessary to make sure this does not happen again."

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon launched an investigation last week when the incident came to light.

"This is incredibly distressing and concerning. As a parent, you identify with what is a horrific set of circumstances. I have massive amounts of empathy for her and her family." — AFP



# Israel to expand military operations and evacuations

➤ Move partly aimed at increasing civilian pressure against Hamas

**JERUSALEM:** Israel announced a major expansion of military operations in Gaza yesterday, saying large areas of the enclave would be seized and added to its security zones, accompanied by large-scale evacuations.

Israeli leaders have been encouraged by signs of protest in Gaza against Hamas, the militant group which has controlled the enclave since 2007, and the expanded operation appeared at least partly aimed at increasing civilian pressure on its leaders.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said the evacuation would take place from areas where there is fighting, urging Gazans to eliminate Hamas and return Israeli hostages as the only way to end the war.

The Israeli military has issued evacuation

warnings to Gazans living around the southern city of Rafah and towards the city of Khan Younis, telling them to move to the Al-Mawasi area on the shore, previously designated a humanitarian zone.

Israel's Army Radio said the 36th division, sent to the Southern Command area last month to prepare for operations in Gaza, would take part in the operation.

Israeli forces have set up a significant buffer zone within Gaza, expanding an area that existed around the edges of the enclave before the war and adding a large security area in the so-called Netzarim corridor through the middle of Gaza.

Israeli leaders have said they plan to facilitate voluntary departure of Palestinians from the enclave, after US President Donald Trump called for it to be permanently evacuated and redeveloped as a coastal resort under US control.

Katz's remarks came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeated calls for Hamas to disarm and said the application of military pressure was the best way to get back the remaining 59 hostages.

Israel resumed air strikes on Gaza last month and sent ground troops back in after two months of relative calm following the conclusion of a US-backed truce to allow the exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed since the resumption of the strikes and Israel has cut off aid to the enclave, saying much of the material going in was taken by Hamas and used for its own members.

Efforts led by Qatari and Egyptian mediators to refocus talks aimed at ending the war have failed to make progress.

As the operation in Gaza has escalated, Israel has hit targets in southern Lebanon and Syria, with a strike on a Hezbollah commander in the southern suburbs of Beirut on Tuesday that added strain to fraying ceasefire agreements, which had largely halted fighting in January.

In addition, Israeli troops are still carrying out a major operation in the occupied West Bank, which the military says is aimed at destroying Iranian-backed militant groups in the area's refugee camps. - Reuters

## Attack on Christian event in north Iraq

**DOHUK:** Two people were injured on Tuesday in a cleaver attack on an Assyrian Christian celebration in northern Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, officials said, pointing to the Islamic State (IS) extremist group.

The region's Asayesh police force said it is investigating the attack in the city of Dohuk.

The region's autonomous Kurdish authorities said the attacker was Syrian and influenced "by terrorist ideology affiliated to Daesh", using the Arabic reference for IS.

According to a police source, the attack took place in a market and targeted the Akitu springtime celebrations observed by members of the Assyrian community to mark the first day of their calendar year.

"A 65-year-old woman was hit on the head" and suffered a haemorrhage that did not require surgery, Dohuk medical authorities said, adding that her condition was stable.

A 25-year-old man suffered a minor scalp wound, authorities added.

Dohuk governor Ali Tatar told a press conference that "our security forces arrested the suspect and the investigation is ongoing".

Iraq's Christian population plunged from some 1.5 million before the fall of Saddam Hussein in the early 2000s to about 400,000, the majority having fled successive bouts of violence in the country.

The rise of IS in 2014, which conquered the city of Mosul in northern Iraq and made it their "capital", notably accelerated their exodus.

But even when IS held Mosul and its surrounding areas until its defeat in 2017, neighbouring Kurdistan was relatively spared from extremist attacks.

Extremist cells are still active in Iraq, sporadically attacking the army and police, particularly in rural and remote areas.

A recent United Nations report said government-led counter-terrorism operations have resulted in the deaths of nearly half of IS senior leaders in Iraq.

It warned that the group could use the unstable situation in Syria following the overthrow of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad, a member of the Alawite minority, to reinforce its position. - AFP



Firefighters working to put out a fire at a civilian industrial enterprise following a drone attack in Kharkiv yesterday. - AFP/IC

## Russia, Ukraine exchange drone strikes

**KYIV:** Russian drone strikes have killed at least one individual and injured 10 in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv, officials said yesterday.

Russia and Ukraine have stepped up aerial attacks even as US President Donald Trump pushes the Kremlin and Kyiv to agree to a ceasefire after more than three years of costly fighting.

A 45-year-old man was killed when a Russian strike hit cars parked outside a house in Zaporizhzhia, said Ukrainian region military administration head Ivan Federov.

A 44-year-old man and 39-year-old woman were also injured.

In Kharkiv, eight people were injured in drone strikes, said mayor Igor Terekhov.

Kharkiv region military head Oleg

Syngubov called it a "massive attack by enemy drones" and told residents to "stay in shelters".

Ukraine's general staff said Russia launched 72 strikes and 646 "kamikaze drones" at Ukrainian territory since the beginning of Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry said it intercepted and destroyed 93 Ukrainian drones on Tuesday, mostly over the Kursk region.

The overnight drone attack forced the evacuation of at least 60 people when falling drone debris hit their apartment building in the Russian city of Kursk, not far from the border with Ukraine, a regional official said yesterday.

"As a result of the attack of enemy drones on Kursk, there is damage to an apartment building in the city centre," said Kursk region

acting governor Alexander Khinshtein, adding that there were no casualties.

The size of the attack was not clear and there was no immediate comment from Ukraine.

Both Kyiv and Moscow have complained to the United States about striking each other's energy sites on Tuesday, with Kyiv calling on Washington to strengthen sanctions on Moscow for "violating" agreements made at talks in Saudi Arabia.

Following separate meetings with US officials, the White House said Ukraine and Russia had "agreed to develop measures for implementing" an "agreement to ban strikes against energy facilities of Russia and Ukraine".

However, both have since accused each other of violating the shaky agreement. - Reuters/AFP

## Children of migrants required to pass language test

**MOSCOW:** Children of migrants must score at least 90% in Russian language tests to get enrolled in schools in the country, Russian State Duma chairman Vyacheslav Volodin said yesterday, reported Sputnik/RIA Novosti.

According to a law signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in December, children of migrants have to take a compulsory Russian language test for enrollment in Russian schools starting April 1.

Test materials, including for the speaking part, are developed individually for each level of education, Volodin said.

The test for entering first grade consists of 10 questions, with the number increasing for further grades. This should allow for a fair assessment of a child's level of Russian language proficiency, as well as the ability to master the school programme.

It is still necessary to analyse the enforcement of these rules, as well as the opinion of Russia's regions and the teaching community regarding the content of the test, its quality and effectiveness in assessing the level of knowledge of the Russian language among children of migrants, Volodin added.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Chernyshenko has said in 2024, about 155,000 children of foreign citizens were admitted to Russian schools. - Bernama-Sputnik/Ria Novosti



COMMENT by C. Sathasivam Sitheravellu

# Keeping workforce abreast of AI

**W**ITH the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution advancing like a runaway train, it is imperative that we do some targeted evaluation to determine the upskilling and reskilling needs of our currently employed workforce while also addressing the educational needs of tomorrow's leaders.

In the face of the exponential challenges of the competitive global marketplace, it is critical that we equip our most gifted young minds at home to meet these challenges from day one.

For Malaysia to be in an advantageous position economically, our workforce must be skilled in managing the use of AI in ways that facilitate and streamline operations while increasing productivity.

Today, as our young generation grows up immersed in technology, computational thinking and coding should be essential components of the education curriculum, along with critical thinking skills.

Beginning from the primary school level, many countries with highly-ranked education systems include coding as a compulsory subject.

Our Education Ministry must study the innovative curricula of countries like Singapore, Japan, the UK and Estonia, to develop the best approach for introducing these necessary technology skills to our youngest learners.

Teaching coding early on will encourage students to be creative in the use of computers, both in their education and later in their careers. They will be prepared to meet challenges in the workplace and grow with advancing technology, making them highly sought-after employees.

In this 5G era, governments, researchers, policymakers and stakeholders are calling for compulsory education and standardised testing for computer literacy in schools and workplaces for entry-level employment.

Prominent IT leaders are also promoting coding as a basis for overall

development, just as reading, writing and mathematics are foundational for learning in general.

Attaining the maximum benefit of educational preparation includes hiring visionary educators and professors with the newest advanced skills in training the latest AI technologies and their delivery systems, through enhanced TVET (technical and vocational education and training) and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curricula.

Further essential technologies include cybersecurity, cloud computing, robotics, ESG (environmental, social and governance) environment and socioeconomic governance, and communication technology.

Additionally, thorough training in English language communication is crucial as it is the international language of business, commerce and technology.

One effective way to improve English language proficiency can be to pass a legislative measure designating English as Malaysia's second national language. Above all, we must learn, adapt and remain flexible.

Workers who are already using AI software often say they think of it as a complementary tool. This is where the skilful knowledge of how to use the software comes into play.

Video editor Dominique Palencia was quoted in an article stating that many of the Adobe software tools he uses now include AI features that have been incredibly helpful.

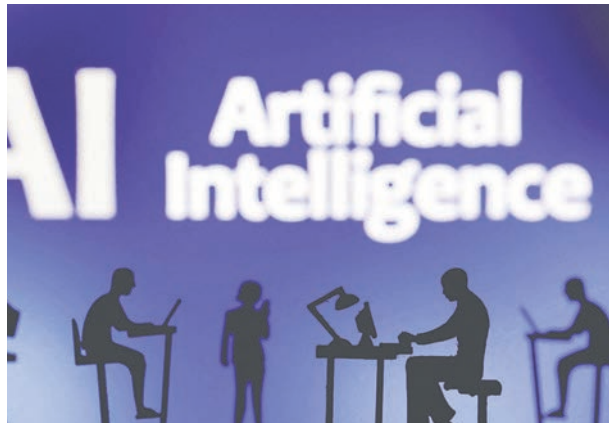
"The tool has been around for a while but Adobe's AI has made it much more accurate and efficient."

A supply chain executive mentioned that AI has helped automate steps in procurement and invoicing of materials.

However, on-site personnel are still needed to validate orders and oversee the processes, ensuring that there is no mismanagement or foul play.

These examples point to the continued need for human

*"For Malaysia to be in an advantageous position economically, our workforce must be skilled in managing the use of AI in ways that facilitate and streamline operations while increasing productivity."*



In this 5G era, governments, researchers, policymakers and stakeholders are calling for compulsory education and standardised testing for computer literacy in schools and workplaces for entry-level employment. – REUTERS/SPIC

management and oversight in AI functions.

In line with these procedures, workers must also develop essential soft skills to foster initiative and innovation. Collaborating effectively with colleagues to brainstorm new methods or programmes that drive collective success is a valuable asset to companies.

The most productive companies also invest in top-notch training in soft skills. Without the human dimension, service deliveries will be compromised.

Meanwhile, among the latest AI technologies are those offering distillation capabilities, such as DeepSeek and Alibaba.

The Chinese company DeepSeek has created a super-capable R1 model that combines high performance with low resource cost.

The process of distillation refers to a transfer of knowledge from a large pre-trained model (the "teacher") to a smaller model (the "student"), thus enabling the student model to achieve

comparable performance to the teacher model.

In many cases, distillation offers a practical solution to the challenges of deploying costly, complex large models. It not only reduces model size and operational cost but also enhances the performance of student models for specific tasks, according to John Werner in a *Forbes* article.

These emerging complexities in the AI world demand enhanced training efforts at various levels to equip workers with the advanced skills and knowledge needed to tackle these challenges successfully.

They must be adaptable to change while being socially intelligent, learning to evaluate, create and communicate information clearly and effectively.

They must also learn to redesign their roles to deliver with accuracy, boosting productivity and, in turn, enhancing human capabilities.

Comments:  
letters@thesundaily.com

## ENJOY A SEAMLESS READING EXPERIENCE.

Read our iPaper at <https://www.thesun.my/>

Or download **theSun** app on the AppStore or Google Play

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | EXPLORE IT ON AppGallery

# Bridge over troubled waters

COMMENT by Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Ibrahim

**T**HE world is never free from conflict. It can be over territorial ownership, as seen in Gaza or the pursuit of valuable oil reserves, which has also led to skirmishes.

But increasingly, many see water as the next reason for conflict, which can even escalate into war. Water is a critical resource for life, ecosystems and economic development, yet it faces numerous global challenges. These include scarcity, pollution, unequal access and the impacts of climate change.

Many countries share water resources. Many rivers run through many countries. A good example is the Nile, which flows through countries including Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, the main ones. Similarly, the Mekong River is shared by countries in Indochina.

Water scarcity is becoming more prevalent. Over two billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress, and about four billion people face severe water scarcity at least one month per year. Causes include over-extraction of groundwater, population growth and inefficient water use in agriculture, industry and households.

Water pollution is a regular occurrence. Industrial discharge, agricultural runoff (pesticides and fertilisers) and untreated sewage contaminate freshwater sources. Pollutants like microplastics and heavy metals further degrade water quality, threatening human health and ecosystems.

Millions of people, particularly in developing countries, lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Marginalised communities, including women and children, are disproportionately affected.

It is no secret that climate change exacerbates water issues by altering precipitation patterns, causing droughts, floods and glacial melt. Rising temperatures increase evaporation rates, reducing water availability in already arid regions.

Transboundary water conflicts have become inevitable. Shared water resources (rivers, lakes and aquifers) often lead to disputes between countries, especially in regions like the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

Agriculture accounts for 70% of global freshwater use, often inefficiently, leading to depletion of water resources.

Countries are collaborating through treaties and organisations to manage shared water resources. Examples include the UN Water Convention and the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan.

The Sustainable Development Goal Six aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. It is still uncertain whether this can be achieved.

Many countries are adopting water-saving technologies, such as drip irrigation in agriculture and water recycling in industries. They are leading in water conservation, using desalination, wastewater recycling and efficient irrigation systems.

Governments and organisations are building and upgrading water infrastructure, including dams, pipelines and treatment plants. For example, China's South-North Water Transfer Project aims to address water scarcity in the north by diverting water from the south.

Countries are implementing stricter regulations on industrial discharge and agricultural runoff. The European Union's Water Framework Directive sets standards for water quality and ecosystem protection.

Nations are investing in climate-resilient water management, such as rainwater harvesting, flood control systems and drought-resistant crops.

The Netherlands is a pioneer in flood management, using innovative techniques like floating homes and water-absorbing urban designs.

NGOs and governments are working with local communities to improve access to clean water and sanitation. Programmes like WaterAid and Charity: Water focus on providing sustainable water solutions in developing countries.

Advances in technology, such as desalination, smart water metres and AI-based water management systems, are helping optimise water use. Countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE are investing heavily in



Water is a global issue that requires coordinated efforts at local, national and international levels. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THE SUN

desalination to meet their water needs.

Campaigns to raise awareness about water conservation and sustainable practices are being implemented globally. Schools and communities are being educated on the importance of reducing water waste and protecting water sources.

International financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, are funding water projects in developing countries. Public-private partnerships are also being leveraged to finance water infrastructure and innovation.

Challenges remain in addressing water issues. Many developing countries lack the financial resources to invest in water infrastructure and technology.

Transboundary water disputes and domestic politics can hinder cooperation and implementation of solutions. Rapid urbanisation and population growth increase

pressure on water resources. Predicting and adapting to climate change impacts remains a significant challenge.

Water is a global issue that requires coordinated efforts at local, national and international levels. While progress is being made through technological innovation, international cooperation and community engagement, much work remains to ensure sustainable water management for future generations. Addressing water challenges is not only essential for human survival but also for achieving broader sustainable development goals.

**Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Ibrahim** is from the Tan Sri Omar Centre for STI policy and IISDS, UCSJ University. He is also an associate fellow at the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies at Universiti Malaya.

Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

## Being right is not enough – kindness and compassion matter too

LETTERS letters@thesundaily.com

**A**S Malaysians celebrate Hari Raya, we are reminded of what binds us – forgiveness, compassion and the shared values that hold our diverse nation together.

Just a day before Hari Raya, the Telugu community welcomed the Ugadi New Year. During this period, many Chinese families also observe Qing Ming by honouring their ancestors.

And soon, Christians will mark Good Friday and Easter. These observances are not just reminders of our diversity. They reflect the deep cultural and spiritual roots that shape our shared Malaysian identity.

And yet, as a nation, we seem to be drifting further apart. In recent weeks, the proposed relocation of the Dewi Sri Patrakaliamman temple in Kuala Lumpur has stirred strong emotions and public debate.

For some, this is a matter of heritage, identity and a deep sense of belonging that spans generations.

At the same time, the situation also involves legal and administrative

considerations such as matters of land ownership, planning and legacy issues.

But beyond the specifics, a larger question emerges: How do we handle disagreement in a diverse society?

Do we pause to listen? Do we put ourselves in the other party's shoes? Or are we too quick to take sides, to simplify complex issues or to respond with anger rather than understanding and empathy? Have we lost our humanity?

This question of empathy was again brought to mind by another recent incident involving an unlicensed balloon trader along Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman in Kuala Lumpur, who was involved in a scuffle with enforcement officials.

The circumstances may have been different but the questions remain the same. Was there room for dialogue? Could compassion have guided the response, even as rules were upheld?

And more recently, when a controversial political figure disclosed

*“We can uphold rules while still respecting people. We can enforce the law without stripping away dignity and we can criticise without dehumanising.”*

that his lung cancer had spread, the reactions from some social media users were disturbing. Some mocked his illness. Others expressed cruel wishes not fit for publication.

Disagreeing with someone's politics is one thing but celebrating their suffering is something else entirely; it signals a deeper erosion of our moral compass.

These incidents, while different in nature, point to the same troubling trend – a growing loss of empathy in how we deal with each other.

Being right – legally, historically or factually – is not the same as being kind. We can uphold rules while still respecting people. We can enforce the law without stripping away dignity and we can criticise without dehumanising.

All our faiths teach this. Islam places great emphasis on mercy and *ihسان* – doing what is good and beautiful. Christianity teaches grace. In Hindu and Buddhist teachings, *dharma* represents the path of righteousness – a call to act justly, with compassion and purpose. Across traditions, we find the Golden Rule: do not do to others what you would not want done to you.

If we forget this, we risk becoming a society that is technically correct but morally lost. We do not want a society stripped of compassion, empathy and humanity.

This is not a call to ignore wrongdoing. It is not about choosing sentiment over substance. But we must recognise that in a diverse and multiracial nation like Malaysia we also need compassion and empathy. We need moral clarity.

As we enter this season of *bermaaf-maafan*, let us not limit our reflection to just family and friends. Let us also reflect on how we treat others, especially those who are different from us or those we may not agree with.

The true strength of a nation lies not in how loudly it argues but in how gently it listens.

Let this Raya be not just a celebration but a reminder – that as Malaysians, our shared future depends on remembering the humanity in one another.

