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**MASSIVE CLEANUP** ... A team comprising part of a 4,000-strong force of volunteers and personnel from several government agencies clearing debris and razed items in Kampung Kuala Sungai Baru yesterday in the aftermath of the gas pipeline explosion. – AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

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## Move to **future-proof** workforce

Talent Corp Malaysia spearheading efforts to prime workers for success in expanding digital economy in light of AI dynamics

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Glimmer of hope for victims of Ponzi scheme





## Pahang menteri besar appointed special adviser

**KUANTAN:** Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail has been appointed as Special Adviser to the National Entrepreneur and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Council.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who announced the appointment, said Wan Rosdy has demonstrated commendable performance and has served the people well as menteri besar.

"He will assist me and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi in travelling across Malaysia to engage with entrepreneurs and explore ways to elevate the standing of Bumiputera businesses and entrepreneurs.

"He has never asked for projects for himself. What he brought up in the meeting earlier was all related to the people."

He was speaking at the Madani Aidilfitri 2025 celebration at Pantai Batu Hitam in Beserah on Friday.

Present were Ahmad Zahid, Wan Rosdy, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

On the tariffs recently announced by US President Donald Trump, Anwar said Malaysia cannot rely on foreign powers.

"There are countries where tariffs have been raised by up to 50%. Fortunately, he has postponed the implementation.

"We must ensure that our national unity remains strong, our work efficient, our programmes effective and investments continue."

Anwar added that the people should feel grateful and proud when the world recognises Malaysia as a peaceful and orderly nation.

"We aspire to be a model Muslim country and support causes like aid for Gaza. But how can we extend help if we are impoverished? Our ability to assist others relies on our capacity." - Bernama

# Funds not withheld from opposition-led states: PM

Federal govt allocation to Kelantan up by 30% to RM762m and Terengganu by 28% to RM2.02b last year compared with 2023

**BACHOK:** The Madani government has never marginalised opposition-led states in the allocation of funds, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the allocation to PAS-led Kelantan has increased by 30% to RM762 million last year compared with RM588 million in 2023, while the allocation to Terengganu also recorded a 28% increase to RM2.02 billion last year from RM1.57 billion the previous year.

"This increase includes grants under Marris (Malaysian Road Records Information System), Tahap (Economic, Infrastructure and Welfare Development-Based Grants), per capita grants, compassionate money and other allocations.

"This allocation is the main source of state revenue, especially for Kelantan and Terengganu, which only generate around RM500 million and RM250 million from their own state resources, respectively," he said at the Kelantan-level Aidilfitri Madani 2025 celebration at Pantai Irama yesterday.

Anwar said the federal government has additionally approved RM25 million for Kelantan and RM60 million for Terengganu this year for poverty eradication.

He added that the federal government has decided to expedite flood mitigation projects in Kelantan to address the state's perennial flooding problem.

"This includes exploring new methods not only to tackle the flood issue but also to resolve water shortages during droughts.

"Kelantan has identified several key projects, and this year, I have decided that the phased flood mitigation projects, despite their high cost, must be expedited. We don't want to continue witnessing yearly floods, with the flood situation remaining unmanageable while governments come and go, including the federal government.

"That is why I have asked the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, the Economy Ministry and Finance Ministry to look into several

new approaches. In this state, sometimes the water overflows excessively, causing floods, and then in the following months, it's completely dry, with no water.

"Allah has given us strength, effort and technology. Can't the overflowing floodwaters be stored for the dry season? Of course it can."

Meanwhile, Anwar said in a post on his Facebook page that the federal government has agreed to proceed with the preliminary works for five priority projects in Pahang, Bernama reported.

He said these include the construction of the Bukit Rangan elevated interchange, Kuantan-Chukai road, upgrading of the Kuantan-Segamat road spanning 51km and Package Six of the Central Spine Road between Karak and Simpang Pelangai in Bentong.

Anwar said the other two projects are the upgrading of the road from Kampung Padang to the East Coast Highway 1 traffic light junction (Phase 2), and the construction of a new Type 7 Health Clinic with 10 units of Class F quarters at Pos Lenjan in Kuala Lipis.

He said the decision was made during a special meeting on Pahang's development, which he chaired with Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail and the state leadership.



Lada (left) at the official launch of Songkran Festival 2025 at the 1Utama shopping mall in Petaling Jaya yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC

## 'Songkran celebration in M'sia boosts ties with Thailand'

**PETALING JAYA:** Celebrating Songkran, Thailand's traditional New Year festival, in Malaysia helps to strengthen almost seven decades of diplomatic relations between the two countries, said Thai Ambassador to Malaysia Lada Phumas.

"The celebration of the festival is a bridge between two beautiful cultures. Songkran is a good time to promote friendship between the two nations."

She was speaking after officiating Malaysia's Premier Songkran Festival 2025 from April 10 to April 20 at 1Utama Shopping Centre, co-organised by the Royal Thai Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

Lada said the festival serves as a platform for greater trade and investment promotion and cooperation between the two countries.

"Several Thai businesses are with us today to introduce authentic Thai culinary dishes, beverages and high-quality products and services, which I encourage you to explore at over 40 stalls around the festival area."

She said the event is an opportunity for Malaysians to experience first-hand the magic of Songkran, from water-splashing festivities to vibrant Thai traditions like pouring water on elders, Songkran dance and Thai music and performances.

She added that Songkran is on Unesco's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2023, testifying to its significance as a global symbol of joy, unity and renewal.

It was reported earlier that the National Unity Ministry, in collaboration

with the Malaysian Siamese Association, organised a National Songkran Festival from Friday to today at the Songkran Hall in Kampung Tasek, Pengkalan Hulu, Perak.

Songkran is also a significant celebration among the Siamese Bumiputera community in Malaysia, marking the arrival of the new year.

National Unity Minister Aaron Ago Dagang said the festival enables Malaysians to learn about the traditions, arts and culture of the Siamese ethnic minority.

"The festival aligns with the Madani government goal of promoting unity and celebrating racial, cultural, and religious diversity in Malaysia," he said in a statement. - Bernama

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## MACC opens 24/7 ops centre

**IPOH:** The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) yesterday opened an operations room for the public to channel information and complaints of corrupt acts and power abuse in the Ayer Kuning by-election.

It said in a statement that the operations room at the MACC Perak branch in Bandar Meru Raya will be open round the clock until April 26.

"The people can also email their complaints to [aduan.prk.N48@sprm.gov.my](mailto:aduan.prk.N48@sprm.gov.my) or contact 019-600-2041, 011-332-09935 and 05-526-7000 (ext 163)."

MACC also reminded candidates and political parties to not engage in activities that violate election laws and regulations in line with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 and the Election Offences Act 1954. — Bernama

## Role of PM in judicial appointments to advise King: Expert

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The prime minister's involvement in the process of appointing judges is not aimed at undermining judicial independence but at ensuring that the government remains informed of developments within the judiciary, said constitutional expert Assoc Prof Datuk Dr Shamrahayu Ab Aziz.

She said the PM's role in advising the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on judicial appointments is enshrined in Article 122B of the Federal Constitution, a provision that has existed since 1957, reported Bernama.

"One of the reasons the provision was established is to ensure some level of government involvement in matters related to the judiciary.

"There is clear separation of powers between the judiciary and the executive, with the prime minister and the King as head of state, representing the executive branch."

She said this in response to a speech by Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat at the 24th Commonwealth Law Conference in Malta.

The Chief Justice had expressed support for proposals to amend the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) Act 2009 to remove the prime minister's role from the judicial appointment process.

Tengku Maimun argued that eliminating the PM's involvement would enhance the impartiality of the process, ensuring that appointments are made solely on merit and are free from any perception of political interference.

Under Article 122B of the Federal Constitution, judges are appointed by the King, acting on the advice of the PM and after consultation with the Conference of Rulers.

However, Shamrahayu pointed out that the JAC Act already limits the prime minister's influence.

"The Act stipulates that the PM may only recommend or advise the Yang di-Pertuan Agong based on candidates proposed by the commission.

"Although Article 122B grants the prime minister significant constitutional authority, this power is moderated by mechanisms within the JAC."

She cautioned that removing the prime minister's role would have far-reaching legal implications and should be carefully studied before any changes are made. — Bernama

# BN, PN and PSM to lock horns in by-election

**TAPAH:** The Ayer Kuning by-election will see a three-cornered contest involving candidates from Barisan Nasional (BN), Perikatan Nasional (PN) and Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM).

BN is fielding Tapah Umno division secretary Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir, 54, while PN is represented by Tapah PN chairman Abd Muhaimin Malek, 44, and PSM candidate is its deputy secretary-general Bawani KS, 40.

The final list of candidates was announced by returning officer Redhaudin Ahmad Shokori at 10.23am yesterday, after the close of nominations at 10am at Dewan Merdeka.

Abd Muhaimin was the earliest to submit his nomination papers at 9.01am followed by Mohamad Yusri at 9.06am. Bawani drew attention by arriving on a tractor, accompanied by supporters, before filing her nomination papers at 9.15am.

Supporters and party leaders had begun assembling at the nomination centre from as early as 7am to show solidarity, reported Bernama.

Mohamad Yusri, dressed in a blue baju Melayu and *samping*, was accompanied by top BN leaders, including coalition chairman and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Perak BN chairman Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Also present were leaders from the unity government coalition, such as Amanah president Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu and Perak DAP chairman Nga Kor Ming.

PN candidate Abd Muhaimin arrived with a delegation led by PAS deputy president Datuk Seri Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man and Bersatu deputy president Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin.

The by-election was called following the death of incumbent BN assemblyman Ishsam Shahrudin, 58, on Feb 22. In the 15th General Election, Ishsam won the seat in a five-way

Smooth process for nomination of candidates attended by top party leaders sets stage for three-way fight in Ayer Kuning



The Election Commission has set April 26 for polling and early voting on April 22 for the by-election, which was called following the death of the incumbent. — BERNAMAPIC

contest with a majority of 2,213 votes.

The Election Commission has set April 26 for polling, and early voting on April 22.

The Ayer Kuning constituency has 31,897 registered voters, comprising 31,315 ordinary voters and 582 police personnel and their spouses.

Perak police chief Datuk Noor Hisam Nordin reported that the nomination process went smoothly and without incident.

A total of 778 police officers and personnel were deployed for traffic management and

security during the process.

Noor Hisam also confirmed that police have approved five permits for campaign events during the 14-day campaign period, which runs until 11:59pm on April 25.

He advised all parties to avoid raising sensitive issues involving race, religion or royalty (commonly referred to as the 3R issues) during campaigning.

Police personnel will be deployed at all campaign venues to ensure compliance with regulations.

## Mega cleanup in housing sites near Putra Heights disaster zone

**KUALA LUMPUR:** More than 4,000 individuals, including volunteers and personnel from various agencies, have been mobilised in a large-scale cleanup operation in areas affected by the recent gas pipeline explosion in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said the two-day operation, which began yesterday, covers Putra Heights and the neighbouring Kampung Kuala Sungai Baru. It involves around 600 volunteers and personnel from government agencies and other organisations.

"A major part of our focus is on Kampung Kuala Sungai Baru, especially in cleaning public areas and residents' homes that were affected. Clean-up work in Putra Heights had already begun once police granted access," he told a press conference yesterday.

The integrated operation involves 264 vehicles and heavy machinery, including water jet trucks, tankers, roll-on roll-off trucks, backhoe loaders, road sweepers, wood chippers and sky lifts.

