

RM7.35m rental relief

Each of 613 families affected by gas pipeline fire gets to choose where they wish to live, with RM2,000 a month in accommodation assistance for six months provided by Selangor govt: MB

Report on
page 3



TOTAL WRECK ... Residents check out vehicles 'hollowed out' by the intense heat of the Putra Heights gas pipeline blaze yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC

Brace for global economic uncertainties: PM

Anwar says govt machinery must improve efficiency, uphold work ethics and practise prudent spending to navigate current challenges.

Report on
page 2

253 fire victims receive counselling

Ten counsellors conducting sessions at temporary relief centre not only provide emotional support but also identify specific needs of affected residents: Minister

Report on
page 4

M'sia's massive textile waste bane for environment

At 195,300 tonnes yearly, it contributes significantly to pollution as some fabrics take up to 200 years to break down, says academic.

Report on
page 5



M'sia must boost readiness amid economic uncertainty

➤ Anwar urges vigilance as US market nosedives while tariffs pose risks to trade and livelihoods

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia needs to enhance its preparedness in the face of global economic uncertainties, including the US market crash which has led to trillions in losses, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He noted that while the country's economic fundamentals remain solid with encouraging figures, unexpected developments - particularly tariff issues and trade ties with the US - demand urgent attention.

"Our export value to the US is significant. Semiconductor exports alone may reach US\$100 billion, accounting for 65% of the country's total semiconductor production. Trade and investment ties with the US remain among the highest," he said during a staff meeting at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

"We must therefore consider all possibilities. We do not want any economic policy that ultimately harms the people, affects jobs

or impacts livelihoods," he added.

Anwar said a meeting will be held tomorrow, coordinated by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, together with Asean counterparts to align their positions on the US tariff issue.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump announced new tariffs impacting Asean nations, including a 10% base rate effective April 5 and an additional "reciprocal tariff" starting tomorrow, Bernama reported.

Among the hardest hit were Cambodia with 49%, Laos with 48%, Vietnam with 46% and Myanmar with 44%, while Thailand recorded 36%, Indonesia 32%, Brunei and Malaysia 24% each, the Philippines 17% and Singapore 10%.

Anwar also underlined the need for the entire government machinery to improve efficiency, uphold work ethics and practise

prudent spending to navigate current economic challenges.

"The decline in the stock market, commodities and trade in the US is among the worst in recent history. Reports indicate losses of up to US\$4 trillion in the markets. This certainly affects their decisions and we hope it can be negotiated more constructively," he said.

He also reminded civil service leaders not to take the government's reform agenda lightly.

"There are still reports of negligence, leakages, corruption and abuse of power. Department and ministry heads must remain vigilant as our mission is to strengthen the nation and ensure Malaysia continues to grow in stature."

Also present were ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said (Law and Institutional Reform) and Datuk Mohd Naim Mokhtar (Religious Affairs), as well as Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.



Anwar having a discussion with Zahid and Fadillah during a staff meeting at the Prime Minister's Department. - BERNAMAPIC

Asean must form united stance on tariffs: Anwar

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and other Asean countries must come together to form a united stance on the tariffs recently announced by the US to ensure upcoming negotiations rest on a solid foundation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He noted that although the announcement by US President Donald Trump was made on questionable grounds, Asean should not take the matter lightly, especially amid a volatile global economic and political climate.

"Yesterday, I elaborated at length on the decision made by the special committee handling the US tariffs, which was attended by the entire Cabinet.

"We cannot take this lightly. It is quite unusual as the country that once championed free trade and helped establish the World Trade Organisation and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade - wealthy nations such as the US - is now taking a different approach.

"This is what I mean by 'post-normal times';

when political and economic policies are implemented unexpectedly, including tariff decisions based on very weak grounds," he said during a staff meeting at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

Deputy prime ministers Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof were also present.

Anwar described the method used by the US administration to determine the tariffs as flawed, noting that some remote islands were included, "even though they are only inhabited by penguins".

Nevertheless, he said the Malaysian government has opted for a moderate approach as there is still room for discussion and negotiation, and certain exceptions must be identified in detail.

"My task, along with the Foreign Ministry and relevant ministers, is to contact our friends in Asean so each country can state its position - but at the same time, we move forward as a collective.

"We must stand firm together as Asean, with a population of 640 million and an economic strength among the top globally. This region is also considered one of the safest and fastest-growing in the world," he said.

Anwar added that he had the opportunity to discuss the matter with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during a Hari Raya Aidilfitri gathering, where they also touched on issues concerning Gaza and Myanmar.

"I also had a lengthy discussion with the Vietnamese prime minister and, before that, contacted the leaders of the Philippines, Brunei, Laos and Thailand to coordinate our positions.

"With this approach, we want Asean to present a unified front - demonstrating agreement and building a stronger foundation for future negotiations," he said.

On April 2, Trump announced a series of new tariffs targeting several Asean nations, significantly raising import duties on key Southeast Asian trading partners. - Bernama

'Prevent exploitation by tackling issues effectively'

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded all parties, including civil servants, to address national issues effectively to prevent them from being exploited by irresponsible individuals.

He emphasised that ongoing matters must be handled properly and warned against sensationalising issues raised on social media for personal or political gain.

"We are sometimes dragged into issues, especially those circulating on social media or the media, which thrive on sensationalism. As a result, small matters that could be resolved calmly are blown out of proportion.

"It's as if war is about to break out - the temple issue, the balloon (seller) issue - when, in fact, these can be managed with care. That's why I suggest we should not leave room for exploitation," he said during the monthly staff assembly at the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

Anwar stressed that certain individuals continue to exploit sensitive matters without considering the public interest, often politicising issues unnecessarily.

"Some people act without thinking. They disregard the public interest. For them, everything must be politicised and punished," he said.

Referring to the recent relocation of the Sri Pathrakalliamman Temple in the capital, Anwar said the *Madani* government had resolved the issue peacefully and respectfully, showing consideration for all communities.

"Our country is diverse, with people of various races and religions. Islam is the religion of the Federation and its strength is undisputed. Our decisions must be grounded in clear principles," he added.

The temple dispute near Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur, was resolved when the temple management agreed to relocate to a new site.

Anwar also reminded all ministries and government departments to remain vigilant on issues involving integrity, corruption and abuse of power.

"Don't take it lightly or ignore it. There are still reports of negligence, leakages and corruption. That is why leadership across departments and ministries must remain alert. We aim to protect the people and elevate the nation," he said.

He assured that the *Madani* government remains committed to leading the country effectively and restoring Malaysia's standing. - Bernama

PM and Prabowo discuss regional issues

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim discussed key regional issues during a Hari Raya courtesy visit by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Sunday.

In a Facebook post, Anwar said the discussion included the new tariffs imposed by the US on Asean countries, as well as joint efforts to provide humanitarian aid to communities in Myanmar affected by the recent earthquake.

"In the blessed spirit of *Aidilfitri*, I received a courtesy visit this evening from my longtime friend, the President of Indonesia, Bapak Prabowo Subianto.

"May the spirit of *Aidilfitri* continue to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and cooperation between Malaysia and Indonesia in the name of peace and regional prosperity," he said.

Earlier, the special aircraft carrying Prabowo and his delegation landed at the Bunga Raya Complex, KL International Airport at 5.52pm.

He was received by the prime minister's principal private secretary, Datuk Shahrol Anwar Sarman. - Bernama

PM, minister to discuss ways to help home owners

KUALA LUMPUR: Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming will meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today to discuss the best formula to help homeowners affected by the fire tragedy in Putra Heights.

"An announcement will be made when the matter has been decided," he told a press conference after delivering a keynote address at the 14th Affordable Housing Project Conference yesterday.

Commenting on his absence at the incident site and relief centre, which had drawn criticism from certain quarters, Nga said such remarks did not warrant attention as his priority was to ensure comprehensive assistance for those affected.

"We don't need to entertain such criticisms. What truly matters is resolving the issues faced by the people. To date we can see that all ministries have mobilised aid to support the victims."

"DAP has raised funds and given 100% to them. Everyone is helping. I am focused on providing a total solution." — Bernama

109 developers blacklisted for non-compliance

KUALA LUMPUR: The Housing and Local Government Ministry has blacklisted 109 property developers for failing to comply with the set regulations, said minister Nga Kor Ming.

He said the move is part of the ministry's continuous effort to protect the interest of home buyers.

"The move sends a clear message that we will not tolerate non-compliance. We are taking strict measures to protect the hard-earned money of home buyers and ensure they receive the homes they rightfully deserve."

"The safety of house buyers remains one of the ministry's top priorities. Developers must adhere to the regulations to ensure that the projects are completed on time and meet the required standards."

He spoke to reporters yesterday after his keynote address at the 14th Annual Affordable Housing Projects Conference.

Nga said the offences committed by errant developers included failing to submit to authorities their development status and audit reports, balance sheets, and profit and loss statements.

He warned that blacklisted developers are not eligible to apply for new licences until they settle the outstanding fines.

Nga also advised home buyers to check developers' licence status at teduh.kpkt.gov.my before making financial commitments to purchase properties. — Bernama

Local authority ordered to check project said to be near gas pipeline

SEREMBAN: The Seremban City Council has been instructed to look into a video circulating on social media about a new housing project allegedly being built near a gas pipeline in Sendayan.

State Local Government

Development, Housing and Transport Committee chairman J. Arul Kumar said his office received the information yesterday afternoon after a 28-second video of the project was posted on Facebook and TikTok.

Arul said the city council was told to check whether the construction had encroached on reserve land.

"I have informed the city council and developer to review the project site. There is a Gas Malaysia pipeline signage at the location, indicating

that it is a connection pipe to the industrial area."

He said if there was no encroachment, it would not be an issue as the work remains within the private land owned by the developer. — Bernama

S'gor govt grants RM7 million rental aid to affected residents

■ BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor government has allocated RM7.35 million for six months of rental assistance to 613 households affected by the gas pipeline explosion in Putra Heights.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari announced that each household will receive RM2,000 per month to help ease the financial burden caused by the tragic incident.

"The decision for rental assistance, instead of temporary shelters, was made to give affected families the flexibility to choose where they wish to live," he told a press conference at the state secretariat office yesterday.

"Initially, we considered offering temporary housing, but some families expressed concerns that the locations

► Each household will receive RM2,000 monthly plus aid from federal govt and Petronas to help ease financial burden caused by the tragedy: Selangor MB

were too far."

The Gombak MP said the affected residents could opt to rent Airbnb units near Putra Heights, with the company offering two months of free rental to further ease their burden.

The 613 displaced households will also receive financial aid backed by the federal and Selangor governments, and Petronas.

Amirudin confirmed that the final list of home owners, including room

renters residing in damaged units, was verified by the state government on Sunday.

"For home owners whose properties were completely destroyed, Petronas will provide RM5,000, which will be distributed by the state government. Additionally, another RM5,000 will come from the federal government, bringing the total compensation to RM10,000."

"For partially damaged properties,

including tenant-occupied units, RM5,000 will be provided — RM2,500 from Petronas and RM2,500 from the federal government."

Amirudin said the estimated total damage to residences affected by the blaze is RM65.4 million. He said inspections were carried out on 437 homes, which were classified as either completely destroyed, partially damaged, or affected but not burnt.

He added among them, 81 homes were completely destroyed with structural damage exceeding 40%, 81 were partially damaged and 57 were affected but not burnt, while 218 homes were not affected.

Amirudin praised enforcement agencies for their swift response in containing the blaze, estimating that their actions helped save RM285.9 million worth of assets and properties.

"The evaluation of destruction affecting public infrastructure and surrounding areas is still ongoing."

The inspection radius has been extended from 290 square metres to 325 square metres to ensure a thorough assessment.

"To date, 151 houses have been declared safe, allowing owners and residents to return home. However, some homes may have minor damage, and owners will need to bear the cost of repairs."

Amirudin also addressed concerns about students affected by the disaster, revealing that only 20% of affected students in the morning session attended school yesterday, despite transport services being provided.

The gas pipeline explosion on April 1 sent flames over 30 metres high, with temperatures soaring to 1,000 degrees Celsius, severely damaging homes and infrastructure.

A total of 1,254 people were affected. The explosion also left a massive crater measuring 9.8 metres deep and 21-by-24 metres wide.



Residents at the temporary evacuation centre examining food packs received from Nadma, which distributed them to 150 families at the multipurpose hall of Putra Heights Mosque. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Electricity supply unaffected by gas explosion

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: The Energy Commission has reassured the public that the electricity supply across Peninsular Malaysia remains unaffected following the gas pipeline tragedy.

In a statement yesterday, the commission said the incident had caused a disruption in gas supply to four major power stations in the

Klang Valley, including the Connaught Bridge Power Station, Pulau Indah Power Station, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Power Station (KEV) and Putrajaya Power Station.

"Efforts to mitigate the impact of the disruption are already in place, including optimising the operation of existing power stations and preparing standby power stations to ensure continuity in electricity supply."

"The commission is closely monitoring the situation and will

engage with affected users to address their concerns while emphasising the importance of energy conservation during this period," read the statement.

It also stated that the commission is working with several entities, such as the Grid System Operator, Single Buyer, Gas Malaysia Berhad, independent power producers, Petronas and TNB Fuel Sdn Bhd, to monitor the gas and electricity supply situation in Peninsular Malaysia.

This includes assessing the impact of the gas supply disruption, mitigation measures, interim plans and considering various scenarios until normalcy is restored.

"The gas supply in Peninsular Malaysia has been disrupted in several areas in the central zone, including Shah Alam, Klang, Serdang, Puchong, Batu Tiga and Kapar, and several areas in the northern zone."

"Affected users have started receiving notices of restrictions from their respective suppliers, effective

until April 20," it said.

The commission also said the gas supply is available in limited quantities, with priority given to critical services, such as hospitals and electricity generation, as well as measures to stabilise the gas pipeline pressure.

"It will hold sessions with affected users soon. We urge all users to prioritise safety and practise energy conservation to collectively manage the impact for the wellbeing of everyone," the statement added.

'Not many blast victims traumatised'

► Daily counselling sessions for 253 reveal less than 1% seriously affected by Putra Heights disaster: Minister

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 253 victims of the gas pipeline fire in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya here last week, have received counselling assistance at the One-Stop Social Support

Centre set up at the temporary relief centre.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said reports from the daily counselling sessions conducted by 10 counsellors found that only a small number of the victims experienced serious trauma.

"Not that many victims suffered serious trauma. In terms of percentage, it is probably less than one per cent.

"Most of these victims just want to leave the relief centre, and have someone to talk and share their problems with. The counselling session not only provide emotional support,"

Nancy said after visiting the victims at the relief centre at Putra Heights Mosque yesterday, Bernama reported.

She said among the urgent items needed were mobile phones, air purifiers for autistic children, nursing bras for mothers, balms or ointments for headaches, and disposable diapers.

"Some of the victims also needed cash to manage personal matters, such as paying for transport to visit family members warded at hospitals, as well as buying other necessities.

"We have provided them with financial assistance through the National Welfare

Foundation," she added.

Meanwhile, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said Deputy State Secretary (Development) Datuk Johary Anuar will head the recovery phase.

"Johary will be in charge of looking into repair works of houses, roads, infrastructure and public facilities at the affected areas," Amirudin said at the Selangor State Secretariat building here yesterday.

He added that Menteri Besar Selangor (Incorporated) would also contribute RM500 each to 265 students involved in the fire incident.



Children getting into a van which will take them to school. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Recovery efforts ongoing at 'ground zero'

KUALA LUMPUR: Restoration efforts are underway in the area devastated by last week's gas pipeline fire and explosion in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya, with continued support pouring in for the victims.

Work to drain stagnant water from the crater at the incident site — known as 'ground zero' — continued yesterday following rainfall over the past few days.

Subang Jaya district police chief ACP Wan Azlan Wan Mamat said the water level at the site rose slightly due to overnight rain.

Fire and Rescue Department director-general Datuk Nor Hisham Mohammad said two water pump trucks are on standby at the scene to remove stagnant water if needed.

As of 11am yesterday, 374 victims from 98 families remained in the relief centre at the Putra Heights Mosque.

The Petronas gas pipeline inferno that occurred at 8.10am last Tuesday produced flames over 30m high with temperatures reaching 1,000 degrees Celsius and took nearly eight hours to be extinguished.

According to the latest data, 218 of the 437 homes assessed have been declared safe while 219 sustained varying levels of damage.

The Health Ministry said 38 of the 146 injured are still receiving treatment — 18 at government hospitals and 20 at private facilities. No fatalities have been reported. — Bernama

Ordeal fails to dampen schoolchildren's spirit

KUALA LUMPUR: The fire and gas pipeline explosion in Putra Heights that shocked the nation last Tuesday has not dampened the spirits of the affected school-going children as they resumed the school session following the Aidilfitri holidays.

Fifteen-year-old Alysya Hanni Shahir was up as early as 6am to get ready for school, expressing excitement to return to class despite currently staying at the relief centre at the Putra Heights Mosque since the incident occurred last week.

"I'm happy because I get to go back to school. Not everything at our house was destroyed, but I can't go home yet to get my clothes.

"My house is now a restricted zone, so I can't retrieve anything. But it's okay, even without a uniform, I can still attend school," she said with a smile.

Sharing her enthusiasm is 16-year-old Mohd Aidil Ashraf Mohd Nizam, who looked forward to returning to school, especially with transport provided.

"I'm excited to go to school. Luckily I have sports clothes to wear to school," said the

Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) USJ 8 student.

Meanwhile, Haslina Nordin, 39, a mother of three, expressed sorrow over how the explosion has upended her family's daily routine.

"I never imagined something like this would happen. I'm usually the one who sends my children to school, and I pass through that area where the fire happens every single day. Sometimes, I go through there five or six times a day.

"But today, my children went to school in a van. That's what breaks my heart," she said at the relief centre at the Putra Heights Mosque.

To transport 76 students affected by the gas pipeline fire, five Rapid KL On-Demand vans have been mobilised from two temporary relief centres to 19 schools around the Subang Jaya area.

Of the total, 42 are primary school pupils, and 34 are secondary school students.

Rapid Bus Head of Central Region Khairul Azhar Hamidullah told Bernama yesterday morning that the company had made early arrangements with the district education office

and local authorities to ensure a smooth student transportation process.

"Of that number, 60 are in the morning session, while 16 are in the afternoon session," he said.

The initiative is a collaborative effort of Yayasan Islam Darul Ehsan, the Petaling Perdana education office, the Social Welfare Department and Prasarana Malaysia Berhad.

Meanwhile, the foundation's general manager Nur Mohd Razali Abdullah said the transport assistance will be provided for two weeks, depending on the needs and current situation.

He said the vans would transport students within a 7km radius to and from their schools and the relief centres.

"We remain committed to ensuring the welfare of affected students. All forms of assistance will be provided in stages to ensure that they can continue their schooling comfortably."

He said the foundation, a Selangor Islamic Religious Council subsidiary, distributed supplies, including uniforms, bags, shoes, and stationery, to 194 displaced students on Friday.

Adaptation plan ready by next year

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia aims to complete its National Adaptation Plan (MyNap) by next year, focusing on both mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said it is in line with the goal of enhancing resilience and building capacity to address climate change challenges.

"Next year, we hope to complete our national adaptation plan.

"I think this is very critical because while the climate change Bill will cover both mitigation and adaptation, a lot of it will be focused on mitigation.

"I think for mitigation, our contributions to emissions globally is relatively small.

"With a population of 30 million and as a high middle-income country, Malaysia is still not a major contributor in that sense, but (more on) adaptation strategies.

"Looking at the weather patterns over the past few years, I think floods get a lot of focus.

"But look at the heat waves," Nik Nazmi said during a chat with moderator Dr Gary Theseira, the chair of Climate Governance Malaysia Council at the National Climate Governance Summit 2025 at Sasana Kijang here yesterday. — Bernama

Sungai Buloh service centre brings aid to storm-hit residents

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sungai Buloh Parliamentary People's Service Centre was mobilised immediately to distribute initial aid to the victims of a storm that hit Kampung Melayu Subang and Subang Perdana, Shah Alam, on Sunday afternoon.

Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Deputy Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan said the storm affected several

residents' houses and public facilities. However, no casualties were reported.

Ramanan, who is also Sungai Buloh MP, said the centre was working with the Petaling District and District Land Office, Shah Alam City Council (Rapid Unit), Fire and Rescue Team, Social Welfare Department and police to ensure that aid distribution such as logistics, food, shelter or daily necessities is synchronised.

"In any disaster, togetherness and solidarity are our main strengths. I call on all parties to continue to help each other and comply with the security advice from authorities," he said in a statement.

Any complaints or urgent assistance can be channelled directly to the service centre via WhatsApp at 014-963 7107, the statement said. — Bernama

Textile waste poses serious threat to environment

➤ Some fibres take up to 200 years to decompose and release greenhouse gas that accelerates climate change: Academic

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia produces an alarming 195,300 tonnes of textile waste each year, much of which ends up in landfills.

Experts have warned that this growing issue accelerates climate change and environmental pollution as synthetic fabrics may take decades to decompose.

Universiti Teknologi Mara Textile and Apparel Programme School of Industrial Technology senior lecturer Dr Najua Tulos explained that textile waste contributes to environmental pollution, with the decomposition time of textiles in landfills varying up to 200 years depending on the material composition and environmental conditions.

"Common textile fibres, such as cotton (natural fibre), may take between three months and five years to decompose. Synthetic fibre, such as polyester, which is derived from petroleum, is notably resistant to decomposition, taking between 20 and 200 years to break down in landfill environments. "Factors such as moisture, temperature and oxygen levels affect the process of decomposition."

She said decomposing synthetic textiles release methane, a greenhouse gas that accelerates climate change.

She added that textile waste contains harmful chemicals, including dyes, heavy metals and microplastics.

"When discarded clothing decomposes, the chemicals leach into the soil and groundwater, affecting agriculture and drinking water sources. For instance, the Klang River has been found to have high levels of industrial pollutants, some of which originate from textile and garment factories."

"Many clothes today are made from synthetic fibres, such as nylon and acrylic, which shed microplastics when washed. In Malaysia, rivers such as the Gombak River and the Klang River transport these microplastics to the ocean, harming marine life."

Najua said due to limited landfill space,



Najua said recycling, reusing and upcycling textiles, along with supporting sustainable fashion and secondhand markets, could promote a greener future. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

some textile waste is openly burned, releasing toxic gases that worsen air pollution.

This is a common issue at illegal dumpsites in Kuala Lumpur and Johor, where waste is burned to reduce volume.

She also said Malaysia imports large amounts of cheap fast fashion, with many garments discarded after only a few uses.

"Textile production has a huge environmental impact. Making one cotton t-shirt requires 2,700 litres of water, which is the same amount a person drinks in 2.5 years. The demand for new clothes also contributes to deforestation, water shortages and pollution from garment factories."

She stressed that a circular economy is key to managing textile waste in Malaysia as recycling, reusing and upcycling textiles, along with supporting sustainable fashion and secondhand markets, could cut waste, reduce environmental harm and promote a greener future.

With government support and consumer participation, a circular fashion economy could become a reality, benefitting the environment and the economy, she added.

"Raising awareness on sustainable consumption is essential. Thrifting and upcycling help shift consumer mindsets from

fast fashion to conscious consumption. People become more aware of the impact of their purchasing decisions, leading to more responsible shopping habits."

Najua said Malaysia should adopt a combination of regulations, incentives and awareness programmes to address textile waste effectively.

She said implementing Extended Producer Responsibility would require fashion brands to manage the disposal of their products by collecting, recycling or upcycling used textiles, similar to the European Union model in which companies fund waste collection and recycling programmes.

"Nationwide textile recycling centres should be established by installing collection bins in public areas, malls and residential zones while improving infrastructure for sorting and repurposing textiles."

"Introducing a fast fashion tax on retailers would discourage overproduction and overconsumption, with the revenue funding recycling programmes and sustainability initiatives, as seen in France."

She encouraged a nationwide "Repair, Reuse and Thrift" campaign to educate Malaysians on the environmental impact of textile waste and promote sustainable habits.

Driver dies after being crushed by lorry

KUALA LUMPUR: A man has been killed after being crushed by a 10-tonne lorry at a construction site in Antara Gapi, Serendah in Selangor.

Hulu Selangor deputy police chief DSP Mohd Asri Mohd Yunus said the 36-year-old victim, who was also the lorry driver, had just finished unloading soil from the vehicle when it suddenly tilted to the right side. The victim was getting out of the lorry but did not manage to do so in time and was crushed when the lorry overturned.

He said the victim died at the scene and the body was taken to the Kuala Kubu Bharu Hospital Forensic Unit.

He urged those with information to come forward to assist in the investigation being conducted under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987. — Bernama

Man held over abducting teen girl

MALACCA: Police have arrested a man, 40, suspected of abducting a disabled girl with learning difficulties, who was reported missing in Taman Rambai Idaman here on Saturday.

Central Malacca district police chief ACP Christopher Patit said the suspect, who was driving a car, was detained at 4am yesterday by the side of Jalan Jati, Sungai Petani in Kedah.

"The suspect admitted to taking the 17-year-old victim in the car to drive around areas including Seremban, Ipoh, Bukit Mertajam and then to his village in Baling."

He added that the victim did not know the suspect and an initial physical examination revealed that the girl did not suffer any injury.

He said the suspect has a criminal record under Section 15(1) of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

The case is being investigated under Section 363 of the Penal Code for kidnapping. — Bernama

Soldier denies punching woman

SEREMBAN: A soldier pleaded not guilty in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday to voluntarily causing hurt to a woman driver by punching her head following a road collision.

Abdul Hafis Abu Bakar, 35, is charged with committing the offence against Syairah Md Sharom, 28, at Taman Satria in Senawang at 10.20pm on March 29.

The charge, framed under Section 323 of the Penal Code, provides up to one year's jail, a maximum fine of RM2,000, or both upon conviction.

Magistrate Syed Farid Syed Ali granted bail at RM2,000 with one surety and set May 19 for mention. — Bernama

Push for malls, retail outlets to provide clothing recycling bins

PETALING JAYA: Shopping malls and retail outlets are encouraged to include accessible bins for proper textile waste collection and support more repair workshops that teach consumers how to mend their clothing.

Zero Waste Malaysia, an NGO advocating for sustainable development, highlighted the need for responsible production and waste management practices to create a more circular and environmentally friendly fashion industry.

"Fashion brands and retailers have a critical role to play in reducing textile waste. By offering

repair and upcycling services, they not only extend the lifespan of their products but also create valuable opportunities to upskill local tailors."