**Ng Kor Sim**  
State Assemblywoman for  
Jementah  
Johor

## Avaland achieves record net profit for FY24, sales highest since listing

**SUBANG JAYA:** Property developer Avaland Bhd continued its strong growth momentum as the group delivered a stellar performance in the financial year ended Dec 31, 2024 (FY24) by achieving its highest-ever net profit of RM98.9 million, which was a 50% surge from the RM66.1 million recorded in 2023.

The robust bottom-line growth was fuelled by a 47% jump in revenue to RM893.6 million in FY24, compared to RM607.1 million in FY23. The increase in revenue was driven by advanced construction work progress across its ongoing projects coupled with strong demand for the group's projects launched in 2024 namely Casa Embun Phase 2, Amika Residences, Aetas Seputeh and Anja Residences & Signature Retail.

Avaland CEO Apollo Bello Tanco said, "FY24 marks a historic milestone for Avaland, not only with our highest-ever net profit recorded but also with our strongest property sales performance since our listing. In FY24, our property sales rose by 53% to RM894.2 million as compared to RM586.1 million recorded in the previous year. The record sales are a testament of our successful initiative to deliver products that caters towards the needs of different market segments. The improved sales performance was driven by exceptional take-up for our ongoing projects namely Aetas Damansara (100%), Sanderling (100%), Alira Subang Jaya (98%), Casa Embun (96%), and Amika Residences (65%)."

As at Dec 31, 2024, the group's unbilled sales stood at RM900 million, marking a growth from RM863 million as at end-2023, providing the group with strong earnings visibility in the years ahead.

# Eco World maintains sales target at RM3.5b for FY25

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK  
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Eco World Development Group Bhd is maintaining its FY25 sales target at RM3.5 billion, matching last year's target.

President & CEO Chang Khim Wah said the target takes into consideration the highly cash generative phase the majority of the group's matured projects are currently at.

"The focus should be on landbank preservation to increase profit margins and grow long-term returns," he added.

EcoWorld Malaysia said its future revenue as at Oct 31, 2024 stands at RM3.96 billion, an increase from FY23, which underpins both earnings and cash flow visibility in the near and mid-term.

Regarding the group's recent acquisitions, Chang said the 240.3 acres in Iskandar Malaysia acquired in FY24 will be developed as Eco Botanic 3.

"Its location right next to Eco Botanic and Eco Botanic 2 will enable it to leverage off the success of the two earlier townships and contribute towards the enhancement of the remaining matured landbank there."

Chang said the increased

➤ Group will focus on preserving its landbank to boost profit margins and drive long-term returns

patronage from new residents will enhance value creation at Eco Botanic City, boosting demand for the wide range of local and international businesses from fashion & retail, food & beverage, education, edutainment, wellness and many others that are operating at Eco Boulevard and Eco Galleria.

"All this augurs well for the group's future residential and commercial launches in the locality which is fast becoming the preferred residential address and most vibrant commercial hub in Iskandar Puteri."

Its other FY24 acquisition of 8.9 acres that is situated next to the group's matured Eco Sanctuary township in the Klang Valley is being planned for the development of serviced apartments with a commercial component.

The land is located right opposite Se.Ruang D' Eco Sanctuary, the group's first duduk development which is completed and fully sold-out. It is also within walking distance to the main commercial precinct.

Eco Sanctuary's Parque Residences and Eden by the Parque condominiums, with resort style facilities, are located nearby.

"This demonstrates the strong demand that has built up here for a

wider range of the group's Eco Rise and Eco Hubs products, which puts the new project in a good position for its eventual launch."

At the start of FY25, Eco World entered into several agreements to acquire 847.2 acres of land located right beside Eco Forest and only 6km away from Eco Majestic.

The new land has two access routes to the Lekas Highway through Jalan Broga as well as via Eco Majestic, the group's first township in the Klang Valley, which is now fully matured with a vibrant and fast-growing commercial precinct known as Eco Majestic City.

Other amenities include University of Nottingham's Malaysia campus which is situated opposite the land.

The land is close to Broga Hills and the Sungai Tekala Waterfall which offers the group an opportunity to craft a 3rd Eco township.

This will build on, complement, and extend the success of the group's established presence in the Semenyih corridor, where it now has over 2,400 acres of combined land for development.

Chang said it will also be working closely with SD Guthrie Bhd and NS Corporation to finalise the terms for

the joint development of a 1,166-acre industrial park in Bukit Pelandok, Negri Sembilan. The project is expected to help drive the state's economic growth agenda as well as complement the growth of greater Kuala Lumpur.

He said prospects for the proposed industrial development of Eco Business Park VII on the land, which is situated within the Malaysian Vision Valley 2.0 economic corridor, are very bright.

"This is based on the keen interest we have been receiving from our network of more than 1,400 businesses operating at our existing business parks as well as new inquiries from local and foreign industrialists that we are continually engaging."

Chang added with so many new projects in the pipeline, combined with the strong demand it has been experiencing across all five revenue pillars, EcoWorld Malaysia's growth momentum is solidly on track.

CGS International considers the RM3.5 billion FY25 sales target achievable.

"We like EcoWorld for its robust earnings outlook, potential monetisation of landbank, and compelling dividend yields of 3.5% to 3.8% for FY25 to FY27. With an 'add' recommendation and a target price of RM2.44, EcoWorld presents a compelling investment opportunity, albeit with a reminder for investors to monitor risks."

## Tropicana Q4 revenue up 41% y-o-y on project billings, land disposals

**PETALING JAYA:** In a recent filing to Bursa Malaysia, Tropicana Corporation Bhd reported a revenue of RM520.9 million in its unaudited financial results for the fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2024 (Q4'24) which was RM151.8 million or 41.1% higher compared to the corresponding quarter in the preceding year, which was RM369.1 million (Q4'23).

This was mainly due to the higher progress billings across key projects in the Klang Valley, Southern and Northern Regions coupled with the completion of disposals of development land in Gelang Patah for a total consideration of RM185.3 million.

The group also recorded a profit before tax (PBT) of RM344.1 million as compared to a loss before tax (LBT) of RM126.6 million in the corresponding quarter in the preceding year.

For the financial year ended Dec 31, 2024 (FY24), the group recorded a revenue of RM1.4 billion, which was RM94.3 million or 6.3% lower when compared to the preceding year. For FY24, the group recorded a LBT of RM91.7 million compared to a LBT of RM100 million in FY23, which was attributed to the recognition of one-off losses arose from the divestment of investment property.

Excluding the one-off losses from

the disposal of investment property, the group would have recorded a higher PBT of RM172.7 million, against the preceding year's LBT of RM100 million. The divestment and land sale exercise were consistent with the group's strategy to reduce its overall debt levels.

In FY24, the group completed and delivered vacant possession for five projects across the Klang Valley and Southern Region, which contributed to the group's improved financial performance.

The management cited that 2024 was a milestone year for Tropicana Group. "Our performance in the fourth quarter and in the year reflects the resilience and strength of our team, as we continue to focus on future-proofing our businesses through a robust growth strategy. We will continue to unlock performance-driven initiatives, drive effective sales campaigns as well as create meaningful engagements with our stakeholders."

"With our high unbilled sales and strategic properties across Malaysia, we enter 2025 in a position of strength and optimism. As a community planner, we will continue to connect communities, forge better futures and deliver sustainable growth," the



One of Tropicana's star developments is the vibrant Lido Waterfront Boulevard fronting the beautiful Straits of Johor.

company said.

Tropicana is poised to continue gaining significant traction in the market, driven by both its ongoing projects and new developments, which boasts an estimated GDV of

RM8.5 billion.

Over the past few months, the property developer has announced many positive news, from its successful Johor land sale of RM383 million to NTT Data Group and RM240

million land deal with Z Data Group, the 100% take-up announcement on Edelweiss Serviced Residences at Klang Valley and 60% take-up on Fraser Heights (Phase 1) in Tropicana Uplands Johor.



# Optimism over Malaysia's AI and data centre ambition

► Experts positive but caution that addressing infrastructure, energy sustainability and competition will be critical to long-term success

BY AIMIE SHAZRIE  
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

**PETALING JAYA:** Industry leaders are optimistic about the opportunities and challenges in sustaining Malaysia's ambition to become a regional hub for artificial intelligence-driven solutions and data centres.

While the ambition is fuelled by rising demand for digital transformation, government incentives and strategic foreign investments, they caution that addressing infrastructure, energy sustainability and competition will be critical to long-term success.

As businesses increasingly turn to AI for efficiency, data centres become the backbone of Malaysia's growing digital economy.

Exabytes CEO Chan Kee Siak said demand for AI-driven solutions and cloud services has surged, largely due to businesses seeking greater efficiency in an increasingly competitive environment.

"As hiring costs rise, companies are leveraging AI to streamline operations and reduce reliance on large workforces. Businesses are finding ways to do more with fewer employees by increasing efficiency.

"With AI, we see improvements in various areas, from automation to data analytics, making operations more effective and scalable," he told *SunBiz*.

Further, Chan said Malaysia's strategic location in Southeast Asia, coupled with its strong internet infrastructure, positions it as an attractive destination for data centre investments.

"With global tech giants such as Microsoft, Google and AWS expanding their footprint, the country is set to become a key player in the region's digital economy. Malaysia is geographically well-positioned, free from major natural disasters, and has an established data

centre ecosystem. This makes it an ideal hub for AI and cloud services."

Beyond cost savings, AI is also fostering innovation.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said AI tools such as ChatGPT have transformed work processes by enhancing creativity, improving idea generation and accelerating research.

"The AI revolution is changing how businesses, governments and individuals operate.

"We are witnessing a fundamental shift, where technology allows us to achieve more with fewer resources. This progress underscores the necessity of expanding Malaysia's data centre infrastructure to meet growing digital demands," he added.

Malaysia University of Science and Technology Prof Emeritus Dr Barjoyai Bardai said government initiatives such as the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and the National Fourth Industrial Revolution Policy are further accelerating growth by offering tax incentives, grants and foreign investment opportunities.

However, he emphasised that Malaysia must remain agile in adapting to rapid technological changes.

"The pace of AI development is astonishing. Just like how mainframe computers in the 1960s evolved into laptops today, we must anticipate how AI and data infrastructure will transform in the next decade. To stay ahead, Malaysia needs continuous investment in AI talent, research, and sustainable infrastructure," Barjoyai said.

Despite the country's growth potential, Malaysia faces several hurdles in sustaining its data centre expansion.

Chan said one of the biggest concerns is energy consumption. "If all AI-powered data centres in Malaysia were to come online

simultaneously, states like Johor might struggle with power shortages. Energy demand for cooling these facilities is also a significant challenge."

Afzanizam said the push for sustainable energy solutions is becoming critical as more investors and corporate clients prioritise green and renewable energy sources.

"Data centres are highly energy-intensive, and Malaysia's reliance on fossil fuels raises concerns about long-term sustainability. We must consider the environmental impact. Energy and water security will become key issues as data centres require vast amounts of both.

"It is about striking the right balance between technological progress and sustainability," he said.

Beyond infrastructure, Afzanizam highlighted that cost sustainability and competition remain pressing challenges.

"The data centre business currently operates on low margins due to high competition and price-sensitive customers. Complex regulatory requirements and competition from neighbouring countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand add further pressure," he said.

Despite these challenges, Chan said Malaysia's data centre market is on a rapid growth trajectory.

Analysts project that the market will expand from US\$4.04 billion (RM18 billion) in 2024 to US\$13.57 billion by 2030, representing a compound annual growth rate of 22.38%.

"New players, including STACK Infrastructure, Epoch Digital, EdgeConneX and Edgenex Data Centres (by Damac), are entering the Malaysian market, further intensifying competition.

"Microsoft is also acquiring additional land in Johor to expand its data centre operations," Chan said.

Barjoyai echoed the optimism, highlighting the shift towards localised, smaller-scale data centres with the rise of edge computing.

"By 2025, Malaysia is well-positioned to solidify its status as a regional data hub, serving not just domestic needs but also neighbouring countries like Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam," he said.

## Foreign investors return to Asia with US\$93.8m net inflow: MIDF

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Foreign investors returned to Asian markets last week with a modest net inflow of US\$93.8 million, (RM417.7 million) after a four-week selling streak with only India and Indonesia registering net foreign inflows.

According to MIDF Amanah Investment Bank Bhd's Fund Flow Report, titled "Global Markets Brace for Trump's Liberation Day" for the week ended March 28, India led the region with a net inflow of US\$3.23 billion, marking a sharp turnaround after 15 straight weeks of outflows.

"Despite a slight dip in March's composite PMI to 58.6, investor sentiment remained strong, buoyed by India's openness to slash tariffs on over half of US imports worth US\$23 billion to avoid reciprocal duties. The recent US\$400 million syndicated loan by Bank of India, its first US dollar loan in over a decade also drew robust participation, reflecting renewed foreign interest in Indian assets," it said.

Indonesia also reversed a nine-week selling streak with a net inflow of US\$195.9 million as authorities moved swiftly to restore investor confidence following last week's stock and currency slide.

Meanwhile, MIDF Amanah said other regional markets continued to experience outflows. Taiwan recorded the region's highest net outflow for the fifth straight week at US\$2.61 billion, driven by fears of impending US tariffs and mounting geopolitical risks.

It said South Korea saw a net outflow of US\$228.4 million, reversing last week's brief inflow as US President Donald Trump's auto tariffs reignited trade fears; Thailand extended its foreign withdrawal streak to a fifth week, recording US\$121.26 million in outflows.

Vietnam posted its eighth consecutive week of outflows totalling US\$82.15 million as it moved to defuse potential US tariff threats by slashing import duties on LNG, cars, and various agricultural goods, while the Philippines ended its three-week buying streak with a net outflow of US\$34.09m, amid mixed economic signals.

Back home, Bursa Malaysia saw foreign investors' outflow of RM1.15 billion. Local institutions continued their 23rd straight week of net buying to buffer against foreign selling, with inflows amounting to RM1.24 billion.

Construction and plantation sectors recorded net foreign inflows of RM7.1 million and RM3.9 million, respectively.

Financial services, consumer products and services, and healthcare recorded the highest net foreign outflows at RM564.4 million, RM142.3 million and RM118.1 million, respectively, it said.

The report said local retail investors turned net sellers, reversing a six-week buying streak with an outflow of RM87.9 million.

"The average daily trading volume saw a broad-based decrease.

"Foreign investor participation plunged by 34.7% while local institutions and local retail saw declines of 12.7% and 13.8%, respectively," it added. - Bernama

## Rolls-Royce certifies ExecuJet's M'sian facility as engine maintenance hub

**PETALING JAYA:** Rolls-Royce has certified ExecuJet MRO Services Malaysia as a hub for the provision of maintenance services for Rolls-Royce BR710A2-20 engines that power the Bombardier Global Express aircraft series.

ExecuJet MRO Services Malaysia, already an authorised Rolls-Royce service centre for routine maintenance, inspections, and minor repairs on this engine, has now been awarded hub status. This designation allows the facility to perform more advanced diagnostics and repairs, enhancing its capabilities in engine maintenance.

The Malaysia facility is approved by several civil aviation regulators to do heavy airframe maintenance on the Global Express series.

ExecuJet MRO Services regional vice-president for Asia Ivan Lim said ExecuJet MRO Services Group has a long-standing relationship with Rolls-Royce.

"We were able to achieve hub status after making further investments in infrastructure, tooling, training and technology. We continually



ExecuJet MRO Services' facility at Subang Airport offers a full suite of MRO services.

strive to meet the evolving needs of business aviation customers. Offering airframe maintenance and engine support under one roof streamlines the maintenance process for customers," he said.

ExecuJet MRO Services opened a 149,500 sq ft

state-of-the-art, purpose-built MRO centre at Subang Airport last year. The facility offers a full suite of MRO services, including airframe line and heavy maintenance, aircraft on ground support, engine maintenance support and component support.



# CTOS event brings together experts and entrepreneurs

➤ CTOS SME Biz Day 2025 aims to equip small, medium businesses with tools and knowledge to unlock their full potential and future-proof operations

**PETALING JAYA:** Private credit reporting agency CTOS Data Systems Sdn Bhd is connecting industry experts and entrepreneurs, giving them access to valuable resources, and discovering new opportunities to elevate their business through the upcoming CTOS SME Biz Day 2025.

From enhancing credit health to securing finances to embracing digital transformation, CTOS SME Biz Day highlights real, actionable strategies for SMEs to future-proof their operations.

Group CEO Erick Hamburger (*pic*) said CTOS is not just a credit score provider but is committed to empowering SMEs to unlock their full potential and expand their businesses both locally and globally.

"As a key player in the industry, we tap into our wealth of data and connections to empower businesses with better credit risk

management. We want to build a strong financial ecosystem for the nation by ensuring that SMEs have the knowledge, tools, and networks to unlock their full business potential, with the theme "Future-forward SMEs, Digitalise, Transform, Innovate".

With a nationwide tour across Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Penang and Kuching, these complimentary sessions aim to equip SMEs with the knowledge, tools, and networks to unlock their full business potential, with the theme "Future-forward SMEs, Digitalise, Transform, Innovate".

Set to be one of the largest SME events of the year, the kick-off session in Kuala Lumpur will be happening on May 6 at Nexus, Bangsar South.

To help SMEs stay ahead of the curve and capitalise on new opportunities, this year's



SME Biz Day will focus on three key areas – mastering e-invoicing, leveraging government incentives and mitigating risks with digital tools.

This year's CTOS SME Biz Day has secured an impressive lineup of prominent speakers, including representatives from the government, key industry leaders and successful entrepreneurs. Also present will be representatives from the Small and Medium Enterprises Association, SME Corp Malaysia, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation, Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency, Inland Revenue Board, Montigo, Mydin, Zus Coffee, Anjoe Raw Beaute, BloomThis, Unifi Business, U Mobile, Mochi, AutoCount, AWS and Maxis Business.

Former health minister Khairy Jamaluddin will also be present at the event.

## OCK: No huge long-term impact on Myanmar operations expected from recent earthquake

**KUALA LUMPUR:** OCK Group Bhd does not anticipate any major long-term impact on its operations or business performance in Myanmar following the magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck last Friday.

The telecommunications network solutions provider said about 90% of OCK Myanmar's tower sites are located in suburban and rural areas, which were significantly less affected by the seismic activity compared to urban centres.

"This geographical positioning has greatly minimised the potential for disruptions to our network and operations," it said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia yesterday.

According to OCK's 2023 annual report, the group owns more than 1,200 sites in Myanmar.

The company also noted that its operations team has been proactive in conducting a

thorough inspection of its tower infrastructure.

"As of today, we have inspected 95% of our sites, and the results are largely favourable. Only four towers have been identified as requiring dismantling due to damage sustained from the earthquake.

"Importantly, none of the ground-based towers that have been assessed so far have shown any significant damage that would impact their functionality or the network's performance," it said.

OCK said that further inspections will continue over the next few days to ensure that all sites are thoroughly evaluated.

"The group's regional presence and diverse tower portfolio continue to provide resilience, and we remain confident in our ability to maintain service continuity in



Myanmar," it said.

The company also noted that all OCK Myanmar staff are safe and accounted for. – Bernama

## Ravin Vickneswaran appointed EdgePoint Towers chief operating officer

**PETALING JAYA:** Ravin Vickneswaran (*pic*) has been appointed chief operating officer of EdgePoint Towers Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of EdgePoint Infrastructure Sdn Bhd, a leading Asean-based independent telecommunications infrastructure company.