Amirudin added that 307 homes have been cleared for reoccupation, with more expected to be ready soon.

"Next week, we'll start focusing on providing rental homes and repairing damaged houses."

Addressing concerns that more attention was given to the Putra Harmoni area than Kampung Melayu, Amirudin clarified that clean up efforts in Kampung Kuala Sungai Baru could only start after police granted clearance a few days ago.

"The housing layout in the area is less structured compared with standard housing estates built to specifications, so it requires more time and effort."

He also thanked the many volunteers, especially those from Selangor, who stepped up to help during the festive season.

Meanwhile, Subang Jaya district police chief ACP Wan Azlan Wan Mamat reminded all involved to strictly follow standard operating procedures to ensure safety during the operation.

He said 100 police officers and personnel have been deployed to secure the area, which has been declared a disaster zone.

"There have been no reports of property loss. We aim to keep it that way. Volunteers are strictly prohibited from entering ground zero or any house declared." — Bernama

## Orderly, transparent polls important: Nurul Izzah

**BUKIT MERTAJAM:** PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar has expressed hope that the party elections, which began on Friday, proceed in an orderly and transparent manner to ensure the party's continued strength and unity.

She said the elections is not merely a process to determine leadership, but an opportunity to reinforce the party's sense of togetherness, strengthen grassroots support and highlight the importance of a well-organised election system so that every member feels valued.

"The main issue is to ensure this system is implemented in an organised manner to preserve unity and harmony among members.

"We are all part of the bigger Keadilan family. Whether one wins or not, or even if someone isn't selected as a delegate at the division level, we are still working together to build community strength and help solve issues at the grassroots level."

She was speaking to reporters at the "Permatang Pauh Rewang Ketupat Bersama Nurul Izzah Anwar" event held at Dewan Yayasan Aman yesterday. — Bernama



# Helping M'sian workforce navigate AI challenges

Think tank launches centralised digital platform connecting users to career mobility tools, industry-led training and insights on emerging roles

■ BY DEEPAKASHMI MANICKAM  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Malaysia is stepping up its game to address the disruptions of artificial intelligence (AI) and future-proof its workforce.

Leading the charge is Talent Corporation Malaysia Bhd (TalentCorp), the national agency spearheading efforts to equip Malaysians for the digital economy.

A strategic think tank under the Human Resources Ministry since 2024, TalentCorp is focused on closing critical skills gaps, fixing talent mismatches, and building a resilient, future-ready workforce.

TalentCorp Group CEO Thomas Mathew said: "We're at a pivotal moment. Around 620,000 jobs are expected to be significantly impacted over the next three to five years across 10 core sectors."

These include aerospace, ICT, energy and power, global business services, pharmaceuticals and medical services, wholesale and retail trade, electrical and electronics.

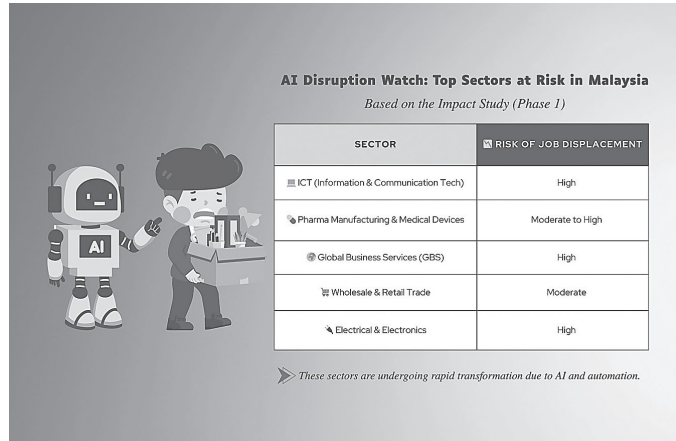
"As these industries evolve, it's vital that Malaysian talent evolves with them," he told *theSun*.

Mathew said AI is reshaping traditional roles, making nationwide reskilling and upskilling urgent. But it's not all bleak.

"AI isn't just taking jobs, it's creating them," he said.

"We've identified 60 emerging roles that will define the workforce in the next three to five years, spanning AI development, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing."

A recent Ipsos Predictions 2025 survey reflects this shift – while 73% of Malaysians anticipate AI disruption, higher than the global average,



65% remain optimistic about the opportunities AI will generate.

To help Malaysians navigate this shift, TalentCorp has launched MyMahir.my, a centralised digital platform connecting users to career mobility tools, industry-led training and insights on emerging roles.

"We built MyMahir.my to give every Malaysian a fair shot to see what jobs are coming, what skills they'll need and where to get them," Mathew said.

The platform is backed by on-ground initiatives like the National Structured Internship Programme and Young Employable Students, aimed at bridging academia-industry gaps and preparing youth for AI-driven careers.

For workers facing displacement, MyMahir's Future Skills Talent Council partners with industry leaders to tailor training to real-world needs.

In 2024, the E&E sector programme alone upskilled 500 workers, leading to salary hikes of 5 to 15%.

TalentCorp plans to reach 15,000 participants across 18 sectors this year, including new entries like the data centre sector launched in February.

This nationwide upskilling push is backed by Human Resources Ministry funding.

In 2023, Human Resources Minister Steven Sim announced RM3 billion for workforce development across TalentCorp, HRD Corp, Socso and the Manpower Department.

In 2024, an additional RM20 million was earmarked to train 5,000 Malaysians in AI, cybersecurity and data science.

Mathew underscored TalentCorp's mission to ensure no Malaysian is left behind in the digital race.

From women re-entering the workforce via Wanita MyWira, to retired servicemen under Veteran MyWira, to regional Industry-Academia Collaborations bringing access to rural communities, TalentCorp is building inclusive pathways for all.

"We're deliberate about equity. Everyone... women, youth, veterans, B40 group and rural residents deserve access to future-ready opportunities."

Through tools like the Malaysia Critical Occupations List and nationwide Call-for-Evidence surveys, TalentCorp works closely with industry groups and government agencies to track shifting workforce trends and shape responsive policy.

"Our job is to keep Malaysia's workforce competitive and agile amid global economic shifts," Mathew said.

As AI and the green economy reshape the global landscape, TalentCorp's role has never been more vital.

"The future of work is already here. Our mission is to make sure Malaysians are ready for it," Mathew said.

## PTPTN offers flexible debt repayment plan

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) will continue to assist borrowers to settle their debts via negotiations for more flexible repayments, ensuring they are not burdened through various means and methods.

The Higher Education Ministry said in a statement that PTPTN's empathetic approach was to ensure borrowers were given ample time to settle their debts, in line with the core value of Malaysia Madani Ihsan (compassion).

"This is also to ensure that higher education in Malaysia remains inclusive, sustainable and relevant for future generations."

"Therefore, the ministry welcomes Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's proposal that the government is considering reviewing loan rates and debt repayment terms to better assist borrowers, while also addressing the issue of high outstanding debts," it said.

In the same statement, the ministry said PTPTN's accumulated debt has reached RM40 billion, with outstanding debts totalling RM11 billion to date.

"The ministry is aware of students' concerns and is examining PTPTN's overall financial position and sustainability to review the loan rates. The ministry is also attentive to students' concerns and provides appropriate assistance to those facing difficulties during their studies," it said. – Bernama

## Varsity records high grad employability rate

**ALOR SETAR:** Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) recorded a graduate employability rate of 96.6% last year.

Its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Foad Sakdan said official data released by the Higher Education Ministry based on the Graduate Tracer Study showed that UUM's graduate employability rate had increased consistently, namely 94.4% in 2022, 95% in 2023 and 96.6% in 2024.

"This also exceeded the national target of 86.4% and (presented) UUM as an institution focused on management and business that has proven to be successful in producing high-quality graduates."

"The employment rate of UUM graduates also recorded an impressive achievement of 97.1% through the ministry's new operational definition for graduate employment rate, proving the effectiveness of the university's holistic approach in preparing students for employment."

The university also expressed gratitude to industry stakeholders for their trust in the skills of UUM graduates. – Bernama

## Focus on worship and observe good manners, Haj pilgrims advised

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian pilgrims performing the Haj have been reminded to give their full attention to the pilgrimage and uphold good manners and discipline throughout their time in the Holy Land.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Dr Zulkifli Hasan said the Haj is a special invitation from Allah SWT to His chosen servants, and should therefore be approached with sincerity and deep devotion.

He cautioned against the growing habit among some pilgrims of frequently posting on social media – including taking selfies in front of the Kaabah or going live on platforms such as TikTok – which could distract from the true purpose of the pilgrimage.

"At times, this can be disturbing to other pilgrims who are concentrating on their worship."

"My advice to this year's Duyufurrahman (guests of Allah) is to focus entirely on seeking Allah's pleasure, not on glorifying oneself

for social media popularity through likes or views," he told Bernama.

Zulkifli stressed that the core of Haj lies in sincere worship for the sake of Allah SWT, adding that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) prayed that his pilgrimage remain free of *riya'* and *sum'ah* (showing off to seek attention or praise).

As such, he advised pilgrims to refrain from updating social media and instead make full use of their time in the Holy Land by prioritising acts of worship such as prayers,

supplication and remembrance of Allah.

He also reminded pilgrims to make sufficient physical preparations for the journey, which involves considerable movement, including walking between their hotels and the mosque during rituals such as *tawaf* and *sa'i*, as well as while at Arafah, Muzdalifah and Mina.

As their final preparations, Zulkifli encouraged all pilgrims to attend the Perdana Haj course organised by Lembaga Tabung

Haji (TH), which runs until May 4 at 22 locations nationwide.

"The course serves as a final refresher and provides practical simulations of key rituals such as *tawaf*, *sa'i*, stoning of the *jamrah*, and donning the *ihram* for male pilgrims. It also includes health tips and allows participants to consult directly with TH officers and Haj guides," he said.

The first group of Malaysian pilgrims is scheduled to leave for the Holy Land on April 29, with the final group departing on May 30.



# 'Ponzi scheme victims could recover funds'

Return of money to investors depends on probe outcome and proof of ownership: Crime analyst

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI  
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**PETALING JAYA:** As authorities dig deeper into the "Pelaburan MBI" investment scam that is suspected to have been operated as a Ponzi scheme, a crime analyst has said investors may have a shot at recovering their money.

However, a lot depends on the outcome of the investigation and the ability of the victims to provide solid proof of ownership.

Crime analyst Datuk Shahul Hamid Abdul Rahim said recovered assets are typically returned to verified victims once a case is resolved, but success depends on solid evidence and victim cooperation.

"At this stage, the seized assets remain in police custody as they are considered crucial evidence in the ongoing probe.

"Affected investors may need to come forward, lodge a formal statement with authorities and submit supporting documents to assist the investigation."

He said this step is vital for building a solid case, boosting the chances of recovering funds and enlisting the

victims as witnesses.

He also said police typically assess how much each individual invested to determine the extent of possible reimbursement based on original funds.

"However, if only part of the investment can be verified with sufficient evidence, then only that amount would be considered for return. We will have to wait until the probe concludes."

Crime analyst Datuk Seri Dr Akhbar Satar said the process of reclaiming investment funds is often considered legally complex and uncertain.

He said a big hurdle lies in proving ownership of the funds and validating the legitimacy of an investor's claims.

"It is difficult to (determine) legally. If there is insufficient evidence to back the claims, the seized assets may ultimately be forfeited by the government."