A key initiative led by Zero Waste Malaysia is educational workshops aimed at raising awareness on the environmental impact of waste.

Among the workshops is a dedicated session focused on textile waste, in which the public can learn about sustainable fashion practices and practical ways to reduce their clothing footprint.

The organisation has also recently launched community repair workshops. Starting this month, a

basic mending workshop will be available to promote a culture of reuse and clothing repair.

"To reduce textile waste in Malaysia, consumers are encouraged to rethink fast fashion by prioritising quality over quantity, and exploring alternative consumption methods, such as shopping secondhand, thrifting or participating in clothing swaps."

Platforms such as the Zero Waste Malaysia Map help Malaysians lead a low-waste lifestyle by listing nearby thrift stores, recycling drop-off points and other eco-friendly options.

Thrifting, upcycling and clothing

swaps play a vital role in keeping garments in circulation and reducing landfill waste. However, cultural misconceptions continue to hinder progress.

"Some Malaysians believe secondhand clothing is unhygienic, although such garments can be cleaned and disinfected just like new ones. Others associate used clothing with bad luck, especially during festive seasons when new outfits are traditionally worn."

"Addressing these beliefs is crucial in promoting a shift towards more sustainable fashion habits," the NGO said.

Zero Waste Malaysia called for

government action, urging the introduction of comprehensive textile waste policies.

These could include mandatory take-back schemes that require brands to collect used clothing for recycling or reuse.

It stressed that the key lies in effective implementation and enforcement.

"Like other types of waste management, textile policies should focus on the entire supply chain, not just the waste output, ensuring sustainability is integrated at every stage of production and consumption." — By QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI

'Grasp on Islamic inheritance law vital'

➤ Several mechanisms can be planned in advance, such as wills, gifts and trusteeship: Lecturer

KUALA LUMPUR: A lack of awareness on Islamic inheritance laws is often cited as a primary reason for mismanagement of inheritance among Muslims in Malaysia.

The oversight frequently leads to disputes among heirs, with some cases escalating to court proceedings or causing irreparable damage to family relationships.

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia Faculty of Syariah and Law senior lecturer Zahari Mahad Musa said inheritance management is a fundamental process that all Muslims should understand.

"Assets, whether movable properties, such as vehicles, furniture and gold, or immovable properties, such as land, that hold value under Islamic law during one's lifetime and remain in one's possession upon death are classified as inheritance and must be distributed accordingly."

He said the failure of individuals or families to manage their assets before death is not only a loss but also complicates the process of inheritance distribution for heirs.

"Perhaps we often see only immediate family members receiving the inheritance because they are closest to the deceased."

"However, understanding inheritance laws, including the principles of *faraid* (Islamic inheritance law), provides detailed guidance on eligible heirs entitled to a share after an individual's passing."

He highlighted the difference in inheritance



Zahari recommended that Muslims document their assets and list their heirs to facilitate inheritance management. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

shares between sons and daughters in which, according to *faraid*, daughters typically receive a smaller portion.

"A daughter is considered an *ashab al-furud* (heir with a fixed share) but under certain circumstances, she could become an *asabah* (heir entitled to the remainder)."

"The son of the deceased is always categorised as an *asabah*."

He pointed out that inheritance management for individuals without children or those who are unmarried requires careful attention as siblings are eligible to inherit in such cases.

Zahari emphasised the importance of

Muslims acquiring knowledge of *faraid* to prevent conflicts and disputes within families.

He said several mechanisms for distributing inheritance can be planned in advance, such as wills (*wasiat*), gifts (*hibah*) and trusteeship (*pemegang amanah*).

He noted that the application of these mechanisms, as recommended in Islam, depends on specific circumstances.

He also said appointing a trustee is a prudent step for Muslims to prevent inheritance disputes.

Through this mechanism, the asset owner appoints a trustee who will carry out their

responsibilities to fulfil the owner's wishes after their death.

"If surviving family members can manage the inheritance independently, no conflicts are likely to arise."

Zahari also recommended that Muslims document their assets and list their heirs to facilitate inheritance management.

Assoc Prof Dr Adzidah Yaakob, also from Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, said heirs can utilise the authority of the Syariah Court to resolve conflicts related to inheritance distribution.

She noted that the Syariah Court has clear authority to resolve disputes over inheritance management based on Islamic law and the established principles of *syariah*.

"In cases of disputes over wills, the parties involved can apply to the Syariah Court to determine the validity of the will," she said, adding that a will only takes effect after the death of its author.

"Although verbal wills are permitted in Islam, it is recommended to make wills in written and clear form to serve as proof of the deceased's intentions," she added.

By leveraging the provisions of existing laws, justice can be achieved, resolving disputes related to the deceased's inheritance.

She also emphasised the importance of Muslims gaining a deeper understanding of inheritance laws in the country, Bernama reported.

"The current laws are adequate to ensure fair management and distribution of inheritance. However, disputes and selfish behaviour often arise due to a lack of understanding of inheritance procedures or laws."

She said courses on inheritance law are offered by various organisations, including mosques and NGOs.

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WORLD 7

Shaken and spooked

► Bangkok residents seek quake-proof homes

BANGKOK: Shaken hours earlier by a massive earthquake, Phatsakon Kaewkla's terror was magnified when he came home to find gaping cracks in the walls of his 22nd-floor Bangkok apartment.

Feeling unsafe in the building damaged by the biggest tremors to hit the capital in generations, the 23-year-old Thai decided to stay away for two days until experts gave the high-rise the all-clear.

The sales coordinator is now one of many Bangkok residents wondering if they should seek safer housing in a city where hundreds of residential buildings were damaged by the 7.7-magnitude quake that struck neighbouring Myanmar on March 28.

The owners of Phatsakon's condominium assured him that engineers had checked every part of the building and concluded it was habitable.

But he is still spooked about the cracks. "I feel a little bit scared. And also my mum told me to move out," he said.

Over 1,000km away from the epicentre, the Thai capital – its skyline dotted with hundreds of towers and glinting high-rises – virtually never experiences such tremors.

Bangkok-based real estate consultant Owen Zhu, 40, said the impact on his sector had been "significant".

"People seem to have realised that living in high-rise buildings might carry greater risks when it comes to earthquake resistance compared with two-storey or low-rise structures," the Chinese property expert said.

The earthquake prompted a flurry of enquiries from residents looking to relocate in the past week, he says, due to widespread "fear and anxiety" of living far above ground.

Yigit Buyukergun from Turkiye was at home in Bangkok with his wife when the quake struck. After it subsided, they emerged from under a table to inspect the damage on their 22nd-floor flat.

"Everywhere is cracked, especially in the corridor," the 25-year-old said.

Despite Buyukergun's safety concerns, the owners of the block seemed unfazed.

"They say it is '100% safe, but I don't believe it," he said.

A large number of studio apartments in Bangkok's sprawling residential projects are rented out on annual leases requiring a two-month deposit.

Most condos do not permit short-term



Workers repair damage on the exterior of a high-rise building in Bangkok. – AFP/PPIC

rentals for security reasons, and only hotels may lease for under 30 days.

Zhu says tenants and property owners often disagree over the habitability of quake-damaged apartments, with disputes becoming more common.

There is "a gap in perception and judgement between the two parties," he said.

"The landlord sees the unit as safe, while the tenant feels it's unsafe and insists on moving out and getting their deposit back."

Earthquake safety standards for buildings in Thailand were "not particularly strict" before the disaster and not something property-seeking clients specifically asked about, Zhu said.

Heightening anxiety since the quake was the shocking total collapse of a 30-storey construction in Bangkok that trapped dozens of workers, most of whom remain unaccounted for over a week later.

City authorities are now investigating whether substandard building materials had been used in its construction.

Zhu says more of his clients are now opting for low-rises.

For house hunters still considering high-rises, they often require that the property sustained "minimal or no damage during the recent earthquake, or at least was not severely affected".

He believes property prices will grow in the long-term as demand for safer buildings drives the adoption of costly seismic resistance measures, adding that "the bar for Thailand's real estate sector has been raised".

But for Buyukergun, talk of improving building regulations is not enough to calm his fears about the uncontrollable factors of geology.

While the prevalence of earthquakes in his home country of Turkey made him feel uneasy, he had not expected to feel the same way about Thailand.

"Thailand is safe," he recalled thinking before.

"That's why I couldn't believe (the) earthquake (happened)." – AFP

BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES, U.S. AIR FORCES LAUNCH JOINT DRILLS

MANILA: The Philippine and US air forces kicked off joint exercises yesterday aimed at boosting operational coordination and enhancing "strategic deterrence". The drills follow months of confrontations between Beijing and Manila over disputed areas of the South China Sea, with significantly larger US-Philippine air, land and sea exercises set for later this month. "Enhancing combat readiness and elevating joint mission effectiveness" would be central to the Cope Thunder exercise, Philippine Air Force commander Arthur Cordura said. Military ties between the Philippines and United States have deepened since the 2022 election of President Ferdinand Marcos, with Manila pushing back on Chinese claims in the South China Sea that an international tribunal has ruled are without merit. The State Department last week approved sale of F-16 fighter jets to the Philippines, though Manila said the deal was "still in the negotiation phase". – AFP

WIKIPEDIA OPERATOR APPEALS INDIAN COURT ORDER

NEW DELHI: The operator of online encyclopedia Wikipedia has challenged a court order to remove statements deemed defamatory from its page on a domestic news website. Last week's Delhi High Court ruling came after Indian news agency ANI sued the US platform last year, citing a Wikipedia description that it faced criticism for being a government "propaganda tool" and sought removal of such statements. Wikipedia's operator, Wikimedia, has sought an appeal before a larger panel of judges of the same court, said two sources, who sought anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media. Wikimedia did not respond to email messages to seek comment. The Wikimedia Foundation is the second major tech platform, following X, to become embroiled in Indian court battles over orders to take down content in recent years. X is separately contesting government orders to block some posts about Indian farmers' protests in 2021. – Reuters

NEW ZEALAND TO DOUBLE DEFENCE SPENDING

WELLINGTON: New Zealand said yesterday it would boost defence spending by NZ\$9 billion (RM22.4 billion) over the next four years, and aim to nearly double spending to 2% as a share of GDP in the next eight years. The details came in remarks by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who called for more spending on defence to ensure prosperity. "New Zealand and our allies and partners are no longer in a benign environment," he said at the release of the Defence Capability Plan. "My focus is the economic importance of this country. However, there can be no prosperity without security, and defence is one vital component of that picture." The new spending is a significant boost to Defence Force spending of just under NZ\$5 billion in 2024/25. New Zealand's Defence Force has struggled with systemic underspending over several decades. – Reuters

LIBERALS DUMP POLICY ON RETURN TO OFFICE

SYDNEY: Australia's Liberal Party abandoned yesterday a plan to force government workers to return to the office full-time, as incumbent Labor gained in polls ahead of a May 3 election. Working from home emerged as an election battleground last month after the Liberal Party said it would bar hundreds of thousands of government employees from doing so, in a bid to boost productivity. The policy was seized upon by Labor which claimed it would increase commuting costs in a campaign that has been dominated by cost of living concerns. "We've made a mistake in relation to the policy. We apologise for that. And we've dealt with it," said Liberal leader Peter Dutton. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said: "Dutton wants to undermine work rights and in particular doesn't understand modern families." – Reuters

Sara Duterte back home after month with father

MANILA: Impeached Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte has returned home after nearly a month at her father's side in The Hague, where he is facing a charge of crimes against humanity, her communications team said yesterday.

"My job here is done," she told reporters ahead of her departure, saying former Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte's legal team was now set and she had filed the "last document" needed at the International Criminal Court.

The vice-president said the family no longer intends to seek financial aid to pay for her father's defence. "If we need to (sell) things to support our financial needs, we will do that."

Rodrigo Duterte was arrested on March 11 and whisked away the same day to the Netherlands-based tribunal to face charges tied to his drug war, in which thousands of mostly poor men were killed.

Daughter Sara followed him to The Hague immediately after and had been coordinating his legal affairs and acting as his mouthpiece, holding a number of press conferences outside the court building.

She landed at Manila's international airport on Sunday night, according to her communications team.

The vice-president returns as her family's PDP Laban party is lagging in polls ahead of May mid-term elections that will determine 12 Senate seats and thousands of smaller positions across the archipelago nation of 117 million.

The Duterte clan is embroiled in a bitter feud with President Ferdinand Marcos, a one-time ally and Sara's running mate in the 2022 presidential campaign, which they won in a landslide.

Cracks in their short-lived alliance appeared almost as soon as they won, when Duterte was

handed the education portfolio after lobbying to oversee defence.

Since then, a simmering feud has exploded into open warfare with the two political dynasties attacking each other publicly, including the elder Duterte labelling Marcos a drug addict.

Sara Duterte was impeached by the House of Representatives in early February for "violation of the constitution, betrayal of public trust, graft and corruption and other high crimes".

Among the charges is an alleged plot to assassinate Marcos tied to public comments she has dismissed as venting frustration at the administration's policies.

Her Senate trial is set to take place following the May 12 mid-term election, the results of which will determine her jurors.

If convicted, the vice-president would be barred from holding public office. – AFP

Boeing faces new civil trial

► Litigation to last two weeks

NEW YORK: Boeing is poised to face a jury trial over the fatal 2019 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX plane, the first civil case related to the disaster to reach court.

The Chicago trial, expected to last two weeks, was to feature two plaintiffs who lost family members in the calamity.

But one of the complaints was resolved in an out-of-court settlement late on Sunday, a judicial source told AFP, in line with most earlier litigants.

Barring another last-minute settlement, the trial will begin with the selection of an eight-person jury.

"We have had some discussion

that may continue throughout the day and the ensuing days," Robert Clifford, who represents relatives of several crash victims, told the US District court on Wednesday at a pre-trial hearing.

A deal could also be struck even while the trial is underway.

The Boeing plane crashed on March 10, 2019, just six minutes after takeoff from Addis Ababa on its way to Kenya, killing all 157 people on board.

Relatives of 155 of the victims had sued Boeing between April 2019 and March 2021 for wrongful death, negligence and other charges.

As of late last month, there were 18 complaints still open against Boeing, said a source familiar with the case.

Sunday's deal meant that a further three cases had been settled since then, judicial sources said.

This week's Chicago litigation will

now examine only the case of Canadian Darcy Belanger.

Belanger, 46, who lived in Colorado, was a founding member of environmental NGO, the Parvati Foundation, and also worked in construction. He had been visiting Nairobi for a UN conference.

US Judge Jorge Alonso has split the Boeing lawsuits into groups of five or six plaintiffs, annulling a potential trial if all the suits settle.

In November, the aviation giant reached a last-minute agreement with the family of a woman killed in the crash.

The Ethiopian Airlines disaster followed another fatal crash involving a MAX plane – that of a Lion Air jet that crashed in Indonesia in October 2018, killing all 189 people on board.

Boeing also faced dozens of complaints from Lion Air family victims.

Just one case remained open, as of the end of March.

Boeing's settlements with civil plaintiffs have been confidential.

The US manufacturer has "accepted responsibility for the MAX crashes publicly and in civil litigation because the design of the MCAS ... contributed to these events," a Boeing lawyer said during an October hearing.

The MCAS (Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System) flight stabilising software was implicated in both the Ethiopian Airlines and Lion Air crashes.

The disasters led to congressional hearings, with irate lawmakers demanding answers, and to leadership shake-ups at the aviation company. The entire 737 MAX fleet was grounded for more than 20 months.

Boeing later revised the MCAS programme under scrutiny from the

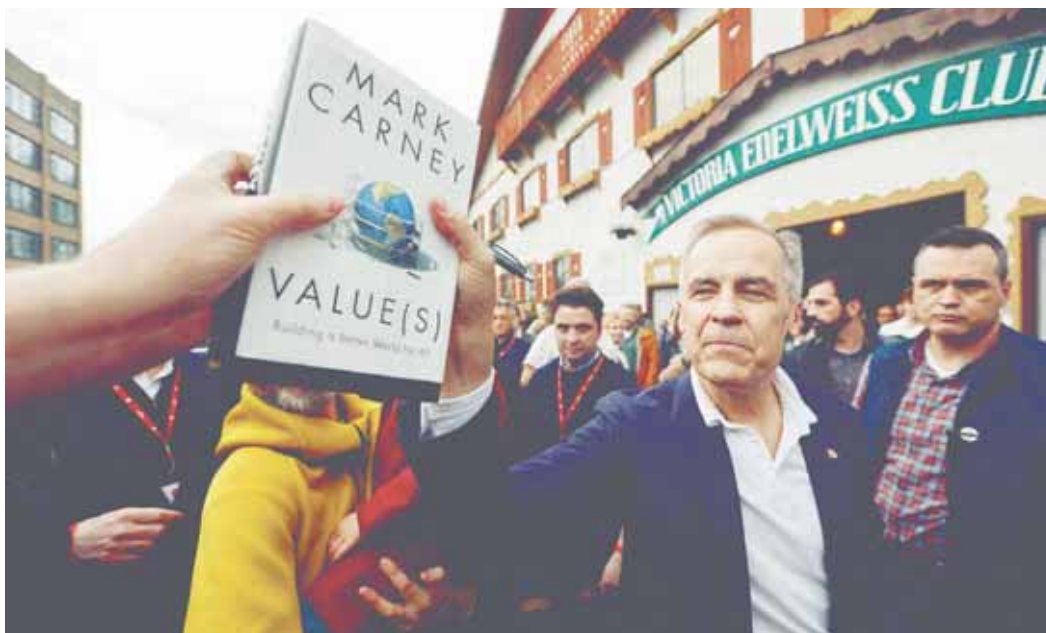
Federal Aviation Administration, which ultimately cleared the jets to resume service in November 2020.

The Chicago trial comes as Boeing also faces a potential criminal trial in June in Texas over the MAX.

That trial follows on from a January 2021 deferred prosecution agreement between Boeing and the US Justice Department over the two MAX crashes.

In May 2024, the Justice Department notified the court that Boeing had violated terms of the accord. That came after a January 2024 incident in which an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX was forced to make an emergency landing when a panel blew out mid-flight.

US District Judge Reed O'Connor last month ordered a jury trial from June 23 after earlier throwing out a proposed settlement between Boeing and the Justice Department. – AFP



Carney takes a book from a supporter to autograph during his campaign tour in Victoria, British Columbia, on Sunday. – REUTERS/SPIC

Carney, Poilievre face off nationally and locally

OTTAWA: In a quaint restaurant on the outskirts of Canada's capital, Sandra McCormack spent a recent morning talking politics with friends in an area that is suddenly in the political spotlight.

The area's neighbouring electoral districts – Carleton and Nepean – are starkly different: Carleton is largely rural, picturesque and dotted with small farms, while Nepean is a suburban Ottawa neighbourhood, packed with strip malls and single family homes.

But the districts have something in common ahead of Canada's April 28 election – one of them will elect the next prime minister.

The Liberal Party leader, Prime Minister Mark Carney, is running in Nepean, while Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre is the candidate for Carleton.

Poilievre has represented Carleton in parliament since 2004.

Over breakfast in Carleton's Manotick area, the 77-year-old McCormack recalled the first campaign of the Tory leader, known locally as

just Pierre. "He looked like a 15-year-old," she said.

Poilievre, now 45, became the Conservative leader in 2022, after Canada's last election.

He built support through 2023 and 2024 attacking former prime minister Justin Trudeau and, at the start of this year, polls indicated he would lead the Tories back into power after a decade in opposition.

But Trudeau's departure in favour of Carney and the uncertainty gripping Canada brought on by President Donald Trump's trade war and annexation threats have upended the race.

Most polls give Carney a lead.

"We normally talk about hockey, but everybody's talking about politics nowadays because there's an important election going on," McCormack said.

A two-lane road divides Carleton from Carney's Nepean district. There are blue Poilievre signs on one side and red Carney placards on the other.

Carney, who replaced Trudeau on March 14,

has never served in parliament or held elected office. It wasn't clear which district Carney would contest until days before he called the election.

The 60-year-old spent the early part of his career in global financial capitals as an investment banker with Goldman Sachs. He then led the Bank of Canada and Bank of England.

But despite his scant local ties, voters said Carney's economic experience is attractive.

"I think that Carney, being an economist, is better suited to deal with Trump," said William Dubroy, 75, shopping at a Nepean bulk store.

Fellow shopper Andrea Doyle said she's "excited for him to become the next prime minister."

Voters told canvassers they remained concerned about high living costs, an issue that drove Trudeau's unpopularity and helped Poilievre's polling surge last year.

But countering Trump now topped those concerns. – AFP

Unification Church appeals Japan court ruling

TOKYO: The Unification Church said yesterday it had appealed a Japanese court's decision to strip the sect of official recognition, in the wake of the assassination of ex-premier Shinzo Abe.

The Tokyo District Court issued a dissolution order last month for the Japanese chapter of the Unification Church, saying it had caused "unprecedented damage" to society.

The church, which was founded in South Korea, is accused of pressuring members to make large donations.

It has also been blamed for child neglect among its members, although it has denied any wrongdoing.

Church official Tokushige Kondo told reporters that an appeal had been lodged yesterday with the Tokyo High Court.

The order "is not acceptable", he said.

Former prime minister Abe was shot dead on the campaign trail in 2022, allegedly by a man who resented the Unification Church.

The alleged assassin is 44-year-old Tetsuya Yamagami whose family reportedly went bankrupt after his mother donated around ¥100 million (RM4.47 million at the time) to the sect.

Investigations after Abe's murder revealed close ties between the church and many conservative ruling-party lawmakers, leading to the resignation of four ministers.

The government sought permission from the courts in 2023 to have the group legally disbanded.

The court order, once enacted, will remove the church's tax-exempt status while branding the organisation a harmful entity, experts say.

However, the group, officially the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, will still be able to continue religious practices.

Lawyers warn the church could transfer its financial assets elsewhere, partly due to a lack of legislation to return money to victims.

The church rose to global prominence in the 1970s and 80s after its founding in 1954, becoming famous for mass weddings often held in stadiums.

Japan has long been a financial hub for the church, which has told members they must atone for the wartime occupation of Korea and sell expensive items to obtain forgiveness from sins. – AFP

Hundredfold increase in chemicals found in UK harbours

LONDON: Chemical pollution has increased by 100-fold in the waters of two south coast harbours which are home to sites of special scientific interest, according to a new study.

Researchers from three universities have analysed the waters of Chichester and Langstone harbours and found 105 pharmaceuticals, pesticides and illegal drugs, including an insecticide used as flea treatment.

And the environmental scientists found that some of the chemicals increased by over 100-fold following rainy days which led to combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the harbours which are on the border of Hampshire and West Sussex.

The team, made up of researchers from Brunel University, London, University of Portsmouth and Imperial College London, says that it is worried about the impact on the local wildlife in the area.

Dr Thomas Miller, from Brunel University, said: "CSO discharges were an obvious source of chemical pollution in these waters.

"Our study found that some chemicals increased by over 100-fold in water after these discharges, making them a high risk to aquatic wildlife."

The study, carried out with the help of the Clean Harbours Partnership and published in the

journal *Environment International*, examined 339 water samples which revealed 67 pharmaceuticals, 29 pesticides and nine recreational drugs.

It comes after the Environment Agency revealed that storm overflows spilled sewage into England's rivers, lakes and coasts for new highs of more than 3.61 million hours last year.

The researchers found that seaweed soaked up more chemicals than shellfish and the insecticide *imidacloprid*, used as pet flea treatment, created the highest risk based on levels found in surface water.

Dr Leon Barron, from Imperial

College London, said: "Out of so many chemicals detected, the presence of pet tick and flea treatments in the harbours was especially concerning.

"We urgently need to reassess the practice of blanket preventive treatment of our dogs and cats to help bring the risk down."

The team also found the presence of *1,3-diphenylguanidine*, which is used in rubber production and which they say could indicate pollution from tyre-wear particles and road run-off.

Lead author Jasmin Uhlhorn, a PhD student from Brunel University, said: "The research underscores the complexity of chemical mixtures present in transitional and coastal

water systems, highlighting the need for more comprehensive monitoring to investigate their sources, including the impacts of CSO discharges.

"While studies on chemical pollution in these environments are limited, the findings suggest that the true risks of chemical mixtures may be underestimated, particularly for marine species."

Professor Alex Ford, from the University of Portsmouth's Institute of Marine Sciences, said: "The impact of these contaminants are yet to be fully understood, but it's clear from our data that they increase substantially under storm events which discharge untreated sewage." – Bernama

Journalist killed in Israeli strike

► Aircraft hit a tent used by local media

GAZA: A Palestinian journalist was killed yesterday and nine others were wounded, some critically, when an Israeli airstrike hit a tent used by local media in southern Gaza, media and the local journalists' union said.

Footage showed people trying to douse flames from a fire in the tent, inside the compound of the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, yesterday.

Reuters was able to verify the video from the position, layout and design of nearby buildings and tents. The date could be verified by media reports and corroborating videos.

Other footage posted on social media but not verified by Reuters appeared to show the tent had been burned to the ground, along with the furniture and equipment inside it.

Images appearing to show a journalist in flames, and another person trying to rescue him, were widely shared.

Israeli authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A second Palestinian was also killed in the attack, Gaza medics said.

Later, dozens of journalists and relatives took part in the funeral of the dead journalist, Helmy al-Faqawi. Colleagues carried his white-shrouded body on a medical stretcher with his blue flak jacket placed on top.

"We will continue to deliver the message and convey the truth to the whole world. This is our humanitarian duty," said fellow journalist Abd Shaath, who added that they were woken by the strike to find the nearby tent of their colleagues on fire.

Faqawi's death raised the number of journalists killed by Israel's campaign in Gaza to more than 210 since October 2023, according to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.

In total, local health authorities said Israeli military strikes had killed at least 10 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip yesterday.

More than 50,000 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli offensive in Gaza, Palestinian officials say.

Israel began its offensive after thousands of gunmen attacked communities in southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and abducting 251 as hostages. – Reuters



Palestinians inspect the damage to a tent housing journalists in Khan Younis yesterday. – REUTERS/SPIC

Iran-backed militias in Iraq ready to disarm

BAGHDAD: Several powerful Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq are prepared to disarm for the first time to avert the threat of an escalating conflict with the US, said 10 senior commanders and Iraqi officials.

The move to defuse tensions follows repeated warnings issued privately by US officials to the Iraqi government since Trump took power in January, according to the sources who include six local commanders of four major militias.