Ravin has been with EdgePoint since 2021 and has extensive experience spanning over 25 years in the local and international telecommunications industry. As the chief operating officer, he will work closely with teams across the organisation to drive the company's vision across various departments, including engineering and implementation, property and permitting, and operations and maintenance.

He will also lead teams towards enhancing service offerings, boosting customer satisfaction, ensuring the successful implementation of environmental, social and governance practices, strengthening partnerships and driving the

adoption of new technologies.

In addition, Ravin will retain his previous portfolio in EdgePoint, continuing to lead the innovations team.

"As Malaysia accelerates its 5G rollout, Edgepoint Towers remains committed to delivering future-ready infrastructure that enables seamless connectivity. Collaboration with our customers is at the heart of our strategy, ensuring we provide innovative and reliable solutions that support their evolving needs.

"Continuing to work alongside my talented colleagues, we aim to foster strong partnerships, drive operational excellence, and play a key role in advancing the nation's digital transformation," he said.



Ravin has served as vice-president of in-building coverage and innovation at EdgePoint since 2021 and has been instrumental in growing the company's IBC and small cells portfolio.

Prior to joining EdgePoint, he held key senior positions in telecommunications companies in Malaysia and Myanmar, namely, head of 5G enterprise business at Celcom Axiata Bhd, director of Apac operations at Flexenclosure AB, and manager at Maxis Communications Bhd.

Currently, EdgePoint Towers is the second largest independent telecommunications infrastructure company in Malaysia, with 1,800 sites in its portfolio.

## US tariffs expected to affect Apac economic growth: S&P Global

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Rising US tariffs are expected to affect growth across Asia-Pacific (Apac), according to S&P Global Ratings' latest economic update.

The tariffs, which target sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors, are anticipated to put a strain on regional growth as trade relations continue to evolve.

S&P Global Ratings chief economist for Apac Louis Kuijs said the tariffs will have a significant impact, especially on countries heavily reliant on trade with the United States.

"As for Apac, we anticipate more tariffs, which are expected to affect growth, particularly through their impact on exports, investments, and overall economic uncertainty," he said during the S&P Updates Economic Forecasts for Apac Economies webinar yesterday.

There will also be some countries, such as the Philippines, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, that are not expected to be significantly impacted by the tariffs directly, he said.

"The impact on these countries is expected to be minimal, as they do not face significant tariffs or have substantial bilateral trade surpluses with the US," he added, but they will still experience indirect impacts.

"We also need to consider that when Chinese exporters face more challenges in the US market, they will focus more on selling within the region. This shift will place additional pressure on local exporters, particularly in some Southeast Asian markets," Kuijs said.

He added that despite rising tariffs and global trade tensions, the agency has only slightly revised its growth forecast for Apac economies, projecting 4.1% growth in 2025 versus 4.4% in 2024 due to strong regional domestic demand.

"An important takeaway is that while the US tariff actions are challenging Apac economies, the robustness of domestic demand should prevent growth from faltering significantly," he said. – Bernama

## Allianz Life unveils plan for SMEs

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Bhd (Allianz Life) has introduced Allianz EliteChoice, a competitive and comprehensive insurance plan for small and medium enterprises.

In a statement yesterday, Allianz Life said the plan is designed to provide competitive coverage for employee groups ranging from three to 350 employees and offers flexibility to meet the diverse needs of modern businesses.

"This includes extensive life and health coverage, ensuring SMEs provide their employees with essential financial and healthcare protection.

"Allianz EliteChoice is a forward-thinking solution that reflects our dedication to helping businesses stay competitive while providing their employees with the best possible protection," said Allianz Life chief executive officer Charles Ong.

Allianz EliteChoice's key features and benefits include group hospitalisation and surgical (GHS), group outpatient clinical (optional rider to GHS), group dental (optional rider to GHS), and group term life.

# 'Smarter' tax policies can boost EPF savings

► Experts say better government incentives can help Malaysians grow their retirement funds

■ BY JOHN GILBERT  
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The challenge of ensuring adequate retirement savings for Malaysians does not lie in the introduction of new financial products but in refining existing frameworks.

Manulife Investment Management (M) Bhd licensed financial planner Rajen Devadason (*pix*) said that rather than developing additional retirement schemes, most of the financial planning community and other investment industry players agree that well-structured – and significantly larger – tax incentives could be the key to encouraging Malaysians to maximise their Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributions.

He said there are also other established options that Malaysians can explore such as Private Retirement Schemes (PRS) and unit trust (UT) funds.

"By enhancing these incentives, policymakers could effectively nudge individuals towards more disciplined saving and investment habits, ensuring long-term financial security without the need for complex new solutions.

"This approach prioritises simplicity and accessibility, leveraging tools already available in the market while addressing the behavioural barriers that often hinder retirement planning.

"The focus, then, should be on making these mechanisms more attractive through strategic fiscal policies – a move that could benefit Malaysians across all income levels," he told SunBiz.

Devadason pointed out that with the increasing life expectancy in Malaysia, retirement plans must adapt to prevent seniors from outliving their savings.

"The clear solution is raising the retirement age gradually, in my opinion, first to 65 by 2035, then to 68-70 by 2050.

"This change is urgent. At just 60 years, Malaysia's current retirement age is among the lowest regionally and globally, despite our rapidly ageing population.

"A phased increase would give workers more years to save while maintaining economic productivity – a necessary adjustment for our nation's future," he said.

Devadason, who is also the CEO of corporate mentoring consultancy firm RD WealthCreation Sdn Bhd, pointed out that there were four rounds of EPF withdrawals permitted during the Covid-19 years by the then Perikatan Nasional-led government.

Following these four initiatives – introduced to assist millions of Malaysians in covering basic necessities during severe economic hardship – more than 6 million EPF account holders were left with less than RM10,000 in savings.

This came from a total of roughly 15 million EPF accounts, of which only about 8 million were active at the time.

Of that number, more than half, or over 3 million EPF account holders, had less than RM1,000.

"A key takeaway from that set of data is that for more than 75% of EPF's active contributors in the early 2020s, their basic earnings were too low to build up sizable EPF balances.

"EPF itself is a very well-run national superannuation fund, and it is only because of EPF that those who use it wisely are well on their way to adequately funding their future retirement needs.

"Tragically, those 'EPF-winners' are in the minority," Devadason said.

When asked to what extent the current state of financial literacy in Malaysia contributes to inadequate retirement planning, Devadason said while financial literacy in Malaysia has significantly improved over the past 25 years – thanks to initiatives by Bank Negara's AKPK,



the Securities Commission's SIDC, and FPAM – more must be done.

"The next critical step is embedding personal finance education at every stage of schooling, from primary to tertiary levels.

"Children should learn early the importance of budgeting and the risks of debt – particularly the dangers of compound interest when borrowing.

"With predatory lending practices such as Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) schemes becoming increasingly widespread, financial education is no longer optional; it's essential for safeguarding future generations," he said.

Touching on how existing government policies including race-based preferences affect long-term economic growth, Devadason said bad government policies have resulted in the creation of a massive entitlement mentality amongst their beneficiaries and a growing sense of despair amongst those who do not qualify for them.

"Malaysia has lost its way largely because the basic idea of meritocracy has been discarded for too long.

"This has led to our government ministries and even parliament not being populated by our brightest people, regardless of race or religion.

"All we can do is hope that our politicians do the right thing and put in place incentives such as tax breaks for unit trust investments and higher tax relief limits for insurance coverage to nudge our smartest people in the right direction.

"Those who continue to believe that 'the government should take care of them' will end up being economic losers.

"We need to drive home the importance of personal responsibility and nurture a work ethic tied to personal responsibility," he said.

## Banks to gain from infra, JS-SEZ and energy projects: MIDF

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The banking sector's loan growth prospects remain strong, buoyed by a combination of major infrastructure projects like the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) and renewable energy investments, said MIDF Amanah Investment Bank Bhd.

"Growth will pick up again soon. Banks remain pretty optimistic about 2025's balance sheet prospects," it said in a note yesterday.

It was reported that the industry's February 2025 loan growth moderated to 5.2% year-on-year (y-o-y) from 5.7% in January 2025.

Household (HH) loan growth was stable at six% y-o-y but non-HH loan growth slowed to 4.1% y-o-y from 5.1% in January 2025.

Despite banks not reaching their highs of 2024 this year, their stable earnings, solid loan growth prospects, and high dividend yields may be an investor's safe haven given the frequency of geopolitical and economic shocks, especially at the current post-selloff valuations, MIDF Amanah said.

"Our house does not expect a full-blown global recession but ongoing fears provide the largest downside risk to share prices," it said.

Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd, meanwhile, believes the banking sector is poised to show resilience on the back of a supportive Malaysian economy with most banks giving guidance for stronger loans growth this year.

"Readings for the coming months are expected to be mixed due to festive behaviour, which could blur signals spurred by macroeconomic factors such as unfavourable trade policies," it said.

Maybank Investment Bank Bhd is keeping its full-year industry loan growth forecast at 5.5%, backed by a pick-up in corporate lending.

This will buffer expectation of more moderate household loan growth amid potential inflationary pressures, it added.

MIDF Amanah and Maybank Investment have a positive outlook while Kenanga Investment is "overweight" on the sector. – Bernama

## EDUCATION

FOCUS 2025

Education matters remain an important component of Malaysian society. Today the landscape is fast paced with new exciting developments in technology such as AI, coding, virtual reality, and cybersecurity, leading the way for changes in curriculum development. To showcase the latest and most updated content, we invite you join us in 2025, and be part of our Education Focus!

**theSun**  
Malaysian Paper  
www.thesun.my

Contact us now for special deals on digital, video and print advertising.

☎ 03-7784 6688

✉ advertise@thesundaily.com



# Trump set to unleash 'Liberation Day' tariffs

➤ Speculation about what president has in store stoking uncertainty on trading floors

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump is poised to unveil sweeping new "Liberation Day" tariffs, but kept the world guessing until the last minute about the scope of an onslaught that could spark a global trade war.

Trump will roll out the measures flanked by cabinet members in the Rose Garden of the White House at 4pm (4am today in Malaysia) – after Wall Street markets close – promising that they will stop America being "ripped off" and will deliver a new "golden age" of US industry. But while Trump insisted he had decided on the reciprocal tariffs hitting countries that have targeted the United States, the White House admitted he was still ironing out the details.

The Republican billionaire has had a long love affair with tariffs, insisting in the face of economic experts that they are a cure-all that will tackle America's trade imbalances with friends and foes alike.

Critics say that not only will US consumers bear the brunt as importers pass on the cost, but that they could increase the risk of a damaging recession at home and abroad.

Global markets have been jittery for days ahead of Trump's announcement, while the countries most likely in the crosshairs have called for talks – even as they ready retaliatory measures.

The move also underscores the growing and profound gulf between Trump's America and many of its closest allies, not only on trade but on security, defence and almost everything else.

But in typically unpredictable fashion, the 78-year-old US president is keeping the details close to his chest.

Trump has trailed the measures for weeks, initially suggesting that the tariffs would simply match whatever levies other countries impose.

On Monday, he merely said that he would be "very kind" – but gave little away.

As the deadline drew near, US media reported that he had also been considering blanket 20% tariffs – and then that he was looking at a third option where some countries would get preferential treatment.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump was meeting his top advisers on the eve of the announcement, "perfecting it to make sure this is a perfect deal".

The tariffs would come into effect "immediately" after today's roll-out, she added – effectively ruling out any delays for negotiations with other countries.

Trump has wobbled on several other tariff announcements since returning to office in January, blinking at the last minute with allies

such as Canada and Mexico.

His plans have however sparked growing fears of a damaging trade war around the world that could drive up prices and cause widespread disruption.

Major economies including the European Union and Canada have vowed retaliation.

"We are going to be very deliberate in terms of the measures we take, to fight for Canada," Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Tuesday.

The European Union said on Tuesday it still hoped to negotiate a solution – but that "all instruments are on the table" to retaliate if necessary.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke with Trump on "productive negotiations" towards a UK-US trade deal.

Vietnam said on Tuesday it would slash duties on a range of goods to appease Trump.

Meanwhile, other top exporters are seeking to build up alliances to counter Washington, with China, Japan and South Korea speeding up talks on a free trade agreement.

Speculation about what Trump has in store has been stoking uncertainty on trading floors.

And HSBC strategists led by Max Kettner warned today's announcement might not end the tariff uncertainty.

"We'd argue the potential is in fact higher for the April 2 deadline to introduce even more uncertainty – and hence prolonged broad-based weakness in leading indicators," they said. – AFP

## US cinemas urge 45-day 'baseline' before new films hit streaming

**LAS VEGAS:** New films must be exclusive to movie theatres for at least 45 days before they become available on streaming, the head of the industry's US trade organisation said on Tuesday.

Cinema owners say box office profits have been undercut by shorter theatrical-only "windows" brought in during the pandemic, in part as audiences now assume – sometimes correctly – that they can watch new movies at home within weeks.

"There must be a baseline," said Cinema United president Michael O'Leary, calling for "a clear, consistent period of exclusivity" of at least 45 days.

The action is vital to restoring the health of the entire film industry, he said in a keynote speech during the group's annual CinemaCon event in Las Vegas.

The industry has never recovered to pre-pandemic levels of moviegoers.

Annual North American box office grosses regularly topped US\$11 billion (RM49 billion) in the 2010s, but have yet to get over US\$9 billion in the 2020s.

Before the rise of streaming, and the temporary shuttering of cinemas due to Covid-19, 90-day theatrical windows were standard in US theatres.

While accepting that those days will never return, O'Leary pointed out that countries that have maintained longer windows, like France, have seen better box office recoveries since the pandemic.

In North America, despite high hopes, 2025 has endured a disappointing start, plagued by box office flops like *Disney's Snow White and Mickey 17*.

O'Leary also called for more "aggressive" marketing of films as "only in theatres", and asked studios to stop marketing "see-at-home" options while a movie is still in theaters.

"The perception, or more importantly, the reality at times, that everything will be available on other platforms in a matter of weeks, undercuts the sustainability of the entire industry by negatively impacting the frequency of movie fans going to the theatre," he said. – AFP

Vehicles cross the Ambassador Bridge, which carries 25% of all trade between the US and Canada, in Windsor, Ontario, to go to Detroit, Michigan. – AFP/IC



## Tesla sales tumble in Europe in Q1

**PARIS:** Tesla sales kept falling in March in many European markets as it suffered from a double blow of boycotts against the policies of its founder Elon Musk and an ageing model line-up.

Sales of Tesla's electric cars in France fell 36.8% in March from a year ago amid a slight drop in the overall electric car market, according to figures released on Tuesday by the Automotive Platform (PFA), which represents the country's manufacturers and suppliers.

In Sweden, Tesla sales declined 63.9% in March and 55.2% in the first three months of the year, according to Mobility Sweden.

The Tesla Model Y SUV, the country's top-selling car in the first quarter of 2024, is

now behind two Volvos, the luxury Volkswagen ID.7, and a Subaru.

In Denmark, Tesla sales fell 56% in the first quarter, according to Mobility Denmark.

Germany, Britain and Italy will announce their March figures in the coming days.

Already in the first two months of the year, Tesla's sales in the European Union were almost cut in half, with the company now holding just a 1.1% market share.

At the same time, vandalism against charging stations and the brand's dealerships has increased, while several protests were held on Saturday outside retail locations in North America and Europe to contest Musk's close cooperation with US President Donald Trump.

Stephanie Valdez Streaty of Cox

Automotive said that it was "undeniable that Elon Musk is an influential factor whose actions affect the brand's image and sales".

Environmental group Mighty Earth summed up the buyers' dilemma in a statement on Tuesday – while Tesla's electric cars are positive from a climate point of view, Musk's actions as head of the government efficiency commission are "sabotaging climate action, kicking environmental cops off the job, and gutting the ability of the US government to stop oil, coal, and meat companies from pouring pollution into the air and water".

Besides politics, Tesla's model offerings are ageing and face a slew of new competitors from Europe and above all Asia. – AFP

## Newsmax shares surge 2,000% in days after IPO

**WASHINGTON:** Shares of the conservative cable news channel Newsmax have skyrocketed more than 2,000% in the two days since it began trading in New York, pushing the firm's market value above US\$26 billion (RM116 billion).

The right-wing media company has long been a cheerleader for US President Donald Trump, and is now among the most-watched cable news channels in the United States.

At its initial public offering last week, the company raised US\$75 million at US\$10 per share, valuing the company at little more than US\$1 billion.

By 3pm in Washington on Tuesday (3am yesterday in Malaysia), a day after its shares listed in New York, the share price was worth US\$206.89, giving it a market capitalisation of US\$26.5 billion.

Newsmax has consistently been the fourth most-viewed cable news channel in America, behind Fox, MSNBC and CNN, according to the ratings company Nielsen.

But its roughly 300,000 prime time viewers still pale in comparison to the prominent conservative news channel Fox News, which averaged more than three million.

That could soon change, Newsmax chief executive Christopher Ruddy told CNBC in an interview before markets opened on Monday.

"I think we're becoming very competitive with (Fox)," he said. – AFP



# Major carmakers hit with €550 million fine

► EU and Britain say manufacturers, trade bodies colluded to prevent competition on recycling

**BRUSSELS:** Antitrust authorities in the EU and Britain on Tuesday fined a cartel involving some of the world's biggest carmakers about €550 million (RM2.6 billion) for preventing competition on vehicle recycling.

The European Commission said 15 manufacturers, including BMW, Ford, Jeep maker Stellantis and Volkswagen, and an industry group colluded to avoid paying car dismantlers and lower consumer pressure to recycle more, the commission said.

It fined the participants, who admitted their involvement and agreed to settle the case a total of €458 million.

"We have taken firm action against companies that colluded to prevent competition on recycling," EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera said in a statement.

A parallel probe by Britain's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) reached similar conclusions, fining 10 companies and two trade bodies more than £77 million (RM441 million).

The cartel was revealed by Mercedes-Benz,

which participated in it but received immunity – and avoided hefty fines across both sides of the Channel – for cooperating with the authorities.

The European Automobiles Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), an industry lobby group, acted as facilitator, organising meetings and contacts between the manufacturers, the commission said.

The group acknowledged that the infringement "should not have occurred" but said it "neither produced consumer harm nor reduced innovation".

"Manufacturers have continued to improve car recyclability and today, almost 90% of the parts and materials in cars scrapped in the EU are reused and recycled," an ACEA spokesman said.

Under EU rules, car owners must be able to dispose off old or damaged cars that are no longer fit for use with a dismantler at no cost, with manufacturers picking up the bill if needed.

Car buyers must also be informed about the "recycling performance" of new cars.

But the companies involved, which also included Toyota, Suzuki, Volvo, Honda, Renault, Mitsubishi and Opel, coordinated to avoid paying dismantlers, sharing sensitive information on individual agreements.

The behaviour, which also breached British competition rules, amounted to a "buyers' cartel" as recycling firms were "unable to negotiate a price with manufacturers", the CMA said.

The carmakers also agreed not to promote how much of a vehicle could be recycled, recovered and reused and how much recycled material was used in new cars.

"Their goal was to prevent consumers from considering recycling information when choosing a car, which could lower the pressure on companies to go beyond legal requirements," the commission said.