He urged the public to be wary of investment schemes that promise unusually high returns.

"It is crucial to verify whether a company is genuine and recognised, especially by Bank Negara Malaysia."

A retired senior police officer,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said many individuals fall victim to dubious schemes because they are overly trusting, even when clear red flags are present.

He added that Ponzi schemes often depend on charismatic individuals to give the scam a sense of credibility.

"The public must exercise extreme caution as these individuals are exploiting others for financial gain," he warned, expressing concern over the billions lost and the recent arrests involving high-profile figures.

On Friday, *theSun* reported that eight individuals, including four believed to hold the title "Datuk", were arrested for alleged involvement in a Ponzi investment scheme.

Police seized and froze assets linked to the operation, worth over RM3.17 billion.

Among the seized items were 638 bank and stock trading accounts, involving RM1.16 billion, 35 properties estimated to be worth RM2 billion, 10 luxury vehicles, 12 high-end wristwatches, large sums of foreign and local currencies, as well as jewellery, designer handbags, phones, laptops and key documents.

It is understood that the scheme had been operating for several years, allegedly defrauding thousands of investors with promises of high returns.

## Flood evacuees up in Selangor, Sabah

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The number of flood evacuees at relief centres in Selangor and Sabah recorded a slight increase yesterday morning while the situation in Johor is improving.

As of 8am yesterday in Selangor, the number increased from 873 people involving 262 families on Friday, to 1,191 individuals involving 322 families.

According to the Social Welfare Department InfoBencana website, the evacuees are at six centres, including two in Shah Alam, Klang and one in Subang Jaya that opened on Friday.

In Sabah, the number of flood evacuees in Nabawan increased to 383 people involving 94 families, from 263 involving 63 families.

According to the state Disaster Management Secretariat, the flood affected 28 villages, forcing evacuation to five centres in Nabawan.

The Sook district was also flooded and a centre was opened at Dewan Kampung Membulu at 4.45am yesterday with an undetermined number of evacuees.

Nabawan and Sook are districts in the Sabah interiors, located about 174km and 147km respectively south of Kota Kinabalu.

In Johor, the number of flood evacuees at the centre at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Seri Gading dropped slightly from 210 people on Friday to 203 yesterday.

State Disaster Management Committee chairman Tan Sri Dr Azmi Rohani said all the evacuees are residents of Batu Pahat.

Sungai Senggarang in the Batu Pahat district is at a warning level at 3.16m, while Sungai Batu Pahat is at an alert level at 2.30m.

The weather in all districts in Johor was reported fine yesterday morning. - Bernama



**HEFTY HAUL ...** Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Rusdi Mohd Isa showing 104kg of methamphetamine worth RM3.33 million at the Kuala Lumpur police contingent headquarters. - BERNAMAPIC

## Hospital files report on fake doctor claim

**KUANTAN:** The Kuala Lipis Hospital has lodged a police report over claims that a pair of twin babies have been abducted by a fake doctor after treated for nine months at the hospital.

The Pahang Health Department said it has carried out a preliminary probe.

"Investigations found that no twin babies, as alleged, received treatment for nine months in the children's ward at the hospital, and the last time the mother in question received treatment at the Kuala Lipis Hospital was in July last year.

"As for the allegation involving a fake doctor named Amalina Husna, there is no record of such an individual ever having served at the Kuala Lipis Hospital."

It said the hospital lodged the report yesterday to prevent the spread of baseless claims, which could damage the credibility and integrity of the hospital's management and medical services. - Bernama

## Aidilfitri traffic operation records reduction in fatal crashes

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The number of fatal road crashes nationwide dropped by 41% during Op Selamat 24, held in conjunction with Aidilfitri celebrations from March 29 to April 3.

Deputy IGP Datuk Seri Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay said 77 fatal collisions were recorded this year, compared with 131 during the same period last year.

"The number of deaths also declined to 85 this year, a reduction of 41% from 144 recorded last year."

However, the total number of road

crashes increased by 4% from 9,451 last year to 9,859 this year.

He said the increase could be attributed to the growing number of registered vehicles in Malaysia, which now exceeds 36.6 million.

Police also identified 432 hotspots and 122 blackspots across major highways, federal and state roads, city streets and other roads nationwide.

"Roadblocks at high-risk areas proved to be an effective measure in reducing crashes at such locations."

He added that 91,727 traffic summonses were issued during the operation, which is a 1% increase from 90,640 issued during Op Selamat 22.

Motorcyclists and pillion riders continue to make up the highest number of fatalities, although the figure dropped by 44% from 93 last year to 52 this year.

Ayob Khan said this year's Op Selamat also focused on securing homes left unattended during the festive period.

Police received 12,773 *balik kampung* notices from the public, compared with

10,869 last year, while 76,274 patrols were conducted nationwide, an increase of 27% compared with last year.

These included 37,429 multi-purpose vehicle patrols, 14,176 by motorcycle patrol units, 20,311 by local station teams and 4,358 other patrols.

A total of 6,957 personnel from the Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Department, along with 2,742 personnel from the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Department, were directly involved in Op Selamat 24. - Bernama



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# Penang bridge run registration open

Early bird discount of RM30 for full and half marathon from usual fee of RM150 and RM140 respectively, with RM20 off for 10km and junior categories

BY T.C. KHOR  
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**GEORGE TOWN:** The Aspen-Klipa Penang Bridge International Marathon (PBIM) is open for registration.

Scheduled for Dec 14, the run is expected to draw 25,000 participants from across the world, said Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

The race route is from Aspen Vision City in Batu Kawan, across Penang's second link, the Sultan Abdul Halim Muadzam Shah Bridge, and back to Aspen Vision City.

The categories are full marathon, half marathon and 10km run.

Registration fees remain the same as last year and there is a RM30 early bird discount for the full marathon and half marathon. For 10km and junior categories, the discount is RM20.

For regular registrations, the full marathon is RM150, the half

marathon is RM140, the 10km open is RM120 and the junior category is RM90. The junior category is open to those aged between 13 and 17.

Chow said 23,000 runners participated in last year's PBIM.

"The target of 25,000 participants (this year) reflects a growing passion for endurance sports, and also Penang's rising prominence as a global sporting hub," he said in Komtar on March 28.

He added that Penang's commitment to empowering women in sports by ensuring events such as PBIM continue to provide opportunities, support and visibility for female athletes.

Chow highlighted that nearly one-third of the participants last year were women, breaking traditional barriers in endurance sports.

He said last year, PBIM took the initiative to introduce a special category for visually impaired runners and proved



Chow described the event as a platform that unites runners from across the world. - MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

that disability is not a barrier to participation.

"(We) want to introduce more disability-friendly initiatives and are working with stakeholders to ensure this event is inclusive.

"Our commitment to inclusivity goes beyond gender as PBIM took a significant step forward by introducing a special category for visually impaired runners in collaboration with the St Nicholas' Home and Aspen Group."

State Tourism and Creative Economy Committee chairman Wong Hon Wai said PBIM is the

longest bridge run in Southeast Asia and one of the toughest races in the region.

He said Penang's second bridge offers a unique challenge, with long, open stretches, strong crosswinds, elevation changes and the mental test of running through the night.

"This marathon is more than just a race. It is a challenge of endurance and perseverance. A platform that unites runners from across the world and a proud symbol of Penang's commitment to sports tourism."

This year, PBIM will feature

"Pen Zone", an initiative to improve race logistics in which runners will start in different sections based on their expected finishing times.

There are also plans to expand the entertainment areas and resting zones to provide more comfort and recovery space for runners.

Chow said he is happy the event would be held in Batu Kawan, and expressed hope it would attract more visitors.

"Reinforcing sports tourism is a vital pillar of our economic strategy. Our investment in this sector is not merely about athletics. It is about creating a sustainable economic future."

He added that the state's focus includes strengthening private partnerships to elevate event quality, investing in better facilities and infrastructure for sports tourism, expanding outreach programmes to attract more international participants, and ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in all sporting events.

"These initiatives ensure Penang continues to lead as a premier destination for world-class sporting events."

More details on PBIM are available on the Penang Bridge Marathon Facebook page.

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

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

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# S'pore PM Wong to defend seat

## PAP finalises election candidates list

**SINGAPORE:** The city-state's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) has finalised its candidates for the upcoming general election, with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong set to defend his Marsiling-Yew Tee Group Representation Constituency (GRC) seat with the same slate of incumbents.

Wong, who is also PAP secretary-general, announced at a press conference yesterday that he will contest together with Senior Minister of State for Defence

and Manpower Zaqy Mohamad, North West District Mayor Alex Yam and Hany Soh in the four-member GRC.

Wong and Yam have served in the GRC since it was formed in 2015, while Zaqy and Soh joined later.

The quartet won the seat in 2020 with a total of 69,813 votes (63.18%) against the Singapore Democratic Party candidates.

There are two types of electoral divisions in Singapore – the Single Member Constituency (SMC) and the GRC.

During an election, voters of a GRC vote for a group of individuals – between three and six – to be their Members of Parliament, who must either be from the

same party or all independents.

Wong said that the PAP will field more than 30 new candidates at the election, which must be held by November – to renew and refresh the PAP and bring in new ideas and energy to the party.

"This is the largest slate of new faces we've introduced in recent history. You will get to know all our new candidates in the coming days, as each GRC and SMC unveils its candidates," he said.

Wong said the election will be held at a time of great global uncertainty, and he left it to Singaporeans to decide on the team that they trust.

"There is a gathering storm and we are

flying straight into turbulence. In such conditions, who you have in the cockpit matters. Singaporeans will have to decide on the team they trust to navigate the storm and chart the way forward."

Wong said he takes the responsibility seriously, as the stakes are high, including for Singapore's place in the world.

He added that the PAP's plans will be unveiled in a manifesto that will be published soon.

This will be Wong's first election as the prime minister and the PAP's secretary-general. More than 2.75 million Singaporeans will be eligible to vote in this year's election. – Bernama

Performers taking part in the official opening ceremony of the 2025 Osaka Expo. – AFP/PIC



## Japan prime minister warns of divided world

**OSAKA:** Japan's prime minister urged the importance of unity in a world plagued by "divisions" at a futuristic but also tradition-steeped opening ceremony for the World Expo yesterday.

Everything from a Mars meteorite to a beating heart grown from stem cells will be showcased during the six-month event, which opens to the public today.

The vast waterfront site in Osaka will host more than 160 countries, regions and organisations.

"The world now faces the crisis over many different divisions," Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba told the opening ceremony.

"It is extremely significant that people from all over the world gather and face the question of life in this era, exposing ourselves to state-of-the-art technology and diverse cultures and ways of thinking," Ishiba said.

The Expo is also known as a World's Fair and the phenomenon, which brought the Eiffel Tower to Paris, began with London's

1851 Crystal Palace exhibition and is held every five years.

Most pavilions, each more outlandishly designed than the last, are encircled by the world's largest wooden architectural structure, a towering latticed "Grand Ring" designed as a symbol of unity.

An array of colourful imagery symbolising life, birth and nature adorned a massive screen in a minutes-long video at yesterday's ceremony, with foreign dignitaries and Japan's royal family in attendance.

The ceremony displayed a mix of technology, including its AI-powered "virtual human" master of ceremonies, and tradition that included Japanese *kabuki* dancing and *taiko* drums.