The officials told Baghdad that unless it acted to disband the militias operating on its soil, America could target the groups with airstrikes, the people said.

Izzat al-Shahbndar, a senior Shi'ite politician close to Iraq's governing alliance, said discussions between Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and several militia leaders were "very advanced", and the groups were inclined to comply with US calls for disarmament.

"The factions are not acting stubbornly or insisting on

continuing in their current form," he said, adding that the groups were "fully aware" they could be targeted by the US.

The six militia commanders interviewed in Baghdad and a southern province, who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive situation, are from the Kataib Hezbollah, Nujabaa, Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada and Ansarullah al-Awfiyya groups.

"Trump is ready to take the war with us to worse levels, we know that, and we want to avoid such a bad scenario," said a commander of Kataib Hezbollah, the most powerful Shi'ite militia, who spoke from behind a face mask and sunglasses.

The commanders said their main ally and patron, Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) military force, had given them its blessing to take whatever decisions they deemed necessary to avoid being drawn into a potentially ruinous conflict with the United States and Israel.

The militias are part of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella

group of about 10 hardline Shi'ite armed factions that collectively command about 50,000 fighters and arsenals that include long-range missiles and anti-aircraft weapons, according to two security officials who monitor militias' activities.

The resistance group, a key pillar of Iran's network of regional proxy forces, have claimed responsibility for dozens of missile and drone attacks on Israel and US forces in Iraq and Syria since the Gaza war erupted about 18 months ago.

Farhad Alaaeldin, Sudani's foreign affair adviser, told Reuters in response to queries about disarmament talks that the prime minister was committed to ensuring all weapons in Iraq were under state control through "constructive dialogue with various national actors".

The two Iraqi security officials said Sudani was pressing for disarmament from all the militias of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which declare their allegiance to Iran's IRGC or Quds Force rather than to Baghdad.

Some groups have already largely evacuated their headquarters and reduced their presences in major cities including Mosul and Anbar since mid-January for fear of being hit by air attacks, according to officials and commanders.

Many commanders have also stepped up their security measures in that time, changing their mobile phones, vehicles and abodes more frequently, they said.

The US State Department said it continued to urge Baghdad to rein in the militias. "These forces must respond to Iraq's commander-in-chief and not to Iran," it added.

An American official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, cautioned that there had been instances in the past when the militias had ceased their attacks because of US pressure, and was sceptical any disarmament would be long-term.

The IRGC declined to comment for this article while the Iranian and Israeli foreign ministries didn't respond to queries. – Reuters

UAE presses Palestinian cause

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates foreign minister on Sunday pressed the need for a ceasefire in the Gaza conflict during a rare visit by Israeli counterpart Gideon Saar, an official statement said.

The UAE and Israel established relations in 2020 as part of the US-brokered Abraham Accords. But there has been little bilateral contact since October 2023.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Saar discussed "the worsening humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip" and efforts to reach a ceasefire, said a UAE Foreign Ministry statement.

"Sheikh Abdullah stressed the priority of working towards a ceasefire and the release of hostages," it said of the meeting.

"He reiterated the urgent need to advance a serious political horizon for the resumption of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive peace based on the two-state solution."

Saar said on X: "We discussed regional issues, as well as furthering bilateral relations. There are major challenges but there are partners for a better future of cooperation and stability." – AFP



Shine a light with traditions

BY DR CHRIS ONG SIEW HAR

ONCE Chinese New Year had passed, I found myself glancing at my calendar and realised that the fasting month, *Ramadan*, was fast approaching on March 2.

This reminded me of a tradition I uphold every year: giving a box of dates to all my Muslim colleagues at the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, Berjaya University College.

Dates are a staple during *Ramadan* and I made sure to buy a box for them, wishing them a blessed and fulfilling fasting month. Upon receiving the dates, they expressed their appreciation, though I could see a hint of exhaustion in their eyes from the long hours of fasting.

Nonetheless, there was a sense of contentment as fasting during this holy month brings a deep sense of spiritual connection and purpose.

During *Ramadan*, I took part in the Berjaya University and Berjaya TVET College photography competition, which ran from March 1 to 30. The theme of the competition was to capture the spirit of *Ramadan* and Hari Raya, showcasing the beauty and vibrancy of Malaysia's urban landscape.

I decided to focus on the *Ramadan* landscape, particularly the traditional *pelita panjut*. Having always been fascinated by the sight of *pelita* decorations in shopping malls, I did some research to learn more about this tradition, only to discover that it is slowly fading in the modern era.

The *pelita panjut*, also known as the traditional bamboo lamp, has deep cultural significance, particularly in rural Malaysia.

In the past, these lamps were lit during the seven-night festival at the end of *Ramadan* to illuminate the way for villagers who were going to the mosque for *tahajjud* (the midnight prayers) during the last 10 nights of *Ramadan*. At that time, there were few sources of light and the flickering flame of the *panjut* served as a beacon of hope and spiritual guidance.

It is a common misconception that *pelita panjut* is linked to the *Laylat al-Qadr* ("The Night of Power").

In the present day, the practice of lighting the *pelita* is not as widespread as it once was. Modern technologies have introduced plastic lamps and colourful LED lights but there are still a few communities that honour the original tradition.

Efforts to preserve the *pelita panjut* tradition are evident through annual competitions and events, which bring together the community to celebrate and showcase these beautiful, handcrafted lamps.

Historically, as dusk approached on the night of Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Malaysian villages would come alive with the warm glow of *pelita panjut*, lining the streets and decorating homes.

These lamps, often made from bamboo and filled with kerosene or diesel, produced a steady flame that illuminated the night. Their intricate designs featured traditional Malay patterns, many of which held deep cultural meanings, symbolising prosperity, unity and the spirit of *Eid*.

The *pelita* is not just a simple lamp. It is a symbol of art, faith and community spirit. The wicks are soaked in kerosene, allowing the lamps to burn brightly throughout the night while the designs often reflect the identity of the community, with some taking the form of national landmarks, religious symbols or symbolic Malay motifs.

The preparation of the *pelita panjut* also promotes a sense of unity and cooperation. Weeks before Hari Raya, the villagers would gather to carve and arrange the bamboo poles.

The men would handle the carving while the women and children joined in to decorate and hang the lamps. This collective effort not only brought the community together but also strengthened the bonds among family members and neighbours.

However, as the years passed, this once-vibrant tradition has seen a decline. Younger generations, particularly those living in urban areas, have become accustomed to modern

"We are fortunate to experience the richness of these celebrations throughout the year and to share in the joy and blessings of festivals, regardless of race or background."



The *pelita panjut* is more than just a decoration; it is a cultural heritage, a symbol of simplicity, creativity and togetherness that should be preserved for future generations.

— BERNAMAPIC

LED lights and decorations that twinkle, and they rarely participate in the *gotong-royong* activities that were once a central part of *Ramadan* preparations.

The elderly in the villages are now the only ones upholding these customs as the younger generation are often too busy to return to their villages in time to take part in this cherished tradition.

For those who grew up in the village, the *Pelita Panjut* evokes nostalgia and fond memories. The warm, flickering light of the lamps not only illuminated the streets but also the hearts of relatives returning home to celebrate Aidilfitri.

Some recall running around the streets under the *pelita* or sitting together with loved ones, enjoying the delicious Aidilfitri food while gazing at the flickering lights.

As technology continues to advance at a rapid pace, the *pelita panjut* may seem outdated to some. Modern decorations, with their bright LED lights, are certainly more convenient and energy-efficient but they lack the cultural depth and sense of community that the *pelita* represents.

The *pelita panjut* is more than just a decoration; it is a cultural heritage, a symbol of simplicity, creativity and togetherness that should be preserved for future generations.

The question that remains is whether the *pelita* will continue to shine brightly in the future. With the rising cost of materials and the decreasing participation of the younger generation, this beautiful tradition may one day fade into obscurity.

It is up to us to decide whether we want to keep this tradition alive and pass it down to future generations, ensuring that the *pelita panjut* continues to shine as a beacon of unity and cultural pride.

As a Malaysian, the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festival serves as a reminder of the diverse and multiracial fabric of our nation. It is a time to reflect on the beauty of living in a country where different cultures, religions and traditions coexist harmoniously.

We are fortunate to experience the richness of these celebrations throughout the year and to share in the joy and blessings of festivals, regardless of race or background.

The *pelita panjut* is just one of the many symbols of unity and togetherness that make our country so special.

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COMMENT by Dr Rodziana Mohamed Razali and Dr Tengku Amatullah Madeehah T. Mohd

Moving beyond rote learning

THE Malaysian education system stands at a crossroads. For years, parents, teachers, students and experts have called for change, highlighting overcrowded and heavy curricula, restrictive language policies and an assessment system that lacks engagement with the realities students face today.

One pressing issue we often hear about is the overloaded syllabi in subjects that do little to nurture creative and critical thinking.

This is often overshadowed by an obsession with testing students' higher-order thinking skills via rote memorisation at the expense of fostering a strong foundational understanding and connecting knowledge to the real world in fun and meaningful ways.

Students instead are expected to absorb heavy content with little time for engagement and enjoyment, which only stifles curiosity and creativity.

Rather than sticking to a rigid, top-down approach, we should involve students, parents and educators in creating curricula that are more responsive to their needs and interests.

When learning is dynamic, students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions and see learning as more than just a means to score good grades. It is time that our students' rich and diverse intelligence be recognised by our education system, and to do this, our education system must move beyond the "one-size-fits-all" approach.

Language policies also need to reflect the needs of the students. Though there is an option to teach mathematics and science in English, many students are blocked by quotas or face other barriers that leave them learning critical subjects in Malay, regardless of their skills and mastery of English.

In an era where students increasingly interact with English-language content through digital platforms, this inflexibility holds them back.

We need policies that allow language flexibility, ensuring students can effectively learn in ways that reflect their real-world exposure to both Malay and English. Malay language education could also benefit from a shift away from rigid technical focus. Presently, students experience Malay as a heavy, rules-based subject that often feels disconnected from their daily lives.

This approach fails to instil genuine appreciation or fluency, making language learning feel like a technical chore rather



When learning is dynamic, students are encouraged to think critically, ask questions and see learning as more than just a means to score good grades. — BERNAMAPIC

than an asset. Instead, Malay language classes should emphasise real-life usage, creativity and relevance to the students' world, igniting their interest and creating lifelong connections to the language.

Keeping up with AI (artificial intelligence) certainly requires radical rethinking of what education and success mean. The benefits of AI must be reaped for teacher training, support and contents that meet students' individual needs and talents.

Teachers must be guided and given the freedom to explore the technologies that are properly and responsibly regulated, and should no longer be burdened administratively in an ecosystem that is intensely KPI-driven, at the risk of inducing a box-ticking mentality over genuine engagement with students.

Malaysian education has reached a point where surface-level adjustments are no longer enough. We need a comprehensive transformation that prioritises inclusivity, flexibility and meaningful engagement.

An education system is not just a series of policies; it is a foundation for our society's future.

Real change means shifting from merely teaching students to truly "educating" our children — nurturing not only knowledge but a lifelong love of learning, compassion and connection.

Finally, our education system must be safeguarded from political shifts. Reform should not be tied to the agendas of each new administration but should instead be led by dedicated, passionate educators who prioritise the long-term interests of our children.

Based on this understanding, we need leaders who are committed to creating a stable and lasting education system that serves the needs of our students.

Dr Rodziana Mohamed Razali and Dr Tengku Amatullah Madeehah T. Mohd are associate professors at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

Protectionist policy or negotiation tactic?

MALAYSIA has been hit with a 24% US reciprocal tariff, effective from April 9, following an announcement by President Donald Trump on April 3.

Industry players and others are understandably worried about the potential negative impacts on bilateral trade and supply chain shocks, which could drive up costs for businesses and spill over to consumers.

What has been the response so far? A retaliatory tariff has already been ruled out by the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry.

The ministry, alongside other government agencies and diplomatic network, has been said to be actively engaging in continuous communication with US representatives locally in Malaysia and key stakeholders in Washington, DC, to explore pragmatic solutions moving forward.

Globally, there has been a sense of uncertainty around the rationality of the calculation framework underlying these reciprocal tariffs proposed by the Trump 2.0 administration.

Industry analysts generally agree that tariffs are calculated using a specific formula: first, divide a country's trade surplus with the US (based on 2024 US Census Bureau data) by its total exports. Then, take that figure and divide it by two to arrive at a discounted rate.

There are certain "hardcoded" exceptions, resulting in a baseline 10% tariff for a handful of countries. However, this move may not be just a protectionist economic policy; it could also be a calculated negotiation tactic.

In this context, it may serve as a strategic, albeit unconventional, way to test trading partners' reactions, assess their dependence on the market and position the US for more favourable trade deals.

Overall, this approach mirrors an aggressive business negotiation strategy, where initial pressure is applied to extract better terms later.

From another perspective, this approach also appears to be the US's method of evaluating global trade as it prepares to establish new supply chains and trade routes. It also serves as a preemptive signal, indicating which stakeholders the Trump 2.0 administration views as valuable, potentially useful or expendable.

Given the volatility and unpredictability of Trump's approaches, we must consider broader contingency plans. This includes paying sufficient attention to exports that have currently been excluded from the tariff discussion, such as semiconductors, which now represent a significant portion of our medium- to high-value exports.

What is in store for these items? The Malaysian administration should consider developing a contingency response plan to protect its domestic industry's interests while maintaining strong bilateral trade.

This response plan, which should be diplomatic and mutually beneficial, would help soften shocks that may arise from a surprise sanction that could catch us off-guard.

Nevertheless, we should remain optimistic that our historically strong ties and continued dialogue will continue to sustain our mutually beneficial and valuable bilateral trade.

Edwin Oh Chun Kit is a socioeconomic analyst and commentator with publications in local and regional news outlets. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

Calls for full disclosure on Putra Heights gas explosion

LETTERS
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WHAT went wrong? This is the question that will remain uppermost in the minds of most people, especially the affected victims, following the devastating explosion in Putra Heights recently that destroyed hundreds of homes and traumatised scores of people.

The authorities — particularly the rescue teams, law enforcers and other government departments as well as the private sector and individuals — quickly swung into action to help, rescuing victims and their homes, and providing much-needed relief.

This was the true Malaysian spirit in action. In times of crisis, we all come together — royalty, politicians and individuals — regardless of our inherent or acquired differences.

The incident is a stark reminder of the potential dangers associated with critical infrastructure and the need for robust safety measures.

This tragedy highlights several crucial lessons that must be learned to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

Rigorous safety protocols and regular maintenance are essential for critical infrastructure, especially gas pipelines.

The proximity of the pipeline to residential areas raises concerns about the adequacy of zoning regulations and the potential impact on future development projects.

Public involvement in decision-making processes related to infrastructure projects can help build trust and ensure that community concerns are addressed.

The Putra Heights explosion also highlights the need for effective and clear emergency response protocols, disaster-relief strategies and comprehensive disaster preparedness plans.

The Welfare Department should take the lead in managing spontaneous donations and assistance offered by companies, NGOs and individuals.

Beyond the immediate physical damage, the Putra Heights explosion has had a profound impact on the emotional well-being

of those impacted.

Some of them have expressed reluctance to return to their original abodes. The recovery process for these individuals is likely to be lengthy and complex.

Support programmes should be available to assist with rebuilding homes, accessing financial resources and addressing long-term health needs.

We must leave no stone unturned in our efforts to determine the cause of the explosion. All parties concerned, including Petronas, must conduct a thorough investigation, which will necessarily take time.

Most importantly, once the investigation is completed, the findings must be made public — without reservation, coverups or sugarcoating.

It must be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Only then can we learn the necessary lessons to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye
Chairman
Alliance for a Safe Community

Training opens a window of opportunity

► VTOC transforms young girls into professionals, ready to take on a job.

BY DHARSHINI GANESON

NURUL Azila Azmi, a member of the Orang Asli (indigenous) community in Lenggong Perak, only completed her education up to primary level due to the remoteness of her village in Air Bah, Kenering, but she still had dreams of working and transforming her life.

That opportunity came in the form of a one-year training programme at the Vocational Training Opportunity Centre (VTOC) which she signed up to join in KL. The principal of VTOC had visited Nurul's village to promote the programme to young unemployed girls, in the hope of improving their lives and providing them with an income.

Opportunity for training

Today Azila, 18, has graduated from the VTOC programme, run by the Young Women's Christian Organisation (YWCA), and was awarded best trainee in the hairdressing course, at the 26th graduation ceremony held in March.

Azila is one of the many success stories of VTOC, where the courses are offered free due to sponsorship from various organisations. More than 2,000 young girls have graduated since the various programmes were started in 1998, offering them an opportunity for a better life, through a profession.

VTOC offers courses run by trained professionals in the areas of early childhood education, culinary and baking, hairdressing, beauty and healthcare, and the courses are recognised by the Ministry of Education.

Founders of VTOC

The centre is the brainchild of

women's rights activists, Datuk Dr Rasammah Bhupalan and Datuk Ramani Gurusamy after the former had visited a women's training centre in Denver, USA in 1963 and was impressed by the training opportunities it offered young women looking to earn an income. Both have since retired from VTOC but the centre has gone from strength to strength with new courses added on.

In 1991 a committee was formed to look into the viability of a vocational training centre for young girls, and the go-ahead given for a new building at Jalan Hang Jebat, which included accommodation for the first batch in 1998. This marked the beginning of VTOC.

Ramani wants the legacy of training and transforming women, with little or no skills, into professionals to continue and the baton has been passed successfully as evidenced by the 26th graduation ceremony.

"The professionalism and leadership inculcated are evident in the young girls when they graduate and join the workforce as well-trained and competent individuals," she said.

The importance of vocational skills
Teresa Kok, MP for Seputeh, who attended the ceremony as the guest of honour, said:

"Today we celebrate not just your achievements, but the strength, determination and resilience that have brought you to this moment. Your journey has been one of courage – overcoming obstacles, defying expectations and embracing the power of education and skills training," she said.

Joanne Yeoh, chair of the YWCA VTOC emphasised that the vocational training programme had been



Praveena (centre) with her guardian, Christopher Michael and Kanthimathy Paul Anthony, fashion and tailoring lecturer, at the ceremony.

strengthened by ensuring it aligned with industry needs.

"During the year, VTOC managed to continue with its inclusive programmes such as the leadership programme, event management workshop, presentation skills workshop, creative and design (canva) training, special events and many other holistic programmes," she said.

Praveena Veeran, 23, completed the course for fashion and tailoring, she faced many challenges in completing it as she was under the guardianship of an uncle and had lived in a children's home in her early years.

But despite the challenges, she was selected as the most outstanding trainee, being the highest scorer in

the 2024/2025 batch and was also president of the VTOC Student Council.

Praveena has been offered a job as one of the trainers for the next batch of students joining the VTOC programme.

"The VTOC programme gave me a

valuable skill that I can use for the rest of my life.

"Before the course I didn't have much direction, but now I have a clear path and a career to be proud of. My life has also changed because I'm more independent, focused, and hopeful about the future."



Orang Asli graduate Lauyeg Along, from Gua Musang, graduated from the hairdressing course. Her father attended the graduation.



Graduates of the VTOC programme, front row (from left), Nurul, Shalini Subramaniam and Praveena beaming with pride, at the 26th graduation ceremony.



US measures a wake-up call for Asean: Business council exec director

KUALA LUMPUR: With global trade tensions escalating, most notably the United States' recent tariff hikes, Southeast Asia finds itself at a critical inflection point.

EU-Asean Business Council executive director Chris Humphrey said the region is no longer just a growth engine, but it is becoming a strategic necessity for economies and institutions seeking stability, openness and diversified partnerships.

"European institutions are clearly paying more attention to Southeast Asia. In this environment, your old friends may not be as reliable. Protectionism is rising, and if you are looking for growth and like-minded partners, Asean stands out," he told *SunBiz* after a media briefing on cigarettes and alternative nicotine products use, behaviour and attitudes yesterday.

He said the wave of US tariffs has underscored the fragility of existing trade dependencies. It has accelerated the global shift towards supply chain diversification, a trend that could benefit Asean if the bloc can position itself more cohesively.

"This should be a wake-up call for Asean. We need to stop being passive and start acting like a truly integrated economic bloc."

Despite its solid fundamentals – growing middle class, urbanisation and consistent 5% gross domestic product growth – Asean risks missing the moment unless it fast-tracks regional agreements and infrastructure, Humphrey said.

"Significant progress on the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement upgrade, the Digital Economy Framework Agreement and a post-2025 vision could set the stage for a truly unified market and production base," he added.

Humphrey said Malaysia has already made notable moves, especially in semiconductors, in response to global concerns over supply concentration in Northeast Asia.

"The government's push for more local semiconductor manufacturing has been widely welcomed, but competition is fierce. Everyone in the region is chasing the same opportunities. Malaysia must keep climbing the value chain – beyond agriculture and traditional manufacturing – to stay competitive."

As US tariffs threaten to further fracture global trade, Humphrey said, Asean's future will depend less on external forces and more on how quickly it can align internally.

"The region's outlook is bright – but with stronger unity, it could be transformational."

Humphrey said Southeast Asia loses an estimated US\$30 billion (RM141 billion) annually to illicit trade, spanning tobacco, alcohol, pharmaceuticals and even counterfeit car parts.

In Malaysia alone, he said, illicit tobacco remains a persistent issue, with about half of all cigarettes sold in the country coming from illegal sources. "Malaysia's illicit tobacco market is around 50%. While the trend is slowly declining, it is still alarmingly high."

Much of the illicit tobacco entering Malaysia and the Philippines is produced legally in licensed factories outside the countries, often within Southeast Asia, before being smuggled in, making enforcement efforts more complex, he noted. - by **AIMIE SHAZRIE**

Average M'sian import tariff on US goods is 5.6%, not 47%

■ BY **AIMIE SHAZRIE**
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: The average Malaysian import tariff on goods from the United States is only 5.6%, not 47% as claimed by the US administration, said Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

He said Malaysia does not agree with the basis used to calculate the 24% retaliatory tariff on its exports to the US, and is seeking clarification on the methodology.

"As we understand it, the US tariffs are not a direct reflection of what we impose on them, but rather a response to trade surpluses. Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of US\$25 billion (RM111.8 billion) with the US. Other countries like Vietnam which also have high surpluses were hit with higher tariffs, while Singapore, which has a trade deficit with the US, faces only a 10% retaliatory tariff."

"Malaysia remains fully committed to finding a solution that maintains market access, attracts sustained foreign investment, and

► We do not agree with Washington's 24% reciprocal duty, want clarification on methodology used: Tengku Zafrul

supports the well-being of our workers and businesses. As such, for now, Malaysia will not take any retaliatory action," he told reporters in a press conference on the US tariffs at Menara Miti yesterday.

Tengku Zafrul said the government will review its 2025 approved investment growth target of 5% in light of the new tariffs, which could directly impact Malaysia's economic performance this year and potentially beyond.

"From an investment standpoint, early feedback from both foreign and domestic investors suggests it is still too soon to assess the full impact on their operations, especially with the tariffs taking effect on April 9. Some investors have indicated that their supply chains will be affected – particularly in contract manufacturing – while some Malaysian firms are already

slowing expansion plans, cutting costs and shifting focus to market diversification."

"While certain Malaysian exports may become more competitive compared to countries facing higher tariffs, weaker global demand as a result of the tariff measures could still drive down overall export value. Also, if more investors move to Malaysia due to our lower tariff rate, that could further widen our trade surplus with the US – which is exactly what triggered these retaliatory tariffs in the first place. It's clearly not a long-term solution."

He said Malaysia is intensifying its trade diplomacy efforts following the US's recent imposition of sweeping retaliatory tariffs on a range of global exporters, a move that could have ripple effects on Malaysian industries and the

broader economy.

He announced that strategic engagement with US authorities is being accelerated to mitigate the impact and safeguard key national interests.

While Malaysia has not been spared – with exports to the US subject to a reciprocal tariff of 24% – the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti) views the situation with cautious optimism, Tengku Zafrul said.

"The rate, although not insignificant, is considerably lower than the tariffs slapped on neighbouring countries such as Cambodia (49%), Laos (48%), Vietnam (46%) and even economic powerhouse China (34%). The relatively moderate tariff imposed on Malaysia provides room for maneuvering through proactive diplomatic channels."

Tengku Zafrul said Miti believes the current window offers an opportunity to position Malaysia as a stable and reliable trade partner amid broader regional disruptions.

"At the forefront of Miti's diplomatic push is a focus on securing exemptions and maintaining open trade corridors in high-impact sectors. These include semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, energy products, aerospace components, and critical minerals – all of which have been excluded from the latest round of US tariffs."

Tengku Zafrul said the fallout from the tariffs, however, remains a concern. While Malaysian exporters may gain an edge over costlier regional competitors, the overall disruption to trade flows could still have a negative impact on gross domestic products job creation and investment inflows.

"Sectors heavily reliant on the US market must prepare for potential contraction in demand," he stressed.

In parallel with its diplomatic engagements, Tengku Zafrul said, Miti is also strengthening domestic policy tools to deal with secondary effects of the tariffs.

"A key concern is the possibility of Malaysia becoming a dumping ground for products from countries that now face reduced access to the US market. Miti is prepared to activate trade remedies, including anti-dumping and safeguard measures, to protect local industries," he added.



Tengku Zafrul (right) and his deputy Liew Chin Tong at the media briefing yesterday.

Changes in trade dynamics will bring challenges, opportunities: Amir Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR: The United States' announcement of wide-ranging reciprocal tariffs on trading partners last week will change the trade dynamics and operating environment, which can influence the economic growth narrative and present Asean with both challenges and opportunities.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said this underscored the urgency for Asean member states to strengthen resilience, enhance collaboration and progress further along the path of regional economic integration.

"While we remain committed to international trade, fostering stronger

intra-Asean collaboration will pave the way for a more self-reliant and resilient Asean community," he said in his opening remarks at the Asean Investors Roundtable: Unlocking Opportunities to Advance Asean Climate Initiatives here yesterday.

The roundtable was held in conjunction with the four-day 12th

Asean Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (AFMGM) and related meetings, which began yesterday.

Chaired by Malaysia, this series of meetings started with the Asean Finance Deputies Meeting and the Asean Central Bank Deputies Meeting. – Bernama

Palm oil sector to see minimal impact from 24% US tariff

BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
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PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's palm oil industry is expected to only see minimal impact on the 24% tariff imposed by the United States due to a lower rate compared to competitors and limited exports to the US, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).

MPOB director-general Datuk Dr Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir said Malaysia is still the cheapest option among the top exporters.