The infringements spanned from 2002 to 2017, it added.

"These car manufacturers coordinated for over 15 years to avoid paying for recycling services," Ribera said.

"We will not tolerate cartels of any kind, and that includes those that suppress customer awareness and demand for more environmental-friendly products." – AFP

## UK pledges £20 million to boost drone and 'flying taxi' services

**LONDON:** The UK government said on Tuesday it had pledged £20 million (RM115 million) to help commercial drone services and "flying taxis" take off in Britain.

The drone delivery market has landed in several countries including the United States, allowing customers to have online shopping dropped at their doors by fleets of flying robots.

There have been several pilot schemes in the UK too – from island postal services to rapid blood sample transport – but commercial drone deliveries have been slower to get off the ground.

Earlier this year, Amazon said it had chosen a town in northern England for its first UK drone parcel deliveries – though it is still not clear when the scheme in Darlington could start.

Announcing the UK government funding on Tuesday, the Transport Ministry said the money would help kickstart new technologies and streamline regulations, in a move it said would benefit companies but could also see drones used by firefighters and paramedics.

The ministry added the UK's Civil Aviation Authority would receive £16.5 million from 2025-26 to work on regulations for drones and electric air taxis – vehicles which resemble a cross between a drone and a small plane, and can take off like helicopters.

The regulations "could see air taxis in use from 2028", the Transport Ministry claimed, adding a further £5 million would be used "to support industry to turn these new technologies into profitable business that benefits communities".

Critics argued the government should focus its attention elsewhere, and have raised concerns about the use of drones and aerial surveillance by the authorities.

Unions are also worried about the risk to jobs, while earlier this year the UK's prison watchdog warned gangs were using drones to deliver drugs and drop weapons to inmates inside jails.

Welcoming the new funding, Technology Secretary Peter Kyle said a "regulatory system that keeps pace" was needed for new technologies to succeed.

"This is regulation that will unlock a raft of new commercial and public service opportunities for the use of drones."

He said drones would have to transmit their location to reduce the risk of crashes and the "highest safety standards" would be maintained.

Aviation Minister Mike Kane said he wanted "the UK to have the most advanced aviation technology ecosystem in the world".

The UK has so far seen the deployment of an army of flightless shopping delivery robots in Milton Keynes, post delivered by drone on the Scottish isles of Orkney, and blood samples sent through the skies by a London hospital for urgent testing. – AFP



Logos of Made in Mexico are pictured as a woman searches for products in a Walmart store in Mexico City. – REUTERS/SPIC

## Mexico lowers 2025 growth forecast on trade war fears

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexico's government on Tuesday sharply lowered its economic growth forecast for 2025, citing uncertainty over American tariffs set to be imposed by Donald Trump.

The US president is expected to reveal today the shape of sweeping tariffs against all countries that tax American imports – adding to his new levies on steel and aluminum and just before additional ones hit cars entering the country.

More than 80% of Mexican imports go to its

northern neighbour, making the country America's biggest trading partner.

Many factories south of the border assemble vehicles for foreign firms like Ford, General Motors, BMW, Volkswagen or Toyota.

The Mexican Finance Ministry said that it was lowering its growth forecast to a range of 1.5% to 2.3% – down from the 2% to 3% hoped for last November.

It pointed to "an uncertain external

environment given global trade tensions and geopolitical conflicts."

Mexico's central bank had earlier also revised its forecast downwards, halving it to 0.6% growth over "uncertainty" emanating from Washington.

President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Tuesday that she did not believe in an "eye for an eye" approach to retaliating to potential US tariffs. – AFP

## Bridgestone to cut 546 jobs in Spain on uncertainty and competition

**MADRID:** Japanese tyre maker Bridgestone said it plans to cut jobs at two factories in Spain in reaction to an adverse evolution of the European market and the rise of non-European products.

The company plans to cut 546 jobs at two factories making tyres for tractors, other farm

vehicles, buses and trucks in Cantabria and the Basque Country in northern Spain, local union UGT said on Tuesday.

UGT and other unions said they will call for a strike at the two factories, without giving details.

Bridgestone Hispania, the company's local

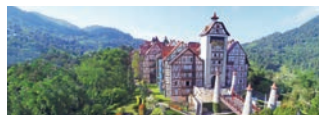
unit, has 2,800 employees, UGT said.

Given the market situation, characterised by inflation, uncertainty and regulatory changes, Bridgestone said it needs an "adjustment" of its production capacity.

The move to cut capacity and costs in Europe

is the latest in an industry that indirectly suffers from the travails of the European car industry.

Late last year, Michelin, Bridgestone's French rival, had announced job cuts and factory closures in France, citing high costs and cheap Asian competition. – Reuters



A REFRESHING RETREAT  
NEAR KUALA LUMPUR  
colmartropicale.com.my



Heavy machinery is used to clear the debris at the site of the collapsed building collapse in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP/PPIC

# Chinese developer under scrutiny over tower collapse

► Tests show substandard steel used to reinforce concrete: Thai officials

**BANGKOK:** A Chinese construction company is facing questions over the deadly collapse of a Bangkok skyscraper – the only major building in the capital to fall in a catastrophic earthquake that has killed more than 2,000 people in Thailand and Myanmar.

The 30-storey tower, still under construction, was to house government offices, but the shaking reduced the structure to a pile of rubble in seconds, killing 13 people and injuring nine.

It was the deadliest single incident in Thailand after Friday's 7.7-magnitude quake, with the majority of the kingdom's 20 fatalities thought to be workers on the building site and hopes fading for around 70 still trapped.

Sprawling Bangkok bristles with countless high-rise blocks, but none have reported major damage, prompting many to ask why the block under construction gave way.

"We have to investigate where the mistake

happened," said Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who has ordered a probe into the materials and safety standards at the construction site.

"What happened from the beginning since it was designed? How was this design approved? This was not the first building in the country."

The development near Bangkok's popular Chatuchak market was a joint project involving China Railway No. 10 Engineering Group (Thailand) – an offshoot of China Railway Group (CREC).

Testing of steel rebars – struts used to reinforce concrete – from the site has found that some of the metal used was substandard, Thai safety officials said on Monday.

Industry Minister Akanat Promphan announced that a committee would be set up to investigate, saying one supplier of the steel had failed safety tests in December and may have its licence withdrawn.

He did not name the supplier. Ladkrabang Suchatwee Sunaswat, a professor of civil engineering at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, said there were questions to be answered.

"We have to look at the design. At the beginning, how they calculate, how they design."

The local partner in the project, Italian-Thai Development (ITD) offered condolences on Monday to quake victims but said it was "confident" the incident would not impact its other projects.

Beijing-owned CREC is one of the world's largest construction and engineering contractors, with projects in more than 90 countries and regions, according to its website.

The Bangkok construction collapse is not the first time CREC and its subsidiaries have come under fire after deadly incidents.

A tide of anger was unleashed at authorities in Serbia following the deaths of 14 people when a roof collapsed in November last year at a train station built by CREC subsidiaries – largely focused on reports of alleged shortcuts made with building projects.

Roisai Wongsuban of the Migrant Working Group advocacy organisation said there have been a large number of complaints from migrant workers employed by China firms in Thailand about lax safety standards and poor labour rights.

Paetongtarn said an investigation into the collapse launched on Monday would not be "specific to one country".

"We do not want one particular country to think we are only keeping eyes on (it)." – AFP

## Fatal Xiaomi crash raises questions about assisted driving tech in China

**BEIJING:** Chinese EV maker Xiaomi said it would cooperate with a police investigation into a fatal crash involving one of its cars which had been in autonomous mode just before the accident.

Three college students died on Saturday night after their Xiaomi SU7 hit a concrete barrier on a section of the Dezhou-Shangrao Expressway in eastern Anhui province.

Before the crash, the vehicle was in Xiaomi's Navigate On Autopilot (NAO) assisted driving mode, travelling at 116kph, according to a company statement posted online.

While travelling on a highway section with roadworks, the vehicle detected an obstacle ahead, issued a warning, and handed control to the driver, Xiaomi said.

But seconds later, the vehicle hit a barrier at around 97kph.

Footage posted online showed a car in flames on the highway and later the burned-out wreckage.

Xiaomi founder Lei Jun said in a social media post late on Tuesday that he was "heavy-hearted" and that his company would "continue to cooperate with the police investigation".

Since the crash, many online have questioned Xiaomi's assisted driving functions, why the car caught fire, and whether the doors could be opened in an emergency.

On the X-like Weibo, an account identified by the platform and local media as the driver's mother accused Xiaomi of failing to contact her and "not taking the lives of three kids seriously".

"As family members, we have many questions. Why did the vehicle catch fire after hitting the barrier? We just want an explanation."

Xiaomi says cars using its intelligent driving system can overtake and change lanes on the highway, though it cautions that it is not a replacement for drivers. – AFP

## India's March palm oil imports rise but stay below normal levels

**MUMBAI:** India's palm oil imports in March increased from the previous month but remained below normal levels for the fourth consecutive month, as its premium over rival soyoil prompted refiners to boost soyoil purchases, according to five dealers.

Lower-than-normal palm oil imports by India, the world's biggest buyer of vegetable oils, could pressure Malaysian palm oil prices and support US soyoil futures.

Palm oil imports in March rose 13.2% to 423,000 metric tons month-on-month, according to estimates from dealers.

In early March, dealers had expected imports to surpass 500,000 tons for the month.

India imported an average of more than 750,000 tons of palm oil each month during the marketing year that ended in October 2024, said the Solvent Extractors' Association of India, which is set to publish its March import data by mid-April.

"Palm oil has been more expensive than soyoil for the past few months, and it's reducing core demand," said Rajesh Patel, managing partner at GGN Research, an edible oil trader.

Soyoil imports in March jumped 24% to 352,000 tons month-on-month, while sunflower oil imports fell 15.5% to 193,000 metric tons, the lowest in six months, dealers said.

Higher shipments of palm oil and soyoil lifted the country's total edible oil imports in March to 968,000 tons, marking a 9.3% jump from the prior month, which saw imports fall to a four-year low, according to dealers' estimates.

India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, while it imports soyoil and sunflower oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Ukraine. – Reuters

## 17 S'pore transport firms to face greater govt controls

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore has designated 17 transport companies as critical firms subject to greater regulatory scrutiny under a new law effective on Tuesday, which authorities have said aims to guard against extreme scenarios involving "malicious actors".

The Transport Sector (Critical Firms) Act would give the government tighter control over major Singaporean companies in the air, land and sea transport sectors, with approval required for key leadership changes and when an entity gains control of more than 5% of a firm.

The companies include Singapore-listed Singapore Airlines, ground services handling firm SATS, aircraft maintenance firm SIA Engineering Company and bus and rail operator SBS Transit.

The companies must also inform authorities of events like lawsuits and insolvency that impair their ability to provide essential services, according to the law published in the government gazette.

Unlisted companies also designated as critical include Changi Airport Group, public

transport operator SMRT Corporation, Jurong Port and PSA Marine.

In remarks to Parliament in May last year, Transport Minister Chee Hong Tat said the law was designed to guard against "extreme scenarios" in future of malicious actors gaining control and adversely influencing transport companies and jeopardising services.

Companies subject to the law were strategically important firms whose services were not readily replaceable due to their significant market shares or expertise, he said. – Reuters

# MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 2

## Bursa Trade Statistic

2 APRIL 2025

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

Retail (16.01%)		Institution (27.56%)		Foreign (56.43%)	
Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	
<b>-9.87</b>		<b>+43.24</b>		<b>-33.37</b>	
Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)
320.70	330.58	582.45	539.21	1131.64	1165.01

Preliminary status (Excluding Trade Amendments) | Final data, refer to Bursa website



**Need Some Ideas?**  
Our Monthly Trader's Talk will be held Every 1st Monday of the Month Live webinar with Q&A

IPacOnline | @ipaconline1972 | Inter-Pacific Securities | @IPac\_TV

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

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

**DISCLAIMER:** The data and reports are provided as a service to investors. Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

## Bursa Indices

INDEX		CHANGE
FBMEMAS	11,390.32	+42.28
FBMVKLCI	1,526.52	+12.87
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	484.51	-1.51
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT	151.89	-1.38
CONSTRUCTION	264.43	-0.97
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,572.30	+188.09
ENERGY	745.05	-12.93
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	481.20	+3.77
HEALTH CARE	1,838.19	-15.35
TRANSPORTATION & L	1,018.59	-14.35
PROPERTY	997.02	-8.59
PLANTATION	7,408.11	-29.62
FBMSHA	11,134.97	+10.56
FBMACE	4,766.06	-42.86
TECHNOLOGY	49.32	-0.95

**TURNOVER: 2.369 bil**      **VALUE: RM2.834 bil**

## FBM KLCI ends at intraday high on bargain hunting

BURSA Malaysia's benchmark index ended higher yesterday, amid an overall cautious market sentiment, on bargain-hunting activities, said an analyst.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI advanced 12.87 points or 0.85% to the day's high of 1,526.52 from Friday's close of 1,513.65.

The benchmark index had opened 3.49 points higher at 1,517.14 and reached an intraday low of 1,514.08.

In the broader market, decliners thumped gainers 637 to 288, while 428 counters were unchanged, 995 untraded and nine suspended.

Turnover went up to 2.37 billion units valued at RM2.03 billion from Friday's 2.25 billion units valued at RM2.13 billion.

The market was closed on March 31 and April 1 for the Hari Raya public holidays.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said the market remained wary as market sentiment has turned highly fragile, with momentum fluctuating frequently amid heightened uncertainty over US President Donald Trump's next move on tariffs.

"We expect bargain hunting may continue and anticipate the FBM KLCI to trend within the range of 1,515-1,535 for the week," he added.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank jumped 20 sen to RM10.32, TNB strengthened by 38 sen to RM13.76, CIMB surged 14 sen to RM7.14, Hong Leong Bank gained 24 sen to RM20.38, Public Bank and IHH Healthcare eased three sen each to RM4.39 and RM6.89, while Press Metal eased one sen to RM5.03.

Among the actives, MYEG gained two sen to 93 sen, Sapura Energy inched up half-a-sen to five sen, T7 Global shed 18 sen to 32 sen, and TA Win edged down half-a-sen to 2.5 sen - Bernama

## Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWD1	0.205	+0.010	+5.13	1,282,318
HSI-CWCY	0.115	-0.030	-20.69	1,238,966
HSI-CWEJ	0.135	-0.015	-10.00	1,116,045
VELOCITY	0.085	-0.005	-5.56	853,444
HSI-PWFR	0.185	+0.010	+5.71	800,276
HSI-PWD6	0.170	+0.020	+13.33	780,949
HSI-CWCM	0.095	-0.035	-26.92	573,641
T7GLOBAL	0.320	-0.180	-36.00	560,084
TAWIN	0.025	-0.005	-16.67	549,185
HSI-CWEO	0.115	-0.020	-14.82	503,004
HSI-PWFJ	0.205	+0.005	+2.50	365,710
PBBANK	4.390	-0.030	-0.68	327,063
INSAS-WC	0.060	+0.015	+33.33	289,856
HSTECH-H17	0.070	-	-	240,005
CIMB	7.140	+0.140	+2.00	235,916
MYEG	0.930	+0.020	+2.20	235,860
KPJ	2.640	-0.020	-0.75	229,202
SAPNRG	0.050	+0.005	+11.11	226,029
THRIVEN	0.125	-0.020	-13.79	207,361
BPURI	0.330	+0.005	+1.54	202,543



## Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWCQ	1.540	+0.530	100
TENAGA	13.760	+0.380	98,025
PETDAG	18.820	+0.340	3,130
HIND	14.260	+0.320	1,205
DLADY	28.900	+0.280	48
NIKKEI-HM	1.900	+0.270	95
HLBANK	20.380	+0.240	8,218
MAYBANK	10.320	+0.200	116,581
NIKKEI-HL	1.070	+0.200	50
AMBANK	5.780	+0.180	121,609
MSC-CS	0.340	+0.175	1
BURSA	7.960	+0.170	8,629
CDB	3.620	+0.140	24,028
CIMB	7.140	+0.140	235,916
MSC	2.680	+0.130	19,927
CVIEW	2.040	+0.120	90
NIKKEI-HK	0.510	+0.115	620
MFCB	4.100	+0.090	21,577
CBIP	1.180	+0.080	1
SBAGAN	5.800	+0.080	162

## Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
MSC-CS	0.340	+106.06	1
JIANKUN-WB	0.010	+100.00	1,152
PHB	0.010	+100.00	14,978
SUPERMX-C4Q	0.010	+100.00	22,153
ZENTECH	0.010	+100.00	30,503
HSI-CWCQ	1.540	+52.48	100
DRBHCOMC3L	0.015	+50.00	106
MNC-WC	0.015	+50.00	220
XIAOMI-H1B	0.195	+44.44	2,490
HSI-PWDX	0.055	+37.50	100
MSC-CR	0.110	+37.50	21,406
FCPO-CW04	0.150	+36.36	100
TENAGA-C2W	0.075	+36.36	6,040
FCPO-CW03	0.295	+34.09	100
INSAS-WC	0.060	+33.33	289,856
HSTECH-H19	0.265	+32.50	1,000
HSI-PWFG	0.195	+30.00	3
NIKKEI-HK	0.510	+29.11	620
ENGTEC-WB	0.120	+26.32	8,492
GLDHK-C5	0.370	+25.42	28

## World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	41,989.96	-11.8	-0.03
S&P 500 (US)	5,633.07	21.22	0.38
NASDAQ (US)	17,449.89	150.6	0.87
NYSE (US)	19,398.29	2.43	0.01
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	5,291.89	-28.41	-0.53
FTSE 100 (UK)	8,579.19	-55.61	-0.64
DAX (GER)	22,313.27	-226.71	-1.01
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	35,725.87	101.39	0.28
TOPIX INDEX (JPN)	2,650.29	-11.44	-0.43
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	23,202.53	-4.31	-0.02
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,884.39	-3.29	-0.08
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	183.47	1.41	0.77
SHANGHAI SE COM (CHN)	3,350.13	1.69	0.05
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	2,505.86	-15.53	-0.62
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	76,499.31	474.8	0.62
ASX 200 (AUS)	7,934.55	9.39	0.12
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	8,133.14	6.23	0.08
FBM KLCI	1,526.52	12.87	0.85
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	3,960.97	-7.88	-0.2
WTI (US\$/BBL.)	71.11	-0.09	-0.13
BRENT (US\$/BBL.)	74.36	-0.13	-0.17
GOLD (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	3,162.80	16.8	0.53
SILVER (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	34.78	0.47	1.37
PLATINUM (US\$/T OZ)	983.47	-5.62	-0.57
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	508.5	5	0.99
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US\$/MT)	9,693.00	-17	-0.18
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	455.75	-6	-1.3
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	537	-3.5	-0.65
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	47.55	0.11	0.23
COCOA (ICE) (US\$/MT)	8,393.00	216	2.64
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	193.8	0.3	0.16

As at 5pm, April 2

## Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	72.660	-1.640	1,701
MPI	17.540	-1.560	4,366
UTDPLT	21.920	-0.480	5,598
HEIM	26.460	-0.300	898
KLK	20.420	-0.280	3,606
XIAOMI-C33	0.750	-0.270	1
NIKKEI-CO	0.540	-0.250	181
ALLIANZ	18.100	-0.200	123
F&N	24.100	-0.200	273
HSI-CWEB	0.605	-0.185	100
FRONTKN	3.550	-0.180	27,944
LPI	14.220	-0.180	307
SURIA	1.870	-0.180	593
T7GLOBAL	0.320	-0.180	560,084
XIAOMI-C35	0.260	-0.180	22,358
SUNWAY-PA	4.310	-0.170	24
CARLSBG	18.940	-0.160	500
MASTER	3.520	-0.160	317
PIE	3.760	-0.160	3,692
HSI-CWCN	0.560	-0.155	10

## Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
WCT-C39	0.040	-73.33	20,000
SGFCAP-WC	0.005	-66.67	2,148
SAPNRG-WA	0.005	-66.67	33,059
GENM-C3D	0.010	-60.00	2,541
LCTITAN-CU	0.060	-60.00	10,000
GAMUDA-C2D	0.030	-57.14	1,100
YINSON-WA	0.035	-53.33	64,713
CTOS-C14	0.005	-50.00	6,585
GENETEC-CE	0.015	-50.00	9,401
GENM-C3B	0.005	-50.00	26
GOCEAN-WB	0.005	-50.00	600
HARTA-C2O	0.005	-50.00	20,370
HONGSENG	0.005	-50.00	5,617
JADI-WB	0.005	-50.00	2,612
KOSSAN-C71	0.010	-50.00	2,849
KOSSAN-C72	0.010	-50.00	2,880
LIONIND-WA	0.005	-50.00	506
MAXLAND-WB	0.005	-50.00	2,400
SKPRES-WB	0.005	-50.00	8,305
TENAGA-C2O	0.005	-50.00	1,000

# MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

**SUNBIZ** presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by **SunBiz Team**

**DISCLAIMER:** The information is extracted from stockbrokers' commentaries and research reports and do not represent the views or opinions of Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd. It is not a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy or sell the equities featured. Sun Media Corporation shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

## RHB keeps 2025 and 2026 Brent price forecast at US\$75

**KUALA LUMPUR:** RHB Research has maintained its Brent crude oil price forecasts at US\$75 per barrel for both 2025 and 2026.