Emperor Naruhito said he hopes Expo 2025 will "serve as an opportunity for people worldwide to respect the lives not only of their own but also of others".

Heightened security was put to the test hours before the ceremony when a

suspicious box was found at the nearby Kyoto train station and reported to police.

A bomb squad was sent to the scene, causing train delays, but it was found that the box contained "foreign-made sweets".

Osaka last hosted the Expo in 1970, when Japan was booming and its technology was the envy of the world. It attracted 64 million people, a record until Shanghai in 2010.

However, Expos have been criticised for their temporary nature, and Osaka's man-made island will be cleared to make way for a casino resort after October.

Opinion polls also show low levels of enthusiasm for the Expo among the public.

So far 8.7 million advance tickets have been sold, below the pre-sales target of 14 million.

Japan is also experiencing a tourism boom, meaning accommodation in Osaka – near hotspot Kyoto and home to the Universal Studios theme park – is often fully booked. – AFP

## Australian judge quits Hong Kong top court

**HONG KONG:** An Australian judge has resigned from Hong Kong's highest court amid a year-long exodus of overseas jurists, following Beijing's imposition of a sweeping national security law on the finance hub.

The city's judiciary said on Friday that Robert French had cut short his term, which was meant to expire in May next year, adding that the court's operation will not be affected.

Hong Kong is a common law jurisdiction separate from mainland China and invites overseas judges to hear cases at its Court of Final Appeal.

Their presence has been seen as a bellwether for the rule of law since the former British colony was handed back to China in 1997.

French said in a statement that the role of overseas judges has "become increasingly anachronistic and arguably cosmetic", according to the *South China Morning Post*.

The judiciary said French "reaffirmed his continued respect for the independence and integrity of all of the judges on the Court of Final Appeal" in his resignation letter.

A Hong Kong government spokesperson "expressed regret" at French's resignation and thanked him for his contributions.

French, a former chief justice of the High Court of Australia, first joined the Hong Kong bench in 2017.

Beijing passed a national security law on the former British colony in 2020, following huge protests the year before. – AFP

## UN seeks US\$275m in aid for quake relief

**NEW YORK:** The United Nations launched an appeal on Friday for US\$275 million (RM1.2 billion) in donations urgently needed to aid more than one million people affected by the recent earthquake that devastated Myanmar.

The new appeal report warns that only around 5% has been funded of an estimated US\$1.1 billion needed for the previous humanitarian aid plan for 5.5 million people.

"With new and increasing needs, additional resources are urgently required," the report said.

The new appeal would target the most vulnerable 1.1 million people, with an emphasis on women and girls "who face higher risks of gender-based violence, food insecurity and lack of access to reproductive health," it said.

According to the UN, more than 6.3 million people are in urgent need of assistance in the areas hardest hit by the magnitude 7.7 earthquake on March 28, which killed more than 3,600 people. – AFP





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**GAZA:** Hundreds of thousands of Gaza City residents have lost their main source of clean water in the past week after supplies from Israel's water utility were cut by the Israeli army's renewed offensive.

Many now have to walk, sometimes for miles, to get water containers filled after the Israeli military's offensive in Gaza City's eastern Shejaia neighbourhood, in the north of the Strip, damaged the pipeline operated by state-owned Mekorot.

"Since morning, I have been waiting for water," said 42-year-old Gaza woman Faten Nassar.

"There are no stations and no trucks coming. There is no water. The crossings are closed. God willing, the war will end safely and peacefully."

Israel's military said in a statement it was in contact with relevant organisations to coordinate the repair of what it called a malfunction of the northern pipeline.

It said a second pipeline supplying southern Gaza was still operating, adding that the water supply system "is based on various water sources, including wells and desalination facilities distributed throughout the Gaza Strip".

Israel ordered Shejaia residents to evacuate last week as it launched an offensive that has seen several districts bombed. The military has said previously it was operating against "terror infrastructure" and had killed a senior leader.

# Gazans struggle to find water

## Clean sources become increasingly scarce

The northern pipeline had been supplying 70% of Gaza City's water since the destruction of most of its wells during the war, municipal authorities say.

"The situation is very difficult and things are getting more complicated, especially when it comes to people's daily lives and their daily water needs, whether for cleaning, disinfecting, and even cooking and drinking," said Husni Mhanna, the municipality's spokesperson.

"We are now living in a real thirst crisis in Gaza City, and we could face a difficult reality in the coming days if the situation remains the same."

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people have become internally displaced by the war, with many making daily trips on foot to fill plastic containers with water from the few wells still functioning in remote areas and even these do not guarantee clean supplies.

Water for drinking, cooking and washing has increasingly become a luxury for Gaza residents following the start of the war between Israel and Hamas.

More than 50,800 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive.

Many residents across the enclave queue for hours to get water containers filled, which usually is not enough for their daily needs.

"I walk long distances. I get tired. I am old. I'm not young to walk around every day to get water," said 64-year-old Adel Al-Hourani.

The Gaza Strip's only natural source of water is the Coastal Aquifer Basin, which runs along the eastern Mediterranean coast from the northern Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, through Gaza and into Israel.

But its salty tap water is depleted, with up to 97% deemed unfit for consumption due to salinity, over-extraction and pollution.

The Palestinian Water Authority said most of its wells had been rendered inoperable. — Reuters



Palestinians fleeing areas in the eastern part of Gaza City. — REUTERS/SPIC

## US can deport student protester, says judge

**JENA:** An immigration judge ruled on Friday that a pro-Palestinian student protester, a US permanent resident detained by the Trump administration, can be deported, his lawyer said.

Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jamee Comans, based in the state of Louisiana, said the federal government had met its burden to prove it had grounds to deport Mahmoud Khalil, according to a statement by his attorney.

"Today, we saw our worst fears play out: Mahmoud was subject to a charade of due process, a flagrant violation of his right to a fair hearing, and a weaponisation of immigration law to suppress dissent. This is not over and our fight continues," said Khalil's attorney Marc van der Hout.

Khalil is not yet scheduled for

deportation and the judge gave his attorneys until April 23 to seek a waiver.

The Columbia University student, a prominent face of the protest movement that erupted in response to Israel's war in Gaza, is married to a US citizen.

He was arrested and taken to Louisiana, sparking protests. Several other foreign student protesters have been similarly targeted.

Comans had ordered the government to spell out its case against Khalil, who the government is seeking to deport on the grounds that his protest activities are a threat to national security.

In a letter to the court, Secretary of State Marco Rubio insisted that Khalil's activism could hurt Washington's foreign policy.

But he declined to argue formally that the Algeria-born Palestinian student was aligned to Hamas, as officials have told journalists.

The undated letter instead referred to Khalil's "participation and roles" in allegedly "anti-Semitic protests and disruptive activities which fosters a hostile environment for Jewish students in the United States".

It made no reference to any alleged crime.

"I would like to quote what you said last time, that there's nothing that's more important to this court than due process rights and fundamental fairness. Clearly what we witnessed today, neither of these principles were present," Khalil told the court according to his legal team. — AFP

## Iran delegation in Oman for nuclear talks

**MUSCAT:** Iran's top diplomat arrived in Oman yesterday and began laying the groundwork for high-stakes nuclear talks with the United States that are unfolding under the threat of military action.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi flew in ahead of the foes' highest-level discussions since an international agreement on Iran's nuclear programme crumbled after US President Donald Trump pulled out during his first term in office.

"Our intention is to reach a fair and honourable agreement from an equal position," Araghchi said in a video.

Iran, weakened by Israel's pummelling of its allies Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, is seeking relief from sanctions hobbling its economy.

Tehran has agreed to the meetings despite baulking at Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign of ramping up sanctions and repeated military threats.

The US, hand-in-glove with Israel, wants to stop Tehran from ever getting close to developing a nuclear bomb.

The two sides are already at odds over the format of the talks, with the US calling them "direct" while the Iranians insist on using an intermediary.

After arriving in Muscat, Araghchi set out Iran's position on the "indirect" talks with Oman's Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, an Iranian statement said.

"Araghchi provided the Omani foreign minister with Iran's basis and positions on the talks for transmission to the other side," Iran's Foreign Ministry said.

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to lead the US team in Oman, which has long played a mediating role between Iran and Western countries.

Witkoff told *The Wall Street Journal* that "our position today" starts with demanding that Iran dismantle its nuclear programme.

"That doesn't mean we're not going to find other ways to find a compromise," he said. — AFP

## Get moving on Ukraine, Putin told

**MOSCOW:** US envoy Steve Witkoff wrapped up his latest talks with Russia's Vladimir Putin on Friday, after President Donald Trump urged his Russian counterpart to move quickly to end what he said was the "senseless war" with Ukraine.

Trump has been pressing Moscow and Kyiv to agree a ceasefire deal but has failed to extract any major concessions from the Kremlin, despite repeated negotiations.

The US leader told NBC News last month he was "pissed off" with his Russian counterpart, while top US diplomat Marco Rubio warned last week that Washington would not tolerate "endless negotiations".

"Russia has to get moving," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform, adding that the conflict, which began in February 2022 when Moscow sent troops into Ukraine, was "senseless" and "should have never happened".

Kyiv and several of its Western allies suspect Russia of stalling the talks.

Trump's post came just before Witkoff's meeting with Putin at the presidential library in Saint Petersburg.

The Kremlin said afterwards only that the meeting had taken place and "focused on various aspects of the Ukrainian settlement".

Spokesman Dmitry Peskov had said earlier that he expected no diplomatic "breakthroughs" from the talks.

He also said "maybe" to a question about whether a possible meeting between Putin and Trump would be discussed. — AFP





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# How much should the average person save in Malaysia?



**T**HE TikTok trend “Money will come back, but memories won’t” has become a cautionary tale for many, particularly Malaysian youths. While it’s tempting to live in the moment and indulge in the latest trends, this mentality has led many to overspend and ignore the importance of long-term financial planning.

With the introduction of Account 3 for KWSP (EPF) in 2024, the savings culture has shifted for members under the age of 55. Previously, funds were split into Account 1 and Account 2 with a 70:30 ratio. Now, Account 3 allows withdrawals at any time, which has led to a worrying trend of young people accessing their savings without thinking about the future.

The Malaysia Financial Planning Council (MFPC) survey revealed that many millennials lack proper money management skills. Alarmingly, those with lower incomes spend 21% to 27% of their earnings on entertainment, which leaves them with little to save. As a result, saving money remains one of the top financial worries for many.

Despite the government’s efforts to improve financial literacy, many young Malaysians are tuning out the advice and continuing to live beyond their means. As time passes, debts accumulate, creating a cycle of financial distress.

HY Tan, founder of DoitDuit on Instagram and a full-time broker, states that personal loans and credit card debt are Malaysia’s leading causes of bankruptcy, with interest rates ranging from 7% to 18%. “Many people take on debt or credit card loans for immediate satisfaction without understanding the long-term impact,” Tan explains.

So, how much should you save to secure your financial future? Here’s how you can build a solid foundation.

#### Set aside 20% monthly

Having closely studied the financial landscape in Malaysia, Tan revealed that we should aim to save at least 20% to 30% of our monthly income. This percentage helps us build a financial cushion for emergencies, invest for long-term growth and work towards our financial goals. “However, the percentage may vary depending on our financial commitments. The key is to maintain a consistent saving habit.”

There is also a common misconception that as long as you save roughly 20% of your salary, it’s fine to overspend the remaining amount. “The biggest mistake is saving whatever is left after spending. The right way is to save before spending, not vice versa. Saving is a habit that requires discipline.”