"Other major producers are being taxed even more, Indonesia faces a 32% tariff and Thailand 36%. In that sense, we have the advantage," he said at a press conference in conjunction with the signing of a memorandum of agreement yesterday between MPOB and SumiSaujana TCM Chemicals to commercialise palm-based polyol.

He added that the US accounts for only about 10% of Malaysia's palm oil exports, mainly for niche industrial uses rather than general cooking.

"The volume is quite small, but it's still an important market. The US, especially, continues to need palm oil for specific sectors like confectionery. It's not used like in other countries for everyday cooking, so it serves a niche market. The demand should remain, as it doesn't directly compete with other oils."

But the tariff may initially affect Malaysia due to possible supply chain disruptions, Ahmad Parveez said. "The final influence will be on their own consumers because it will impact the final product. The product will have to be paid by the consumers in the future."

However, he said the US tariff will not become a major issue in the long run.

Ahmad Parveez highlighted ongoing challenges from the European Union Deforestation-Free Regulation and the Renewable Energy Directive II.

"For us, we are diversifying our palm oil – not only for commodity oil but also for other high-value applications," he said.

He added that the ministry, together with MPOB, is not focused on any single country.

"We try to diversify and ensure our palm oil is accepted globally. We're exploring other markets. Last year, for example, our exports to the Philippines increased quite drastically."

So, Ahmad Parveez said, if there is any hurdle in the US or Europe, it wants to make sure that our good relationship with all the consumer countries is always strong. "There are many large markets out there. If you compare 2024 versus 2023, actually our export has been increasing by around 70% last year."

As Malaysia is chairing Asean this year, he said, the country has an opportunity to strengthen regional trade ties. "And I hope that with Malaysia leading Asean, we will see increased exports to our Asean neighbours, who are much closer to us."

According to CIMB Securities, the US tariffs will raise the cost of palm oil for American end-users.

SumiSaujana Group ventures into specialty chemicals industry

PUTRAJAYA: SumiSaujana Group, a Petronas-licensed manufacturer specialising in the formulation, manufacturing and supply of drilling fluid chemicals, and production and refinery chemicals for the upstream, midstream, and downstream segments in the oil and gas industry, is branching into the specialty chemicals industry.

The group has signed a licensing and commercialisation agreement with the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) to produce and sell three types of palm-based chemicals – palm-based intermediates, palm-based polyols and bio-based polyester polyols.

SumiSaujana executive director/CEO Norazlam Norbi said the palm-based chemicals are renewable alternatives to petroleum-based chemicals mainly used in polyurethane production, which supports industries such as automotive, construction, adhesives, coatings, and more.

"The global market for polyurethane alone is worth over US\$86 billion (RM384.72 billion), and palm-based intermediates are valued at US\$17 billion. This shows huge potential for Malaysia's palm oil innovations to tap into these markets," he said at the signing of a memorandum of agreement, which includes licensing and



U Mobile names EdgePoint as 5G IBC infrastructure partner

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's next-generation 5G network provider U Mobile Sdn Bhd has signed a memorandum of understanding with EdgePoint Infrastructure Sdn Bhd, a leading Asean-based independent telecommunications infrastructure company, to accelerate U Mobile's upcoming rollout of 5G across the country.

In a joint statement yesterday, it said this latest collaboration would see EdgePoint become one of U Mobile's preferred 5G in-building coverage (IBC)

infrastructure partners.

"As part of this partnership, both parties will work closely on 5G IBC deployment, as well as focusing on developing and deploying the most suitable solutions tailored to each site, enhancing network performance and user experience."

"Additionally, both parties will collaborate to deliver a cost-effective and rapid rollout," it said.

U Mobile said the collaboration aims to accelerate the rollout of 5G technology,

ensuring seamless connectivity and coverage across key locations while addressing the evolving needs of both consumers and businesses.

The partnership would also involve offering solutions for connectivity enhancement, resulting in faster data speeds, ultra-low latency, and seamless integration of cutting-edge technologies and applications like artificial intelligence, smart cities and autonomous systems.

Besides, both companies would identify opportunities for future expansion and innovation in 5G IBC solutions. – Bernama

Innovative funding vital in Asean low-carbon agenda

► Malaysia committed to driving solutions that address region's climate challenges through finance: Amir Hamzah

KUALA LUMPUR: Innovative funding mechanisms are vital for Asean to accelerate its transition towards a low-carbon economy, while strengthening climate resilience, in a just, inclusive and orderly way, said Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

He said Malaysia as Asean chair is committed to driving transformative priority economic deliverables that address the region's urgent climate challenges through finance.

"Our priority areas include catalysing access to finance for a just and orderly transition and building a climate-resilient Asean. This involves securing innovative funding mechanisms and solutions to support infrastructure initiatives like the Asean Power Grid and the carbon capture and storage projects."

"I trust that if we put our minds to it, together, we can unlock the great potential and opportunities that climate action presents and leave behind a legacy of enduring economic prosperity for generations to come," he said in his opening remarks at the Asean Investors Roundtable here yesterday.

At the roundtable entitled "Unlocking Opportunities to Advance Asean Climate Initiatives", Amir Hamzah said the Asean region is well positioned to drive the green transition and efforts to build climate resilience, while strengthening economic and energy security.

"We have seen this in the past with the push towards renewable energy generation. On this front, Asean positioned itself as an important player in the global supply chain,

particularly for solar technology, and we remain so till today."

"That is why, rather than see climate action as a burden or drag on growth, it is an opportunity to light up new engines of growth. For this, it will be important for domestic backward and forward linkages in supply chains to be enhanced within Asean and not forgetting to develop human capital to fully harness the growth potential," he said.

In directing financial flows towards decarbonisation and green efforts, Amir Hamzah said, the region has developed the Asean Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance which investors, financiers and funders can refer to when making their decisions.

He added that the fourth version of the taxonomy is set to be released by year-end.

"The economic and climate imperatives are clear, but achieving meaningful progress requires a supportive regulatory environment shaped by the public sector. Indeed, the public sector plays a critical role in accelerating green investments."

"However, governments cannot be the sole driver of climate action. Given the scale of investments needed, it would be challenging for governments to meet all funding needs as we balance and manage the trade-offs between economic development and climate expenditure," he said.

In this regard, he said collaboration between the public and private sectors will be key, of which a public-private and philanthropic partnership model, will be key to accelerating climate action that aligns with both national and regional priorities.

"Of course, there could be many modalities, such as blended finance, that can be explored. Specifically, Islamic finance offers innovative structures that can be tapped," he said.

The roundtable was held in conjunction with the four-day 12th Asean Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting and related meetings, which began yesterday. – Bernama



Amir Hamzah (second from left) delivering opening remarks at the Asean Investors Roundtable: Unlocking Opportunities to Advance Asean Climate Initiatives held in conjunction with the 12th Asean Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting 2025 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. – BERNAMAPIC

commercialisation, between the company and MPOB yesterday.

At a press conference later, Norazlam said the first product launch could happen as soon as late 2025, while full rollout of all three technologies is targeted within a year from now. "We expect one of the products can be commercialised within six months, and all three should be commercialised within a year, working closely with MPOB."

Norazlam said no major new investment is needed because they have already started expanding their plant in anticipation of this project.

A new production line called "Trade Three" was commissioned in late December 2024, which gives them the infrastructure needed to support this new venture.

"Depending on further R&D with MPOB, we won't need much more investment to begin production," Norazlam said.

MPOB director-general Datuk Dr Ahmad Parveez Ghulam Kadir said this collaboration would provide the industry players with the opportunity to explore the potential of MPOB's innovative technologies and contribute to the growth of a more sustainable and competitive chemical industry at the global level. – by **HAYATUN RAZAK**



Heineken Malaysia Berhad
196401000020 (5350-X)
(Incorporated in Malaysia)

NOTICE OF 61st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 61st Annual General Meeting (61st AGM) of Heineken Malaysia Berhad (the Company) will be held at Grand Summit (Level M1), Connexion @ The Vertical, Bangsar South City, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on **Wednesday, 7 May 2025 at 9.30 a.m.** for the following purposes:

AGENDA

Ordinary Business

- To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.

Please refer to **Note 2**

- To approve the payment of a single tier final dividend of 115 sen per stock unit in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Ordinary Resolution 1

- To re-elect the following Directors who retire by rotation pursuant to Clause 84 of the Company's Constitution as Directors of the Company:

(i) Mr Choo Tay Sian, Kenneth

Ordinary Resolution 2

(ii) Ms Seng Yi-Ying

Ordinary Resolution 3

- To re-elect Mr Martin Rene van Keulen who retires pursuant to Clause 91 of the Company's Constitution as a Director of the Company.

Ordinary Resolution 4

- To approve the payment of Directors' fees and benefits up to an aggregate amount of RM810,000 for the Non-Executive Directors of the Company for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.

Ordinary Resolution 5

- To appoint KPMG PLT as Auditors of the Company, to replace Deloitte PLT, who are not seeking re-appointment at the 61st AGM, and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Ordinary Resolution 6

Special Business

To consider and, if deemed fit, to pass the following resolutions:

- Proposed Continuance in Office as Independent Non-Executive Director

"That approval be and is hereby given to Dato' Sri Idris Jala, whose tenure will reach a cumulative term of 9 years on 1 January 2026, to continue in office as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting."

Ordinary Resolution 7

- Proposed Shareholders' Mandate for Recurrent Related Party Transactions of a Revenue or Trading Nature (Proposed Shareholders' Mandate)

"That, subject to the provisions of the Main Market Listing Requirements of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad, approval be and is hereby given to the Company and/or its subsidiaries to enter into any of the recurrent transactions of a revenue or trading nature with the HEINEKEN Group of Companies and persons connected with them as set out in the Circular to Shareholders dated 8 April 2025, which are necessary for the day-to-day operations and/or in the ordinary course of business of the Company and its subsidiaries on terms not more favourable to the related parties than those generally available to the public and are not detrimental to the minority shareholders of the Company and that such approval shall continue to be in force until:

- the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company at which time it will lapse, unless by a resolution passed at a general meeting, the authority conferred by this resolution is renewed; or
- the expiration of the period within which the next Annual General Meeting of the Company is required to be held pursuant to Section 340(2) of the Companies Act, 2016 (the Act) (but shall not extend to such extensions as may be allowed pursuant to Section 340(4) of the Act); or
- revoked or varied by resolution passed by the shareholders at a general meeting,

whichever is earlier;

And that the Directors of the Company be and are hereby authorised to complete and do all such acts and things as they may consider expedient or necessary to give effect to the Proposed Shareholders' Mandate."

Ordinary Resolution 8

- To consider any other business of which due notice has been given in accordance with the Act and the Company's Constitution.

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND ENTITLEMENT AND PAYMENT

Subject to the approval of Stockholders, a single tier final dividend of 115 sen per stock unit in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2024 will be paid on 23 July 2025 to Stockholders registered at the close of business on 25 June 2025.

A Depositor shall qualify for entitlement to the dividend only in respect of:

- shares deposited into the Depositor's securities account before 12.30 pm on 23 June 2025 in respect of shares which are exempted from mandatory deposit;
- shares transferred into the Depositor's securities account before 4.30 pm on 25 June 2025 in respect of ordinary transfers; and
- shares bought on a cum entitlement basis according to the Rules of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad.

By Order of the Board

Ng Sow Hoong
Company Secretary
MAICSA 7027552
SSM PC No. 202008000593
Petaling Jaya, Selangor
8 April 2025

NOTES

1. Entitlement to attend 61st AGM and Appointment of Proxy

- For the purpose of determining a member who shall be entitled to attend the 61st AGM, the Company shall be requesting Bursa Malaysia

Depository Sdn Bhd to issue a Record of Depositors as at **28 April 2025** in accordance with the Company's Constitution and Section 34 of the Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act 1991. Only a depositor whose name appears on the Record of Depositors as at **28 April 2025** shall be entitled to attend the said AGM or appoint proxies to attend and/or vote on his/her behalf at the said AGM.

- A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint more than one (1) proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. Where a member appoints more than one (1) proxy, the member shall specify the proportion of the member's shareholding to be represented by each proxy.

- Where a member of the Company is an exempt authorised nominee as defined under the Securities Industry (Central Depository) Act 1991 which holds ordinary shares in the Company for multiple beneficial owners in one securities account (Omnibus Account), there is no limit to the number of proxies which the exempt authorised nominee may appoint in respect of each Omnibus Account it holds. Where an exempt authorised nominee appoints more than one (1) proxy, the proportion of shareholdings to be represented by each proxy must be specified in the Form of Proxy. An exempt authorised nominee with more than one (1) securities account must submit a separate Form of Proxy for each securities account.

- If the appointer is a corporation, the Form of Proxy must be executed under its Common Seal or signed by an officer or attorney duly authorised. Any alteration to the Form of Proxy must be initialed.

- Please ensure ALL the particulars as required in the Form of Proxy are completed, signed and dated accordingly.

- The Form of Proxy can be submitted through either one (1) of the following avenues no later than **Tuesday, 6 May 2025 at 9.30 a.m.** or in the event of any adjournment, no later than twenty-four (24) hours before the time appointed for the adjourned meeting:

(a) Lodgement of Form of Proxy in hardcopy

To be deposited at Tricor's Office at Unit 32-01, Level 32, Tower A, Vertical Business Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, or alternatively at the drop-in box provided at Unit G-3, Ground Floor, Vertical Podium, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; OR

(b) Electronic lodgement of Form of Proxy

The Form of Proxy can be lodged electronically via TIIH Online website at <https://tiih.online>. Kindly refer to the Administrative Guide for the 61st AGM on the procedures for electronic lodgement of Form of Proxy via TIIH Online website.

- Any authority pursuant to which such an appointment is made by a power of attorney must be deposited at Tricor's Office at Unit 32-01, Level 32, Tower A, Vertical Business Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, or alternatively at the drop-in box provided at Unit G-3, Ground Floor, Vertical Podium, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia no later than 24 hours before the time appointed for holding the 61st AGM or adjourned general meeting at which the person named in the appointment proposes to vote. A copy of the power of attorney may be accepted provided that it is certified notariately and/or in accordance with the applicable legal requirements in the relevant jurisdiction in which it is executed.

- For a corporate member who has appointed a representative, please deposit the **ORIGINAL/DULY CERTIFIED** certificate of appointment at Tricor's Office at Unit 32-01, Level 32, Tower A, Vertical Business Suite, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, or alternatively at the drop-in box provided at Unit G-3, Ground Floor, Vertical Podium, Avenue 3, Bangsar South, No. 8, Jalan Kerinchi, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia no later than 24 hours before the time appointed for holding the 61st AGM or adjourned general meeting. The certificate of appointment should be executed in the following manner:

- If the corporate member has a common seal, the certificate of appointment should be executed under seal in accordance to the constitution of the corporate member.
- If the corporate member does not have a common seal, the certificate of appointment should be affixed with the rubber stamp of the corporate member (if any) and executed by:
 - at least two (2) authorised officers, of whom one shall be a director; or
 - any director and/or authorised officers in accordance with the laws of the country under which the corporate member is incorporated.

- Pursuant to the Main Market Listing Requirements (MMLR) of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad, all the resolutions set out in this notice will be put to vote by way of poll.

2. Agenda 1 : Audited Financial Statements

The audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 are laid in accordance with Section 340(1) of the Act for discussion only. They do not require shareholders' approval and hence, will not be put forward for voting.

3. Ordinary Resolutions 2 to 4 : Re-election of Retiring Directors

Clause 84 of the Company's Constitution provides that one-third (1/3) of the Directors of the Company for the time being shall retire by rotation at each AGM of the Company and all Directors shall retire from office at least once every 3 years but shall be eligible for re-election. Pursuant to this, Mr Choo Tay Sian, Kenneth and Ms Seng Yi-Ying are due for retirement by rotation and they have offered themselves for re-election at the 61st AGM.

Clause 91 of the Company's Constitution provides that any new Director appointed by the Board during the year shall hold office only until the next AGM and shall be eligible for re-election but shall not be taken into account in determining the Directors who are to retire by rotation at that meeting. Mr Martin Rene van Keulen who was appointed on 1 July 2024 is to stand for re-election at the 61st AGM pursuant to this Clause.

Leveraging the annual Board and Directors Effectiveness Evaluation, the Nomination & Remuneration Committee (NRC) had on 12 February 2025, reviewed the performance and contributions of the above retiring Directors. Based on the evaluation, the Board agreed that they have discharged their duties and responsibilities effectively and had provided valuable contributions to the leadership of the Board; and accordingly recommended that the aforesaid retiring Directors be re-elected at the 61st AGM of the Company. All Directors standing for re-election have abstained from deliberations and decisions on their own eligibility to stand for re-election at the NRC and/or Board Meetings and they will continue to abstain from deliberations and decisions on their own eligibility to stand for re-election at the 61st AGM of the Company.

The profile of the Directors standing for re-election is set out in the Directors' Profile in the Annual Report 2024.

4. Ordinary Resolution 5 : Payment of Directors' Fees and Benefits

At the 60th AGM of the Company held on 16 May 2024, shareholders approved the payment of Directors' fee and benefits up to an amount of RM810,000 to the Non-Executive Directors of the Company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024. Details of the payment of the Directors' fees and benefits for the said financial year are disclosed under the Corporate Governance Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which is available on the Company's website <https://www.heinekenmalaysia.com/corporate-governance/>.

There is no proposed revision to the existing Directors' Remuneration Package which was last approved by shareholders on 16 May 2024. The Directors' fees payable to the Non-Executive Directors for the financial year ending 31 December 2025 are calculated based on the current composition of the Board and the Board Committees and the number of meetings scheduled for the Board and Board Committees whilst the benefits are mainly the provision of car and petrol card for the use of the Independent Non-Executive Chairman.

The proposed motion, if passed, will facilitate the payment to Non-Executive Directors of the Company during the financial year. In the event the proposed amount is insufficient (due to enlarged Board size), approval will be sought at the next AGM for the shortfall. Non-Executive Directors who are shareholders of the Company shall abstain from voting on this motion at the 61st AGM.

5. Ordinary Resolution 6 : Appointment of Auditors

Deloitte PLT have served as the Auditors of the Company since April 2017. They were re-appointed at the 60th AGM held on 16 May 2024 to hold office until the conclusion of the 61st AGM. Deloitte PLT have indicated that they do not seek re-appointment as Auditors of the Company.

The Company received a letter dated 8 January 2025 from its major shareholder, GAPL Pte Ltd, nominating KPMG PLT as the Auditors of the Company. A copy of this letter is set out in the Annual Report 2024. GAPL Pte Ltd is indirectly owned by Heineken NV, which has appointed KPMG Accountants NV, as external auditors for the financial year 2025. Both KPMG Accountants NV and KPMG PLT are part of the global KPMG network affiliated with KPMG International Limited.

As an operating company of the HEINEKEN Group, it is recommended that KPMG PLT be appointed as Auditors of the Company. This proposed change aims to facilitate the efficient flow of information within the auditing entities of the HEINEKEN Group, thereby minimising non-value-added work for auditors. More importantly, it will help optimise the Company's business resources and costs. If approved, KPMG PLT will serve as the appointed Auditors until the conclusion of the next AGM of the Company.

6. Ordinary Resolution 7 : Proposed Continuance in Office as Independent Non-Executive Director

The Board, through the NRC, evaluated the contributions and independence of Dato' Sri Idris Jala, whose tenure is expected to reach nine years on 1 January 2026. Based on the evaluation, the Board recommended that he continues to serve as an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company on the basis that he possesses the following attributes necessary for discharging his duties and responsibilities:

- He has met the criteria of an Independent Director as prescribed under the MMLR.
- He is an inclusive and effective Chairman, highly respected by the Directors and Management for his extensive knowledge, experience and dynamism. During Board and NRC meetings, he demonstrated strong leadership by fostering open and constructive discussions, providing objective views and contributing to informed and balanced decision-making.
- He provides insights into his experiences and best practices for driving leadership transformation and strategic oversight, whilst ensuring good corporate governance and enhancing performance management.
- He performs his role as Board Chairman with due care and diligence, carrying out his professional duties as an Independent Non-Executive Director in the interest of the Company and shareholders. He abstains from participating in deliberation or decision-making on matters where a conflict of interest may arise.

Dato' Sri Idris Jala has abstained from deliberations and decisions on this matter at the NRC and/or Board Meetings and he will continue to abstain from deliberations and decisions at the 61st AGM of the Company. The profile of Dato' Sri Idris Jala is set out in the Directors' Profile in the Annual Report 2024.

7. Ordinary Resolution 8 : Proposed Shareholders' Mandate for Recurrent Related Party Transactions of a Revenue or Trading Nature

Ordinary Resolution 8, if passed, will allow the Company and/or its subsidiaries to enter into the recurrent related party transactions in the ordinary course of business and the need to convene separate general meetings each time such recurrent related party transactions occur would be eliminated. This will save administrative time, inconvenience and expenses associated with holding such meetings, without compromising the Group's corporate objectives or adversely impacting its business opportunities. The Shareholders' Mandate is subject to renewal on an annual basis.

Further information on the Proposed Shareholders' Mandate is set out in the Circular to Shareholders of the Company dated 8 April 2025.

Maybank IBG named Syndicated Loan House of the Year

KUALA LUMPUR: Maybank Investment Banking Group (Maybank IBG) continues to stamp its leadership in Southeast Asia, winning recognition from the Asia Pacific Loan Market Association (APLMA) as Syndicated Loan House of the Year in Malaysia for the fifth consecutive year and in Vietnam for the fourth consecutive year.

The repeat wins are given for the 2024 loan volumes which are concentrated on fewer deals in both countries. Nonetheless loan volumes rebounded by +1.9% in Malaysia and +13.2% in Vietnam, boosted by a couple of mega transactions that closed in 2024.

The Asia Pacific Syndicated Loan Market Awards 2024 recognised outstanding achievements across 32 categories, with

winners selected through an independent vote by more than 400 APLMA members, without any application or promotion process.

"Maybank IBG is proud to receive these accolades once again from our peers in the APLMA, attesting to our market leading position in Malaysia and Vietnam," CEO Michael Oh-Lau said.

"Despite a cautious sentiment in 2024, we remained watchful to unlock opportunities for our clients. Our strong network combined with our commitment to sustainability and Islamic finance position us at the forefront of investment banking in the region."

In 2024, Maybank IBG was mandated as the sole Coordinator Bank for various onshore

and offshore syndicated transactions. Among the key deals were the refinancing of the iconic Battersea Power Station building in London under PNB-Kwasa International 2 Limited's GBP1.11 billion Syndicated Green Loan Facility; Yarra Park City's AU\$265 million Syndicated Term Loan facility to part finance the development of a residential apartment in Melbourne; and the US\$400 million dual tranche (Islamic and conventional) Syndicated Term Financing for Bumi Armada Holdings Labuan Limited.

In Vietnam, Maybank IBG acted as the Mandated Lead Arranger, Underwriter and Bookrunner for Vietnam Prosperity Bank's Syndicated US\$400 million Green Loan facility as well as the back-to-back syndications for

Vinpearl and Vingroup that raised US\$200 million and US\$115 million respectively.

Oh-Lau said, "These are high profile repeat mandates that successfully closed with overwhelming response from the market — a testament of Maybank's ability to structure, underwrite, distribute and arrange successful fundraising exercises for our clients."

"For 2025, we expect overall loan volumes to remain robust, supported by favourable economic recovery conditions, good local market dynamics and positive regional trends. Sectors of focus in Malaysia are in line with strategic government investments, such as real estate and data centres as well as potential infrastructure projects that will continue to drive loan activities."

Foreign investors pull RM31b from Asian markets

➤ South Korea and India experience heaviest selling pressure

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign investors returned to net sellers last week across eight Asian markets, reversing their single-week buying streak, recording a heavy net outflow of US\$7.12 billion (RM31.68 billion), with South Korea and India experiencing the heaviest selling pressure.

According to MIDF Amanah Investment Bank Bhd's *Fund Flow Report* for the weekend ended April 4, South Korea saw a US\$4.44 billion net outflow, nearly 20 times higher than the previous week's outflow and extending its streak of foreign withdrawals to two weeks.

The investment bank said this was due to the political upheaval in South Korea, triggered by the Constitutional Court's impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol, coupled with new US tariffs, which led to heightened uncertainty and foreign investor withdrawals.

It said South Korea faced tariffs as high as 26%, exacerbating fears of a global trade war and negatively impacting investor sentiment towards South Korean markets.

"India recorded the second highest net foreign outflows in the region with withdrawals amounting to US\$1.21 billion, marking yet another turnaround after a single-week streak of inflows."

"On April 2, 2025, US President Donald Trump announced a 10% baseline tariff on all imports, with higher reciprocal tariffs for specific countries, including a 27% tariff on Indian goods, effective April 9, 2025," it added.

MIDF Amanah said Taiwan also experienced a significant outflow for the sixth straight week at US\$814.6 million, driven by a 32% reciprocal tariff on Taiwanese imports, which raised concerns



People walking past screens displaying average stock prices at the Taiwan Stock Exchange in Taipei yesterday. — AFP/IC

among investors about its export competitiveness, particularly in sectors heavily reliant on the US market.

It said Vietnam and Thailand were slapped with reciprocal tariffs of 46% and 36%, respectively, effective April 9, 2025.

"Meanwhile, Vietnam recorded its ninth consecutive week of outflows, totaling US\$345 million, more than four times higher than the previous week, and Thailand also extended its foreign withdrawal streak to a sixth week, with US\$202.4 million in outflows," it added.

However, the Philippines recorded the lowest outflow out of the markets we monitor, extending to a two-week selling streak with a modest net foreign outflow of US\$14.9 million, while Indonesian markets did not record any fund flows last week as markets were shut due to the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations, which extended throughout the week, it said.

Foreign investors extended their selling streak on Bursa Malaysia for the 24th consecutive week, registering a net outflow of RM426.6 million, lower than the net outflow of RM1.15 billion recorded in the previous week, aided by markets being closed for two days due to the Hari Raya festivities.

MIDF Amanah said local institutions continued to provide a buffer against foreign selling, posting their 24th straight week of net buying with inflows amounting to RM369.1 million.

"Meanwhile, local retail investors returned to net buyers, ending their single-week selling streak with an inflow of RM57.5 million."