This outlook aligns with Opec's projection of global oil demand growing by 1.4 million barrels per day (mbpd) YoY in 2025, reaching a total demand of 105.2 mbpd.

The bank-backed research firm said the forecast is based on an expected global GDP growth of 3.1% YoY.

"We estimate the oil market will narrow its theoretical deficit from 1.4 mbpd in 2024 to 0.7 mbpd in 2025.

"This is mainly due to a moderation in demand growth and higher supply from both Opec and non-Opec producers.

"Opec+ will start to increase its production gradually from April. If Opec+ were to continue its ramp-up programme without any changes, the oil market could see a surplus of 0.6 mbpd in 2026.

"We keep our 2026 oil price unchanged at US\$75 a barrel as we believe Opec+ may put on hold its production hike plan in 2026 to avoid a surplus condition," RHB Research said in a note.

The research firm made a "neutral" on the Malaysian oil and gas sector, following the resuming of its coverage of Petronas Chemicals.

"We see prolonged uncertainties from the domestic industry and macroeconomic front. The switching of Petronas' financial reporting to every half-year, rightsizing initiatives, and ongoing discussions with Petroliaam Sarawak (Petros) continue to cast uncertainties over the sector as capex spending targets remain unclear.

"The overall operating environment could be more challenging, but we advocate selective stock selection with FPSO and maintenance-related players as our preferred choices amidst attractive valuations," RHB Research said.

## Ringgit weakens against dollar ahead of US tariff news

**THE** ringgit depreciated against the US dollar at close yesterday as traders and investors are concerned about the reciprocal tariff announcement by the US government, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit slid to 4.4510/4565 against the greenback from last Friday's close of 4.4330/4355.

The currency pair and Malaysian markets were closed for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri public holiday on Monday and Tuesday.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said details of the tariff would be closely scrutinised as this would determine the impact of such a trade war.

"It remains to be seen how such a move can reset the global trade given the intricacy of the global supply chain as it might take years to shift production back to the US soil.

"Such a transition could result in slower global growth. Thus far, survey data such as business and consumer sentiments have weakened considerably," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, the ringgit was also traded lower against major currencies.

It edged down against the Japanese yen to 2.9783/9821 from 2.9438/9456, eased against the euro to 4.8098/8157 from 4.7761/7788, and weakened against the British pound to 5.7632/7703 from 5.7407/7440 last Friday.

The local note was mixed against Asean currencies.

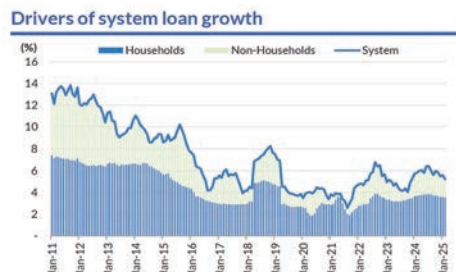
It marginally increased versus the Thai baht to 13.0260/0490 from 13.0390/0533, and was slightly better against the Indonesian rupiah to 266.3/266.7 from 267.7/267.9 last Friday.

However, it fell against the Singapore dollar to 3.3150/3193 from 3.3040/3061 and slid versus the Philippine peso to 7.78/7.79 from 7.72/7.73 previously.

Exchange Rates			
FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.5170	4.3810	4.3710
1 Australian Dollar	2.8520	2.7360	2.7200
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3580	3.2600	3.2520
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1540	3.0680	3.0560
1 Euro	4.8820	4.7220	4.7020
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5870	2.4910	2.4750
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3580	3.2600	3.2520
1 Sterling Pound	5.8410	5.6540	5.6340
1 Swiss Franc	5.1470	4.9250	4.9100
100 UAE Dirham	124.4300	117.9300	117.7300
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.7950	3.5330	3.3330
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.5500	59.8900	N/A
100 Danish Krone	67.0600	61.6900	61.4900
100 Hongkong Dollar	58.6700	55.7300	55.5300
100 Indian Rupee	5.3600	5.0300	4.8300
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0282	0.0255	0.0205
100 Japanese Yen	3.0190	2.9210	2.9110
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	44.3000	40.7300	40.5300
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6400	1.5400	1.3400
100 Philippine Peso	8.0100	7.5400	7.3400
100 Qatar Riyal	125.2600	118.9200	118.7200
100 Saudi Riyal	121.7200	115.5500	115.3500
100 South Africa Rand	25.3200	22.8500	22.6500
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5700	1.4400	1.2400
100 Swedish Krona	46.5300	42.3500	42.1500
100 Thai Baht	13.8000	12.2300	11.8300

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

## Banks Overweight



Source: Company data, RHB

**SYSTEM** loans expanded 5.2% YoY (flat MoM) in Feb 2025, with loans to the household sector leading the charge (+6% YoY, +1% MoM). This mainly stemmed from a strong rise in loans for residential mortgages (+7% YoY, flat MoM) as well as hire purchase loans (+8% YoY, flat MoM). Non-household loan growth was a more modest 4% YoY (flat MoM), with the finance (+18% YoY, -1% MoM) and real estate (+4% YoY, flat MoM) segments as key drivers. We maintain our system loan growth forecast of 5% YoY for 2025, premised on resilient growth in the domestic economy and the gradual execution of various national development masterplans.

Demand for credit still looks robust, as system loan applications are up 7% YoY YTD, mainly thanks to the non-household segment. Meanwhile, YTD system loan approvals rose by a smaller 1% YoY, while disbursements are down 3% YoY – we think this is indicative of a step-up in disbursements to come, which is supportive of loan growth down the road. Elsewhere, the 12-month fixed deposit rate continued to trend southwards, as banks continue to pare down funding costs – the current level of 2.69% (-16bps YoY) is the lowest since Apr 2023. On the flip side, the average lending rate dropped by a larger 34bps YoY, likely a result of stiff competition for loan growth.

System deposits gained 3% YoY (MoM: +1%) in Feb 2025. CASA continued to be the preferred deposit channel, as these increased by a stronger 4% YoY (MoM: +1%) – the CASA ratio rose slightly to 31.4% (+0.2ppts YoY and MoM) as a result. Despite a tighter LDR of 87% (+1ppt YoY), BNM does not believe there is a liquidity crunch in the system, as the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) remains at healthy levels (Feb 2025: 154%, Jan 2025: 158%, Feb 2024: 154%). – **RHB Research, April 2**

## MN Holdings Bhd Buy. Target price: RM1.60



Source: Bloomberg

**MN HOLDINGS (MN)** has secured a RM138 million contract from Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) to establish a new 275kV transmission main intake (PMU) at the Kenyir Switching Station, featuring a double-busbar configuration, located at the Kenyir Hydro Power Station in Terengganu. The contract duration is for 24 months, with works expected to commence in March 25 and be completed by March 27.

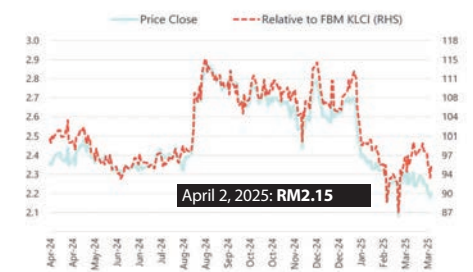
This is the largest contract secured from TNB, a testament to its expertise in high-voltage power infrastructure projects and positioning itself to benefit from TNB's rising capital expenditure under RP4. Including this win, YTD job wins of RM884 million have exceeded our previous full-year replenishment target of RM700 million. MN's outstanding order book stands at RM978 million, which implies a strong cover of 3.8x on FY24 revenue, providing strong earnings visibility over the next 2 years. Assuming a 7% PAT margin, we project that this contract will contribute approximately RM10 million PATAMI over FY26-27. Looking ahead, the tender pipeline remains strong at RM1.4 billion across various sectors, including TNB/Sarawak Energy (37%), DC (37%), solar (10%), water and sewerage (3%), and others (12%).

We raise our FY26-27 earnings forecast by 1-6% after imputing a higher order book replenishment of RM950 million (from RM700 million previously) for FY25 and adjusting margins lower to factor in higher TNB project mix. Our order book replenishment assumption for FY26-27 remains unchanged at RM500 million/RM550 million.

Key risks include slower-than-expected project rollouts, which could affect order book replenishment and unforeseen delays.

BUY with RM1.60 TP. – **Phillip Capital Research, April 2**

## Yinson Holdings Bhd Buy. Target price: RM3.69



Source: Bloomberg

**FY25** core profit of RM597 million (+51% YoY) was within our expectations, at 102% of FY25 core earnings. We stripped off RM624 million of subsidiary disposal gains, RM116 million in JV disposal losses, RM32 million from multiple impairments, and RM486 million in EPCIC losses (inclusive of additional cost provisions for *Atlanta*), among others, to arrive at our Q4'25 core profit figure. We believe Street estimates are not a good comparison, as other analysts regard Yinson's EPCIC earnings as core profit. Management declared a fourth interim DPS of RM0.01.

FY25 core earnings improved 51% YoY to RM597 million, mainly led by stronger FPSO contributions that, in turn, were led by the full contribution from FPSO *Anna Nery* – which achieved first oil in May 2023 – as well as gains on remeasurement of finance lease receivables arising from the lease extension for FPSO *Abigail Joseph*.

FPSO *Atlanta* achieved first oil at end-Dec 2024, and Yinson has decided to include additional costs (in finalising both FPSO *MQ* and *Atlanta*). Management guided that these costs are still within the budgeted contingent cost provisions. Meanwhile, Yinson has undergone streamlining of its operations, as evidenced by the lumpy cost provisions and impairments in Q4'25 to reduce overheads, such as for the green tech and renewable energy (RE) divisions. Yinson aims to achieve EBITDA-breakeven in FY26, with the possibility of turning earnings neutral by FY27 for ChargeEV. FPSO *Agogo* is ahead of schedule, and first oil could be achieved by early Q4'26. Global FPSO demand remains robust and Yinson is in a comfortable position to secure at least one new project this year.

BUY with RM3.69 TP. – **RHB Research, April 2**



# the Sun **LYFE**

THURSDAY | APR 3, 2025

**Editorial**  
T: 03-7784 6688  
F: 03-7785 2625  
E: [lifestyle@thesundaily.com](mailto:lifestyle@thesundaily.com)

**Advertising**  
T: 03-7784 8888  
E: [advertise@thesundaily.com](mailto:advertise@thesundaily.com)



## WEEKLY FOCUS

### MONDAY

Technology and social media

### TUESDAY

Family and parenting

### WEDNESDAY

Fashion and beauty

### THURSDAY

Home and living

### FRIDAY

Travel and leisure

### SATURDAY

Food and beverage

# Festive film fare

Short movies that capture Raya spirit - P22 & P23

**INSIDE** P24 Modernise your home with stylish interior designs

P25 Mickey 17 puts cloning into perspective

P26 New Avengers film in pipeline

- 123RFPIC



Diyanna learns that Raya is about memories, not just looks, in *Raya Penuh Makna* featuring Syafiq.

# Showing Raya's meaning through film

➤ Memorable short videos that remind Malaysians what Aidilfitri is truly about

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

**A**S the nation immerses itself in the joys of the festive season, one thing is certain: Raya films are back and they are tugging on every heartstring.

For many Malaysians, these annual short films are as much a part of Aidilfitri as *ketupat* and *kuih lapis*. From touching tales of reconciliation to joyful sing-alongs, comedic horror twists and even artificial intelligence (AI)-powered storytelling, brands have released Raya films that capture the magic of the season, each with its heartfelt message.

Here is a look at the Raya films from select brands:

**Mr D.I.Y. - *Raya Penuh Makna***  
Home improvement retailer Mr D.I.Y. offers a sweet and sentimental take on modern Raya pressures with *Raya Penuh Makna*.

The five-minute short stars Syafiq

Kyle in a cameo role, adding a touch of star power to this light-hearted tale about Diyanna, who avoids all her favourite foods to fit into her *baju raya* until her grandmother reminds her what truly matters.

The film blends humour and family warmth, making it a standout this season.

**U Mobile - *Suaraku***  
U Mobile's *Suaraku* is a moving Raya film that explores the bond between a father and his hearing-impaired daughter.

Using AI text-to-video technology, the daughter bridges their communication gap in a heartfelt story about love, understanding and the power of innovation.

The film premiered last Friday on U Mobile's YouTube and other social media platforms, offering a unique blend of emotional storytelling and next-gen tech, capturing how



*Suaraku* tells a powerful story of a hearing-impaired daughter who reconnects with her father using AI.

modern tools can deepen traditional family ties during Raya.

**Caring Pharmacy - *Syawal di Hati, Kenangan Abadi***

One of this year's most emotionally resonant films comes from Caring Pharmacy. *Syawal di Hati,*

*Kenangan Abadi* explores the impact of divorce on children through the story of two separated siblings.

A ripped painting becomes a powerful metaphor for their torn bond and eventual healing.

The film features artwork by Malaysian savant autistic artist

ArtJamila, who also designed Caring Pharmacy's Raya green packets. These limited-edition packets reflect the brand's focus on emotional healing and community through the power of art.



Angah and Along's emotional journey in *Syawal di Hati*, *Kenangan Abadi* reflects the silent struggles of children affected by divorce.



*Mana Adam?* unpacks the emotional weight of unspoken love during Raya morning.



Proton's 27-minute Raya film showcases heartfelt moments of misunderstanding and reconciliation.



Laughter, music and ghostly mischief unfold in *Cerita Malam Raya*.



*Raya Terunggul* reunites iconic film characters for a heartwarming Raya celebration.

**From page 22** **Spritzer Sparkling - Raya Lebih Bermakna - Mana Adam?**

Spritzer Sparkling's short film *Raya Lebih Bermakna - Mana Adam?* starts with a frantic mother searching for her son on Raya morning, but quickly evolves into a poignant message about how we express love.

Featuring Datuk Jalaluddin Hassan, Naim Daniel and Zara Zya, the film reminds viewers that actions often speak louder than words.

**Proton - Raya 2025 Short Film**

Proton returns with a 27-minute Raya epic directed by Pekin Ibrahim. The film stars Que Haidar and Azwan Ali in a family drama laced with themes of miscommunication, reconciliation and the power of forgiveness, all while subtly showcasing the Proton e.MAS 7, the automaker's latest electric vehicle and current best-selling model in its class.

**Zus Coffee - Cerita Malam Raya**

Zus Coffee breaks tradition with a comedic horror short film titled *Cerita Malam Raya*, which captures the chaos of a family gathering-turned-ghost story. Featuring Luqman Podolski, Zeppo Youngsterz Crew and a musical twist by Faithful Music, the film celebrates the Malaysian tradition of *sembang-sembang* late into the night.

**Watsons - Raya Terunggul**

No Raya season is complete without a big-budget, star-studded film from Watsons. This year's *Raya Terunggul* features a fusion of reality and fiction, where beloved characters such as Mami Jarum and Adnan Sempit come to life to guide a young woman Melati as she comes to terms with her mother's new relationship.

**Petronas - Who Could That Be?**

Petronas's 2025 Raya film *Who Could That Be?* is a heartwarming tale of rediscovery and reconnection.



*Who Could That Be?* captures the warmth of Raya through Rafi's unexpected journey home.

It follows Rafi, a young man returning from abroad who reluctantly visits a distant relative, only to be mistaken for a stranger.

Set in Negeri Sembilan, the film beautifully captures Minangkabau heritage while exploring the emotional depth of Raya traditions, showing *balik kampung* is about rekindling bonds in the most unexpected ways.

The film is available on Petronas's YouTube and other social media channels.

**Hong Leong Bank - Senyum-Senyum Raya**

Hong Leong Bank took a musical

route with *Senyum-Senyum Raya*, a lively song performed by Alif Satar & The Locos.

Infused with themes of gratitude and smart financial habits, the music video encourages Malaysians to embrace positivity and plan wisely, especially during the festive season.

**Tropicana - Art of Tradition**

Tropicana's *Art of Tradition* touches on the importance of home and tradition.

This poetic short reflects on Raya as a time to reconnect with culture, family and the meaning of home itself, a fitting sentiment from one of Malaysia's

property developers.

**Lego - Main Bersama, Eratkan Silaturahmi**

In an era dominated by screens, Lego Malaysia's *Main Bersama, Eratkan Silaturahmi* gently reminds families to unplug and reconnect through creative play.

The web film tells the story of a grandfather who rekindles his bond with his grandchildren by inviting them to build a *kampung* scene out of Lego bricks, proving even the smallest bricks can rebuild the biggest connections.

The campaign encourages families to embrace Lego as a

bonding activity during visits and open houses, something that lasts long after the packets are given out.

**Best Raya stories come from heart**

From tearjerkers and family reunions to dance challenges and digital detoxes, this year's Raya films from brands reflect the spirit of a nation that values empathy, connection and community, whether it is through a song, story or simple act of giving.

As families gather this Aidilfitri, these stories will linger not just on our social feeds, but in our hearts. This year's Raya is shaping up to be a season full of meaning, generosity and unforgettable moments.

*Senyum-Senyum Raya*, performed by Alif Satar & The Locos, inspires gratitude and financial wisdom in a joyful, music-filled celebration.