Tan also suggests that if you lack the discipline to save, consider automating your savings. Set up monthly standing instructions with your bank to transfer a percentage of your income to another account as soon as you receive it.

#### The rule of thumb

Diving deeper into the points and considering the rising cost of living and inflation, Malaysians should ensure they save effectively while managing their everyday expenses. “Start practising the 50/30/20 budgeting rule,” says Tan.

Allocate 50% of your income to needs (rent, food, transport), 30% to wants (entertainment, travel), and 20% to savings and investments.

# How much should the average person save in Malaysia?

*Our growing culture of ‘living for the moment’ is leading to excessive spending, preventing many from securing their financial future*

BY AQILAH NAJWA JAMALUDDIN



Despite the government’s efforts to improve financial literacy, many young Malaysians are tuning out the advice and continuing to live beyond their means.

“Track your expenses weekly, daily and monthly to cut down on unnecessary spending, such as unused subscriptions or lifestyle inflation costs,” advised Tan. Experts also suggest leveraging cashback and rewards, such as using e-wallets or cashback credit cards.

Ensure you pay your credit card bill on time to avoid penalties and extra charges that could financially harm you.

#### Prep for the future

Saving money for future milestones like marriage, buying a car, or purchasing property requires clear goals, discipline and smart planning. By understanding where your money goes each month, you can identify areas where you can cut back, such as reducing dining out, limiting impulse buys or cancelling unused subscriptions.

For this, Tan advises following the rule of thumb before committing to any major purchase or significant life milestone. In Malaysia, the issue of purchasing cars that don’t align with one’s income has been widely discussed.

HY Tan, founder of DoitDuit





For example, youths earning roughly RM3,000 monthly have decided to purchase cars worth RM85,000. This has contributed significantly to the loss of savings and bankruptcy among Malaysians. "The price of your 'dream car' should not exceed your annual salary," pressed Tan.

As for housing, Tan suggests that your monthly instalments should not exceed one-third of your monthly income. "You should also have a minimum savings of 10% of the property price before purchasing a house, even if the property offers a 0% down payment, as there are often hidden costs when buying a property."

Tan also urges people to face reality and avoid the 'lifestyle to impress' mentality. "If you have a partner and are discussing marriage, be transparent about your liabilities and plan your wedding according to your financial means."

#### Turn to tools

Fortunately, plenty of tools do the hard work for you. Banking apps, like Maybank and CIMB, categorise your spending by retailer, so you can see exactly how much you're spending and where.

Touch 'n Go eWallet also offers a range of savings features. The app allows you to track your spending, set savings goals and take advantage of cashback offers to help you save money on everyday purchases. Touch 'n Go also provides savings plans and investment options through its platform.

#### Fidelity's guideline

Fidelity is one of the world's largest and most reputable financial services companies. It offers a wide range of investment, retirement, and wealth management solutions and has long-established guidelines for retirement savings.

According to Fidelity's guidelines, by the time you reach 30, you should have saved an amount equal to your annual salary. For example, if you earn RM50,000 annually, aim to have RM50,000 saved for retirement by the time you turn 30.

Fidelity recommends saving around three times your annual salary by the age of 40. At this stage, you may be more established in your career and family life, so your income might be higher. However, your expenses may also rise due to family, housing and education costs.

As you approach your 50s, Fidelity suggests having saved six times your annual salary for retirement. This is a critical period to maximise your efforts in reaching your retirement goals. With retirement likely on the horizon, it's time to refine your savings strategy and focus on building your portfolio to secure your financial future.

As Malaysia's cost of living rises, it's crucial to be mindful of our spending. Achieving financial security isn't always easy, but it's possible with discipline, careful planning and consistency.

Starting early and making small, thoughtful changes can help build a brighter, more secure financial future.

## The rise of Buy Now, Pay Later in Malaysia

**MALAYSIA** has witnessed a significant shift in consumer spending habits in recent years, particularly with the advent of Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) schemes. These services allow consumers to make purchases immediately and defer payments over a set period, often without interest. While BNPL offers flexibility and convenience, it also raises concerns about potential over-indebtedness among Malaysians.

In the latter half of 2024, BNPL transactions in Malaysia experienced a significant surge, reaching RM7.1 billion, up from RM4.9 billion in the first half of the year. By December 2024, according to Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, the number of active BNPL users had risen to 5.1 million, with the majority aged between 21 and 45, earning less than RM5,000 per month.

"Currently, 12 companies in Malaysia offer BNPL schemes," he recently said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara.

The ease of access to BNPL services, often integrated seamlessly into online shopping platforms, has made it particularly appealing to younger consumers. However, financial experts caution that without proper financial literacy and discipline, users may accumulate debts beyond their means, leading to financial strain.

To navigate BNPL responsibly, consider the following:

#### Distinguish between wants and needs

BNPL services can blur the line between essential purchases and discretionary spending. Exercise discernment by prioritising necessities over non-essential items. This approach helps mitigate impulsive buying behaviours that BNPL schemes might encourage, thereby safeguarding your financial health.

#### Monitor your spending habits

Regularly reviewing your financial activities is essential when utilising BNPL services. Implement a system to track all expenditures, including BNPL repayments, to maintain a clear overview of your financial obligations. This practice aids in identifying spending patterns, allowing you to adjust your budget proactively and avoid potential financial pitfalls.

#### Evaluate your financial capacity

Before committing to a BNPL arrangement, thoroughly assess your financial situation. Analyse your monthly income against existing obligations to determine if you can accommodate additional payments without compromising essential expenses such as housing, utilities, and groceries. This proactive evaluation helps prevent overextension and ensures that BNPL commitments remain manageable within your budget.

#### Understand the terms and conditions

Each BNPL provider operates under specific terms that govern the agreement. It is crucial to meticulously review these conditions, paying close attention to repayment schedules, any applicable fees, interest rates and penalties for late or missed payments. Understanding these details enables you to make informed decisions and avoid unforeseen charges that could escalate your debt.

#### Limit the number of BNPL commitments

Managing multiple BNPL agreements concurrently can lead to financial strain and complicate your ability to track repayments. Restrict the number of active BNPL commitments to maintain control over your finances. This limitation reduces the risk of accumulating unmanageable debt and ensures that repayments are within your financial means.

#### Be aware of late payment consequences

Failing to meet BNPL repayment deadlines can result in late fees, increased interest rates and potential negative impacts on your credit score. To prevent these repercussions, set reminders for due dates and ensure timely payments. Understanding the consequences of late payments underscores the importance of adhering to the agreed-upon repayment schedule.



# What's the point: Memberships, loyalty points and rewards

BY ASHRAF WAHAB

*Saving money and finding bargains are easier than you think*

**I**N our fast-paced urban lives, every penny counts. We often look for ways to stretch our salary and save for the big things in life — like that dream holiday or an upgrade for our home office. While most people focus on traditional savings strategies, one of the smartest and most underrated methods to save money is through memberships, loyalty points and rewards programmes. Let's explore why you should start paying attention to these gems.

## Daily login points: A simple habit

Many companies offer daily login points for their apps or websites, yet it's a perk that often gets overlooked. These points are small, but they add up quickly over time. For instance, platforms like Shopee and Lazada give you a handful of points just for logging in daily. There's also the MAE app from Maybank, which offers cashback for the same action. Let's face it: how hard is it just to log into an app? It takes almost zero calories and takes only a few seconds. It's like getting a small bonus for doing something you're probably doing anyway.

Imagine accumulating these points for a month. If you log in daily and earn about 10 points, you'll have 300 points by the end of the month. Depending on the redemption options available, that could translate to a nice discount on your next purchase — a quick and effortless savings method.

## Vouchers: Instant savings right at checkout

Let's talk about voucher love! Brands often offer vouchers ranging from discount percentages to 'buy one, get one' deals. These vouchers are excellent tools for saving money, especially for frequent shoppers.

For example, if you're a regular at a particular coffee shop and they offer an RM10 off voucher after spending a certain amount, use it! Imagine treating yourself to a fancy monthly latte while saving that cash. Keep an eye out for those limited-time offers; the thrill of saving a bit more might even let you try that new, pricey drink you've been eyeing.

## Membership discounts: It pays to be loyal

Have you ever wandered into a Watson outlet and noticed two separate prices? One is marked "Normal Price" and the other is marked "Member's Price." The member's price is the value you get through memberships.

Many supermarkets and retailers offer membership programmes, where simply signing up can lead to amazing discounts. For example, the Giant or Tesco membership offers weekly discounts to members, leading to considerable savings on essentials.

If you routinely shop for groceries, a simple membership may unlock 5% to 10% discounts on your weekly shop. That doesn't sound like a lot at first, but those savings can significantly increase over a month or a year! Plus, many memberships give you exclusive access to member-sale events, where you can stock up at a fraction of the cost.

## Points redemption: Turn points into cash value

Ever thought about what to do with those accumulated loyalty points? Brands often allow you to redeem them for cash-like rewards. Airlines like AirAsia have an established system where your accumulated points can be used to offset ticket prices. If you're planning a family trip, turning your loyalty points into flight savings can significantly affect your budget.

Let's say you want to fly from Kuala Lumpur to Penang. Through a well-timed redemption of your accumulated points, you could get approximately RM50 off

your ticket. That's a meal at a local restaurant or a taxi ride, something that is always welcome.

## Cashback: The free money you never knew you had

Cashback programmes are fantastic because they give back a percentage of your spending. Credit cards like Maybank's or CIMB's offer great cashback deals on various transactions — from groceries to dining. With a card that gives 5% back on your spending, you could easily pocket a portion of your money.

Let's say over a month, you spend RM2,000 on essentials such as groceries, fuel and dining. With a credit card that offers 5% cashback, you could receive RM100 back as your "thank you" reward for being a devoted customer. There are also services such as Maybank's MAE, which offers cashback when you perform a certain amount of transactions, such as paying your bills through their platform. Let's face it, you would pay your bills anyway, right? Why not pay them through these platforms and get extra benefits? It's that simple.

Furthermore, there are even specific services like Shopback, which offers cashback for each purchase you make through their platform. You can find almost every

category you want to shop for, such as marketplaces, groceries, travel, fashion, electronics, health, beauty, home, baby & kids, financial services and more.

## Making the most out of your loyalty programmes

Okay, so now you're convinced. But how do you make the most out of your loyalty points and rewards programmes? Here are some tips to get you started:

1. **Track your points:** Spend a few minutes a week tracking the points you've accumulated across different platforms. Apps like Stocard can help you keep tabs easily.
2. **Combine programmes:** Some brands allow you to stack legitimate offers — like vouchers with member discounts. Before you checkout, see if you can maximise your savings.
3. **Stay updated:** Sign up for newsletters or alerts from your favourite brands. This way, you'll always be informed of flash sales, double-point days, or limited-time vouchers.
4. **Redeem strategically:** Don't wait until you've accumulated many points before redeeming. Instead, use them for regular shopping to lessen your cash outlay.
5. **Check expiry dates:** Many loyalty points have a shelf life. Watch for expiry notifications so you don't waste free money.

## A hidden opportunity (with a gentle reminder)

So, there you have it! Memberships, loyalty points and rewards programmes are an underrated yet highly effective way to save money. They're straightforward, often require little effort and can lead to significant savings over time. Just remember — while these perks can stretch your ringgit, don't fall into the trap of overspending just to earn points or unlock rewards. Use them wisely and as part of your regular spending, not as an excuse to buy more. By making loyalty programmes a smart part of your shopping habits, you can ensure your hard-earned money goes further. Happy saving!