"The average daily trading volume saw a broad-based decrease. Foreign investor and local institution participation plunged by 11.7% and 28.8%, respectively, while local retail saw an increase of 2.2%," it said. — Bernama

Kerjaya Prospek clinches RM291m contract from E&O subsidiary

KUALA LUMPUR: Construction outfit, Kerjaya Prospek Group Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary, Kerjaya Prospek (M) Sdn Bhd, has secured a new contract valued at RM291.4 million from Persada Mentari Sdn Bhd, an indirect subsidiary of Eastern & Oriental Berhad (E&O).

The contract entails the execution and completion of a 50-storey main building for a serviced apartment development in Pulau Andaman, Penang. The development will comprise one block of 516 serviced apartment units, along with a car park and facilities floor, among other components. Construction works are scheduled to commence on June 23, 2025 and expected to be completed within 38 months.

This contract was awarded on an arm's length basis, under normal commercial terms, from a related party in which certain directors and major shareholders of Kerjaya have direct or indirect interests.

Kerjaya CEO and executive director Tee Eng Tiong said: "We are proud to be entrusted once again to play a role in building the growing township of Andaman Island, a landmark development set to redefine island living in Malaysia."

"This win not only highlights the consistency of our team's execution capabilities but also reflects the trusted working relationship we have built over the years with top-tier developers."

Looking ahead, he added they are targeting to secure RM1.6 billion in new contract wins for 2025, and with this latest contract, they are confident of being on track to achieve this.

"We also anticipate a steady stream of job inflows from the Andaman Island development, given the multiple phases of launches expected to take place over the course of the year."

"Backed by a healthy outstanding order book and strong project pipeline, we remain focused on delivering sustainable growth, upholding our commitment to quality, and creating long-term value for our shareholders," said Tee.

This is the group's fourth contract win for the year, bringing the year-to-date new job wins to RM610.2 million, and lifting its total outstanding order book to RM4.3 billion, reflecting continued confidence from premium developers in the group's ability to deliver quality construction solutions.

DHL Supply Chain launches Southern Region Hub Phase 1

JOHOR BAHRU: DHL Supply Chain has launched its Southern Region Hub Phase 1 and marked the groundbreaking of Phase 2 at the Senai Airport City Free Zone yesterday, with a total investment of RM100 million.

Johor State Investment, Trade and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Lee Ting Han said DHL's latest hub marks its first-ever southern region hub in Malaysia, which will also serve as its southern headquarters.

"Previously, DHL's manufacturing and supply chain hubs were concentrated in Penang and Selangor, but today, Johor is stepping confidently into the spotlight," he said in a Facebook post.

Lee said the total investment for both phases of the supply hub is approximately RM100 million, covering over 308,000 square feet.

"DHL's decision to establish its footprint here is both timely and strategic, serving high-impact sectors such as electrical and electronics, life sciences, healthcare, and automotive."

"This facility is a game changer, and it will generate more than 200 skilled job opportunities for locals while contributing significantly to the region's logistics ecosystem," he said.

Lee also said that DHL has established its regional control tower in this hub, which is designed to connect operations across Malaysia,

Singapore and Thailand.

"This will further strengthen Johor's position as a key logistics nerve centre for Southeast Asia, reinforcing our role in the evolving Asean supply chain network," he said.

Meanwhile, Lee said the facility is expected to enhance supply chain capabilities and cater to the growing demands of various industries in the southern region.

"This development underscores Johor's emergence as a strategic logistics gateway, leveraging its proximity to Singapore and its growing industrial infrastructure," he added. — Bernama

People taking photos of an electronic sign board showing the closing price of the Heng Seng Index in Hong Kong yesterday. – AFP/IC



Investors brace for margin calls in global market rout

► Some hedge funds offload all stocks, brokers say more selling coming

HONG KONG: Some hedge funds say they are offloading all or most of their holdings of stocks as US President Donald Trump's trade war wipes out trillions of dollars of market value and forces them to curtail trading using borrowed cash.

In the three trading days following Trump's announcement of broad reciprocal tariffs on almost all countries, stock markets across the world have plummeted, and bonds have become both a haven and a bet on rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, turning on their head market assumptions before Trump took office.

The selloff on Wall Street has been vicious as investors that bet on US exceptionalism and economic might stampeded out of its markets.

The benchmark S&P 500 index fell 10.5% over two days and lost about US\$5 trillion (RM22 trillion) in market value.

China's CSI300 blue-chip index fell more than 5% yesterday, while the pan-European STOXX index is down nearly 12% from its March 3 all-time closing high and is in correction territory.

William Xin, chairman of hedge fund Spring Mountain Pu Jiang Investment Management based in Shanghai, said he had liquidated all of his stock positions as the current geopolitical landscape is messy, and the risk of a global recession is rising.

"The macro picture is getting very chaotic, and I cannot see the future clearly at all," said Xin, who sold his China and Hong Kong-listed shares last Thursday, ahead of a public holiday on Friday.

Hedge funds that pursue a long-short equity strategy have been particularly hard-hit as market volatility metrics surged, brokers said.

J.P. Morgan analysts estimated net leverage, which refers to borrowing, by hedge funds fell between 5% and 6% last week over the previous one, and that net hedge fund leverage could be around the lowest since late 2023.

The bank said volatility targeting portfolios had between US\$25 billion and US\$30 billion in equities to sell in the coming days, as they unwind positions to reduce risk.

Levered exchange-traded funds (ETFs) had an additional US\$23 billion to sell to rebalance into Friday's close, mostly tech stocks, it said.

Hedge funds typically use margin accounts in which they borrow cash from prime brokers to trade markets.

When the value of holdings in an investor's margin account falls below the broker's required deposit, brokers can call on an investor to top up the account with cash or to sell those stocks or bonds.

That rush for cash has seen even gold, typically a safe asset during crises, fall sharply since Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs were unveiled on April 2.

"In market selloffs like this, panic and forced selling via margin calls can dominate for a while," said David Seif, chief economist for developed markets at Nomura in New York. "That's not to say that it isn't based on a

very real negative event, which is these tariffs. But I think the ensuing selloff can take on a life of its own."

Bob Zhang, managing partner of Pine Street Capital, a Beijing-based hedge fund, said he has cut net exposure to Chinese stocks to 25% now from 100% in January.

He has also added some hedges on the stock index to protect against downside risk.

"The volatility in China might just be starting, as positions are very crowded, and some people are trying to catch a falling knife,"

Chinese investors are somewhat less likely to be affected by margin calls as the market had risen a lot earlier this year, yet the country is also the target of the biggest Trump tariffs.

The Hong Kong tech sub-index is down more than 27% in a month and back to levels at the start of the year.

China faces fresh US tariffs of more than 50%, and it responded in kind on Friday by slapping extra levies on U.S. imports.

"Too many uncertainties around, and everyone is de-grossing given the elevated market volatility," said a portfolio manager at a US multi-strategy fund based in Hong Kong.

"I think we are just in the middle of this selloff. This position unwinding usually will be sequentially affected from one hedge fund to another."

Outstanding margin finance in China remains high, at 1.9 trillion yuan (RM1.2 trillion) as of April 3.

In South Korea, data from the Korea Financial Investment Association shows there were 28 billion won (RM86 million) worth of stock sales between April 1 and April 3 triggered by margin calls. – Reuters

China pledges to remain 'safe and promising land' for foreign investment

BEIJING: A top Chinese official has vowed to protect US firms and pledged his country will remain a "promising land" for foreign investment, Beijing said yesterday, after it slapped 34 percent tariffs on US imports.

China retaliated last week against levies at the same level announced by US President Donald Trump on what he called "liberation day".

It also imposed export controls on seven rare earth elements, including gadolinium – commonly used in magnetic resonance imaging – and yttrium, which is used in consumer electronics.

Vice-Commerce Minister Ling Ji told a panel of US company representatives on Sunday that the tariffs "firmly protect the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises, including American companies", his ministry said.

Those levies – which come into effect on Thursday – "are aimed at bringing the United States back onto the right track of the multilateral trade system", he told the representatives, including of GE Healthcare and Medtronic.

"The root cause of the tariff issue lies in the United States", Ling said.

He urged the firms to "take pragmatic actions to jointly maintain the stability of global supply chains and promote mutual cooperation and win-win outcomes".

The United States exported US\$144.6 billion (RM648 billion) in goods to China in 2024, much less than the US\$439.7 billion it imported, Commerce Department data shows.

Among its exports, key sectors include electrical and electronic equipment and various fuels, alongside oilseed and grains. – AFP

Indonesia to 'intervene aggressively' when markets reopen

JAKARTA: Indonesia's central bank said yesterday it would "intervene aggressively" in domestic foreign exchange markets when they reopen today for the first time since new US tariffs were announced.

Markets in Southeast Asia's largest economy have been closed since March 28 for public holidays, and trading will resume today.

Before the break, the rupiah had already been under pressure, dropping to its lowest levels since the 1998 financial crisis.

Bank Indonesia said in a statement the intervention would come in the spot and non-deliverable forward markets, as well as in secondary bond markets, adding that it had already intervened offshore in Asia, European and New York markets.

"Bank Indonesia's series of measures are aimed at stabilising the rupiah exchange rate and maintaining the confidence of market participants and investors in Indonesia."

It also said it will optimise rupiah liquidity instruments to ensure adequate liquidity in the money market and with domestic banks. – Reuters

Asia credit starts to wobble as pain spreads

SINGAPORE: Credit markets turned shaky in Asia yesterday, with the cost of insuring against corporate and sovereign default higher as recession fears rippled across financial markets.

The five-year credit default swap spread on the Markit Itraxx Asia ex-Japan index, comprising sovereign and company debt, rose about 26 basis points to its highest since August last year, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.

Sovereign spreads for China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia also widened, S&P Global data showed, hitting, in the case of Indonesia and Thailand, levels not seen since 2022.

Unusually the pressure on credit has followed, rather than led, a tailspin in world stock markets as President Donald Trump declared a trade war by levying the highest tariffs on US imports in over a century.

US equity futures were down nearly 4% by mid-session in Asia and selling in credit came as equity markets from Hong Kong to Sydney were crumbling.

"It's not just the equity market," said Simon Ward, head of debt capital markets for Australasia at Mizuho in Sydney.

"We've seen credit spreads gap wider materially and we're also hearing various fund flows going the other way as well, as people try

to get into cash or other commodities."

He said the debt market would probably enter a "wait and see" mode, with deals on pause as volatility has spiked.

The spread or difference in yield between US Treasuries and the Ice BOFA index of US investment grade debt has widened about 20 basis points since Trump's tariff announcements and for high-yield US debt it has widened about 96 bps. – Reuters



Next up: Crisis of confidence in dollar

➤ Greenback's role as No. 1 reserve currency called into doubt

LONDON: In times of market panic investors tend to rush to the safety of the dollar, but when stocks swooned in response to US tariffs last week, they ran away from it. Investors say it is a sign that the greenback's global standing may be eroding.

The dollar, for decades a safe haven, last Thursday fell about 1.7% in its biggest daily drop since November 2022, after President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on imports at levels not seen since the early 1900s.

Stock markets also tanked, as tariffs ignited recession worries.

In interviews and published markets commentaries, many investors and analysts pointed to the Trump administration for the anomaly.

Its protectionist policies, upending of the global economic order in place since World War II, and a growing US debt pile have been chipping away at the dollar's appeal, they say.

Left unchecked, a crisis of confidence in the dollar could also undermine its position as the world's reserve currency, they added.

"What we're seeing today is a further indication that the structure and nature of the US dollar's relationship to global markets has changed," said Thierry Wizman, global foreign exchange and rates strategist at Macquarie in New York.

"There's an underlying basis for this, which is the changing role of the US in the world."

Any erosion of the dollar's standing as a safe-haven is bad news for investors and policymakers – at least in the near term.

For investors, who have piled trillions of dollars into buoyant US markets in recent decades, a sharp dollar fall could result in higher interest rates for longer.

That is because price pressures at home could make it harder for the Federal Reserve to cut rates.

At the same time, a rapid strengthening of currencies against the dollar is a headache for other central banks navigating a weaker economic outlook, as it makes their exports more expensive and potentially harder for them to revive growth. The euro, for example, just had its best day against the greenback in more than two years.

The recent depreciation in the dollar showed that concerns about the currency's status had "left footprints in financial markets already", Sweden's central bank

deputy governor Per Jansson said at an event in London on Tuesday.

"If (the dollar's status) would change, that would be a big change for the world economy ... and would basically create a mess," he told Reuters afterwards. "I really do not hope the US goes there."

Despite such growing worries, the dollar is still firmly positioned as the world's top reserve currency.

Trump has said he wants it to maintain that status and warned against attempts to undermine it, while signalling a weaker dollar would be good for exports.

The currency also has an inherent competitive advantage – It is backed by the world's largest economy, the deepest capital markets and an established rule of law. There is no real alternative in the near term.

In addition, its fall so far this year – the dollar has slumped about 6% against other major currencies – could ease if Trump is able to turn around sentiment on the economy through pro-growth policies such as tax cuts and deregulation.

Brad Setser, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said that although the US's appeal as an investment destination has been reduced, the dollar's course will largely be determined by how the US economy responds to the Trump tariff shock.

What's more, higher returns on US bonds than on other government bonds still matters for investors, he said.

Even so, the reversal in its fortunes is remarkable. Going into the year, investors had expected Trump tariffs to boost the dollar, as they believed his policies would spur growth.

So while investors expected tariffs to be inflationary, the consensus was it would hurt economies abroad more while leading to higher rates at home, strengthening the currency.

That turned out to be wrong.

His tariffs are so sweeping that investors now fear the US will be hurt the most by them as prices rise at home and growth slows. Several investment banks have raised the probabilities they give of a US recession.

The negative sentiment is reversing money flows into the US, thereby reducing demand for dollars.

Foreign holdings of US assets had surged to US\$62 trillion in 2024, from US\$13 trillion a decade earlier as international investors flocked to outperforming American stocks, bonds and real estate, official US data shows.

But in a sign money is moving out of US assets to markets overseas, US stocks have slumped 8% so far this year, while German and Hong Kong shares have rallied roughly 12% each. And the hit to the US as an

investment destination could deepen.

President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday called on European companies to suspend planned investment in the US in response to the tariffs imposed on the bloc.

"The three pillars of support that helped the dollar (were) US exceptionalism, high interest rates, and strong portfolio flows. All three have been severely weakened and potentially reversed as a result of the deluge of tariff announcements," said Paresh Upadhyaya, director of fixed income and currency strategy at European asset manager Amundi.

Earlier this week, Deutsche Bank warned of the risk of a crisis of confidence in the US currency, while bond giant Pimco said it had turned more cautious on the dollar.

Satori Insights founder Matt King said outflows from the US would likely continue.

"It has the potential to run significantly further, partly because of the magnitude of the long only (US equity and dollar) positions that have been built up over an extended period," he said, and the likelihood of this driving a sustained cycle of self-reinforcing losses.

As a result, the future of a currency often referred to as "King Dollar" for its strength and dominance in global forex markets suddenly looks uncertain. – Reuters

India sees no hit to projected growth from US tariffs

NEW DELHI: India may still meet its 6.3%-6.8% growth projection for the 2025/26 fiscal year that started on April 1 despite global disruptions from new US tariffs, if oil prices stay below US\$70 per barrel, government officials said, even as many private economists lowered their forecasts.

Economists, including at Goldman Sachs, have lowered India's growth estimates by 20-40 basis points to 6.1% for the current 2025/26 financial year, citing the impact of the global tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

A 26% tariff on Indian imports, with even higher levies on other countries like China, has escalated global trade tensions, with major stock indices plunging in Asia yesterday.

India's diamond industry, which ships more than a third of its exports to the US, is expected to be among the worst hit sectors, putting thousands of jobs at risk.

Discussions are underway with ministries and exporters' associations to assess the fallout, the officials said.

The Finance Ministry has already

received four to five proposals from the Commerce Ministry to support export industries, including an extension of interest subsidy scheme, aid for diversification, and increased bank credit, a second official said.

"We are still studying the impact of tariff hikes on the export sectors and the decision could be taken at the appropriate time," the official said.

A third Finance Ministry official, however, said the tariffs would not weigh heavily on India's key fiscal parameters for the 2025/26 year.

"We have already made provisions in the budget for duty remission schemes to help exporters and are open to doing more," the official said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

India's Finance Ministry did not immediately respond to an e-mailed request for comment.

India does not plan to retaliate against Trump's tariffs as officials try to negotiate a resolution,



Farmers threshing harvested wheat crops at a village on the outskirts of Ajmer in Indian state of Rajasthan. – AFP/PTC

Reuters has reported.

Officials said the impact of the US tariffs on labour intensive sectors

such as textiles, footwear and agriculture was the government's biggest worry. – Reuters

China would have agreed to TikTok deal if not for levies: Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that China would have agreed to a deal on the sale of TikTok if it were not for the tariffs imposed by Washington on Beijing last week.

Trump on Friday extended the deadline for TikTok to find a non-Chinese buyer or face a ban in the United States, allowing 75 more days to find a solution – a day after imposing additional 34% duties on all Chinese imports.

"The report is that we had a deal, pretty much for TikTok, not a deal, but pretty close, and then China changed the deal because of tariffs. If I gave a little cut in tariffs, they'd approve that deal in 15 minutes, which shows you the power of tariffs," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The hugely popular video-sharing app, which has more than 170 million American users, is under threat from a US law passed last year that orders TikTok to split from its Chinese owner ByteDance or get shut down in the United States.

Trump had insisted his administration was near a deal to find a buyer for TikTok and keep it from shutting down that would involve multiple investors, but gave few details.

ByteDance, while confirming that it was in talks with the US government towards finding a solution, warned that there remained "key matters" to solve.

"An agreement has not been executed" and whatever was decided would be "subject to approval under Chinese law", the firm added. – AFP

Shell lowers first-quarter LNG production outlook

LONDON: Shell lowered its first-quarter liquefied natural gas (LNG) production outlook in a trading update yesterday, citing the impact of bad weather in Australia, before it publishes results on May 2.

The British company guided for LNG output to reach between 6.4 million and 6.8 million metric tons, down from a previous forecast of 6.6 million to 7.2 million tons.

It produced 7.1 million tons of LNG in the fourth quarter of last year.

The downward revision was because of cyclones and unplanned maintenance in Australia, the company said, adding that its gas division trading results are expected to be in line with the previous quarter.

Shell said in February that it had to postpone some loading from its

Prelude floating LNG facility in Western Australia because of challenging weather conditions.

Shell also said it expects to book a US\$100 million (RM448 million) exploration write-off in the quarter.

A spokesperson declined to give more detail.

In its marketing business, Shell expects results in the quarter to be dented by a lower contribution from

its speciality products and services business, which includes low-carbon energy solutions for the aviation and marine industries among others.

The company also narrowed its overall oil and gas output forecast to between 1.79 million and 1.89 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (boed) in the first quarter, down from a previous projection of 1.75 million to 1.95 million boed. – Reuters

MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 7

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

7 April 2025

Participation

Retail (20.64%)		Institution (41.71%)		Foreign (37.65%)	
Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	
+186.47		+874.51		-1060.99	
Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)
1057.45	870.98	2385.58	1511.07	1228.52	2289.50

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

#PacOnline @paconline1972 Inter-Pacific Securities @Pac_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

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	10,618.56 -577.09
FBMKLCI	1,443.80 -60.34
CONSUMER PRODUCTS & SERVICES	460.65 -18.19
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES	135.49 -11.71
CONSTRUCTION	234.39 -22.74
FINANCIAL SERVICES	17,609.27 -697.24
ENERGY	642.38 -76.89
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA	458.25 -21.69
HEALTH CARE	1,754.92 -105.16
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	941.42 -58.22
PROPERTY	912.39 -62.69
PLANTATION	7,098.80 -233.39
FBMSHA	10,301.77 -621.41
FBMACE	4,252.72 -379.88
TECHNOLOGY	40.34 -6.33
TURNOVER: 5.352 bil	
VALUE: RM4.671 bil	

FBM KLCI skids 4%, dragged down by regional slump

BURSA Malaysia extended its decline to close sharply lower yesterday, with the benchmark index falling by 4.01%, dragged by weaker regional market performance amid growing concerns over a potential global trade war.

Regionally, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index slumped 13.22% to close at 19,828.30, Japan's Nikkei 225 slipped by 7.83% to 31,136.58, Singapore's Straits Times Index slid by 7.66% to 3,532.80, and South Korea's Kospi shrank 5.57% to 2,328.20.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI fell 60.34 points to 1,443.80 from Friday's close of 1,504.14.

Decliners thumped gainers 1,296 to 122, while 170 counters were unchanged, 771 counters untraded, and 19 others suspended.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said the global risk-off sentiment was triggered as market participants responded to US President Donald Trump's firm stance on wide-ranging tariffs, raising concerns over potential trade disruptions.

Meanwhile, UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors Sdn Bhd head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan said Asian countries, as a key region responsible for manufacturing a substantial share of globally traded goods, are feeling the direct impact of the tariff escalation.

Heavyweights Maybank shed 24 sen to RM10, Public Bank eased 16 sen to RM4.21, Tenaga Nasional slipped 36 sen to RM13.12, CIMB shrank 39 sen to RM6.62, and IHH Healthcare lost eight sen to RM6.71.

Among the actives, MYEG decreased 21 sen to 71 sen, Velesto Energy slid two sen to 14 sen, Ta Win eased half-a-sen to two sen, Inari Amertron shaved 34 sen to RM1.54, and Gamuda fell 36 sen to RM3.69. — Bernama

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ['00]
HSI-PWD3	0.105	+0.080	+320.00	3,099,381
MYEG	0.710	-0.210	-22.83	2,612,825
HSI-CWEJ	0.020	-0.070	-77.78	1,371,258
HSI-CWCE	0.030	-0.130	-81.25	1,355,627
HSI-CWCT	0.045	-0.190	-80.85	1,080,089
HSI-CWC4	0.055	-0.170	-75.56	1,067,088
HSI-CWCY	0.020	-0.055	-73.33	956,651
TAWIN	0.020	-0.005	-20.00	773,666
VELESTO	0.140	-0.020	-12.50	594,284
CIMB	6.620	-0.390	-5.56	585,197
GAMUDA	3.690	-0.360	-8.89	534,812
INARI	1.540	-0.340	-18.09	487,258
HSI-CWE0	0.020	-0.060	-75.00	468,944
GAMUDA-C2R	0.035	-0.020	-36.36	456,210
NATGATE	1.070	-0.180	-14.40	436,101
PBBANK	4.210	-0.160	-3.66	434,281
PUC	0.030	-0.005	-14.29	399,084
HSI-CWCM	0.010	-0.045	-81.82	381,551
GENM	1.490	-0.130	-8.03	371,635
VS	0.685	-0.115	-14.38	347,601



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ['00]
NESTLE	74.000	+1.000	2,441
SP500-H53	2.280	+0.920	936
HSI-PWFA	1.440	+0.625	25
HSI-PWFB	1.180	+0.600	204
HSI-PWFD	1.030	+0.595	1,276
HSI-PWFH	0.840	+0.585	5,440
NDX-HK	1.350	+0.550	4,978
HSI-PWD7	0.855	+0.530	18,928
HSI-PWD5	0.660	+0.520	148,227
HSI-PWFC	0.710	+0.465	1,101
HSI-PWD6	0.650	+0.460	16,204
HSI-PWFI	0.850	+0.415	230
HSI-PWD1	0.625	+0.385	27,417
HSI-PWDW	0.420	+0.335	194,465
HSI-PWD4	0.450	+0.325	22,705
HSI-PWFR	0.515	+0.310	8,289
HSI-PWFJ	0.530	+0.305	92,895
HSI-PWFF	1.150	+0.295	100
NIKKEI-HK	1.070	+0.295	483
HSI-PWD9	0.325	+0.285	55,200

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ['00]
HSI-PWDZ	0.115	+2200.00	48,406
HSI-PWDS	0.095	+1800.00	52,812
HSI-PWBE	0.065	+1200.00	10,624
HSI-PWD9	0.325	+712.50	55,200
HSI-PWDP	0.110	+633.33	4,367
HSI-PWBU	0.165	+450.00	11,247
HSI-PWD0	0.165	+450.00	103,239
HSI-PWDV	0.325	+400.00	13,642
HSI-PWDW	0.420	+394.12	194,465
HSI-PWDU	0.220	+388.89	11,089
HSI-PWD5	0.660	+371.43	148,227
FBMKLCI-HA2	0.070	+366.67	9,924
HSI-PWBK	0.320	+357.14	8,267
HSI-PWD3	0.105	+320.00	3,099,381
HSI-PWD4	0.450	+260.00	22,705
HSTECH-H17	0.270	+260.00	759
HSI-PWB6	0.160	+255.56	6,365
HSI-PWD6	0.650	+242.11	16,204
HSI-PWFH	0.840	+229.41	5,440
HSI-PWDX	0.175	+218.18	11,350

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE [%]
DJIA [US]	38,314.86	-2,231.07	-5.5
S&P 500 [US]	5,074.08	-322.44	-5.97
NASDAQ [US]	15,587.79	-962.82	-5.82
NYSE [US]	17,618.61	-1,148.58	-6.12
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	4,564.15	-314.16	-6.44
FTSE 100 [UK]	7,655.41	-399.57	-4.96
DAX [GER]	19,311.68	-1,330.04	-6.44
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	31,136.58	-2,644.00	-7.83
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	2,288.66	-193.4	-7.79
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	19,828.30	-3,021.51	-13.22
CSI 300 [CHN]	3,589.44	-272.06	-7.05
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	178.24	-4.06	-2.23
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,096.58	-245.43	-7.34
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,328.20	-137.22	-5.57
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	72,553.13	-2,811.56	-3.73
ASX 200 [AUS]	7,343.25	-324.59	-4.23
ALL ORDINARIES INDEX [AUS]	7,524.32	-323.27	-4.12
FBM KLCI	1,443.80	-60.34	-4.01
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,532.80	-293.06	-7.66
WTI [US\$/BBL]	59.54	-2.45	-3.95
BRENT [US\$/BBL]	63.16	-2.42	-3.69
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,041.20	5.8	0.19
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	30.01	0.78	2.67
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	919.19	-3.95	-0.43
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	430.65	-9.55	-2.17
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	8,780.00	-586.5	-6.26
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	458.5	-1.75	-0.38
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	531.25	2.25	0.43
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	44.5	-1.34	-2.92
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	8,380.00	-132	-1.55
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	164	-17.8	-9.79

As at 5pm, April 7

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ['00]
MPI	14.660	-2.500	7,721
ALLIANZ-PA	17.000	-1.140	283
HEIM	25.500	-1.000	1,981
ALLIANZ	17.040	-0.960	2,463
PETDAG	17.320	-0.880	6,300
HLIND	12.960	-0.820	2,097
XIAOMI-C32	0.830	-0.780	250
AJI	13.500	-0.700	1,647
CARLSBG	18.100	-0.700	1,689
DLADY	29.000	-0.700	5,045
KLK	19.820	-0.660	8,482
CHINAETF-MYR	4.660	-0.630	937
GC8	2.980	-0.610	69,948
HSI-CWES	0.415	-0.605	50
APOLLO	5.820	-0.600	1,450
BKAWAN	19.000	-0.580	363
HLBANK	19.320	-0.560	28,101
HLFG	16.420	-0.520	13,076
PMETAL	4.390	-0.520	187,009
MISC	6.720	-0.510	26,516

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ['00]
HSI-CWE2	0.005	-95.24	4,789
KGB-CI	0.005	-95.00	10,430
ECOWLD-C32	0.005	-93.75	1,350
HSI-CWER	0.015	-93.18	8,592
ANCOMNY-CT	0.015	-90.00	5,000
HSI-CWCZ	0.035	-90.00	157,810
HSI-CWC9	0.025	-89.80	138,414
HSI-CWAI	0.010	-89.47	38,119
MYEG-C8E	0.010	-88.24	50
SPSETIA-C87	0.020	-86.67	50
HSI-CWCN	0.050	-86.49	877
MYEG-C8Y	0.005	-85.71	100
SIME-C94	0.030	-85.00	1,800
SDG-C27	0.010	-84.62	117
HSTECH-C24	0.030	-84.21	200
HSI-CWEP	0.040	-84.00	6,050
HSI-CWCK	0.095	-83.76	1,570
FBMKLCI-CQW	0.005	-83.33	10,000
HSI-CWCS	0.040	-82.98	1,247
HSTECH-C22	0.020	-82.61	41,050

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by SunBiz Team

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KJTS lands 20-year Thai chilled water plant improvement deal

KUALA LUMPUR: KJTS Group Bhd, a provider of cooling energy management solutions, announced that its Thai subsidiary KJTN Engineering Co Ltd has been selected by Central Hua Hin Beach Resort Co Ltd (CHBR) to undertake a chilled water plant improvement project under a Finance, Retrofit, Operation, Maintenance, and Transfer (ROT) scheme at the Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin in Thailand.

The Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Hua Hin, a five-star heritage hotel originally opened in the early 1920s, is owned and operated by CHBR, a member of Central Group.

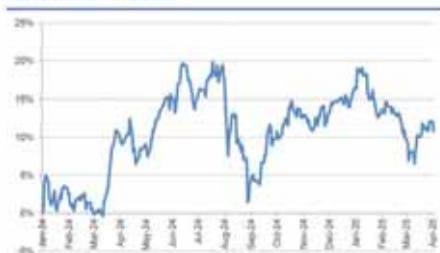
The 20-year letter of award underscores the group's growing presence in Thailand's hospitality infrastructure sector and marks the third engagement between KJTN Engineering and the Central Group, one of Thailand's largest conglomerates.

Under the terms of the ROT with CHBR, KJTN Engineering will finance and execute the retrofit works in two phases, amounting to THB210 million (RM27.31 million). Upon completion, the company will provide long-term chilled water supply and comprehensive operations and maintenance services to the resort. The first phase of retrofit works is scheduled to be completed by May 31, 2026, followed by the second phase 24 months later. Chilled water supply and O&M services will commence from June 1, 2026 through to May 31, 2046.

KJTN Engineering will receive a fixed monthly fee beginning at THB1.46 million upon completion of phase one, increasing to THB1.56 million upon phase two completion. This is in addition to a variable fee based on the volume of chilled water supplied. Over the 20-year LOA term, the fixed component alone is expected to generate a total of THB372 million in recurring revenue for the group.

Real Estate
Overweight

Relative performance of the KLPRP against the FBM KLCI since Jan 2024



Source: Bloomberg

ADMITTEDLY, given the sector's outperformance over the past two years, investors heavily took profit on the property sector when market sentiment turned bearish during the last few months. However, we reiterate that most developers derive their earnings mainly from the local market, and the past data centre (DC)-related transactions and land deals with global tech giants have been secured and/or completed.

Domestic developers announced a few major deals in Q1'25 that should boost market confidence, in our view. These include: i) Sunway's development project at the Bukit Chagar Rapid Transit System (RTS) Station and long-term lease with DB Schenker, ii) UEM Sunrise's (UEMS) collaboration with Singapore-based Guocoland to develop an industrial park in Gerbang Nusajaya, and iii) Eco World Development Group's (ECW MK, NR) land disposal to a foreign solar panel manufacturer in Senai as well as land sales and long-term lease with a global tech player for a Selangor DC facility. Therefore, these very much indicated that Malaysia is still well positioned to capture data centre investments while Iskandar Malaysia continues to be a destination for foreign direct investments (FDIs) under the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ).

Aggregate property sales for FY24 grew by 3% YoY. This is the fourth consecutive year that aggregate sales numbers have stayed above the RM20 billion mark, indicating that most developers have been able to sustain their strong sales since 2021. For FY25, we expect 3-5% growth in property sales, driven mainly by both the industrial and residential segments. — **RHB Research, April 7**

Ringgit, other Asian currencies weaken as trade tensions rise

THE ringgit closed lower against the US dollar yesterday, mirroring the broader trend across Asian currencies amid ongoing concerns over escalating trade tensions.

At 6pm, the ringgit decreased to 4.4775/4840 against the greenback from last Friday's close of 4.4335/4400.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said the situation was further exacerbated by China's 34 per cent retaliatory tariff response to the US.

"The ringgit is notably weaker today, dragged lower alongside the rest of Asian currencies as US President Donald Trump's tariff barrage has now fully morphed into a front-page trade war, due to China's 34% retaliatory response," he told Bernama.

On April 2, Trump announced an additional 34% tariff on all Chinese goods imported into the US, and Beijing retaliated with reciprocal 34% tariff on US goods shortly thereafter.

The ringgit was traded mostly lower against major currencies. It slid against the Japanese yen to 3.0655/0704 from 3.0294/0340 and down against the euro to 4.9100/9172 from 4.8706/8778, however it increased against the British pound to 5.7491/7575 from 5.7591/7676 yesterday.

However, the local note was mostly higher against Asean currencies.

It gained versus the Thai baht to 12.9128/9408 from 12.9589/9847 and inched up against the Indonesian rupiah at 266.1/266.6 from 266.2/266.7.

The ringgit was higher against the Philippine peso at 7.79/7.81 from 7.80/7.82 but was marginally lower versus the Singapore dollar to 3.3228/3281 from 3.3153/3204 previously.

Hartalega Holdings Bhd
Neutral. Target price: RM2.05

Source: PublicInvest Research

HARTELEGA'S Q3'25 revenue increased by 13% QoQ mainly due to a 12% QoQ increase in sales volume to 7.6 billion pcs. This was due to higher inflow of orders from the frontloading activities by US customers. Utilisation rate dropped to 86% in Q3'25 from 90% in Q2'25 due to a total 15% added capacity from the new NGC1.5 plant, bringing total annual capacity to 37 billion pieces. Meanwhile, ASPs improved 3% QoQ to US\$22/1k pcs. PBT improved 26% YoY due to higher non-operating income and recovery of the USD against MYR.

Hartalega's sales volume is expected to decline by 15-20% QoQ in Q4'25, reflecting a softer order replenishment following frontloading activities by US customers. We understand that US buyers are still drawing down existing inventories, with a more meaningful recovery in order flow anticipated by June 2025, keeping near-term volumes under pressure. Meanwhile, ASPs continue to trend lower, with the Group currently pricing at US\$19/1k pcs for the US market and US\$17/1k pcs for non-US markets customers, 14% decline from Dec 2024 levels, reflecting sustained pricing pressure across key export markets.

Hartalega is currently operating at a utilisation rate of 60-65% based on 37 billion pcs annual capacity. To better align its operations with current demand levels, the group plans to reduce its workforce by 13%, bringing the headcount down to approximately 7,000 employees by 1H'26. We believe this workforce adjustment is part of Hartalega's strategy to optimise operational efficiency and maintain cost control in a more subdued market environment.

NEUTRAL with RM2.05 TP. — **PublicInvest Research, April 7**

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.5320	4.3980	4.3880
1 Australian Dollar	2.7430	2.6310	2.6150
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3640	3.2650	3.2570
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1820	3.0970	3.0850
1 Euro	4.9780	4.8190	4.7990
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5390	2.4470	2.4310
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3640	3.2650	3.2570
1 Sterling Pound	5.8550	5.6720	5.6520
1 Swiss Franc	5.3400	5.1150	5.1000
100 UAE Dirham	124.8300	118.3800	118.1800
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.8080	3.5460	3.3460
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.6600	60.0200	60.0200
100 Danish Krone	68.3900	62.9400	62.7400
100 Hongkong Dollar	58.9300	56.0000	55.8000
100 Indian Rupee	5.3800	5.0500	4.8500
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0283	0.0256	0.0206
100 Japanese Yen	3.1060	3.0070	2.9970
100 New Taiwan Dollar	14.7000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.0800	39.5300	39.3300
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6400	1.5400	1.3400
100 Philippine Peso	8.0300	7.5700	7.3700
100 Qatar Riyal	125.7200	119.3500	119.1500
100 Saudi Riyal	122.1200	115.9300	115.7300
100 South Africa Rand	24.4000	22.0300	21.8300
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5700	1.4400	1.2400
100 Swedish Krona	46.3200	42.1200	41.9200
100 Thai Baht	13.6800	12.1300	11.7300

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

UEM Sunrise Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM1.28

Source: Bloomberg

IN February 2025, UEMS entered into a MoU with Singapore-based Guocoland to develop selected parcels of land in Gerbang Nusajaya into an industrial park. Although a detailed agreement has yet to be signed, management indicated that the conversion of industrial re-zoning is already completed, and the final approval from the local authority should be obtained by June 2025. Infrastructure construction and earthwork for the industrial park are expected to start soon, and hence the industrial park should be ready to be marketed in 2027. While Guocoland is known for its premium commercial and residential developments in Singapore, the company has a strong clientele from Hong Kong and China to cross-sell this industrial park project to regional manufacturers/corporates.

UEMS achieved RM1.42 billion worth of property sales in 2024. For 2025, management has set a sales target of RM1.05 billion on the back of RM2 billion worth of new launches. While Subiaco in Perth would be the main project given its GDV of RM1.5 billion, the launches in Malaysia are predominantly in Iskandar Malaysia — Estuari and Aspira Hills with a combined GDV of RM437 million. The only new project in the Klang Valley is the landed homes in Serene Heights (GDV: RM78 million). UEMS only has RM98 million (at cost) worth of unsold inventory available for sale.

We believe the Iskandar Malaysia region will still be a major sales driver by geographical area given the incentives under the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone and visibility of the upcoming completion of the Rapid Transit System in end-2026.

BUY with RM1.28 TP. — **RHB Research, April 7**



the Sun **LYFE**

TUESDAY | APR 8, 2025

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Child-proof internet

Tools to keep
kids safe
online - **P22**

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

INSIDE

p23

Adolescence hits huge
numbers on Netflix

p24

Parental guidance vital
to avoid online pitfalls

p25

Miley Cyrus returns
with new single

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR

NOWADAYS, children's exposure to the internet is inevitable, be it for education, social interaction or entertainment. However, with this increased exposure comes risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, online predators and excessive screen time, which all have a negative impact on children.

Fortunately, technology offers a solution, with parental control apps and monitoring tools that are designed to help parents oversee and safeguard their children's digital lives.

Below are some of the most effective and widely used parental monitoring apps available today.

Qustodio

One of the most comprehensive parental control apps available, Qustodio allows parents to set screen time limits, block inappropriate content, monitor social media activity and track real-time location.

A standout feature is its ability to monitor calls and texts on Android devices, providing an additional layer of safety for parents concerned about who their child is communicating with.

Key features:

- ➔ Web filtering to block inappropriate websites
- ➔ Time management tools for device usage
- ➔ Social media and YouTube monitoring
- ➔ GPS location tracking
- ➔ Panic button for emergencies

Bark

An artificial intelligence (AI)-powered monitoring tool that goes beyond basic filtering by scanning messages, emails and social media interactions for potential dangers, including cyberbullying, online predators, depression and suicidal thoughts. The app sends alerts to parents when it detects suspicious activity, allowing them to address potential issues before they escalate.

Key features:

- ➔ Monitors more than 30 apps and social media platforms
- ➔ Detects cyberbullying, explicit content and mental health concerns
- ➔ Sends real-time alerts to parents
- ➔ Provides expert tips for discussing online safety with children

Norton Family

From the trusted cybersecurity company, Norton Family is a solid choice for parents who want a simple yet effective monitoring solution. It provides extensive web supervision, time management and location tracking while also offering an educational approach to online safety by guiding kids on responsible internet use.

Key features:

- ➔ Blocks inappropriate content across multiple devices



With the right tools and a proactive approach, parents can help their children navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.
—FREEPIKPIC

Keeping kids safe online

➔ Useful parental control apps for monitoring internet activity

- ➔ Tracks search history and visited websites
- ➔ Helps set time limits on device usage
- ➔ Enables location tracking with geofencing alerts

Net Nanny

Well-regarded for its excellent content filtering capabilities, Net Nanny uses AI to actively scan web pages and block harmful content before kids can access it. It also allows parents to track their child's

location and manage screen time effectively.

Key features:

- ➔ AI-powered web filtering
- ➔ Screen time management and device scheduling
- ➔ Family location tracking
- ➔ App blocking for specific applications

Family Link by Google

For parents seeking a free yet effective tool, Google's Family Link is an excellent option. It allows parents to monitor their child's app usage, manage downloads and set screen time limits. While it lacks advanced monitoring features such as social media tracking, it is an ideal starting point for families with younger children.

Key features:

- ➔ Screen time management
- ➔ Approves or blocks app downloads
- ➔ Monitors app activity and daily usage reports
- ➔ Allows parents to lock devices remotely

mSpy

For parents who want in-depth monitoring capabilities, mSpy offers a comprehensive solution. It enables parents to track calls, read messages, monitor emails and even access GPS locations in real time. While some may consider it invasive, it can be a valuable tool for parents concerned about their child's safety in high-risk situations.

Key features:

- ➔ Call and text message monitoring



Qustodio.
—QUSTODIOPIC

- ➔ GPS tracking and geofencing
- ➔ Social media activity monitoring (WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat)
- ➔ Keylogger feature for tracking typed messages

FamiSafe

Developed by Wondershare, FamiSafe provides a balanced approach to parental control. It includes web filtering, screen time management and location tracking. One of its unique features is its ability to detect explicit or suspicious images in a child's phone gallery, alerting parents immediately.

Key features:

- ➔ AI-powered content detection
- ➔ Geofencing and real-time location tracking
- ➔ App blocking and screen time scheduling
- ➔ Alerts for suspicious photos and messages

While these tools are incredibly useful, it is important for parents to strike a balance between safety and trust.

Excessive surveillance may make children feel like their privacy is being invaded, potentially leading to rebellion or secretive behaviour.

Instead, experts recommend using these tools as conversation starters. Encourage open discussions about online safety, digital etiquette and the potential risks of the internet.

Additionally, parents should lead by example by modeling good digital habits.

Setting screen time limits for the entire family, engaging in offline activities together and educating children on recognising online threats can create a healthier digital environment compared with resorting to the use of these apps.



FamiSafe. —WONDERSHAREPIC



Family Link. —GOOGLEPIC

Adolescence scores big with audiences

➤ Mini-series joins most popular shows on Netflix

SINCE its release on Netflix in March 2025, the mini-series *Adolescence* has proved a phenomenal success and made a lasting impression. So much so the four-episode drama has landed a place in the list of all-time most popular shows on the streaming platform, amassing over 96 million views.

Competition is fierce on Netflix. Faced with already well-established shows such as *Stranger Things* and *Bridgerton*, the British mini-series has achieved quite a feat by taking ninth place in the ranking of the most-watched English-language shows of all time on the streaming platform. The American giant shared the updated ranking on its Tudum website.

With *Adolescence*, Netflix has scored yet another global hit as the drama, starring young actor Owen Cooper, has managed to overtake viewership of the third season of *Stranger Things*.

And, that is not the show's only victory. By reaching ninth place in

the streaming site's Top 10 most popular English-language shows, *Adolescence* has ousted the second season of *Bridgerton*, previously 10th in the ranking.

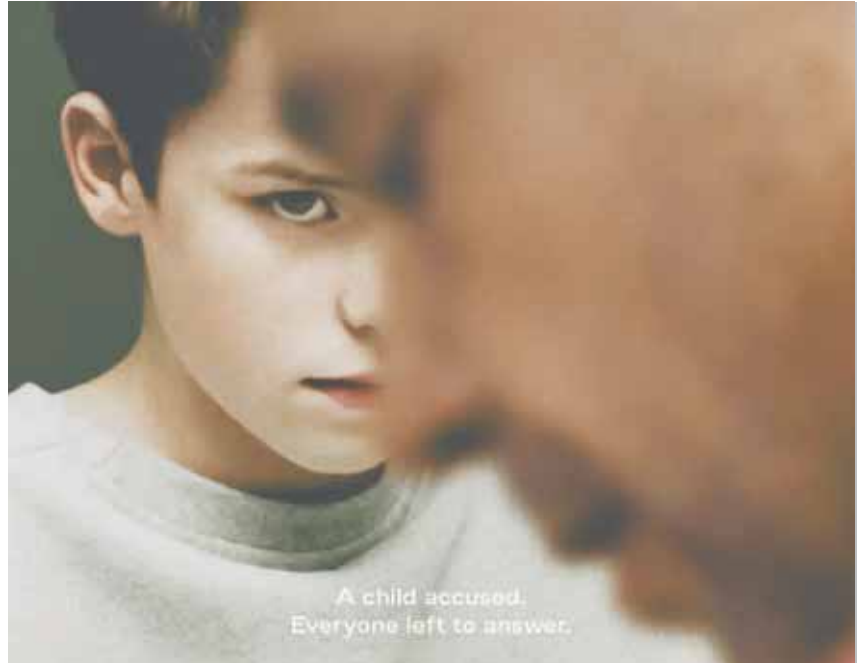
The performance of *Adolescence* is all the more impressive given that it took the programme just 17 days to enter the ranking.

This is more than a promising start as Netflix calculates the audience ratings of new shows over the first 91 days of release. The mini-series, therefore, has a good chance of climbing even higher in the ranking.

Adolescence tells the story of Jamie Miller, a 13-year-old accused of murdering his classmate Katie. This British mini-series, which counts Brad Pitt as an executive producer and directed by Jack Thorne and Stephen Graham, explores the themes of violence, misogynistic and sexist discourse, incel culture, social networks, online bullying and the complex social dynamics that shape modern adolescence.

Adolescence stands out for its technical production, with each episode filmed in a single take, offering an intense and immersive experience for the viewer.

The mini-series comprises four episodes of around 50 minutes, and is available for streaming on the Netflix platform. – ETX Studio



The mini-series touches on a number of complex topics, including incel culture. – PIC FROM FACEBOOK @NETFLIX

Social drama to be shown in UK schools

THE Netflix drama *Adolescence*, which has sparked widespread debate about the toxic and misogynistic influences young boys are exposed to online, will be shown in UK secondary schools, the prime minister's office and the streaming giant said last month.

"We are incredibly proud of the impact the show has made, and are delighted to be able to offer it to all schools across the UK," said Netflix vice president of UK content Anne Mensah, adding that the four-part series helped articulate the pressures faced by young people and parents.

The announcement came as Prime Minister Keir Starmer met the creators of the show alongside charities and young people at his Downing Street office to discuss the issues raised in the series.

Starmer said he had watched the



The series follows the aftermath of a schoolgirl's fatal stabbing by a 13-year-old boy after being radicalised online. – NETFLIX/PC

drama, in which a 13-year-old boy stabs a girl to death after being radicalised online, with his own teenage children and it had "hit home hard".

"It is an important initiative to encourage as many pupils as possible to watch the show," he said.

Minors aged 11 to 18 will be able to see the series at their secondary schools.

"Openly talking about changes in how they communicate, the content they are seeing, and exploring the conversations they are having with their peers is vital if we are to properly support them in navigating contemporary challenges, and deal with malign influences," Starmer added.

Adolescence, which was released on March 13, follows the aftermath of a schoolgirl's fatal stabbing,

revealing the dangerous influences boys are subjected to online.

The series had 24.3 million views in its first four days, making it Netflix's top show for the week of March 10–16, according to the entertainment industry magazine *Variety*.

Maria Neophytou of the UK's children's charity NSPCC said the meeting had been a "critical milestone".

"The online world is being polluted by harmful and misogynistic content, which is having a direct impact on the development of young people's thinking and behaviours.

"This cannot be allowed to continue," she said. – AFP

See also page 24

Helping parents promote better digital habits for teens

TIK TOK recently introduced new features to enhance family safety and help teens develop balanced digital habits, allowing parents and caretakers to now view and adjust more than 15 safety, well-being and privacy features for their teens through TikTok.

First introduced in 2020, TikTok's Family Pairing feature allows parents to link their accounts with their teens, improving parental oversight and control over their teens' experience of the app.

Building on its existing features such as screen time limits and privacy controls, TikTok's latest updates have been constructed with feedback and guidance from families and experts.

TikTok also introduced the Time Away feature, allowing caregivers to block access to the app during specified periods, such as family time, school hours or bedtime.

With this feature, parents are now able to set recurring schedules to limit their use and grant extra time at their discretion, using a passcode set by the parent or guardian.

This additional feature builds upon TikTok's default screen time restrictions, in which all users under 18 are automatically set to a 60-minute daily limit unless adjusted by a parent or guardian.

Another significant update that improves parental oversight is the ability to see who their teen follows, who follows them and which accounts their teen has blocked.

With this increased visibility, parents will be better aware and equipped to manage their teens'



The updated Family Pairing features help parents and caregivers better manage their teens' TikTok experience.

TikTok experience.

TikTok also introduced a wind-down feature for users under 16. If a teen remains active on TikTok after 10pm, their For You feed will be interrupted by recurring full-screen reminders with calming music and prompts that become increasingly harder to dismiss, encouraging them to log off.

This feature promotes mindful screen time habits and future updates will introduce guided meditation exercises to improve relaxation and sleep quality.

The app has already disabled nighttime push notifications for teens to reduce digital distractions before bed. Parents can now re-enable TikTok's STEM feed if their teen has turned it off.

First launched in the US and Europe last year, this dedicated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) feed helps teens discover a variety of inspiring and educational content across the platform.



Starmer met the creators of the show alongside charities and young people at his Downing Street office to discuss the issues raised in the series. – PIC FROM FACEBOOK @KEIRSTARMER



THE Netflix show *Adolescence* recently sparked conversations about the impact of technology and social media on children's wellbeing and the growing challenges parents face in monitoring their children's digital lives. Today, it is common to see young children owning a smartphone, spending hours online – either on social media, playing online games or chatting with friends.

Technological advancements offer various opportunities, such as access to educational resources, entertainment and enhanced communication. However, it also brings challenges. Adolescents can become deeply immersed in the digital world, leading to isolation, reduced face-to-face communication, poor social and interpersonal skills as well as family conflicts. More concerning are online dangers such as cyberbullying, identity theft, online scams and more. These dangers often fuel parents' anxiety as they struggle to balance freedom and safety in their child's digital life.

Generational gap

A major challenge in managing children's digital engagement stems from the generational gap between parents and their tech-savvy children. In the final episode of *Adolescence*, the parents, Eddie and Manda, reflect on their son's excessive computer use and their inability to control it.

In the scene, he highlighted the challenges parents face in monitoring their children's digital lives. Most parents today grew up socialising face-to-face, while today's teens build friendships, identities

Bridging digital divide

► *Adolescence* highlights challenges facing parents in internet age

and self-worth online. What parents see as excessive screen time, teens view as essential to their social lives. Hence, this makes it difficult for parents to understand their child's deep emotional connection to the digital world. Psychologist Erik Erikson's theory of psychosocial development explains this well. *Adolescence* is a fundamental phase in which individuals develop their identity and self-concept. During this stage, adolescents explore their independence and begin negotiating their rights, including privacy, participation and self-expression.

Naturally, this causes conflict as parents impose boundaries while teens push for autonomy, often clashing over digital usage. Therefore, without effective engagement strategies, this gap can lead to further disengagement and strained family relationships.

Strategies for effective parental engagement

Traditional parenting such as strict monitoring or outright banning of



The most effective parental tool is not surveillance, but trust.

devices often backfire, pushing teens to become more secretive about their online activities. Rather than engaging in power struggles, parents can take proactive steps to develop a healthier and more balanced approach to digital engagement. One of the strategies start with shifting the



Netflix mini-series *Adolescence* deals with many modern issues faced by parents.
– NETFLIXPIC

mindset from a policing approach to a partnership approach.

With a partnership approach, parents can establish open and non-judgmental communication, whereby they begin to engage in honest conversations with their teens. This approach is probably unfamiliar in some households, especially among Asian families, where being emotionally vulnerable may not be a common practice. However, it is important to recognise the value of establishing this type of engagement with children. Instead of focusing on rules and regulations, parents can talk about values, risks and boundaries in the digital world.

When children understand their parents' concerns and the potential risks that the digital world may bring to them, they are more likely to comply to a digital family agreement. Together, parents and children can create guidelines that balance independence with safety.

This collaborative approach fosters mutual respect and accountability. By involving children in setting these boundaries, parents increase the likelihood of the rules being respected and followed. Additionally, parents should model healthy digital habits themselves to reinforce these agreements.

Finally, having something in common is a crucial element in creating a strong bond within families. One way to strengthen bonds is by learning about technology together. Instead of seeing the digital world as a threat, families can explore its positive side such as learning new apps, sharing funny videos or even having conversations about digital trends and challenges.

This not only builds a common ground but also helps parents better



Adolescents can become deeply immersed in the digital world.
– PICS FROM PEXELS

understand their children's online world.

Trust as foundation

Ultimately, the most effective parental tool is not surveillance, but trust. Open communication and emotional communication create an environment in which adolescents willingly seek parental guidance rather than hiding their online activities.

By shifting from control to collaboration, parents can better protect their children from the digital risks while empowering them to navigate the digital world responsibly and independently.