*Art of Tradition* reminds home, family and culture are the heart of Raya.



A grandfather bonds with his grandchildren through Lego play in *Main Bersama, Eratkan Silaturahmi*.



**T**HE festive season presents the opportunity to refresh your home with sophisticated design elements that balance timeless elegance with modern functionality. Whether you are preparing for lively family gatherings or intimate festive moments, a well-curated space sets the stage for memorable reunions.

This year's interior design trends celebrate warm minimalism, bold aesthetics and organic influences - making it easier than ever to create a home that feels inviting, stylish and effortlessly luxurious.

**Japandi 2.0: New serenity**

A natural evolution of the beloved Japandi aesthetic, this warmer, moodier take moves away from pale wood and soft neutrals to richer walnut tones, moody contrasts and layered textures. Ribbed glass, linen and wool introduce depth, while minimalist silhouettes maintain a sense of balance and calm.

**Elevated minimalism: Simplicity meets luxury**

For those who embrace clean lines and understated elegance, elevated minimalism brings a sophisticated touch to the traditional minimalist aesthetic. This trend incorporates travertine, fluted wood and brushed metal for added depth, while forest green and deep burgundy accents introduce a subtle festive warmth. Sculptural furniture with fluid, organic shapes enhance the visual appeal.

**Retro futurism: Bold nostalgia meets modern edge**

If you love a mix of vintage charm and futuristic flair, retro futurism is the way to infuse personality

# Trendy interior designs for modernised living space

➤ Refresh your home with sophisticated, elegant aesthetics

into your home. This trend blends playful 70s-inspired curves and bold hues such as tangerine, mustard and cobalt blue with modern elements such as chrome, lucite and reflective surfaces.

**Biophilic luxe: Sustainable connection to nature**

If you are looking to embrace an eco-friendlier approach to home living, biophilic luxe brings the outdoors in, celebrating organic textures and renewable materials. Think oversized greenery, living walls and indoor water features that purify the air and enhance well-being. Sustainable elements such as reclaimed wood, bamboo and natural stone create a harmonious retreat that feels opulent and calming.

**Monochromatic spaces with depth**

If you gravitate toward modern monochrome interiors, this trend offers a sophisticated way to create aesthetic cohesion without sacrificing dimensions. Rather than relying on a flat, single tone look, layer different textures and tonal variations to add richness.

This article is contributed by Cosentino.



Japandi 2.0: Bathroom



Biophilic luxe: Living room



Monochromatic spaces with depth: Kitchen

## Preserving passion for woodcraft through miniature house replicas

**DECADES** ago, veteran carpenter Saari Ali often accompanied his late father Ali Mat Rashid as he built houses.

Through these experiences, Saari, 70, honed his skills in woodcraft, particularly in constructing traditional Malay houses.

Today, after four decades in the trade, the master craftsman from Gopeng remains dedicated to house construction but has shifted his focus to crafting miniature house replicas.

With the carpentry expertise and experience passed down from his father, Saari has a rare ability to recreate traditional house replicas with remarkable accuracy, entirely from memory, without the need for sketches or blueprints.

The father of four shared in crafting these replicas, he relies on photographs he takes during village visits and images provided by customers as references.

"I never imagined my woodworking skills of turning pieces of wood into miniature house replicas would one day become a source of income for my family. I learned carpentry from my father and from there, my passion for creating traditional Malay house replicas grew," he said when met at Galeri Tisha, located at the Urban Transformation Centre Perak.

Saari shared many of his traditional house replicas were inspired by cherished memories of working alongside his father and his deep appreciation for traditional architecture.

"Typically, if someone works as a house carpenter, it is easier for them to transition into making traditional house replicas since they already have the basic skills. I never had formal training under anyone and mostly relied on my



Saari shows a replica of the traditional Malay house that he created. - BERNAMAPIC

experience working with my late father," said Saari, who also has a talent for oil painting.

Saari pointed out each replica he crafts carries its own distinct identity, reflecting the architectural styles of various villages he has visited, particularly in Perak.

"If you visit Kampung Gajah, Parit or Kuala Kangsar, you will notice each traditional house

has its unique design, with slight variations. My goal is to create replicas of every type of traditional house found in Perak. I often receive orders for traditional house models such as the Melaka, Johor and even the Negeri Sembilan Minangkabau-style houses, which is particularly popular," he said.

He added it takes anywhere from three

weeks to a month to complete one, depending on the size.

"Each replica crafted must be carefully detailed with windows, pillars, staircases, intricate carvings and decorative motifs to ensure it closely resembles the original house.

"I cannot simply design however I please because each replica is based on an actual house. My goal is to produce more traditional house replicas for future generations to appreciate. Many youngsters today have never had the experience of living in a traditional house. If you visit villages now, you will see many of these homes are no longer occupied," he lamented.

Saari said his miniature houses typically measure 0.3m in height and 0.6m in length, with prices ranging from RM1,000 to RM5,000, depending on the size and architectural style.

"The smaller the replica, the more expensive it is, as the crafting is more intricate. Generally, only those with a deep appreciation for this art form are willing to invest in these pieces," he said.

Saari hopes someone will continue his legacy but he has observed little interest among the younger generation.

"So far, no young people have come to my gallery at Pasar Besar Ipoh, which has been open since 1983, to learn this skill. If this continues, my craft may fade into history," he said.

Named after his daughter Nur Fatisha, Galeri Tisha serves not only as his workshop but also as a space where he paints alongside her, as she shares his passion for art. - Bernama



# Mickey 17 takes jab at corporate greed

➤ Oscar winner Bong Joon Ho returns with bold, bizarre sci-fi tale

## MOVIE REVIEW

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

**I**N *Mickey 17*, Oscar-winning director Bong Joon Ho (*Parasite*, *Snowpiercer*) ventures back into the realm of genre-bending social satire but this time rocketing it to the icy, inhospitable terrain of outer space. The result is a cerebral, sometimes chaotic but undeniably captivating ride that explores identity, exploitation and survival, all wrapped in a sleek sci-fi skin with a surprisingly punchy sense of humour.

Set in a distant future where cloning and corporate control have become the norm, *Mickey 17* does not just tell the story of one man's expendability, it gleefully clones it, tears it apart and reassembles it with the director's signature commentary on class, labour and humanity. It is an existential trip with icy boots on.

### Robert Pattinson reprogrammes expectations

Robert Pattinson delivers one of his most offbeat performances yet, skillfully navigating the tricky layers of a character who is as disposable as he is oddly resilient. Playing the titular Mickey (and more than one iteration of him), Pattinson anchors the film with a performance that balances slapstick absurdity with genuine emotional weight. It is a



Clones Mickey 17 and 18 face off in a tense standoff.

juggling act and he pulls it off with surprising charm and an occasional twitch of philosophical despair.

Fans of Pattinson's recent career choices, from *The Lighthouse* to *The Batman*, will find this to be another strange yet satisfying gem in his post-heartthrob filmography. He thrives in the uncomfortable spaces of *Mickey 17*, embracing the physical comedy and the existential dread that come with dying for a living.

### Full-on Bong mode

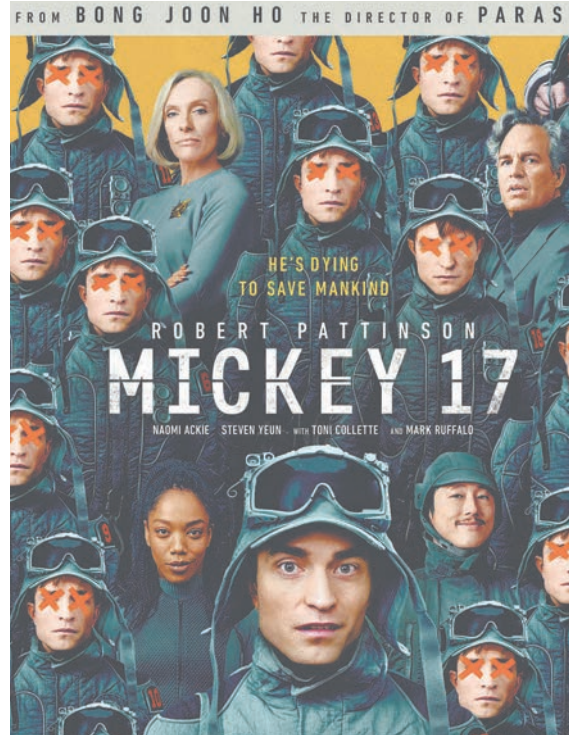
Bong's direction is unmistakably his own. From biting social critique to visual oddities, the film echoes the eccentricity of *Okja* and the precision of *Parasite*, but this time with a more audacious sci-fi flavour. Every scene hums with allegorical intention, from the cold sterility of the spaceship to the unpredictable

wilds of the alien planet. But here is where the film might split audiences: Bong does not exactly subtly deliver his message this time around.

The socio-political themes: corporate greed, expendable labour and authoritarian bureaucracy are painted with a very thick brush. Some might call it profound, others might call it preachy. Either way, it is classic Bong: say it loud, say it weird, say it with clones.

### Ice-cold execution

Visually, *Mickey 17* is a stunning experience. Cinematographer Darius Khondji (*Okja*, *Bardo*) brings crisp, cold beauty to the screen, with a colour palette that oscillates between sterile whites and bruised blues. Whether it is inside the sterile spaceship halls or out on the



Bong's latest sci-fi epic promises high-concept thrills and chilling satire.

ice-slicked alien terrain, every frame is meticulously crafted to look just detached enough to feel like dystopia.

The visual effects are equally effective, not flashy for the sake of it, but smartly deployed to support the narrative. Bong's use of visual language is consistently clever, often layering absurdity with deeper symbolism. And then there is the score by Jung Jaeil (*Parasite*, *Squid Game*), which shifts between ominous and quirky such as a sci-fi mood ring.

### Niche offering with mass ambition

This is not a film designed for everyone. Bong has always had a niche appeal, but *Mickey 17* might be his most "love it or leave it" offering yet. Sci-fi fans may come for the cloning and colonisation concept, while the dark humour and social commentary might draw others. But it is safe to say some viewers might walk away scratching their heads or groaning at the slightly overstuffed final act.

That said, for those willing to engage with its weirdness, the film

offers a surprisingly rich story that is not just about expendable workers in space, but also about identity, empathy and the cost of survival in a system that values profit over people (and clones).

It is not always subtle and it is certainly not always tidy. It is a film that invites thought and possibly some spirited post-credits discussion over what just happened.

### Cerebral themes

Despite its cerebral themes and polarising tone, *Mickey 17* ultimately succeeds as an imaginative genre experiment. It is a film best approached with curiosity rather than expectations. Viewers should let the strange story unfold, absorb the oddball world-building and maybe walk away with a lingering sense of unease about the systems we live in or at the very least, an appreciation for how Pattinson can make death look stylish.

In an industry full of reboots and formulaic storytelling, *Mickey 17* dares to be genuinely different. That alone makes it worth the ride.



### DIRECTOR:

Bong Joon Ho

### CAST:

Robert Pattinson, Steven Yeun, Mark Ruffalo, Naomi Ackie, Toni Collette

### E-VALUE

7

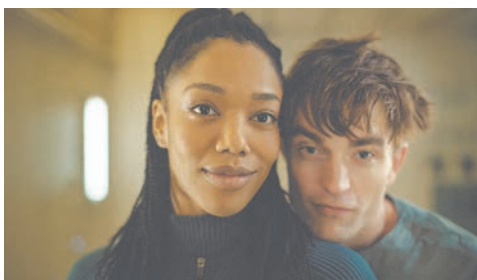
### ACTING

8

### PLOT

8

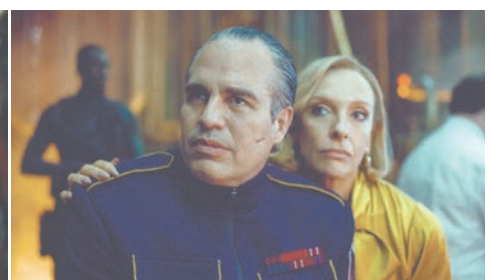
*Mickey 17* might be Bong's most "love it or leave it" film.



Mickey (Pattinson, right) shares a rare moment of warmth with Nasha (Ackie) amid the cold chaos of Niflheim.



Mickey contemplates his existence as expendable labour doomed to be reborn and reused.



Kenneth (Ruffalo) and Yifa (Collette) exude icy control as a power couple with a hidden agenda.

# Doomsday scenario

➤ Stewart, McKellen to return in next *Avengers* movie

**D**ISNEY'S Marvel Studios revealed the bumper cast of its next *Avengers* film, six years after *Avengers: Endgame* became the highest-grossing movie of all time.

Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen are among those returning to the superhero roster for *Avengers: Doomsday*, out May 2026.

They will join a raft of widely expected fan favourites, including Robert Downey Jr. and Chris Hemsworth, a five-hour-long video announcement confirmed.

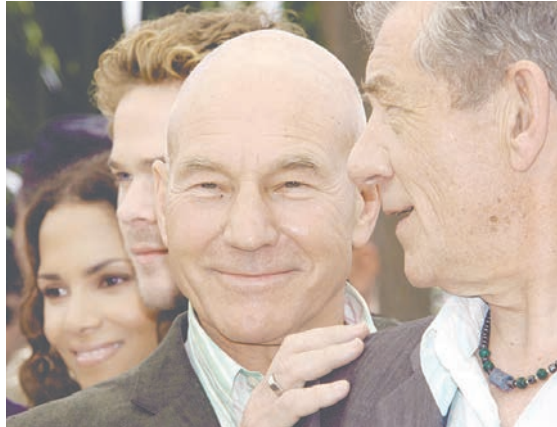
The Marvel superhero films are comfortably the most lucrative franchise in Hollywood history, having collectively made more than US\$30 billion (RM132 billion).

As its title suggests, *Avengers: Doomsday* is intended to be an ensemble blockbuster event in the style of the franchise's pinnacle, 2019's *Avengers: Endgame*, which grossed US\$2.8 billion.

*Endgame* was briefly the highest-grossing movie in history, before the original *Avatar* reclaimed its crown with a theatrical re-release.

Like *Endgame*, *Doomsday* will again team up characters and wrap up storylines in a grand finale to more than a dozen preceding Marvel films.

While several returning superheroes, and the actors playing them, had been previously announced, Marvel revealed the whole set in a livestreamed video.



Stewart (left) and McKellen are surprise inclusions in the cast of the upcoming *Avengers* film. – AFP/PIIC

Surprises included octogenarian thespians Stewart and McKellen, who previously appeared in early *X-Men* films but were thought to have been written out or recast.

Returning favourites include Hemsworth's Thor, Paul Rudd's Ant Man and Tom Hiddleston's Loki.

Actors' names were written on the backs of Hollywood-style directors' chairs, with a camera slowly panning from one to the next every 10 to 15 minutes until ending with Downey Jr. appearing in-person.

Marvel previously announced the Oscar winner will return to the franchise as the villainous Doctor Doom.

"It all leads to Doom. #AvengersDoomsday is now in production," said an accompanying message.

Downey Jr. kick-started the Marvel big-screen phenomenon back in 2008, playing an entirely different character – Iron Man.

The franchise went on an unprecedented red-hot box office streak, raking in billions of dollars.

Post-*Endgame*, the films have lost some luster, with a dozen movies since receiving mostly weaker reviews.

Box office receipts have also fallen from their peak, though are still enviable compared with almost any other Hollywood franchise.

The viral unveiling demonstrates how key to Marvel and Disney the success of *Avengers: Doomsday* as well as 2027 follow-up *Avengers: Secret Wars* will be.

The video was watched nearly four million times in its first seven hours. – AFP

## Search for local talents in scriptwriting, performing

**T**O ignite and celebrate creativity, Thousands Of Years Media (ToYm) has kicked off three competitions, namely ToYm Microseries – Scriptwriting Competition, ToYm Shining Star Idol Competition and ToYm Best Microseries Competition, providing a platform for aspiring creatives and performers to showcase their talent.

The ToYm Microseries – Scriptwriting Competition is seeking original 30-episode scripts on any theme at two minutes per runtime. Besides an opportunity to develop their scripts into production, winners will also take home RM30,000 and RM20,000 if they come in first and second place, respectively, or a RM5,000 consolation prize. Submissions are accepted until May 4, followed by a finalists announcement on May 23 and an award ceremony on June 15.

With a RM220,000 prize pool, the ToYm Shining Star Idol Competition is a platform for talents aged 18 to 30 to showcase

their talent in performing and more. Register online before next Tuesday as auditions take place on April 12 and 13. From April 19 to 24, those who passed will undergo training as an all-boys or all-girls group before a debut night in May. Winners get to score cash prizes, a talent contract and a limited edition trophy.

To put the spotlight on micro drama, the ToYm Best Micro Drama Competition is offering RM100,000 and RM50,000 in addition to five RM10,000 prizes for seven deserving 10-episode micro drama on any theme that runs between one to two minute each.

The submission date for entries is until May 15. Find out if you are among the top seven on May 30. The award ceremony will be held on June 15.

ToYm strives to bring together the most creative works and emerging talents every year, offering various competition formats and platforms to foster growth while inspiring creators to bring their dreams to life.



The genre-defying trio channels raw emotion and poetic storytelling into its latest single.

## Chevon bids poignant farewell with new single

**ALTERNATIVE** rock band Chevon returns with a deeply moving new single *Sayonara Ni Narimashita*, released last month. Known for its raw emotional depth and unpredictable song structures, the Japanese trio channels themes of longing, change and renewal into the spring anthem that speaks to the heart.

Formed in 2021, Chevon has steadily built a reputation for blending literary lyricism with powerful rock instrumentation. This latest track sees vocalist Mayu Tanikino reflecting on personal transitions, layering haunting yet hopeful vocals over intricate guitar work by KtjM and steady, emotive basslines from Tatsuya Ohno.

The result is a sound that feels intimate and expansive, capturing the fleeting nature of spring and the human experiences that often accompany it.

Lyrical, *Sayonara Ni Narimashita* explores the push and pull of loss and hope. Translated lines such as "My life waiting for spring can never be saved forever" and "Let the flowers bloom, a cluster of words/believing it will bear fruit one day" evoke the aching beauty of impermanence.

The melancholic mood is gently uplifted by an undercurrent of



Visual echo of the track's bittersweet tone, blending themes of fading seasons, memory and quiet renewal.

optimism, making the track resonate as a farewell and a quiet welcome to new beginnings.

The single also sets the tone for Chevon's upcoming Zepp One Man Tour 2025, kicking off this May. Fans can look forward to emotionally charged performances that amplify the band's introspective energy.

*Sayonara Ni Narimashita* is a compelling step forward for Chevon, proof the group continues to grow not just musically, but emotionally, offering audiences a heartfelt soundtrack to life's inevitable goodbyes and hopeful hellos.

## Echoes of war in Drudkh's latest LP

### ALBUM REVIEW

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR

**SETTING** a sombre tone for the band's new album, Drudkh's *Shadow Play* opens with *Scattering the Ashes*, as the recording of a person walking through the forest plays, with the rustle of dry leaves crunching beneath their feet eventually giving way to fuzzed-out, acoustic guitars.