**M**AGNESIUM often gets overshadowed by flashier nutrients like Vitamin C or iron, but this essential mineral plays a key role in over 300 enzyme functions in the body. From managing stress and supporting muscle function to maintaining heart health and stabilising blood sugar, magnesium is a quiet hero in our daily well-being.

While nuts, seeds and leafy greens are famous for magnesium, many people overlook fruits as a source. The good news? There are delicious fruits, both local and imported, that deliver a decent magnesium boost with every bite. Here are five you'll want to add to your fruit basket, plus some easy ways to enjoy them.

Our bodies don't produce magnesium naturally, so we need it from our diet. And although the daily recommended intake for adults ranges from 310mg to 420mg, many people fall short – especially with processed foods taking over our plates.

Low magnesium levels can lead to fatigue, muscle cramps, poor sleep and even mood swings. Over time, it may contribute to more serious health issues such as high blood pressure, heart disease or Type 2 diabetes.

According to several studies, tropical countries like Malaysia may have slightly better magnesium intake due to the abundance of fresh produce. But it's still worth knowing which fruits are doing the heavy lifting.

While magnesium supplements are available, whole foods like fruits provide not just magnesium but fibre, hydration and other vital nutrients in a form your body can absorb easily. Plus, there's no side effect of "overdosing" through natural fruits – as your body regulates what it doesn't need.

So before reaching for pills, consider if your fruit intake could use a refresh.

With guavas from your local pasar malam, papayas from your neighbourhood grocer and the occasional indulgence in avocados or figs, you'll give your body the support it needs without breaking the bank. Healthy doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes, it's just a matter of picking the right fruit.



Papayas are a tropical staple that supports digestion and magnesium intake.



Creamy and versatile, avocados are a delicious way to up your nutrient game.



Dried figs make a sweet, magnesium-rich treat perfect for snacking or salads.

## Magnificent magnesium: 5 fruits that pack a healthy punch

*Feeling tired or crampy for no good reason? Your body could be calling out for magnesium, a mighty mineral hiding in some of the tastiest fruits you'll find in our local markets*



Bananas are a budget-friendly, magnesium-packed snack for any time of day.



Local guavas bring crunch, flavour and essential minerals to your diet.

### Bananas: The everyday winner

Let's start with a classic. Bananas are readily available across Malaysia and often the first fruit that comes to mind post-workout – and with good reason. A medium-sized banana provides around 32mg of magnesium, plus potassium, Vitamin B6 and fibre.

**How to eat it:** Enjoy it raw, sliced on toast with peanut butter, blended into smoothies or baked into muffins.

### Guavas: Local powerhouses

Often seen at roadside stalls or sliced up with a little sprinkle of asam boi, guavas are a magnesium-rich local gem. One raw guava contains about 36mg of magnesium and a hefty dose of Vitamin C and antioxidants.

**How to eat it:** Best enjoyed raw with a pinch of salt or chili powder, or juiced fresh (just skip the sugar).

### Papayas: Digestive buddies

Another tropical wonder is that papayas are gentle on the stomach and generous in nutrients. One medium slice gives you about 30mg of magnesium. The enzymes help with digestion, making this a great option after a heavy meal.

**How to eat it:** Serve chilled with a squeeze of lime, blend into breakfast bowls or pair with yogurt.

### Avocados: The creamy contender

While technically a fruit, avocados feel like they belong in their own category. A single avocado offers a whopping 58mg of magnesium, along with healthy fats and fibre. Though not native, locally grown avocados are increasingly available in Cameron Highlands and Sabah.

**How to eat it:** Mashed on toast, sliced in salads, turned into guacamole or even blended into smoothies.

### Figs: The imported delight

Fresh figs aren't common, but they're worth grabbing when in season (or found dried). Four dried figs can offer around 50mg of magnesium. Figs also bring calcium, iron and a natural sweetness that curbs dessert cravings.

**How to eat it:** Add chopped dried figs to oats or salads or eat as a midday snack with nuts.

## Ways to work magnesium fruits into your diet

- **Mix it up:** A banana-papaya smoothie is both hydrating and magnesium-rich.
- **Prep snack boxes:** Pre-slice guava and papaya for easy snacking on busy days.
- **Boost breakfast:** Add chopped figs or avocado slices to your toast or oats.
- **Salad it up:** Combine guava and avocado with lime juice and a dash of salt for a tropical salad.
- **Keep it simple:** Sometimes, just eating the fruit as it is can be the easiest way to enjoy the benefits.



# Four stylish new hotels in Malaysia for your next escape

**S**INCE the world began recovering from the pandemic, Malaysia's hospitality and tourism sector has experienced a remarkable surge. A fresh wave of stylish hotels and resorts is emerging, appealing to a discerning clientele, including international travellers and local enthusiasts.

Each establishment showcases its unique character, offering a captivating blend of elegance, comfort and charm. This year is no different, with Kuala Lumpur and Penang at the forefront of redefining the guest experience. These properties offer visually stunning retreats with exceptional service, conveniently located near the country's iconic landmarks and vibrant attractions.

Here is a selection of newly launched hotels, each promising a stay as memorable as the destinations.

## M Social Resort, Penang

Upscale lifestyle brand M Social, part of Millennium Hotels and Resorts (MHR), has officially launched M Social Resort Penang, marking its exciting entry onto the island. The resort, formerly known as Copthorne Orchid Hotel Penang, will welcome guests in phases starting on 1 March 2025. This marks the brand's seventh property, offering 318 stylish rooms and suites across two buildings. It also features an outdoor pool and a 24-hour gym.

Located in the coastal suburb of Tanjung Bungah, the resort offers stunning views and a tranquil setting. Tanjung Bungah, known as "Flower Cape 111" in Malay, blends natural beauty with Penang's cultural heritage, placing guests near attractions like Gurney Plaza, Gurney Paragon Mall and the iconic Penang street art.

The resort's design fuses Penang's cultural heritage with modern elegance. Inspired by Peranakan shop-houses, it incorporates traditional Chinese, Malay and European influences, creating a unique cultural experience. Vibrant colours and intricate patterns pay homage to Penang's rich traditions and stunning landscapes.

M Social Resort Penang features two wings, the Sunset Bay Wing and the Azure Wing, offering spectacular views and personalised experiences. The resort also boasts a signature restaurant, Beast and Butterflies, which serves authentic Peranakan and international dishes.



## The Millen, Penang

A new gem in Penang's hospitality scene, The Millen is located on the island's prestigious Millionaire's Row. As part of the distinguished Autograph Collection, this luxury hotel blends heritage with modern elegance, reflecting Penang's rich cultural history while offering contemporary comforts.

With 146 stylish rooms, the hotel features floor-to-ceiling windows, dual vanity sinks, and elegant marble interiors that strike the perfect balance between beauty and practicality. It is ideally situated near popular attractions such as the Penang Botanic Gardens and Gurney Drive, making it an excellent choice for exploring the island's vibrant culture.

Guests can indulge in various dining experiences, including Blacklinen Restaurant, renowned for its premium steaks, and Lili, which offers authentic Penang flavours. For a more relaxed experience, Good Society serves tea alongside The Millen Espresso, a unique artisanal coffee blend created in collaboration with a local roaster.

For those seeking a more tranquil experience, the Nut&Meg Wellness Spa provides the perfect space for relaxation and rejuvenation.



## Hyatt Centric City Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Located on Jalan Sultan Ismail, the newly opened Hyatt Centric City Centre Kuala Lumpur features a 312-room hotel, ideally situated near iconic landmarks such as Pavilion Kuala Lumpur and the Petronas Twin Towers. Focused on offering immersive experiences, the hotel seamlessly blends modern comfort with local cultural influences across its 21 floors.

The design of Hyatt Centric pays homage to Kuala Lumpur's tin-mining history, with interiors created by Silverfox Studios. The rooms boast warm tones and bold lines, while the public spaces combine industrial elements with vibrant pops of colour. The hotel also showcases custom artwork by Malaysian graffiti artist Jeff, adding a distinctive local flair to the space.

The rooftop features an open-air infinity saltwater pool with breathtaking city skyline views. Next to the pool is @21, a stylish spot offering craft cocktails. On Level 19, guests can indulge in exquisite Italian cuisine at IL Forno, while those craving Indian tandoori dishes can head to TanBuri for a perfect dining experience.

## AC Hotel by Marriott Ipoh

AC Hotel by Marriott Ipoh officially opened its doors on 18 January 2025, offering a stylish blend of contemporary design and cultural elements. Located on Jalan Sultan Abdul Jalil near the popular Ipoh Parade, the hotel provides the perfect base for exploring the capital of Perak.

The hotel features various facilities designed for comfort and convenience. Guests can enjoy all-day dining at AC Kitchen, indulge in traditional dim sum at Luk Yu Tea House, or unwind with signature cocktails at AC Lounge. For those with a creative edge, Studio 88 offers recording studios that provide a unique experience.

The hotel's guestrooms cater to various needs, with options ranging from Prime Deluxe King and Premium Twin rooms to the more spacious Junior Suites and AC Suites. Room sizes range from 26 to 65 square metres, ensuring ample space for relaxation and work.

Whether you are visiting Ipoh for leisure or business, the AC Hotel by Marriott Ipoh offers a modern and comfortable stay, combining elegance with the city's cultural charm.





# The best gear to use for vlogging in 2025

*Whether you're a seasoned pro or just dipping your toes into video content creation, knowing the right tools is essential*

## DJI Pocket 3: Small but mighty

First on our list is the DJI Pocket 3, a compact camera perfect for spontaneous moments. Weighing just a few hundred grams, this pocket-sized powerhouse fits easily into your bag or even your pocket. The DJI Pocket 3 boasts a stunning 4K video resolution and 60fps recording, ensuring your footage looks crisp and professional.

Notable features include a 1/1.7-inch sensor and improved low-light performance, allowing you to capture stunning visuals even during evening outings or in dimly lit environments. Plus, with its built-in gimbal technology, you can say goodbye to shaky footage. Whether you're vlogging during a weekend getaway or capturing a busy city landscape, the DJI Pocket 3 gives you smooth, steady shots.

The camera also features a new smart tracking function, making it easier than ever to keep your face in focus while you move around. And let's not forget, the intuitive touchscreen simplifies navigation and allows you to adjust settings on the go. The DJI Pocket 3 is a game-changer for anyone who prioritises portability without compromising performance.



## Joby GorillaPod 3K: Flexibility and stability

Let's talk about the Joby GorillaPod 3K. This tripod is not just any regular stand; it's a testament to flexibility and stability. Featuring flexible legs that can wrap around branches, poles, or fences, the GorillaPod allows you to capture unique angles that traditional tripods can't offer. Whether you're filming a beauty tutorial in your apartment or showcasing urban life in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, the versatility of this tripod enables you to get creative.

The GorillaPod can support cameras weighing up to 3 kilograms, making it suitable for everything from your smartphone to heavier setups. Plus, its lightweight design means you can carry it wherever you go. If you've ever struggled to find the perfect spot to set up your camera, the flexibility of the Joby GorillaPod will revolutionise your vlogging experience.