This article is contributed by
Taylor's University School of Liberal Arts and Science senior lecturer and registered clinical psychologist
Faeza Hasnan.

See also
page 23



Bridging the generational gap is essential if parents want to engage meaningfully with their children. – FREEPIKPIC

Applecumbly obtains halal certification

MALAYSIA'S international health and wellness brand for babies Applecumbly's full range of diapers, skincare and cleaning items has obtained halal certification, making it the first baby care brand to achieve such certification across its entire product line.

Halal certification is recognised globally as the gold standard in hygiene, quality and ethical manufacturing. Applecumbly has taken this one step further by ensuring every product in its baby care range meets these stringent requirements, prioritising safety and trust for families everywhere.

"Halal is more than a certification. It represents the highest standard of

hygiene, transparency and quality, ensuring every product we offer is safe for families, regardless of their faith or background," said Applecumbly co-founder Jasmine Tan.

This certification builds on Applecumbly's growing reputation as a leader in the baby care industry. The company was named in Forbes Asia 100 to Watch 2024 list for its innovation and impact.

Earlier last year, Applecumbly secured US\$4.2 million (RM18.2 million) in funding from global venture capital firm 500 Global, further cementing its position as a brand to watch in the Asia-Pacific region.



The halal certification reflects the company's broader mission to deliver safe and sustainable baby care solutions.



Cyrus will release her ninth album on May 30.

Miley Cyrus drops new era single *End of the World*

➤ Song teases upcoming ninth album *Something Beautiful*

POP superstar Miley Cyrus is gearing up for a new chapter of her musical era, releasing her latest single *End of the World*.

The pop-friendly anthem *End of the World* serves as the lead single of Cyrus's ninth album *Something Beautiful*.

In the accompanying music video, the 33-year-old is seen in her element on stage

with a microphone in hand, reminiscent of her 2024 Grammys performance.

Cyrus is wearing an original custom Mugler by designer Casey Cadwallader while pining for her lover in a pre-apocalyptic landscape.

The *Wrecking Ball* hitmaker announced the arrival of the project in March, noting it is going to be a visual album slated for release on May 30.

It will include 13 original tracks and will be produced by Cyrus herself. The album will be accompanied by a film, expected to be released in June.

It will be produced by Cyrus, XYZ Films and Panos Cosmatos in collaboration with Sony Music Vision, Columbia Records and Live Nation. Cyrus will direct the film alongside Jacob Bixenman and Brendan Walter.

Laufey offers sneak peek into third album

ICELANDIC-CHINESE artiste Laufey has kick-started her new musical era, releasing her single *Silver Lining*.

Her first original release since her breakthrough album *Bewitched*, the track offers a sneak peek into the singer's upcoming third album.

"*Silver Lining* is a love song about being able to set your true personality free when you fall in love. Your inner child comes out and you are emboldened by lust.

"Even if it takes you to hell, at least you are with your partner," described the singer when asked about the song.

Accompanying the release is a captivating music video that brings the song to life. Shot on 35mm film, the video shows Laufey attending a masquerade ball surrounded by colourful characters and *Rite of Spring*-inspired choreography.

As the song progresses, the party quickly descends into a hellscape, plunging Laufey into a chaos of her own making.

Director Jason Lester was the man behind the video. Before *Silver Lining*, Lester directed Laufey in two of her other videos for *From the Start* and *Santa Baby*.

Raised between Iceland and America, Laufey has captivated music fans with songs of love and self-discovery by manifesting her vision of jazz and classical-infused pop music.

Since the release of her debut single *Street by Street*, Laufey has earned a Grammy for her sophomore album *Bewitched*.

She has also garnered over 4.25 billion streams, a following of 23 million and the biggest jazz LP debut in Spotify history.



Silver Lining marks Laufey's first original release.

ALBUM REVIEW



Besna hails from Bratislava, Slovakia.

– PIC FROM FACEBOOK @BESNA

Besna raises bar in progressive metal stakes

MOST genres typically have talent concentrated from certain countries. The K-pop and J-pop empires for obvious reasons are built on acts that are native speakers of Korean and Japanese. Country and Western has its ground zero in the deep south of the US. Hip hop, R&B, soul and urban sounds are largely dominated by artistes from the US and UK. EDM and its attendant subgenres are heavily populated by European deejays and producers.

One genre that has spread its tentacles far and wide is heavy metal as well as its many offshoots. Be it death, black, grind, industrial or even glam, the genre has global appeal and genuinely good acts emerge from the unlikelyst of places.

Even before the Great Internet Revolution that made these sounds available at a click of a mouse, outfits such as Sepultura, Sarcophago and closer to home, Cromok were proving genuinely good metal need not always come from the US or Europe.

This makes following metal in the internet age a pretty wonderful and exciting time, as quality sounds are emerging from all corners of the globe and gaining recognition thanks to streaming platforms and much wider reach of specialist publications such as *Terroriser*, *Loudwire* and *Metal Hammer*.

One band to catch the attention of the global metal community is Besna. Formed in 2017, the quartet hail from Bratislava, Slovakia.

With a template that borrows heavily from past masters of occult black metal Absu, the Slovakian outfit has added a touch of atmospheric gloom to update the sound.

Opening track *Zmraka Sa*, off the second LP *Krasno*, is ambitious in its scope and follows *Blood Incantation* in incorporating progressive elements in the song. Without sacrificing any impact, the song is an epic journey in heaviness with Besna further adding driving hardcore punk beats for cranium-crushing momentum.

Hranice is absolute aural adventure as Besna pulls out all the tricks in making the tune stand out – complex time signatures, mid-tempo interludes and effective use of female vocals. It all packs quite a wallop and much can be said for most of this record.

Labelling itself "post-black / progressive metal", Besna touches on topics such as ecology and societal issues. But, that does not really matter unless the listener is proficient in Slovakian. What is pertinent is the band's innate ability to craft songs that are engaging with its super-dense arrangements as well as its ability to induce bouts of serious headbanging. There is nary a dull moment, even when the band head off in Porcupine Tree directions. It is all very tastefully stitched together making this album a very worthwhile half an hour. – by **R. BALA**

Turning vision into reality

► MSU provides entrepreneurial skills to students through leadership programmes

KARTICK Abimanyu attributes his success in the entrepreneurial world to Management and Science University (MSU), where he earned the Bachelor in International Business from the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies in 2023, before embarking into the world of business.

MSU provided a dynamic environment for him, where he participated in many activities that honed his leadership and people management skills.

"Generally I don't take the lead in activities, but at MSU I was tasked with leading a business project," he shared. "This experience taught me responsibility for others, management of finances, and to guide my team effectively."

Many of MSU's projects also involved community service projects, including tree planting along the seashore and engaging with the Orang Asli communities.

"These experiences were not only fulfilling but also taught me the value of giving back," said Kartick who also shared how he discovered the importance of teamwork in the completion of his projects.

Kartick's entrepreneurial journey began on a modest scale.

"In the first two years, I worked at a smaller workshop with limited facilities. As my business grew, I realised the need for bigger machinery, a larger space, and more workers to meet increased demand," he said.

Now in his third year of running his own business, Kartick specialises in creating customised cabinets. His team includes experts skilled in crafting unique designs such as hidden doors and curved cabinets.

At the same time he established a strong online presence for his business, Cabinet Creation Co. through platforms like Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. These channels enable customers to arrange meetings, discuss designs, and receive tailored quotes for the cabinets.

Kartick had to work hard to secure a workplace to run the business, which included having to construct his own customised building.

"Securing a spot in Puchong was difficult, but I was fortunate to find one," he explained. "The new location was initially an empty plot of land, which I have been renting for five years, but I had to learn everything from scratch, including constructing the building for my business," he said.

He advises entrepreneurial students to know themselves and their



Kartick attributes his success in the entrepreneurial world to the skills he picked up at MSU.

goals.

"While it's always helpful to seek advice from others, I believe only they truly understand their goals and how to reach them."

Kartick also encourages students to cherish their time in university.

"Building friendships and connections is invaluable as these relationships can support future networks for business."

"Once work life begins, there is less time to socialise, so make the most of your student life," he said.

Finally, he stressed the importance of networking and learning

practical skills.

"Meeting people from different industries can provide valuable insights and opportunities," he said.

"Even small skills, learning Excel or understanding logistics, can make a big difference in a career."

"One can gain valuable knowledge from these meetings, so keep and nurture those relationships, while a network will also help kick-start a successful business," he said.

Among one of the top universities in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability.

Further, various skills enhancement programmes aimed at improving students' competitiveness are offered to students. The Graduate Employability Skills (GEmS) and Personal Enrichment Competencies (PEC) programme at MSU serve to improve the students' soft skills.

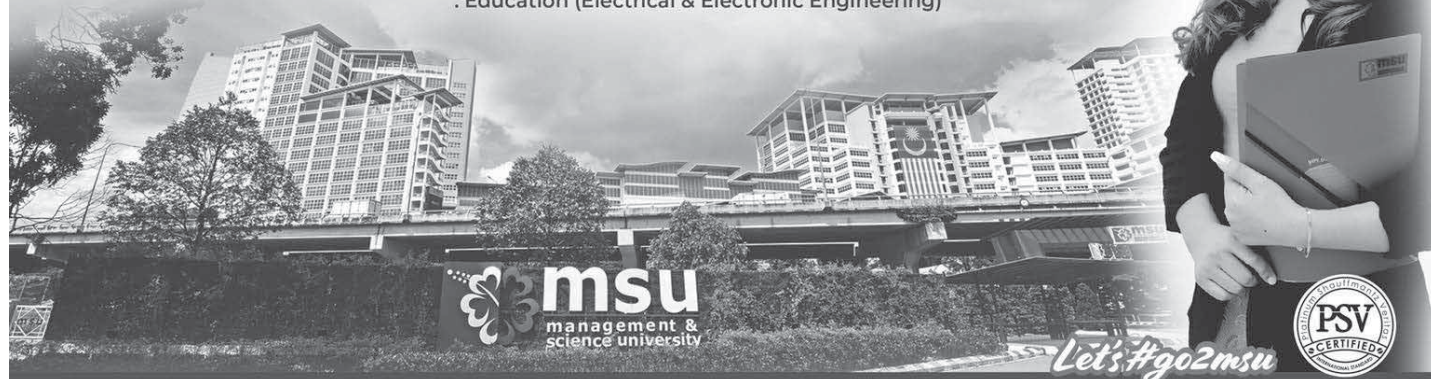
For a full range of information on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at MSU, contact 03-5521 6868 or email info@msu.edu.my. Any additional information can also be obtained at www.msu.edu.my



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- . Education (Science) . Education (Physical Education and Health)
- . Education (Electrical & Electronic Engineering)



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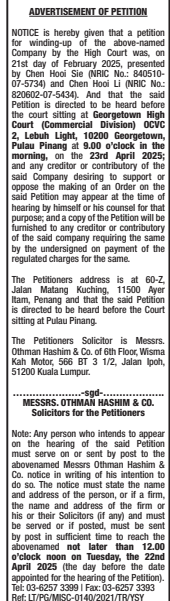
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University Drive, Off Persiaran Olahraga, Section 13, 40100 Shah Alam,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

Yayasan
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322	Notices
<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF CEKAP JATI SDN BHD COMPANY NO. 205892-U (MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016 that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at 221B, Jalan Mahkota, Taman Maluri, 55100 Kuala Lumpur on 08.05.2025 at 10.00a.m. for the following purpose:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an account from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property of the Company disposed of and to hear any explanations that may be given by the Liquidator. To determine pursuant to Section 518 of the Companies Act, 2016, the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator thereof, shall be disposed of. <p style="text-align: center;">Wong Soon Fong Liquidator c/o SFW Insolvency Services 221B, Jalan Mahkota, Taman Maluri, Cheras, 55100 Kuala Lumpur</p> <p>Kuala Lumpur this 08.04.2025</p>	

Discover the epitome of luxury at **Puncak Wangsamas**, where exclusive semi-detached houses redefine the essence of premium living amidst the vibrant backdrop of Kuala Lumpur. Nestled in a prime location that offers both tranquility and accessibility, **Puncak Wangsamas** presents a unique blend of serene living spaces and urban convenience.

Puncak Wangsamas offers expansive living spaces tailored for the discerning. Our residences boast premium finishes, private lifts, and an inspired design by award-winning architect Akiprima Sdn Bhd, ensuring a living space that is not just luxurious but also a masterpiece of architectural excellence.

Located at the heart of Kuala Lumpur's prestigious neighborhoods, **Puncak Wangsamas** offers exceptional connectivity to the city's major expressways including MRR2, DUKE, and AKLEH, making the city's landmarks like KLCC, Bukit Bintang, and the upcoming Merdeka 118 just a short drive away. The project is also surrounded by an array of amenities, from shopping malls like Wangsa Walk Mall and Suria KLCC to educational institutions such as the International School of Kuala Lumpur (ISKL) and TAR University College, as well as nearby medical hospital.



Puncak Wangsamas is not just a home; it's a lifestyle choice for those who seek luxury, comfort, and exclusivity. With construction reinforced by the expertise of Consultface Sdn Bhd, a firm renowned for its geotechnical, engineering competence and the legacy of Low Keng Huat Berhad, a name synonymous with quality and reliability, your investment in **Puncak Wangsamas** is secured for generations.

If you have any inquiries or require further information regarding our development, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at kklaia@lkhgroup.com.my. We are more than happy to assist you with any questions or provide the necessary details.

劉景發有限公司

A member of the  Group of Companies



LOW KENG HUAT BERHAD

REG. NO. 19650100620 (6411-D)
REGISTERED/HEAD OFFICE: 332-19A, 19TH FLOOR, PLAZA AMPANG CITY, JALAN AMPANG, 50450 KUALA LUMPUR.
TEL: 603-42564599 / 603-42579899 FAX: 603-42578197 / 603-42570571

CADANGAN PINDAAN KEPADA PERINTAH PEMBANGUNAN YANG TELAH DILULUSKAN BERTARIKH 28.29.2021 TELAH DIPERTIMBANGKAN OLEH DATUK BANDAR DI MESYUARAT JAWATANKUASA PUSAT SETEMPAT 1 PADA 12-12-2024 UNTUK MENGADAKAN SESI "COMMUNICATION STRATEGY".

CADANGAN PEMBANGUNAN YANG MENGANDUNGI:

FASA A: 1 UNIT PENCAWANG ELEKTRIK DI ATAS LOT 202020(PE) (29050)

FASA B: 24 UNIT RUMAH BERKEMBAR 3 TINGKAT DI ATAS LOT-LOT 201996, 201997, 201998, 201999, 202000, 202001, 202002, 202003, 202004, 202005, 202006, 202007, 202008, 202009, 202010, 202011, 202012, 202013, 202014, 202015, 202016, 202017, 202018, 202019 (29026, 29027, 29028, 29029, 29030, 29034, 29035, 29036, 29037, 29038, 29039, 29050 & 29051)

JALAN WANGSAMAS, MUKIM SETAPAK, DAERAH KUALA LUMPUR, WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR.

UNTUK:

TETUAN LOW KENG HUAT BHD

NO RUJUKAN: DBKL.JPRB.11753/82/27



You are cordially invited to a briefing session with
Tetuan Low Keng Huat Bhd on:

DATE : 12 APRIL 2024 (SATURDAY)
TIME : 9.00 PM TO 11.00 AM
VENUE : PUNCAK WANGSAMAS SALES GALLERY
LOT 29057, JALAN WANGSAMAS,
MUKIM SETAPAK, KUALA LUMPUR.

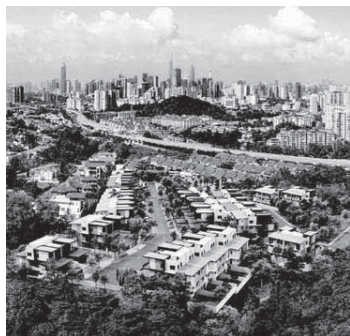


SCAN FOR LOCATION

Discover the epitome of luxury at **Puncak Wangsam**, where exclusive semi-detached houses redefine the essence of premium living amidst the vibrant backdrop of Kuala Lumpur. Nestled in a prime location that offers both tranquility and accessibility, **Puncak Wangsam** presents a unique blend of serene living spaces and urban convenience.

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Puncak Wangsam is not just a home; it's a lifestyle choice for those who seek luxury, comfort, and exclusivity. With construction reinforced by the expertise of Consultface Sdn Bhd, a firm renowned for its geotechnical, engineering competence and the legacy of Low Keng Huat Berhad, a name synonymous with quality and reliability, your investment in **Puncak Wangsam** is secured for generations.

If you have any inquiries or require further information regarding our development, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at kkiaa@khgroup.com.my. We are more than happy to assist you with any questions or provide the necessary details.

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28 TUESDAY | APR 8, 2025 SPORTS

SHORTS

Djokovic motivated but keeping expectations low

NOVAK DJOKOVIC said reaching his first final of the 2025 season at the Miami Open helped him find the motivation to continue his quest for more titles as the 37-year-old looks to win his 100th ATP trophy during the clay season.

The 24-times Grand Slam champion has not won a title on the men's tour since his ATP Finals triumph during an extraordinary 2023 although he bagged the Olympic gold medal during the Paris Games at Roland Garros last year.

Djokovic's bid to join Jimmy Connors (109) and Roger Federer (103) as the only three men in the professional era to claim 100 or more ATP trophies ended in a defeat by Jakub Mensik last week but the Serb said he was spurred on by his level in Miami.

"There's no doubt it has become more difficult throughout my career but the performances in Miami, when I'm playing that way, it gives me more inspiration to keep going," Djokovic told reporters in Monte Carlo.

"Obviously when you start losing early you have more questions and inner voices, which are bringing doubts about whether you should keep going.

"I'm glad in Miami I found that joy on the

court and performance levels, so let's see if I can carry that into clay. It's a different surface and I've not had much time to get used to this tournament so my expectations aren't that high."

Pegula overpowers Kenin for Charleston title

TOP SEED Jessica Pegula overcame Sofia Kenin 6-3, 7-5 to win the Charleston Open yesterday in the first all-American final at the tournament since 1990.

World No. 4 Pegula, fresh off her Miami Open final loss to Aryna Sabalenka, adapted seamlessly to the green clay surface, securing her second singles title of the season and eighth of her career.

"I spend a couple of years training here on Daniel Island in my early 20s. So to be able to come here this week after a long two weeks in Miami and take the title is just incredible," Pegula said.

"I thought I hit a wall in the second set and realised how tired I was. (Kenin) started to play some high level and there were a couple of games where I didn't break and didn't hold," Pegula told *The Tennis Channel*.

"It was super windy, super tough conditions. If you lost focus for a split second or stopped moving your feet for a second it just swings so fast."

322	Notices	322	Notices	322	Notices	322	Notices
<p>IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA COMPANY WINDING-UP PETITION NO.: PA-280C-24-02/2025</p> <p>In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Penang High Court Execution Suit No. PA-37-17-11/2023 (Execution 17)</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Penang High Court Execution Suit No. PA-37-18-12/2023 (Execution 18)</p> <p>BETWEEN</p> <p>ULRIC CHONG N DEE (NRIC NO.: 661219-07-5305) ... PETITIONER</p> <p>AND</p> <p>NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)] ... RESPONDENT</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 21st day of February 2025, presented by Ulric Chong N Dee (NRIC No.: 661219-07-5305), And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at Georgetown High Court OCWC 2, Lebuah Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 23rd April 2025; 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 charges for the same.</p> <p>The Petitioner address is at No.6, Lengkok Merbau 1, Taman Bayan, Bayan Lepas, 11900 Pulau Pinang and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.</p> <p>The Petitioner Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>---sgf--- MESSRS. OTTHMAN HASHIM & CO. Solicitors for the Petitioners</p> <p>Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. 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 or his or her Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post to sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than 12.00 o'clock noon on Tuesday, the 22nd April 2025 (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition). Tel: 03-6257 3391 Fax: 03-6257 3393 Ref: L7/MUO-68758/OHC/2022/TNH/T/LZY/LEUNG</p>		<p>IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA COMMERCIAL DIVISION COMPANIES WINDING-UP PETITION NO.: PA-280C-24-02/2025</p> <p>In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Georgetown Sessions Court Writ of Summons No. PA-AS20NC-43-04/2022 (Suit 43)</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Georgetown Sessions Court Writ of Summons No. PA-AS20NC-43-04/2022 (Suit 43)</p> <p>BETWEEN</p> <p>1. LEE HOEK LEONG (NRIC NO.: 761009-02-5973) 2. LIM PING (NRIC NO.: 771025-07-6200) ... PETITIONERS</p> <p>AND</p> <p>NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)] ... RESPONDENT</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 18th day of February 2025, presented by Lee Hoek Leong (NRIC No.: 761009-02-5973) and Lim Ping (NRIC No.: 771025-07-6200), And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at Georgetown High Court (Commercial Division) OCWC 2, Lebuah Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 17th June 2025; 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 charges for the same.</p> <p>The Petitioners address is at 216B, Lorong Selasih 9E4, Taman Selasih, 09000 Kulim, Kedah and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.</p> <p>The Petitioners Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>---sgf--- MESSRS. OTTHMAN HASHIM & CO. Solicitors for the Petitioners</p> <p>Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. 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 or his or her Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post to sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than 12.00 o'clock noon on Wednesday, the 11th June 2025 (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition). Tel: 03-6257 3391 Fax: 03-6257 3393 Ref: L7/M-68761/OHC/2022/TNH/T/SBRN</p>		<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJLISRET DI JOHOR BAHRU DALAM NEGERI JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM WRIT NO: JA-A72NCvC-1128-10/2024</p> <p>ANTARA</p> <p>HORIZON HILLS PROPERTY SERVICES SDN BHD (NO. SYARIKAT: 820673-A) PLAINTIFF</p> <p>DAN</p> <p>ZHOU LUBO (NO. PASPORT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: E5622915) ... DEFENDAN</p> <p>NOTIS WRIT SAMAN</p> <p>Kepada: ZHOU LUBO No. 20, Jalan Serambi 5/1, Horizon Hills, 79100 Iskandar Puteri, Johor</p> <p>AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret Johor Bahru dalam Writ No. JA-A72NCvC-1128-10/2024 oleh HORIZON HILLS PROPERTY SERVICES SDN BHD yang beralamat di No.76 Jalan Horizon Perdana 1, Horizon Hills, 79100 Iskandar Puteri, Johor yang mana Plaintiff menuntut dari Defendan amsum terhutang sebanyak R RM5,049-58 dan faedah ke atas RM5,520-08 dan 26-4-2024 pada kadar 10% setahun sehingga tarikh pengakhiran dan pada kadar 5% dari tarikh pengakhiran sehingga penyelesaian penuh dan bahawa telah dipertimbangkan yang penampayan writ saman kepada kamu dalam tindakan tersebut hendaklah dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini dan penampayan dan tany dikaatkan penampayan yang sempurna dan berkesan selepas tujuh (7) hari tarikh pengiklanan notis ini atau tarikh-tarikh penampayan, yang mana lebih lewat.</p> <p>Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut, kamu hendaklah memsukkan kehadiran ke Mahkamah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari selepas penampayan Writ Saman ini kepada kamu.</p> <p>Bertarikh pada 16th Desember 2024</p> <p>Lt Penolong Pendftar Mahkamah Majistret Johor Bahru</p> <p>NOTIS WRIT SAMAN ini dikeluarkan oleh Teban Yoong & Partners, peguacara Plaintiff yang beralamat penampayan di Suite 22.01 Level 22, Johor Bahru City Square, 108 Jalan Wong Ah Fook, 80000 Johor Bahru [RU:KNP/hd/5876.H]</p>		<p>IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA COMPANY WINDING-UP PETITION NO.: PA-280C-24-03/2025</p> <p>In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]</p> <p>And</p> <p>In the matter of Penang High Court Appeal No. PA-12ANCvC-6-01/2024</p> <p>BETWEEN</p> <p>NG SIEW BEE (NRIC NO.: 621006-01-6508) ... PETITIONER</p> <p>AND</p> <p>NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)] ... RESPONDENT</p> <p>ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 6th day of March 2025, presented by Ng Siew Bee (NRIC No.: 621006-01-6508), And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at Georgetown High Court OCWC 2, Lebuah Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 15th May 2025; 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 charges for the same.</p> <p>The Petitioner address is at Block A-14-12, Zofar Hill Residence Condo, Jalan Picit 4, Bandar Puchong Jaya, 47170 Puchong, Selangor and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.</p> <p>The Petitioner Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>---sgf--- MESSRS. OTTHMAN HASHIM & CO. Solicitors for the Petitioners</p> <p>Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. 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 or his or her Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post to sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than 12.00 o'clock noon on Wednesday, the 14th May 2025 (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition). Tel: 03-6257 3391 Fax: 03-6257 3393 Ref: L7/M-70300/OHC/2023/TNH/T/LZY/LEUNG</p>	

Max proves point at Suzuka

... but weary of McLaren ahead of Bahrain race

WORLD CHAMPION Max Verstappen exploded the idea that McLaren might absolutely dominate the Formula One season with victory at the Japanese Grand Prix at the weekend, but the Dutchman was by no means certain he would be able to repeat the feat elsewhere.

Verstappen steered his Red Bull to a pole-to-flag victory for an unprecedented fourth year in a row at Suzuka on Sunday, continuing his love affair with the home circuit of his team's engine providers Honda.

The four-times world champion was delighted with his weekend in Japan, highlighted by the brilliant qualifying lap that snatched pole position away from McLaren's Lando Norris, but cautious about what it meant for the remaining 21 races.

"I think we know our limitations," he said. "So we just have to try and run against that limitation as much as we can. But yeah, it's still not fixed."

"So this is hopefully going to be fixed soon, but I cannot give you a timeline on that. It's just about trying to find that limit, which is really sensitive for us at the moment."

Team principal Christian Horner was clear about what the Suzuka win, coming after dominant wins for McLaren in Australia and China, meant for Red Bull.

"Max, without any debate, is the best driver in the world currently," he said.

"I think for the drivers' championship, Max is, what, one point behind now? So for us, all priority is on that."

"The constructors are going to be harder, but it's a long year, and you never give up, and I think there's no better tonic or motivator than winning."

After three races, Red Bull are a hefty 50 points behind McLaren in the constructors' championship and Verstappen does indeed trail Norris by a single point in the drivers' standings heading to this week's race in Bahrain.

McLaren team principal Andrea Stella was equally clear that he wants both titles and, convinced that the best cars in Formula One are in his garage, was satisfied with second for Norris and third for Oscar Piastri.