However, it would not be far removed to imagine the opening could also be a recording of a Ukrainian walking through what was once their home, now reduced into the ash and debris of a city shelled and levelled by artillery fire.

Returning to the Ukrainian band's atmospheric and pagan roots, Drudkh once again demonstrates its power under this particular branch of black metal through *Shadow Play*. Coming at a time when many of the band's peers are "modernising" their sound, Roman Saenko and Thurios lead Drudkh back to the spirits of the forest and Ukraine.

The marked return to its old style is distinguishable from Drudkh's previous outputs, particularly *All Belong to the Night* from late 2022,



While producing the album, members of Drudkh were actively contributing to resistance efforts in Ukraine. – SPOTIFY/PIIC

which came with a far more aggressive black metal sound that stemmed from the rage boiling over the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began earlier that year.

That is not to say *Shadow Play* is

gentle. Though the tracks are undoubtedly melancholic and at times, utterly depressing, Drudkh's sound and scope is reflected in the songs' complexity. Rather than the explosive aggression of recent past releases, *Shadow Play* is closer to an unassuming tempest.

It is very much a product of its time, with Saenko, Thurios and their countrymen now three years deep into the invasion of their country. Tracks such as *April*, *Fallen Blossom* and *The Eve* capture the mixture of emotions that have beset the people of Ukraine in sweeping musical canvasses of dread, fury and hopelessness, layered over with vocals that howl and shriek anguished cries of desperation in the band's native tongue.

Though black metal is often riddled by musicians who live completely different realities from the visage they put on through their music and on-stage, this is not the case with Drudkh or its new album. *Shadow Play* is elevated by the morbid, authentic, lived-in war-torn reality that Drudkh currently faces, which is itself tragic even if the album is a triumph.

*Shadow Play* is available on streaming platforms.



302 Jobs

## WE ARE HIRING

### 1 MEDIA SALES Executive/Specialist

**Job Description**

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

**Requirements**

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

### 2 MEDIA SALES Representative/Agent (Freelance)

**Requirement**

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : [thesun.hr2@gmail.com](mailto:thesun.hr2@gmail.com)

## Book your Classified advertisement now

Properties

Services

Business

Automotive

Education

Recruitment

Legal

Notice Ad

Contact: **MS SHOBA / MS BALQISH**  
 03 7784 8888 018 261 6626 (Whatsapp)  
 or email us at [advertise@thesundaily.com](mailto:advertise@thesundaily.com)

322 Notices

### NOTICE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER

Prima Avenue and DPC (Block G, H, I) Management Corporation as the project owner, wishes to invite prospective Contractors to participate in the Tender for the works package stated in the table below.

TITLE OF TENDER	COLD WATER PIPE REPLACEMENT FOR DPC (BLOCK G, H, I) AT JALAN PJU 1/37, DATARAN PRIMA, 47301 PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR
<b>CONTRACTOR'S QUALIFICATION</b>	1. Malaysian Contractors - Registered with Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) - Grade: G2 or higher - Specialization: B10, CE20, CE21
<b>TENDER CRITERIA</b>	1. General Scope of Works : To replace existing buried 150 mm mains cold water supply pipe and tap off to 30 existing water meter stand assemblies with new pipes, new water meter stands, new water meters and lockable ball valves for 150 existing property parcels. The Contractor will be fully responsible for the management, scheduling, and coordination of the whole Works. 2. Proven track record in installing buried Ductile Iron, HDPE, MSCL water pipes of at least 150 mm diameter or larger. Strong financial background and capacity to undertake the project.
<b>TENDER TIMELINE</b>	1. Collection of tender documents - Tender documents to be collected upon presentation of photocopies of current CIDB G2 or higher certificate and Specialization B10, CE20, CE21 classifications from: <b>PRIMA AVENUE AND DPC (BLOCK G, H, I) MANAGEMENT CORPORATION</b> MANAGEMENT OFFICE, A-01-34, Menara Prima, Jalan PJU 1/39, Dataran Prima, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Tel : 03 - 7887 4996 / 03 - 7887 3997 / 016 323 8208 Email : <a href="mailto:manager.prima@primaave2021@outlook.com">manager.prima@primaave2021@outlook.com</a> 2. Tender Clarifications and Site Visit (Compulsory) - 10.30 am, Tuesday, 8-Apr-2025 at above office 3. Tender Submission - Submission Deadline: 3:00 pm Tuesday, 15-April-2025 at above office - Document Submission: Hard Copies Only in SEALED envelope with company stamp affixed on all filled in pages

**NOTE:**

- Prima Avenue and DPC (Block G, H, I) Management Corporation reserves the right at its sole and absolute discretion, to accept or reject any submission and/or to annul and withdraw the Pre-Qualification process and reject all submissions, without assigning any reason whatsoever to any and all participants and without thereby incurring any liabilities to the affected participants or any obligations to inform the participants the grounds for the action. Only successful prequalified participants will be notified.
- Prima Avenue and DPC (Block G, H, I) Management Corporation shall not for any reason and/or under any circumstances and/or at any stage whatsoever be responsible for any and all costs, expenses and claims incurred by the participants in preparing, responding to, completing, and submitting the tender documents. All risks associated with the preparation, response, completion, and submission of the tender documents shall be borne and addressed solely by each participant.

322 Notices

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR**  
**IN THE STATE OF WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR (COMMERCIAL DIVISION)**  
**COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO.:**  
**WA-28NCC-267-03/2025**

In the Matter of Section 465(1)(e) and (h) and Section 466(1)(a) of the Companies Act 2016

AND

In the Matter of BIT Group Sdn. Bhd. (Company No. 199501032575 (361777-H))

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF L F KIM HOLDINGS SDN. BHD. (Company No. 112026-X) (In Liquidation) (Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above-named Company which is being voluntarily wound up are required to file, on or before the third day of May 2025 to send in their names and addresses with the names and addresses of their debtors or claimants and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, the Liquidator of the Company, and so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, either personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved.

FOONG WAH LIN (MKA: 5324)  
 Liquidator  
 4th Floor Bangunan Fung Keong  
 108 Jalan Tun H S Lee  
 50000 KUALA LUMPUR

Dated: 3rd April 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF L F KIM HOLDINGS SDN. BHD. (Company No. 112026-X) (In Liquidation) (Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)**

**NOTICE OF RESOLUTION**

At a General Meeting of Members of the abovesaid Company held at Lot 5043, 2nd Floor, Jalan Mara, 41500 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan, on 31st day of March 2025, the following special and ordinary resolutions were duly passed:-

**Special Resolution**

That the Company be wound up voluntarily pursuant to Section 439 (1) (b) of the Companies Act, 2016.

**Ordinary Resolution**

That Mdm Foong Wai Lin, Chartered Accountant, of 4th Floor Bangunan Fung Keong, 108 Jalan Tun H S Lee, 50000 Kuala Lumpur, be and is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purposes of such winding up and that her remuneration for duties as Liquidator be fixed on the scale of her usual professional charges for the work involved, and that the Liquidator may exercise any powers given by Section 465 of the Companies Act, 2016 and that she shall be indemnified by the Company against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred or sustained by her in the execution and discharge of her duties in relation thereto.

KAM KIM FOONG  
 Director  
 Dated: 3rd April 2025

322 Notices

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF YAP KUN FAH PROPERTIES SDN. BHD. (2021010802) (115316-M) (In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 439 of the Companies Act 2016, that the Special Resolution set out below was duly passed by the members of the Company on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025:

"THAT the Company be wound up, by way of a Members' Voluntary Winding Up pursuant to Section 439(1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that Mr. Ng Choon Jin, of Suite 301, 3rd Floor, No. 80007 Kuala Lumpur, be appointed as Liquidator, to act for and on behalf of the winding-up of the company's affairs and discharge its debts."

Lee Ai Hee  
 Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Creditors of the abovesaid Company are required on or before 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 to send their names and addresses with the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, the Liquidator, at Suite 301, 3rd Floor, Oval Bangsar, No. 685, Jalan Damansara, Kuala Lumpur, and to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved.

Ng Choon Jin  
 Liquidator  
 Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF L.H. CLASSROOM INDUSTRY SDN BHD (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the abovesaid Company which is being wound up voluntarily are required on or before 2nd day of May 2025 to send their names and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, Teon Ooi Seng, of A-17-15, Block A, Tropicana Park, No. 12, Persiaran Tropicana PJU3, 47410 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, the Liquidator of the abovesaid company and to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proven.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2025  
 Teon Ooi Seng (MA3664)  
 Liquidator

322 Notices

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR**  
**IN THE STATE OF WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR (COMMERCIAL DIVISION)**  
**COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO.:**  
**WA-28NCC-138-02/2025**

In the Matter of Section 465(1)(e) and (h) and Section 466(1)(a) of the Companies Act 2016

AND

In the Matter of BIT Group Sdn. Bhd. (Company No. 199501032575 (361777-H))

AND

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

BETWEEN

MSA RESOURCES SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO.: 199801006982 (463109-M)) ... PETITIONER

AND

BIT GROUP SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO.: 199501032575 (361777-H)) ... RESPONDENT

**ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION**

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2025, presented by MSA Resources Sdn. Bhd. (Company No. 199801006982 (463109-M)), the above said Petitioning Company and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur at Wilayah Persekutuan, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025 at 9.00 o'clock in the forenoon; 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 No. 64-1, 1st Floor, Jalan 2/23a, Off Jalan Genting Klang, Taman Datarau Kota, Setapak, 53300 Kuala Lumpur.

The Petitioner's solicitors are Messrs. Kuruvilla, Yeoh & Benjamin, address is at D4-15-07, Solaris Dutamas Block D4, No. 1, Jalan Dutamas 1, Off Jalan Dutamas, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Signed,  
 Messrs. Kuruvilla, Yeoh & Benjamin  
 Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTE—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named solicitors for the Petitioner notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitors (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above named not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 18th day of June 2025 the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the Petition.

Reference: EVK/125/3/2024  
 Telephone: 03-7726 3464  
 E-Mail: [general@ybllegal.com](mailto:general@ybllegal.com)

## McGinley wants a worked up Mclroy at Augusta

**PAUL MCGINLEY** wants Rory McIlroy to bring his old "p\*\*\*ed off" attitude to his latest bid to win the Masters next week.

But the former Ryder Cup captain admits it is now a "distinct possibility" that his fellow Irishman will join Greg Norman in never donning a fabled Green Jacket.

The world No. 2 will make his 11th attempt to complete his career Grand Slam after winning twice on the PGA Tour twice before April for the first time.

The Ulsterman also became only the second player after Tiger Woods to bank over US\$100 million (RM450m) in PGA Tour earnings after his tied fifth finish in Houston on Sunday. And McIlroy, who turns 36 next month, is now a husband and a father.

*Golf Channel* analyst McGinley reported the four-time Major winner has been back practising at Augusta this week to allay fears about his sore right elbow.

But the Gleneagles skipper claimed that McIlroy's biggest challenge "is the mental one" – and he wants him to

return to his psychological approach at the start of his career when he had "a point to prove".

"The difficulty is navigating all the pressure and the expectation and trying to get into a really good headspace.

"There will be some psychological games going on and getting Rory into a good state.

"He will come up with a plan with (mind coach) Bob Rotella – this is not their first rodeo going into the Masters together.

"I personally believe that Rory is at his best when he is in a slightly p\*\*\*ed off humour. I think we see that when he has a point to prove. When he is like: OK, get out of my way, here I come.

"I think that is his attitude when he is at his best. Not necessarily for a quiet, calm, smooth, everything-is-rosy-in-the-world and off we go.

"I think he is best when he is on a charge and he has a point to prove. We saw that earlier in his career and that is the kind of psychology that I would like to see him get into come

Thursday morning."

McGinley claimed Mclroy showed at The Players Championship that he can now win with his B game.

And the 2002 Ryder Cup hero reckoned his "greatest adversaries" – Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele, Collin Morikawa and Jon Rahm – "are slightly off their game".

But only five men have ever completed the Grand Slam – and none needed as long as Mclroy to complete the final leg.

The Ulsterman memorably led by four shots going into the final round in 2011 before shooting an 80. Aussie Norman led by six shots in 1996 and still never won a Green Jacket.

"I think it is a distinct possibility for Mclroy," added McGinley. "No-one has the right to win the Masters.

"We have seen phenomenal players come and go and not win the Masters. I am thinking about Ernie Els as well as Greg Norman.

"It is a possibility – it is not a given – but also a phenomenal and exciting challenge. His are great shoes to be in." – Express Newspapers

## Akshay has Masters on his mind ahead of Texas Open

**WHEN** then-22-year-old Akshay Bhatia beat Denny McCarthy in a playoff to win the Valero Texas Open last year at TPC San Antonio, he got to do one of the most enjoyable things in the world of golf. He got to board a flight to Augusta.

Akshay's victory earned him the final spot available in the field at the Masters the following week, and he went on to tie for 35th.

"I played so great the whole week (in San Antonio)," Akshay told reporters yesterday ahead of his title Texas Open defence.

"I honestly don't know how I did it, shooting 20-under, Denny and I, and I think third place was 11-under.

"You step on this property and you realise how hard this golf course is. Just such a whirlwind.

"Then going to Augusta the following night, just great memories. You know, I look forward to see if I can get back in that position this week."

Akshay was the solo leader after each of the first three rounds last

year before McCarthy caught up to him with a final-round 63. Akshay won it with a birdie on the first playoff hole.

This time around, Akshay hasn't really thought about defending his title. He's already in the field for the 2025 Masters, and this week is more about rounding into form for the year's first major.

"You know, I checked into the hotel and someone asked me, he said, 'How ya feeling this week?'" Akshay said.

"I said, 'Yeah, it's nice to be back.' He's like, 'So, but how are you feeling? Are you nervous?' I mean, I haven't really thought about it.

"I feel like it's just another week. I have my mind really set on Augusta next week so it's a great week on this golf course to kind of learn where my game's at, what kind of shots I need to improve on for next week.

"It's a great golf course for that, very narrow, very tricky. It's obviously going to be windy here. I just kind of feel normal." – Field Level Media

# All eyes on Tsunoda

Red Bull under spotlight after ruthless move ahead of Suzuka race

**YUKI TSUNODA** will be centre of attention at his home Japanese Grand Prix this weekend after joining Max Verstappen at a Red Bull team desperate to reel in McLaren following their ominous start to the season.

Tsunoda was already a hero at Suzuka but his sudden promotion at the expense of Liam Lawson puts him under a whole new level of scrutiny as partner to the four-time world champion Verstappen.

Red Bull axed Lawson last week after the New Zealander's disastrous start to his debut season, which saw him fail to score any points in the first two race weekends.

The 24-year-old Tsunoda steps up from sister team RB, with Lawson moving the other way to the team he drove for last season.

Red Bull team principal Christian Horner has told the Japanese driver to get as "close as possible" to Verstappen, said Tsunoda, whose highest finish at a race is fourth in 2021 at Abu Dhabi for RB, then called AlphaTauri.

"In the end Red Bull Racing are focused on Max scoring a drivers' championship," Tsunoda told the *BBC*.

"He also promised me, in some situations, that if I'm able to be in front of Max that he wouldn't necessarily ask me to swap positions and make Max win."

Tsunoda said he will be happy if he can finish in the top 10 and score points on his Red Bull debut.

Now in his fifth Formula One season, he has shown pace this season.

He was 12th in the season-opener at Melbourne then picked up three points for coming sixth in the Shanghai Saturday sprint.

He only finished out of the points in the China main race because of RB's flawed two-stop pit strategy.

Red Bull's cars will have a special white livery at Suzuka in tribute to their partner Honda's maiden victory in Formula One, in

Mexico in 1965.

Verstappen is second in the drivers' standings but Horner needs his ruthless driver change to kick-start Red Bull's constructors' championship

campaign after ceding early ground to McLaren.

Australia's Oscar Piastri led teammate Lando Norris to a one-two in Shanghai, after the Briton took the chequered flag in Melbourne.

"Apart from Ferrari I don't think there's another team that has two drivers that push each other anywhere near as much," said Norris, who leads the drivers' championship on 44 points. "For us, that's a huge advantage."

Norris is 12 ahead of Verstappen with Mercedes' George Russell third on 35 and Piastri on 34.

Verstappen has yet to win this season – he was second in Melbourne, fourth in the Chinese GP and third in the Shanghai sprint.

But the Dutchman has won in Japan for the last three years in a row, clinching his second world championship there in 2022, and has spoken frequently of his love for the "old school" Suzuka circuit.

He romped home 12.5sec clear of Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez last season.

"Whenever I needed to go faster I could, whenever I needed to look after my tyres I could," said Verstappen. "That's always a nice feeling."

Ferrari will be looking to get their season into gear in Japan after a calamitous outing in China two weeks ago.

The Italian team started the weekend on a high when Lewis Hamilton controlled the sprint from pole for his first win in Scuderia red.

But their joy turned to despair when the seven-time world champion and teammate Charles Leclerc were both disqualified from the main race for technical infringements. – AFP



Red Bull's Yuki Tsunoda poses in front of the car during the event. – REUTERS/SPIC

## Prabhsimran powers Punjab Kings over Super Giants

**WICKETKEEPER-BATSMAN** Prabhsimran Singh scored an explosive 69 off 34 balls as Punjab Kings cruised to an eight-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants yesterday for their second win this IPL.

Punjab chased down the target of 172 set by Lucknow with nearly four overs to spare, and captain Shreyas Iyer remained unbeaten on 52 off 30 balls.

"This is the start we required," Shreyas said. "Boys actually played their roles well, they

contributed to the best of their ability, and whatever we planned, they executed it to the fullest."

Playing their first home game of the season, Lucknow Super Giants started poorly, losing in-form opener Mitchell Marsh for a golden duck in the first over of the match to Arshdeep Singh.

Marsh's opening partner Aiden Markram hit Arshdeep for three boundaries in his next over but fell for 28 off 18 soon after to New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson, who was playing his first

match for the Kings.

Captain Rishabh Pant's stint at the crease was short-lived getting out for just two runs from five balls, leaving Lucknow reeling at 35-3 just prior to the end of the powerplay.

Nicholas Pooran and Ayush Badoni steadied the innings with a 54-run partnership for the fourth wicket, but Pooran eventually fell to spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in the 12th over after an entertaining 44 off 30 balls.

The attacking David Miller, who came in next,

did not last long either, falling to fellow South African Marco Jansen for 19 off 18 deliveries.

Badoni (41) and Abdul Samad (27), both of whom were dismissed by Arshdeep in the last over of the innings, provided some late momentum to Lucknow, propelling them to a total of 171-7.

Skipper Pant conceded it was "not enough". "We were 20-25 runs short," he said. "That is part and parcel of the game – our first home game, so still assessing the conditions." – AFP

## City striker Haaland out for up to seven weeks

BY ANDY HAMPSON

**MANCHESTER CITY** striker Erling Haaland is facing a layoff of up to seven weeks, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

The prolific Norwegian forward suffered an ankle injury in the second half of City's FA Cup quarterfinal victory at Bournemouth on Sunday.

The setback will rule the 24-year-old out for most of the rest of the domestic campaign but City are hopeful he will still be able to play some part, and then feature at the Club World Cup.

Guardiola said: "Sometimes there are years where these kind of things happen and it's happened all season."