## Insta360 GO 3S: The ultimate action vlogs

Next is the Insta360 GO 3S, a tiny action camera that defies expectations. This tool is for you if you're looking for flexibility and creativity in your vlogs. The GO 3S is less than the size of your palm, making it incredibly easy to mount or carry around. It captures high-quality 2.7K video and features impressive stabilisation, ensuring that your adventure footage remains steady no matter how bumpy the ride.

What sets the GO 3S apart is its versatility. You can attach it to almost anything – from your skateboard to your dog's collar! This means you can capture all angles of your adventure without any hassle. The camera also has a unique "hyper-lapse" mode, allowing you to create captivating time-lapse videos that transform mundane scenes into eye-catching clips.

If you want to be spicy, the Insta360 app transforms your footage into a 360-degree video for that immersive experience. Talk about next-level content! Whether you're exploring Malaysia's pristine beaches or hiking up to breathtaking hilltops, the Insta360 GO 3S ensures every moment is captured creatively and dynamically.



## DJI Neo: The easiest drone to use

If you've considered taking your vlogging to a new level, you might need a small, easy-to-use drone. For this purpose, look no further than the DJI Neo. The camera on this 'aerial videographer' is designed for 360-degree vlogging, so this gear is essential if you want to immerse your audience in your adventures. Imagine being able to capture the entire environment around you at once – now that's engaging!

The DJI Neo shoots in stunning 5.7K resolution and offers a seamless, immersive experience with advanced stabilisation and focus tracking features. Whether at a bustling market in Kuala Lumpur or filming an idyllic sunset in Langkawi, every angle is covered with exceptional clarity.

What sets it apart from other drones (other than its compact size) is that it can effortlessly take off and land on your palm without a remote controller. Simply press the mode button on Neo, select one of the many cool shooting modes and Neo will automatically do the rest to capture impressive footage.



## Rode Wireless GO II: Clear sound matters

Vlogging is all about storytelling, and crisp and clear audio is vital to this process. Enter the Rode Wireless GO II, a compact wireless microphone system ideal for vlogging. This two-channel wireless mic setup enables you to record dialogues or interviews with superior audio quality, whether you're conducting a street interview or chatting with friends while exploring the city.

The transmitter, which doubles as a stand-alone microphone, gives you immense flexibility in audio recording. The built-in rechargeable battery lasts up to seven hours – perfect for all-day vlogging sessions. Plus, you can connect multiple receivers to enhance your collaborations without complicated setups.

Another exciting feature of the Rode Wireless GO II is its ability to capture wind noise. The advanced filtering algorithms will ensure that the sounds of bustling streets or the gentle breeze don't drown out your voice. When you're presenting your vlog while wandering through the city's busy streets, every word will be heard as clearly as if you were both sitting in a quiet café.



# Myth busted: Common falsehoods people still believe

**I**N today's age of social media and instant information, myths and misinformation spread like wildfire, shaping beliefs and influencing decisions. But what if everything you thought you knew was wrong? Let's set the record straight on five widely believed myths.

**MYTH 1: You need to drink eight glasses of water daily**

**THE TRUTH:** Foods and beverages contribute to overall fluid intake

It is a common belief that you must drink 6-8 glasses of water daily. Water is undoubtedly essential for life. No scientific evidence shows how many litres of water a human body needs per day, as hydration varies by individual, is influenced by body condition, and more.

According to the University of Michigan, in 1945, the U.S. Food and Nutrition Board recommended that people drink 2.5 litres (84.5 ounces) daily. Most who read this ignored the following sentence: "Most of this quantity is contained in prepared foods." Prepared foods mean all food contains water, especially vegetables and fruits.

**Evidence:** Our bodies absorb 20% of daily fluid intake from our food consumption, and many fruits and vegetables, such as watermelon and spinach, are almost 100% water by weight.



**MYTH 2: The more megapixels, the better the quality of a camera**

**THE TRUTH:** Determining a camera's quality takes more than just a megapixel count

Camera advertisements primarily put forward the countless megapixels, marking it as a starstruck wonder for an improved version of a previous model. Little do we know, this is merely a marketing ploy, and there are other factors to consider while looking for a high-quality camera.

Lens quality, sensor size and the purpose of the camera usage remain the most critical factors in determining the quality of a camera. More megapixels mean more details and are noticeable on larger prints, but image quality is not guaranteed.

**Evidence:** The quality of a camera is decisively influenced by the sensor and lens quality, not only by its megapixel resolution. The result will still be bad if a lousy lens is used on a high-megapixel camera.



**MYTH 4: Letting your car idle to warm up on a cold day is good for the engine**

**THE TRUTH:** It is unnecessary to let your car idle to warm up the engine

People believe that allowing their car to idle for an extended period before driving is necessary to warm up the engine and prevent damage. Prolonged idling for modern automobiles with electronic fuel injection is typically unnecessary and harmful. Start your vehicle and begin driving it slowly. As a result, the engine and other fluids can warm up more rapidly and effectively under mild load.

**Evidence:** Carlist indicates the negative impacts of excessive idling on engine wear and fuel efficiency, and many modern car manuals recommend against extended idling.



**MYTH 3: Ostriches bury their heads in the sand when scared**

**THE TRUTH:** Ostriches engage in this action to eat or lie down

The image of the head-burying ostrich is so ingrained in popular culture that it is often accepted as fact without question. The actual behaviours - dust bathing, egg tending, listening for predators - are less dramatic and widely known. The myth likely arose from a Roman author, Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD), who wrote that the ostrich instinctively buries its head when in terror. This misconception is associated extensively with the idiom 'bury its head in the sand'.

**Evidence:** Misinterpretations of these behaviours are oftentimes made by observers who do not fully understand ostrich habits. Instead, ostriches do this with their head to the horizon when laying down or feeding.



**MYTH 5: Bulls are enraged by the colour red**

**THE TRUTH:** Bulls charge whenever they feel provoked

Bulls, like most cattle, are essentially red-green colorblind. The aggressive whipping movement of the matador's cape provokes the charge, not its colour. Flailing the cape multiple times in the bull's direction by the matador, or the leading performer in a bullfight, irritates the bull and ultimately switches its 'fight or flight' response. The adrenal gland releases the hormone adrenaline during this response to prime the body for survival. Many mistakenly believe it is triggered by red. Rather than that, the act of provocation starts the fight in the bull.

**Evidence:** Experiments using capes of different colors have shown that bulls react to movement regardless of the colour.

# Kylie Minogue: The pop icon who endures

BY NICKEY ROSS

**I**N today's modern pop landscape, going viral online is the equivalent of striking gold, often turning lesser-known artists into household names. But in the case of pop icon Kylie Minogue, going viral with her 2023 hit *Padam Padam* didn't just bring about a renewed resurgence. It proved that female pop stars over the age of 50 could still dominate the industry.

It's been 37 years since the release of her first single, a cover of Little Eva's *The Loco-Motion* that rose to the top of the charts in 1988. In a recent BBC Eras interview, she mentioned that she hadn't decided to pursue music – she decided to record several music demos to land more acting roles since she was already popular as Charlene on the Australian soap opera, *Neighbours*.

Throughout her illustrious career, Kylie has faced and conquered numerous hurdles. When she first started, she was pejoratively referred to as the singing budgee by critics who said she wouldn't last. Naysayers often implied that she lacked musical depth or artistic control and was merely a product of the pop machine, singing whatever was handed to her.

## The arduous road to artistic credibility

She desired more creative freedom as the nineties progressed, looking to experiment and challenge herself, which resulted in her 1997 album *Impossible Princess*. The album embraced then-leftfield genres such as drum-and-bass, trip-hop and even a tinge of Britpop, a total departure from the sunny bubblegum pop everyone was used to.

This became her most misunderstood body of work as critics dubbed her Indie Kylie, considering her a fraud as they felt the output wasn't authentic to her. The album was poorly received and critics at the time said that her career was over, which caused her to consider retiring. It's worth noting that retrospective reviews of the album were positive, as contemporary music critics commended her daringness to deviate from her pop world and diversify her artistry.

Then came the noughties, when she released the Paula Abdul-penned *Spinning Around*, a disco-pop number that marked her return to the top of the charts. Its follow-up album *Fever*, became her most commercially successful album, with the gargantuan *Can't Get You Out Of My Head* dominating the airwaves, cementing her status as a pop juggernaut while proving that she was a musical force to be reckoned with.

## The life-altering diagnosis

In 2005, while on her *Showgirl* tour, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The remaining tour dates, including a headlining slot at the Glastonbury music festival were immediately cancelled as she underwent several months of treatment.

Her commitment to her fans became more evident despite potentially facing mortality. Her sister Dannii tearfully recalled that period in a *60 Minutes Australia* episode last year, saying that Kylie's sole focus was to resume the tour as soon as possible, even as her family wanted her to take a step back so she could completely recover.

She kept her word and resumed the tour in late 2006 under a new title: *Showgirl Homecoming*. Ever dedicated to expanding her craft, she even returned with her tenth studio album the following year, *X*. From there onwards, it was business as usual as Kylie continued to release more albums – *Aphrodite*, *Kiss Me Once*, *Kylie Christmas* and *Golden* while embarking on a string of tours as well as a few acting roles.

Kylie reached another personal and professional triumph in 2019 – she headlined the year's Glastonbury festival, having had to cancel 14 years prior due to her ill health. She regarded the set as one of the most important performances she's ever done. It seemed like the pinnacle of her career at the time, but in true Kylie fashion, she kept going.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, she released her fifteenth studio album, *Disco* while simultaneously releasing her *Kylie Minogue Wines* range. *Disco* topped the charts in the UK (arguably her biggest market) and brought her an unprecedented achievement: it made her the first female artist in the UK to have a number-one album across five consecutive decades.

## A rare artistic revival

Little did Kylie know that her next era was about to usher in another Minogue renaissance. In May of 2023, she put out the bouncy electropop number *Padam Padam* and it quickly began to go viral on social media, with fans dubbing the phenomenon a *Padamic*. The single allowed Kylie to join the likes of Diana Ross and Cher as one of four women artists with a UK top ten hit in each of the last five decades. What was most interesting about the song's success was not its virality but how it sparked conversations about older female musicians and ageism.

Despite gaining a new generation of younger fans who discovered it on TikTok around the world, fans in the UK noticed that the song lacked airplay on their local stations, namely BBC's Radio 1. Many took to social media to express their confusion and frustration, with some even accusing the station of ageism and sexism – resulting in the station issuing a statement in response while subsequently playlisting the track.

The *Padamic* didn't stop there – she took home her second *Grammy* win last year for Best Pop Dance Recording, another rare feat for a female artist past her fifties. While on the red carpet at last year's event, she said that the single's success and its 2023 parent album *Tension* has further inspired her, fueling her desire to do more.

## ... and she's far from finished

**SHE** released her seventeenth album, *Tension II* in October 2024 and is currently travelling the world with her *Tension* tour, having just wrapped its Asian leg. Simultaneously, the soon-to-be 57 year-old also returned to the small screen with a role as herself on the brand new Netflix mystery series *The Residence*.

With the ever-shifting entertainment and music industry that seems to value social media attention, sensationalism and even controversy to sell or be relevant, Kylie Minogue has effortlessly shown that her star power is rooted in endurance. When a CBS interviewer asked her in 2023 how long she planned to continue her career, she responded, "Ask my knees! Ask my knees, which have been stomping on stages for years and years and years in stupid high heels!"