A cool track and very lit-

tle tyre degradation meant qualifying position was crucial at Suzuka with Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton, who was seventh, the only driver in the top 10 finishers managing to overtake during the race.

The Bahrain heat is likely to offer very different conditions but Piastri warned he and Norris would need to be wary of Mercedes and Ferrari as well as Red Bull in the Gulf kingdom, the home of McLaren's owners.

"I think we have a small advantage, but I think this weekend has really shown that any small mistake and there's a lot of competition there to capitalise," the Australian said. - Reuters



Brian Harman of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the Valero Texas Open yesterday. - AFPPIX

Cool Harman clinches Texas Open

BRIAN HARMAN kept steady in the wind as he held on to his three-shot lead to win the PGA Tour Texas Open in San Antonio yesterday.

The former British Open champion had a late wobble, with back-to-back bogeys on the 15th and 16th but his closest challenger Andrew Novak was unable to take advantage.

Novak left birdie putts on the 16th and 17th short and Harman maintained his calm to make par on the final two holes and finish with a 3-over 75 on a day when many struggled with conditions.

It was the 38-year-old American's first tournament win since triumphing in the 2023 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool.

Harman had grabbed the lead during the second round when he shot a 6-under 66.

The gusting winds at TPC San Antonio's Oaks Course made such a round tough to even consider yesterday however and he suffered bogeys on the fourth and sixth holes and a double-bogey on the ninth where he suffered a penalty after driving

into the native area.

But he steadied his round with birdies on the 12th and 15th, giving him enough of a cushion to survive his later troubles and emerge as comfortable winner.

Ryan Gerard, who shot a 3-under 69 finished runner-up with Novak ending tied for third with Maverick McNealy.

Harman said it had been difficult to deal with the weather in the pressure filled final round.

"I am just so proud of the way I handled these conditions. The golf course gave me all I wanted today and I am just happy to come out here on top," he added.

Novak conceded he had struggled with his putting when it came down to the final holes.

"I could never figure out the greens. I felt like the greens were like way slower today for some reason."

I could not get a ball to the hole and... I can't even count how many putts I left short

"I don't know why they were slow today. I felt like I could not get the ball to the hole," he said. - AFP

SHORTS

Sagstrom digs deep to win LPGA Match Play

SWEDEN'S Madelene Sagstrom overcame a mid-round slump to score a 1-up victory over the USA's Lauren Coughlin and win the LPGA Match Play tournament in Las Vegas yesterday.

The 32-year-old world No. 67 dug deep with a gritty display at the Shadow Creek Golf Course to clinch only the second LPGA title of her career.

Sagstrom had looked to be poised to claim an emphatic victory early, quickly racing into a 4-up lead after the opening six holes.

But her smooth early form disintegrated over the next four holes, and a disastrous performance on the 11th, when she twice mis-hit attempted chips onto the green, allowed Coughlin to make it all square.

Sagstrom, who had beaten Angel Yin in the semifinals, blamed tiredness on her mid-round wobble.

"I'm exhausted and I bet Lauren is exhausted," she said after her win. "I'm so tired and I think it really kind of hit my swing there in the middle."

"I just kind of dug deep and was like, oh, well, hopefully it's not too many holes left. It's just amazing."

Leishman captures LIV Miami title

MARC LEISHMAN of Australia came from behind to prevail at LIV Golf Miami yesterday, finally capturing his first LIV Golf title.

Leishman began the final round three shots off the pace set by Bryson DeChambeau, but a 4-under 68 with four birdies and no bogeys vaulted him into first place and also helped his all-Australian team, Ripper GC, claim the team title.

Leishman finished the weekend at 6-under 210, one better than a hard-charging Charl Schwartzel. The South African posted a 66 to finish alone in second.

Siraj helps Gujarat to hatrick of wins

PACE bowler Mohammed Siraj yesterday said his omission from the Indian team made him ready for IPL as his 4-17 helped Gujarat Titans hammer Sunrisers Hyderabad for a third straight win.

Hyderabad-born Siraj kept up his bowling form in the T20 tournament this season with nine wickets in four matches and kept down hosts Hyderabad to 152-8.

Skipper Shubman Gill hit an unbeaten 61 as Gujarat, champions in their debut season in 2022, overhauled the total with 20 balls and seven wickets to spare for their third victory in four matches.

Siraj, who was dropped from the ODI Champions Trophy that India won last month, said the break made him work on his bowling.

"At the start (of the break), I could not digest," Siraj said after being named player of the match.

"But then I explained to myself that I have so many things planned. It (selection for Champions Trophy) was not to be, but I concentrated on my mindset, my fitness. Enjoying my bowling now."

The 31-year-old Siraj added: "When you are not selected (for India), doubts do creep in, but I wanted to be ready for the IPL."



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Rogers eyes improvement as Villans fight on three fronts

BY JONATHAN VEAL

MORGAN ROGERS says he can get even better as he looks to fire Aston Villa to success this season.

Rogers scored his 13th goal of the season in Saturday's 2-1 win over Nottingham Forest, which was a huge result in Villa's chase of Champions League qualification.

The 22-year-old, who also has eight assists, is enjoying a breakthrough season, having made his England debut before Christmas. But he says there is more to come.

"I'm focused and I just want to keep going and not let the outside noise change the way I am, the way I'm training and playing, and my attitude," he told Villa's club website.

"I just want to keep going and keep improving. It's nice to have my family at home who are proud of me, those are really nice moments.

"I just want to keep improving and to keep shining, and that's what I'll continue to do."

Villa have won seven games in a row and are the only club in England challenging on three fronts.

They play Paris St-Germain in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Thursday (3am Malaysian time) and have an FA Cup semifinal against Crystal Palace at the end of the month.

The win over Forest also saw them take a big step towards qualifying for next season's Champions League.

"We knew going into the game that we had to win ultimately if we wanted to challenge and get into the Champions League positions, which we set out to do at the start of the season," Rogers added.

"We were against a good team who are in great form and we knew it was going to be difficult, but we started the game incredibly well and got two goals. That settled us down and got us playing."

— The Independent

Saka in the running for Madrid start

BY CARL MARKHAM

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta believes Bukayo Saka is in a "much better place" with the winger in contention to make his first start since before Christmas against Real Madrid.

Saturday's 1-1 draw at Everton brought the England international's second substitute appearance since coming back from three months out with a hamstring injury.

His return is particularly timely with the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal at home tomorrow (3am) and Arteta has to judge whether he now has enough minutes in his legs to start against the La Liga side.

"He's in a much better place. Obviously, we have built that up," said the Gunners boss.

"He played 30 minutes (against Fulham in midweek) and he's played 49 (at Goodison, including stoppage time) and after that he will be in a much better place."

A more difficult decision may be who to partner with William

Saliba in central defence with Gabriel's season ended prematurely by injury.

Jakub Kiwior was handed the role against Everton but Real forwards Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior are likely to pose significantly more problems than Beto and Abdoulaye Doucoure.

Arteta has the option of switching Ben White, who made his first Premier League start since November at Goodison, into the middle and bringing Jurrien Timber in at right-back, having rested him due to a minor fitness concern.

"We have alternatives there. We had players that hadn't played together (at Everton), so that cohesion hasn't been there," he added.

"Ben especially hasn't played at all almost this season, so it's good that they have the minutes and that understanding. We will assess what are the best options for that back line."

Leandro Trossard will be

hoping to keep his place after his first League goal since January.

"I'm very excited, it's a big game for us," he told *arsenal.com*. "Everyone is up for it, not just us as players but the fans as well. I think, and I hope, the atmosphere will be electric because that's what we need."

"We know how they are – they have the most Champions League wins in history, so we know what we're up against."

"I hope the atmosphere will be electric because we're going to need it. The first game is at home, so hopefully we can have an advantage there."

"If they are electric, that gives us adrenaline and that's what we need." – The Independent

No 'killer instinct'

... as Man Utd, City play out drab derby stalemate

MANCHESTER UNITED boss Ruben Amorim said his side must improve "everywhere" after a dismal derby against Manchester City ended 0-0 on Sunday.

City's hopes of Champions League qualification remain in the balance as they remain fifth in the Premier League, which should be enough to reach next season's Champions League.

However, Pep Guardiola's men are just two points above Newcastle, who have two games in hand on City.

A point leaves United languishing down in 13th, but they had the better of a game limited in chances as they missed out on a first league double over City since 2019/20.

"We have so many aspects to improve. Everywhere we need to improve in every aspect: build up, transition, decisions in the final third," said Amorim.

"Every player can improve, they are here because they showed something at other clubs.

They have the quality, but we are still a team that plays on transition, we need to spend more time in final third to have more opportunities."

The Red Devils have shown flashes of improvement last week but also failed to score in their 1-0 defeat at Nottingham Forest on Tuesday to underline their problem in front of goal.

"We just need to have a bit more of a killer instinct," said United captain Bruno Fernandes. "In the first half we had to many touches when we just needed one. We were patient, very organised but the killer instinct was missing today."

Kevin De Bruyne started just days after announcing this will be his final season at City.

But the Belgian's performance was the latest example that he is now a shadow of the figure Guardiola said will be remembered as one of the Premier League's all-time greats.

City had the majority of the ball, but United were the more threatening side on the counter-attack in a pedestrian first half.

"We were not good enough to punish them or

hurt them a little bit more than what happened," said Guardiola. "We take the point. It would be better to win but still we are there."

Phil Foden had the game's best chance just seconds after half-time, but fluffed his lines with only Andre Onana to beat.

The spectacle did marginally improve after the break as Omar Marmoush's powerful effort from a corner stung the palms of Onana.

Joshua Zirkzee and Mason Mount's introduction off the bench added more thrust to the United attack in the final 20 minutes.

Both had a chance to win it when Zirkzee's shot was clawed away by Ederson and Rico Lewis did well to get in the way of Mount's follow-up effort.

There were smiles during a warm embrace between Guardiola and Amorim at full-time but those pleasantries disguised the fact that neither man can be happy with the state of their sides after a disappointing campaign. – AFP



Juric hails 'incredible' Saints fans



Southampton fans react with their players after the match. – REUTERS/PIX

BY GEORGE SESSIONS

IVAN JURIC paid tribute to Southampton's "incredible" fan base for the love they showed after relegation from the Premier League in record-breaking fashion was confirmed at Tottenham.

Saints' fate had felt inevitable for months, but a 2-1 victory for Wolves at Ipswich on Saturday opened up a 22-point gap to safety for the south coast club.

It meant Juric's team required a draw or win in north London to delay the inevitable for at least another week, but Brennan Johnson's first half brace was followed by a stoppage-time penalty from Mathys Tel to ensure Mateus Fernandes' late effort was a mere consolation.

Relegation with seven fixtures left gives Southampton an unwanted Premier League record as whilst Derby and Huddersfield – in 2008 and 2019 respectively – lost their survival battle in March, both had only six matches to go.

The Saints supporters at Spurs gave their relegated team plenty of applause at full-time in a show of defiance which left its mark on Juric.

"A new experience. I said to the players, they have to be really thankful they have fans like this."

"It was something incredible the way they love their team, their squad, even the players that we are relegated (with), incredible for me," Juric explained.

"This one I can say is something incredible. They show love in this moment, it is great English culture, great Southampton culture, it is incredible."

Juric stated recently Southampton's goal was to avoid being the worst team in Premier League history by bettering Derby's current record-low total of 11 points.

Saints have seven fixtures to achieve two more points, which the 49-year-old wants to be in charge for and he expressed his desire to front their Championship promotion bid next season.

"The goal has to be that, to avoid being the worst team in Premier League history," Juric insisted.

"It is really good to be a coach in the Premier League and if I took the long way to come back here, I am ready."

Ange Postecoglou was pleased Tottenham claimed a much-needed three points ahead of Friday's Europa League quarterfinal first leg at home to Eintracht Frankfurt.

"I was really happy with the first half," Postecoglou reflected. "Every time we went forward we looked dangerous and as threatening as we've looked for quite a while."

"Overall the important thing is we got the win, scored three goals and everyone got through unscathed and ready for a big night on Thursday." – The Independent



Bukayo Saka

SHORTS

Pep slams Utd fans 'lack of class'

PEP GUARDIOLA (pic) condemned Manchester United supporters who made derogatory chants about Phil Foden's mother, saying they lacked class and should be ashamed of themselves.

Manchester City were shocked and disgusted by the choruses during the Manchester derby, both the number of them and how many United fans joined in.

Manager Guardiola stressed the problem goes beyond United as he said it is a wider issue in world football.

He explained: "Lack of class. But it's not United, it's the people, you know? We are so exposed, people who are on the screen in world football – managers, owners, and football players especially."

"Honestly, I don't understand the mind of the people involving the mum of Phil, it's a lack of integrity, class, and they should be ashamed."

United sources stressed they condemn abusive chants against all players.

Foden, who comes from Stockport in Greater Manchester,

played the first 58 minutes of the 0-0 draw at Old Trafford yesterday.

Devils protest against Glazers

MANCHESTER UNITED

supporters staged a sit-in protest against the Glazers following yesterday's derby draw at Old Trafford.

The 1958 fan group last month organised the biggest anti-ownership since Sir Jim

Ratcliffe became co-owner ahead of the Premier League match against Arsenal.

They and breakaway club FC United held a joint protest against the Glazers at last weekend's match against Stockton Town at Broadhurst Park, with the call for change continuing at Old Trafford after yesterday's 0-0 draw with Manchester City.

The 1958 organised a sit-in following a league game against Nottingham Forest in August 2023 and a couple of thousand fans heeded their call to stay after the final whistle yesterday.

"We want Glazers out" echoed around the ground long after the final whistle, providing an inescapable backdrop to post-match pitchside analysis beamed across the world.

RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Brentford 0 Chelsea 0, Fulham 3 (Sessegnon 23, Iwobi 32, Muniz 37) Liverpool 2 (Mac Allister 14, Diaz 72), Manchester United 0 Manchester City 0, Tottenham 3 (Johnson 13, 42, Tel 90+6-pen) Southampton 1 (Fernandes 90).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	31	22	7	2	72	30	73
Arsenal	31	17	11	3	56	26	62
Nottm Forest	31	17	6	8	51	37	57
Chelsea	31	15	8	8	54	37	53
Man City	31	15	7	9	57	40	52
Aston Villa	31	14	9	8	46	46	51
Newcastle	29	15	5	9	49	39	50
Fulham	31	13	9	9	47	42	48
Brighton	31	12	11	8	49	47	47
Bournemouth	31	12	9	10	51	40	45
Crystal Palace	30	11	10	9	39	35	43
Brentford	31	12	6	13	51	47	42
Man Utd	31	10	8	13	37	41	38
Tottenham	31	11	4	16	58	45	37
Everton	31	7	14	10	33	38	35
West Ham	31	9	8	14	35	52	35
Wolves	31	9	5	17	43	59	32
Ipswich	31	4	8	19	31	65	20
Leicester	30	4	5	21	25	67	17
Southampton	31	2	4	25	23	74	10

LA LIGA: Las Palmas 1 (McBurnie 60) Real Sociedad 3 (Oyarzabal 5, Gomez 56, Aramburu 68), Sevilla 1 (Agoume 7) Atletico Madrid 2 (Alvarez 25-pen, Barrios 90+3), Valladolid 0 Getafe 4 (Arambarri 1, Terrats 19, 38, Duarte 80), Villarreal 0 Athletic Bilbao 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	30	21	4	5	83	29	67
Real Madrid	30	19	6	5	63	31	63
A. Madrid	30	17	9	4	49	24	60
A. Bilbao	30	14	12	4	46	24	54
Villarreal	29	13	9	7	51	39	48
Real Betis	30	13	9	8	41	37	48

SERIE A: Atalanta 0 Lazio 1 (Isaksen 54), Empoli 0 Cagliari 0, Lecce 1 (Bacchirotto 65) Venezia 1 (Gallo 50-og), Roma 1 (Shomurov 49) Juventus 1 (Locatelli 40), Torino 1 (Elmas 67) Verona 1 (Sarr 64).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	31	20	8	3	69	30	68
Napoli	30	19	7	4	47	24	64
Atalanta	31	17	7	7	63	30	58
Bologna	30	15	11	4	50	34	56
Juventus	31	14	14	3	47	29	56
Lazio	31	16	7	8	52	42	55

BUNDESLIGA: Union Berlin 1 Wolfsburg 0, St Pauli 1 Borussia Moenchengladbach 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich	28	21	5	2	81	27	68
Leverkusen	28	18	8	2	63	34	62
E. Frankfurt	28	14	6	8	55	42	48
Mainz	28	13	7	8	46	32	46
RB Leipzig	28	12	9	7	44	35	45
B. M'gladbach	28	13	5	10	45	41	44

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Lens 1 Saint-Etienne 0, Reims 0 Strasbourg 1, Rennes 0 Auxerre 1, Montpellier 0 Le Havre 2, Marseille 3 Toulouse 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	28	23	5	0	80	26	74
Marseille	28	16	4	8	57	38	52
Monaco	28	15	5	8	54	35	50
Strasbourg	28	14	7	7	46	35	49
Lyon	28	14	6	8	54	38	48
Nice	28	13	8	7	52	35	47

CHAMPIONS

All systems go Razif expects Aaron-Wooi Yik to roar back at BAC

DESPITE a string of lacklustre performances recently, 2022 men's doubles world champions Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik are seen as having the potential to roar back into form at the 2025 Badminton Asia Championships (BAC) in China starting today.

This confidence was expressed by national badminton legend Datuk Razif Sidek, based on the relatively easy path awaiting the sixth seeds at the tournament, which will be held at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium until Sunday.

"Based on Aaron-Wooi Yik's draw at BAC 2025, I think it's only from the quarterfinals onwards that it gets tough. It's not impossible; they can definitely succeed as long as they stay serious and give 100% focus.

"In terms of experience, there's no issue. They have beaten other top world pairs, including those from China and Indonesia.

"Moreover, they are not carrying any worrying injuries that could prevent them from performing this time," he told *Bernama*.

The world No. 6 pair had previously been

hampered by injuries to Aaron, which saw them exit in the first round of two recent tournaments – the 2025 Orleans Masters in France and the 2025 All England Championships last month.

Aaron-Wooi Yik will open their BAC 2025 campaign against an unseeded Japanese pair, Kenya Mitsuhashi-Hiroki Okamura, with the head-to-head record favouring the Malaysians 3-0.

They are then expected to face a lesser-known Indian pair, Hariharan Amsakarunan-Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi, before encountering a real test in the quarterfinals should the third seeds from Indonesia, Fajar Alfian-Muhammad Rian Ardianto, progress to that stage.

Commenting on the chances of the world No. 2 pair, Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani, Razif, who once clinched the BAC title in 1992 alongside his brother, Datuk Seri Jalani Sidek, said they are expected to face a stern test following a tough draw at the tournament, which offers a total prize pool of US\$500,000 (RM2.2m).

Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin, who are the top seeds,

will face 2021 world champions from Japan, Takuro Hoki-Yugo Kobayashi, in the first round, with the Japanese pair having won three of their four previous encounters.

Also accompanying Aaron-Wooi Yik and Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin in the men's doubles campaign are eighth seeds Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun and the duo of Wan Arif Wan Junaiddi-Yap Roy King.

Meanwhile, Razif hopes the country's top women's doubles pair, Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah, can fully focus on their opening match against South Korea's Kim Hye Jeong-Kong Hee Yong and put in a convincing campaign despite being overshadowed by off-court issues.

Recently, the media reported that the future of Pearly-Thinaah is in doubt, as they have yet to sign a new contract with the Badminton Association of Malaysia after their previous one ended in January. It was also reported that they are "planning" to leave the national body.

At the same time, Razif hopes to see at least one Malaysian mixed doubles pair reach the semifinals, following the recent split of Chen Tang Jie-Toh Ee Wei. – *Bernama*

Maccartney Harold needs to improve: Diving chief

NATIONAL diving programme technical director Yeoh Ken Nee is pleased with the performance of Enrique Maccartney Harold (pic) despite the diver narrowly missing out on a place in the men's 10m individual final in the first leg of the 2025 Diving World Cup in Guadalupe, Mexico recently.

Ken Nee, however, admitted that the 19-year-old still needs to improve his diving technique.

"Enrique achieved the minimum qualifying score (at the Diving World Cup Qualifier). However, he was a little unlucky not to have qualified for the final because the

competitors at the meet showed tremendous improvements as well, especially those from Mexico.

"For me, this is good news, especially for our men's

terday.

On Saturday, Maccartney Harold amassed 372.05 points to finish 13th in the preliminary round.

When asked to comment on the performance of national woman diving ace Datuk Pandelega Rinong, Ken Nee admitted that although the Rio Olympic Games silver medallist accumulated a higher number of points compared to the last tournament she took part in last year, she still failed to meet the minimum qualifying point of 290 at the world meet.

"I can see that Pandelega has shown progress at the meet. Last year, she posted 258.8 points at the Malaysia Open and this time she amassed 267.85.

"So, I hope she will continue to show improvement when she com-

petes in the second leg of the Diving World Cup in Windsor, Canada this weekend," he said.

However Maccartney Harold will miss the Canada leg due to strict visa regulations and a lengthy application process.

Ken Nee revealed that the association ran out of time to secure Maccartney Harold a visa for Canada, which means only Pandelega and her team manager will make the trip.

In Guadalajara, Pandelega missed out on a place in the women's 10m platform final after finishing 13th in the preliminary round last Friday.

Based on performances across two legs, the top 12 divers in each discipline will advance to the Super Final in Beijing next month. – *Bernama*

Alia unfazed by lack of world recognition

VETERAN national shooter Alia Szazana Azahari is unperturbed that the Asian record she set in the women's 25m pistol event at the 2025 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup in Bangkok last February was not recognised as a world record.

The 33-year-old athlete said she accepted the International Shooting Sport Federation's (ISSF) decision with an open heart, as the tournament did not feature professional shooters from around the world.

"It's justified because we were at the Asian Cup, where only Asian countries competed, so to consider it a world record wouldn't be legitimate since we weren't up against the rest of the world.

"I've accepted and fully understand the

decision. But *Alhamdulillah*, the Asian countries still recognise the record," she said when met recently.

Earlier, National Shooting Association of Malaysia executive secretary Major (Rtd) Jasni Shaari said the association would not appeal to the ISSF to have the record recognised as a world mark.

"We have to go by the rules and won't appeal," Jasni had said.

Alia captured gold in the event when she registered 44 hits out of 50 targets, surpassing the previous Asian record of 41 hits set by South Korean shooter Yang Jiin at the 2024 Asian Shooting Championships in Jakarta.

Silver went to South Korean shooter Lee

Siyeon with 32 while Singapore's Teh Xiu Yi took bronze on 28.

The world record of 42 was set by South Korea's Kim Ye-ji at the World Championships in Baku last year.

Alia described her experience at the event as one of the most meaningful moments of her 13-year career with the national team, and she is now shifting focus to winning gold at the 2025 SEA Games in Bangkok this December.

"It's not just about the medal or the record – though of course, it's one of the biggest achievements of my life. But the conditions I experienced during that final were completely unexpected. It's something I'll never forget," she said. – *Bernama*



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SCAN ME



Slot in shock

'Conceding three goals like we did is not of the standards of Liverpool'

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot admitted he was not used to seeing the volume of mistakes made by his Premier League leaders as a 3-2 defeat at Fulham saw their 26-match unbeaten league run ended.

Despite Alexis Mac Allister's sensational opener, Liverpool were handed their second defeat of the campaign, with Fulham responding thanks to goals from Ryan Sessegnon, Alex Iwobi and Rodrigo Muniz.

Substitute Luis Diaz found the net after the break but it was not enough as Liverpool were inflicted their first league loss since Nottingham Forest's 1-0 win at Anfield in September.

The result saw the Reds fail to capitalise on closest challengers Arsenal dropping points in their 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday, missing out on extending their 11-point lead at the summit, with seven matches remaining in the title race.

"It wasn't 45 minutes of disaster but the errors we made weren't something that we're used to and it's something different," Slot said. "It's disappointed us all, the players and the fans."

"One reason we're in the position we're in is because we don't make a lot of mistakes and if we do, the players try and make up for them."

After Sessegnon fired Fulham level, Iwobi's left-footed strike in the 32nd minute took a heavy deflection off Andy Robertson and past Caoimhin Kelleher to complete the turnaround.

Following a turbulent performance against Everton striker Beto in their 1-0 midweek Merseyside derby win, Virgil van Dijk continued to struggle in west London, with Muniz beating him to a high ball and finishing through the goal-keeper's legs to give Fulham their third.

"For the second goal, instead of the ball going behind, it went into their goal. If you make mistakes they (Fulham) have the quality to punish," Slot added.

"In the second half we made chances and could've made up for it, but we lacked time. In the last 25 mins it was clear that we could score a third."

"We have a whole week until West Ham. Everyone needs to be aware that the only way we win is through a constant effort and 90 minutes of hard work."

"It's not often we concede three goals let alone

in one game or 15 minutes. We could have prevented it."

"We scored a good goal but apart from that the second half performance was much more what we are like."

"Conceding three goals like we did is not of the standards of Liverpool. We were creating chance after chance after chance (towards the end)."

"In the end we lacked time to make up for the three mistakes we made in the first half."

Another rarity that went against Slot and Liverpool was the poor performance of Mohamed Salah.

He blazed over the bar from close range to go without a goal in his last four matches, but the head coach insists that Salah will return to form soon.

"Maybe he should see it as a compliment (that people are talking about it) because his numbers were not normal (when he was scoring)," Slot said.

"The good thing about Mo is he knows what kind of player he is. Mo will show up again, I don't worry about that."

The win sees Fulham bounce back from their FA Cup quarterfinal exit to Crystal Palace last month and their 1-0 midweek defeat at Arsenal as they move up to eighth in the table.

"It was a great three points for us, I believe we deserved it," manager Marco Silva said.

"Our first half was at a good level and after a good goal from Mac Allister, we had to be strong, be clever, make some tactical fouls and the reaction was great."

"It was a game where we knew we had to be at a high tempo."

"After the last nine days it was important to give something back against a team that is going to be the Premier League champions," he added. - The Independent/Express Newspapers

Fulham's Rodrigo Muniz (centre) celebrates with teammates Andreas Pereira (left) and Ryan Sessegnon after scoring their third goal during the English Premier League match against Liverpool at Craven Cottage in London yesterday. - **AFPPIIC**



Max proves point at Suzuka

Story on page 29



No 'killer instinct'

Story on page 30



'Maccartney Harold needs to improve'

Story on page 31