"All the injuries that we've had this season - I'm so sorry for them and for Erling as well. We want him to recover as quickly as possible and come back."

"The doctors told me between five and seven weeks, so hopefully for the end of the season and the Club World Cup he will be ready."

Haaland's absence is a major blow to City's hopes of securing qualification for the Champions League.

The forward had just struck his 30th goal of the campaign to equalise in the 2-1 win at the Vitality Stadium when he was hurt in a challenge with Cherries midfielder Lewis Cook.

Sunday's derby at Manchester United in the Premier League and the FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest on April 26 or 27 are among the key games Haaland will miss.

The FA Cup final - which City still hope to reach - takes place on May 17, a day short of seven weeks after he suffered the injury.

Their final Premier League game is at Fulham on May 25, with City's first match in the Club World Cup against Wydad Casablanca being played in the United States on June 18.

January signing Omar Marmoush could be given an extended run in the side in Haaland's place.

"We don't have another player with his skills or his specific qualities," Guardiola added.

"We know that, but we have to adapt. For many years we've played different ways up front."

"It depends on the quality of the players. We are going to try to find a solution." - The Independent

## Wolves take another step towards safety

BY SUNNY BADWAL

**WOLVES** boss Vitor Pereira is "emotional and very proud" of his side after they moved 12 points clear of the Premier League's relegation zone with a 1-0 win over West Ham at Molineux.

Jorgen Strand Larsen's deflected strike in the 21st minute settled the contest against Graham Potter's Hammers.

Pereira has taken the club from five points adrift of survival to the brink of safety since taking charge in December and the Portuguese manager could not hide his delight.

He said: "I am emotional and very proud of my team today. It showed the true spirit of this team, the supporters, and the connection between them and us."

"I'm a simple guy. I like to be with them (the fans), to feel that I'm part of the family and feel the happiness of the supporters."

"In this moment when I

look at my team, I look at a team that at times to celebrate they are together and times to suffer they are together."

Pereira will next take his side to Portman Road on Saturday (10pm Malaysian time) to face third-bottom Ipswich.

Despite Wolves' healthy advantage, Pereira does not think his side are out of the woods yet.

He added: "The most important is next game and we will try to compete and win. I feel we need to go to the next game with the right mentality."

"We cannot, even for one game, I don't want to stop and relax because I want more points

because we can play better."

Evan Ferguson squandered a chance to give West Ham the lead on his first start for the club before Larsen fired in via a deflection off Max Kilman.

The hosts were denied a second when Marshall Munetsi rattled an effort off the upright before Potter's second half substitutions almost got the Hammers an equaliser.

First Niclas Fullkrug hit the crossbar before Emerson missed the follow up and their biggest chance fell for Tomas Soucek, who missed a one-on-one with Jose Sa after Toti's mistake.

Pereira added: "Toti tried to kill me. In the end, this is why this game is fantastic game because the emotions are (up and down)."

West Ham boss Potter said: "Game of two halves. First half we weren't happy with the performance and Wolves were good. We have a good chance to score which we don't take."

"We had to adjust at halftime and were a lot better. We had a big chance with Tomas but nevertheless we weren't happy with our first half."

"As a team we have to perform in the first half because if we don't it's hard to get points."

"The most important thing is the team plays well and gets points, we haven't done that tonight." - The Independent



Bukayo Saka (right) celebrates scoring Arsenal's second goal with Gabriel Martinelli. - AFP/IC

## Saka makes fairytale return

England forward scores decisive goal against Fulham on first appearance since December

BY ROBERT O'CONNOR

**MIKEL ARTETA** hailed a "beautiful moment" after Bukayo Saka marked his return from more than three months out injured with a goal in Arsenal's 2-1 win over Fulham.

The England forward, who had not played since Dec 21, came off the bench in the 65th minute to a deafening ovation and soon after took the roof off the Emirates Stadium when he headed Gabriel Martinelli's flick into an empty net to double his side's lead.

Earlier, Mikel Merino had continued his own fine goalscoring form as his team's stand-in No. 9, opening the scoring with a deflected strike for his fifth goal in eight matches.

Rodrigo Muniz's goal in stoppage time for Fulham came too late to put the result seriously in doubt.

The edge was taken off Arsenal celebrations however as defenders Gabriel and Jurrien Timber both went off injured. Both will undergo assessment today but with a Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Real Madrid a week away it was a

worrying sight.

Nevertheless, Arteta was upbeat following Saka's explosive return.

"A beautiful moment to see how much our people love, admire and respect Bukayo," he said. "It's not a surprise to any of us."

"The best example is his reaction. Immediately after scoring what does he do? He goes and says thank you for all the hard work all the sports science guys and physios have done for him."

"He lifted the stadium, the energy. It's great to have him back."

"He was very positive (after the match). The first one (back) is always the one, 'how am I going to feel?' He dealt with it really well."

"The downside to it is Gabby and Jurrien. We don't know how they are going to be. We will be assessing them tomorrow and understand better where we are with those two."

Gabriel was forced off with a hamstring injury in the 16th minute, with Jakub Kivior coming on. Timber, who needed treatment during the first half but played on, was eventually withdrawn 13 minutes from the end.

It creates a defensive headache for Arteta, who

was already without Ben White and Riccardo Calafiori and who has seen his team's season badly disrupted by injury.

With Real to come at the Emirates next week, the timing could not be worse.

"The good thing is that it's been like this the whole season," said Arteta. "Martinelli we missed three months, we missed Bukayo four months, Kai (Havertz) four months, (Gabriel) Jesus almost the whole season."

"How we have managed to be where we are, with all those injuries..."

"You can imagine, we lose four players in the defensive line in one week; Calafiori, Ben White, Jurrien and Gabriel. We still have another four, they are so bloody willing, they will do the job."

Fulham boss Marco Silva reflected on a blip in an otherwise impressive campaign as his team pushes for Europe.

"We lost tonight, but we didn't lose the season," he said. "We lost three points, and we were not able to get points tonight."

"We are going to fight really hard, because we have another big game on Sunday to try to get it right again and to bounce back." - The Independent

## SIDENETTING

### EPL to introduce offside technology

**SEMI-AUTOMATED** offsides will be introduced in Premier League matches for the latter stages of the current season, the League has revealed. The technology was originally intended to be introduced after one of the international breaks in October or November. It was notably debuted in English football during the FA Cup fifth round at the start of March, featuring in seven of the eight ties being played. Following additional non-live testing in the Premier League, semi-automated

offsides will now be used for the first time in the top flight this season, using virtual offside lines and graphics along with optical player tracking for those watching at home or in a stadium. A Premier League statement said: "Semi-automated offside technology automates key elements of the offside decision-making process to support the video assistant referee (VAR). It provides more efficient placement of the virtual offside line, using optical player tracking, and generates virtual graphics to ensure an enhanced in-stadium and broadcast experience for fans. The technology maintains the integrity of the process while enhancing the speed, efficiency, and

consistency of offside decision-making."

### Kane breaks silence on Liverpool, MU transfer rumours

**DESPITE** recent rumours linking him with a sensational move back to the Premier League, Harry Kane appears to have dismissed any possibility of a move this summer. Even though Liverpool are on track to clinch the title, it's evident that manager Arne Slot and sporting director Richard Hughes will have their work cut out in the upcoming transfer window. Surprisingly, England captain Kane has been

mentioned as a possible recruit, with some even suggesting Liverpool could be his preferred destination amid rumoured interest from Manchester United. However, Kane has addressed the speculations, indicating that he has no plans to leave Bayern Munich in the near future. "(There are) a few random stories out there for sure, yeah," he told *ESPN*. "I don't know where they come from, but for sure I'm happy here at Bayern Munich. I think we have a fantastic team, fantastic coaching staff. Whilst I feel like I'm in the best condition, I want to play at the highest level possible and this is as high as it gets."

SHORTS

Bielefeld shock holders Leverkusen

**GERMAN CUP** holders Bayer Leverkusen suffered a shock 2-1 elimination at Arminia Bielefeld in the semifinals of the competition yesterday.

Xabi Alonso's side were heavily favoured to reach their second successive final but were outclassed from start to finish by their underdog opponents.

Jonathan Tah's 17th-minute goal was cancelled out by a Marius Woerl strike for the hosts three minutes later.

Maximilian Grosser's goal in first half

stoppage time would prove the difference for Bielefeld, who have now beaten four top-division opponents on their way to the final.

Bielefeld, who have never made a German Cup final, became just the fourth third-division team to reach the showpiece event.

Should Bielefeld win in Berlin in May – they will face either RB Leipzig or Stuttgart – the club will be rewarded with a Europa League spot next season.

Home coach Michel Kniat said: "We didn't need luck at all because we were on the front foot the whole time."

The coach said he "normally wouldn't have a drink with the players, but tonight I'll make an exception", adding that "nobody will go to sleep in this city tonight".

Leverkusen's Robert Andrich said it was "by far our worst game of the season" and added that "Bielefeld deserved the win tonight, which means we did plenty of things wrong".

Bologna close in on Cup final

**BOLOGNA** have one foot in the Italian Cup final after strolling to a 3-0 win at Empoli

yesterday and giving joyous fans hope of a first major trophy in over half a century.

In-form Riccardo Orsolini opened the scoring with a smart first-time finish in the 23rd minute, after which further goals in each half from Thijs Dallinga secured a big first-leg advantage for Bologna in the last four tie.

Bologna haven't been in a major tournament final since last winning the Italian Cup in 1974, the second of their two domestic cup triumphs.

But the seven-time Italian champions are almost certain to play one of the two Milan giants, who face off in their first leg overnight, in next month's final in Rome after a sixth straight win in all competitions.

Vincenzo Italiano's side are one of Italy's form teams and made light work of Empoli who are contesting their first ever Italian Cup semifinal.

Bologna sit fourth in Serie A and look a good bet to return to the Champions League after their disappointing debut appearance in the competition this season.



Real Madrid's Endrick (right) in action with Real Sociedad's Igor Zubeldia. - REUTERS/SPIC

Madrid edge Real thriller

Rudiger's late sucker punch sinks Sociedad in eight-goal cliff-hanger

**R**EAL MADRID edged into the Copa del Rey final with a thrilling 4-4 draw against Real Sociedad after extratime yesterday, securing a 5-4 aggregate semifinal victory.

Antonio Rudiger decided the pulsating tie with a header in the 115th minute, with Madrid to face Barcelona or Atletico Madrid in the final.

Real Sociedad, trailing 1-0 from the first leg, took the lead through Ander Barrenetxea, but Endrick's fine chip pulled the 20-time winners level.

A David Alaba own goal and Mikel Oyarzabal's deflected effort helped La Real open up a lead on the Spanish champions but Madrid battled back with goals from Jude Bellingham and Aurelien Tchouameni.

Oyarzabal grabbed his second in stoppage time to force extra-time but his side could not hold off Madrid until penalties, with Rudiger's header the final word.

"I'm very happy because it was a really hard game with many comebacks and in the end my goal," Rudiger told Real Madrid TV.

"For me (the goal) was easy, (I made a) good movement, the corner was very good and because of that we're in the final.

"It's a hard season but we're in another final and we will win it."

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, who goes in on trial for allegedly failing to declare income to Spain's tax office, brushed off questions about a sub-par performance by his side and praised his players' effort in what he considered a highly entertaining encounter.

"We have achieved our goal today which was to reach the final and there is not much time to think about it," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"It was an entertaining game with some mistakes and a lot of good things. It was fun and we are in the final.

"I never saw ourselves out of it because anything can happen at the Bernabeu. When we have to come from behind, we never give up. We never give up, especially at home, with the fans by our side."

Ancelotti said Alaba was not to blame after the defender scored one and deflected another into his own goal, calling it "bad luck" by the Austrian, but urged his defence to play with better focus moving forward.

"It's not good to concede four goals in a game," Ancelotti said. "Right now we are a team that has a lot of effectiveness up-front, but little balance.

"However, we can't ignore what we did in attack, scoring four goals against Real is not that easy. I think we are doing quite well." - AFP/Agencies

**TOTO SPORTS TOTO RESULTS**  
**DRAW NO:** 59471/2025 **DATE:** 02/04/2025 (WED)  
**STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.**  
 196901000990 (84202)

**TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL**

**1st Prize** 1916  
**2nd Prize** 9092  
**3rd Prize** 9917

Special	Consolation
4212 0325	6868 2199
6301 2590	1707 4137
6645 2339	8382 3065
1392 2756	2404 3550
8491 6281	5004 7433

**4D JACKPOT**

Jackpot 1 **RM 3,658,322.55**

1916 9092	9092 1916
1916 9917	9917 1916
9092 9917	9917 9092

Jackpot 2 **RM 141,084.68**  
 Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

**Zodiac**

1st Prize 1916 + DOG  
 2nd Prize 9092 + DOG  
 3rd Prize 9917 + DOG  
 4th Prize Special Prize + DOG  
 5th Prize Consolation Prize + DOG  
 6th Prize Any 4D drawn number

**TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL**

**5D** 1ST 4 6 8 9 8  
 2ND 7 9 7 3 9  
 3RD 9 4 1 9 2

**6D** 1ST 3 7 9 5 5 3  
 2ND 3 7 9 5 5 or 7 9 5 5 3  
 3RD 3 7 9 5 or 9 5 5 3  
 4TH 3 7 9 or 5 5 3  
 5TH 3 7 or 5 3

**TOTO GAMES GIVES YOU MORE WINNING CHANCES!**

**SUPREME** 7 13 14 39 40 48  
 Jackpot **RM 30,067,616.75**

**POWER** 7 8 14 15 16 28  
 Jackpot **RM 10,888,567.92**

**STAR** 15 23 24 41 47 49 + 17  
 Jackpot 1 **RM 4,696,138.56**  
 Jackpot 2 **RM 151,538.85**

Toto 4D Jackpot 2 **RM 155,463**  
 Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System) **RM 4,965**  
 won on 30/03/2025!

Visit [www.sportstoto.com.my](http://www.sportstoto.com.my) for e-Results and more info.

**WINNING NUMBERS**  
 PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL **damacai**

Draw Date: 02/04/25 (Wed) Draw No: 5894/25 Venue: MSMA GENTING, KL

**1+3D SUPER1+3D**

1st Prize 8724  
 2nd Prize 6643  
 3rd Prize 9828

Starters	Consolation
9678 1061	8630 4968
1881 9137	2159 4084
6271 0783	8279 8173
0399 5130	6678 1663
7940 2325	4943 8974

**1-3D**

Jackpot 1 **RM13,075,598.10**

8724 + 6643	6643 + 8724
8724 + 9828	9828 + 8724
6643 + 9828	9828 + 6643

Jackpot 2 **RM338,387.90**  
 Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

**3-3D**

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
108 724 +	TIGER	RM440,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
766 643 +	HORSE	RM862,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
679 828 +	HORSE	RM1,931,506.00

Starters	Consolation
929 678 921 061	578 630 824 968
111 881 169 137	632 159 054 084
016 271 550 783	748 279 308 173
550 399 015 130	126 678 831 663
727 940 262 325	124 943 098 974

**3D**

1st Prize 724 2nd Prize 643 3rd Prize 828

**3D**

Jackpot **RM993,930.90**

724 + 643 + 828	643 + 828 + 724
724 + 828 + 643	828 + 724 + 643
643 + 724 + 828	828 + 643 + 724

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

Use code [CHINGMING] to signup dmcGO & be rewarded!

The Community Chest is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental charitable organisation which supports education for the sole benefit of the Malaysian community and is primarily funded by the profits of Da Ma Cai.

Pan Malaysian Pools Sdn. Bhd. (171888-0) [www.damacai.com.my](http://www.damacai.com.my)  
 dmcGO play anywhere: [www.dmcgo.com.my](http://www.dmcgo.com.my) or call 03-2333 2000





# theSun Sports

THURSDAY | APR 3, 2025

Read theSun iPaper at [www.thesun.my](http://www.thesun.my)

Free access to iPaper PDF Download

or download theSun app from the App Store or Google Play™.

SCAN ME



# Nuno 'over the moon'

Nottingham Forest's Anthony Elanga (left) scores their first goal past Manchester United's Andre Onana (right). - REUTERS/PIC

## Forest's dream season continues as Elanga seals victory over Man United

**NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO** (pic) was "over the moon" after Nottingham Forest dug deep to beat Manchester United thanks to Anthony Elanga's wonder goal and Murillo's crucial last-gasp clearance.

A season to cherish at the City Ground continued yesterday as the Premier League's surprise package strengthened their grip on third spot, fresh from reaching a first FA Cup semifinal in 34 years.

Elanga's electrifying early run and fine finish ended up securing a 1-0 victory against his former club United, but it was not a straightforward night for Forest.

The hosts batted down the hatches three days on from their FA Cup quarterfinal against Brighton going to penalties, with Murillo stopping substitute Harry Maguire's effort on the line in stoppage time to wrap up the win.

"Over the moon," Nuno said. "We are delighted realising how the game went. We could not be more proud than we are because it was very tough.

"(Murillo's clearance) was huge for us. Better than a goal, wasn't it?"

"The fans played their part. In these moments we were against the ropes and it was about hard belief. The legs weren't there



any more, so very, very proud of them."

Asked about the rocket-heeled Elanga's goal, the Forest boss said: "Amazing. With the ball (he's that fast). Imagine without the ball.

"He did it by himself. Credit to him. He has this special ability to drive at pace and still

control the ball. It's such a huge speed and the finish was great."

Elanga refused to celebrate with the enthusiasm the goal deserved due to the affection he has for his former club, with the academy graduate making 55 appearances and scoring four times before joining Forest in 2023.

The 22-year-old's display comes at a time when United are struggling for goals, which has led Ruben Amorim to face questions about forwards Marcus Rashford and Antony given they look rejuvenated on loan.

"We are talking about a lot of players that come from Manchester United and are doing right, but they had the chance here," the head coach said.

"In Manchester United, you don't have the time. I am saying all the time that I will not have the time. We have to get it right fast.

"But you are not talking about players that didn't play for Manchester United. They were here playing for Manchester United.

"In here, the pressure is too big sometimes and sometimes you don't have time, you should have time for these kids to develop but for that you need a strong base to support all these kids.

"If you don't have that strong base, we are not going to help our kids.

"So, they had their chances and sometimes

football is like that and the pressure of playing for Manchester United is really big."

United fought to the end but ultimately the side in 13th suffered their 13th loss of a miserable Premier League campaign.

"I think that is clear (we deserved more)," Amorim said. "We created some chances, but we could create more with the possession that we had.

"We reached the final third a lot of times but we need to be better in that final third because that is really important to score goals and we have a lack of goals."

Former United skipper Rio Ferdinand took aim at Patrick Dorgu, Alejandro Garnacho and Noussair Mazraoui for their roles in the only goal of the game as Elanga was able to launch and finish off a solo counter attack.

"From a defensive point of view, Dortmund got to think defensively first," Ferdinand said on the TNT Sports broadcast. "You know the threat is pace.

"Then Garnacho has a role to play, he should take him out and fouled him.

"Then Mazraoui has got to make a decision. Before you get to the edge of that box you have got to go and engage with the attacking player." - The Independent/Express Newspapers



## All eyes on Tsunoda

Story on page 28



## Madrid edge Real thriller

Story on page 30