Is this longevity attributed to her sheer determination, or is she just lucky, lucky, lucky? The answer remains to be seen. However, it's clear as day that she has no plans of slowing down, as the world continues to bear witness to what she will do next.

**I'm sure that love exists, even infinite, eternal love.**

Kylie Minogue





ON SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

## X theSunday Special

**A**PRIL ushers in a fresh beginning and even better scents. As we all begin to feel a bit lethargic after the first quarter of the year, it's the perfect time to rejuvenate our spirits with a selection of new perfumes. To top it off, many brands embrace the season with vibrant floral and refreshing scents.



### Guerlain, Rosa Verde

Guided by emotion and a timeless homage to the purity of crystal-clear waters, Rosa Verde has officially become part of Guerlain's prestigious perfume collection. Crafted by Guerlain perfumer Daphne Jelk, this fragrance celebrates the feel-good spirit embodied by the modern muse.

At its heart, Rosa Verde unfolds with the essence of spring's most captivating florals. The rose takes centre stage, delicately entwined with a refreshing aquatic note. A splash of cucumber extract evokes the sensation of skin quenched by the sun's warmth, while the touch of mint adds a subtle yet invigorating freshness.

As it settles, the fragrance evolves gracefully on the skin, unveiling a soft, ethereal white musk accord – an exquisite finale to a scent that is as timeless as fresh.

*Guerlain Rosa Verde is now available at Guerlain The Exchange TRX Ultimate Boutique.*

## Fresh scents for a fresh start

*A list of perfect olfactory escapes for a revitalising season awakening*



### Jo Malone, Beach Blossom

Jo Malone refreshingly departs from its signature floral scents this season, embracing the captivating essence of coastal air instead. The limited edition offers something far beyond the usual salty, tropical fruits typically associated with beach-themed fragrances.

A sharp burst of lime notes will catch you by surprise, delivering a rejuvenating freshness perfect for the season. As the fragrance develops, a crisp, invigorating hint of mint cuts through like a splash of cold water under the scorching sun. Just when you think it couldn't get any better, the warmth of tonka bean envelops you, leaving a comforting yet refreshing final note that lingers throughout the day.

*Jo Malone Beach Blossom is available at Jo Malone boutiques nationwide.*

### Le Labo, Eucalyptus 20

Inspired by the tranquil embrace of nature and the solitude of mindfulness, Le Labo welcomed the latest addition to its iconic Classic Collection: Eucalyptus 20. One spray will whisk you away to a peaceful woodland, providing a refreshing escape from city life's vibrant hustle and bustle.

As the name suggests, eucalyptus's fresh, invigorating scent takes centre stage in this crystal-clear bottle, delicately balanced with a whisper of cedarwood and softened by the leathery warmth of labdanum. Grounded in musk and frankincense, this new creation evokes a profound sense of stillness amidst the vastness of nature. Eucalyptus 20 is more than a fragrance. It's an invitation to disconnect, embrace the untamed and experience a soothing calmness that lingers on the wearer.

*Le Labo Eucalyptus 20 is now available at Le Labo KLCC and Le Labo Pavilion KL.*



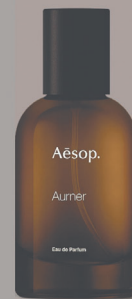
### Lancôme, Idôle Power L'Eau de Parfum Intense

Unleashing the vibrant force of pink, Lancôme introduces Idôle Power L'Eau de Parfum Intense, a fragrance destined to redefine bold femininity. This scent is a declaration of strength, inviting women to embrace their magnetic energy, seize the moment and radiate confidence from the first spritz.

At its heart, Idôle Power combines the seductive charm of rose with the smooth warmth of sandalwood. The standout Pomarose features a delightful mix of rose and fruity apple notes that awaken the senses. As the fragrance develops, the heart reveals a gentle blend of Damascena rose petals, mingling with pure jasmine and rosewater essence, creating an atmosphere of effortless sophistication.

The base enriches the scent with the depth of sandalwood, musk and Ambroxif, leaving a strong, memorable trail that resonates like a personal signature.

*Lancôme Idôle Power L'Eau De Parfum Intense is available at all Lancôme boutiques across Malaysia.*



### Aesop, Aurner Eau de Parfum

Imagine smelling like a creamy softness, with a zesty touch of citrus and a subtle green freshness. This is the essence of the magnolia leaf. Staying true to its commitment to crafting distinctive and luxurious blends, Aesop has launched the Aurner Eau de Parfum.

This unisex fragrance, suitable for anyone, revolves around the enchanting aroma of magnolia leaf, which harmonises with a subtle note of Roman chamomile, resulting in a captivating scent for the wearer.

The name "Aurner" comes from the Anglo-Norman word meaning "to be adorned or embellished with flowers," reflecting the fragrance's floral-inspired elegance. Created in collaboration with Aesop's long-time perfumer Céline Barel, Aurner is a celebration of bold, individualistic scent. If you're in search of a scent that offers freshness while steering clear of typical floral notes, this one is an excellent option.

*Aesop Aurner Eau de Parfum is available at all Aesop boutiques across Malaysia.*

# Falling in love with trail running

*Zukhairi Ahmad shares his passion for the sport and hopes to inspire others*

BY ASHRAF WAHAB

**I**N a bustling urban landscape like Kuala Lumpur, many people take to the pavement for their daily runs. But as the sun rises higher and temperatures climb, it may be time to consider a change: trail running.

This invigorating and liberating sport offers not just physical challenges but an enthralling connection with nature. Zukhairi Ahmad, a prominent figure in Malaysia's trail running scene, shares his journey and insights into what makes trail running more than just a way to stay fit – it's a means of personal evolution.

**A journey from the ring to the trail**  
Zukhairi's athletic background involves serious combat sports, where he trained as a professional Muay Thai fighter. Since 2008, he has made a name for himself in the running world, initially dabbling in road running before discovering the rugged charm of trail challenges.

His transition is an inspiring story for anyone considering a new path in their fitness journey. "I was drawn to trail running because of the challenge and the connection with nature," he revealed.

What captivated him was the way trail running offered a remarkably different experience from traditional running. The allure lies in the unwritten obstacles and the raw beauty of nature. "Coming from a combat sports background, I've always valued resilience and adaptability – two key aspects of trail running. The ever-changing terrain and the mental toughness required felt like an extension of my training philosophy."

## The transformational moment

Every trail runner has that defining moment, that experience that solidifies their passion for the sport. For Zukhairi, this happened during one particular moment when daylight was just creeping in.

"During one of my early trail runs, I reached a peak just as the sun was rising," he recalls. "It wasn't about the speed or the distance; it was about feeling present, pushing past limits and realising that trail running isn't just a sport. It's an experience! That was when I knew I wanted to explore it further."

## Discovering Malaysia's best trails

Malaysia boasts a stunning array of trails and Zukhairi has explored many of them. His favourites tell their own stories, each filled with unique challenges and breathtaking sights.

Take Gunung Nuang, for instance, a breathtaking test of endurance featuring steep inclines and peaceful river cross-

**“It wasn't about the speed or the distance; it was about feeling present, pushing past limits and realising that trail running isn't just a sport. It's an experience.”**

Zukhairi Ahmad

ings. There's also Cameron Highlands, where the high-altitude paths provide a spectacular backdrop with lush greenery. Bukit Kiara in Kuala Lumpur is a go-to spot for many local runners, combining flowing trails with an elevation that keeps the adrenaline pumping.

However, these trails come with their challenges. Zukhairi recalls an unforgettable experience during his self-supported trail run when he miscalculated the difficulty and ran out of water. "It was a real test of mental strength and decision-making. That run taught me the importance of preparation and respecting the unpredictability of nature," he recalls.

Another moment was at the Rinjani Ultra Trail in Indonesia. "I wasn't fully prepared for the high altitude and I was hit by Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). The dizziness, nausea and headache were intense."

## The intersection of physical and mental well-being

Besides the breathtaking views and the thrill of adventure, trail running is a beneficial exercise for both body and mind. "The uneven terrain forces you to engage stabilising muscles, reducing the risk of overuse injuries common in road running. Plus, the softer ground is easier on the joints," he points out.

Mentally, the grounding effect of running in nature is profound. He highlights that it fosters patience and teaches runners to stay present, effectively offering a reset from the overwhelming routines of urban life. Whether navigating technical paths or tackling steep inclines, the sweet

spot of focus and resilience attained during a trail run often transcends the physical act itself, creating a meditative experience.

## Challenges along the way

But it's not all sunshine and clear skies. Trail runners like Zukhairi face common challenges that require clever strategies to conquer. The unpredictable terrain and weather necessitate adaptability, while long runs can bring about mental fatigue. Zukhairi breaks down those daunting stretches into manageable sections, anchoring his focus on the moment rather than the miles ahead.

Preparation is key. Before heading into the wild, Zukhairi emphasises the importance of a well-planned training regimen that includes strength training for stability, studying course routes, and ensuring hydration and nutrition strategies suit the demands of both the environment and the distance.

## Essential gear for trail running

The right gear often bolsters a good running experience. Zukhairi recommends several must-haves for anyone embarking on a trail-running adventure in Malaysia's diverse terrain. Trail shoes provide the grip needed for both wet and rocky trails, while a hydration vest ensures runners remain adequately fueled. He also suggests lightweight gear like a rain jacket to adapt to sudden weather changes. He recommends salt tablets or gels to replenish electrolytes in the humid conditions common throughout the region.

## Finding community in trail running

With social connections being vital in any sport, Zukhairi encourages aspiring trail runners to find a community. "Start by joining established communities for structured training and support," he says. "You can train with experienced runners and learn the ropes."

"Social media is also a great way to discover local trail running communities; just reach out, show up consistently and

be open to learning. The best way to become part of a running family is to lace up, hit the trails and share the journey." Zukhairi is active on social media, such as Instagram and can be reached at the @zukhviri account.

## Inspiring the next generation of trail runners

The allure of global trail running currently beckons Zukhairi as he sets his sights on some of the world's most esteemed races, including the Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc and the Ultra-Trail Mt. Fuji. These endeavours test the limits of endurance, challenging both body and mind and igniting his passion for adventure.

However, his ambitions extend beyond personal accolades as Zukhairi strides forward in his career – holding positions such as ASICS Malaysia Trail Coach, Garmin Trail Athlete and Marmot Sports Athlete. "My goal is to develop stronger, more resilient trail runners through structured strength and conditioning training. Many runners underestimate the importance of strength work, but it's a game-changer, especially for the demands of trail running. I want to bridge that gap by educating and guiding runners toward smarter, injury-free performance."

## Embrace the journey

So, if you find yourself yearning for a change or simply a breath of fresh air amidst your routine, trail running could be the journey you need. Zukhairi's advice resonates here: "Don't overthink it – just start".

The beauty of trail running lies in exploration, learning and enjoying every step taken in nature's realm. Equip yourself well, respect the trails and most importantly, aim to have fun. As Zukhairi demonstrates, this sport is more than just about running; it's about embracing the journey that life presents.

The next time you lace up your shoes, ask yourself: Why not take a detour from the city and chase the horizon? The trails await and there's a wild adventure just around the bend.



Malaysia boasts a stunning array of trails, and Zukhairi (pic) has explored many of them.



**M**ALAYSIA'S culinary landscape is a vibrant tapestry woven from centuries of cultural exchanges, indigenous traditions and evolving global influences. As the nation strides into the 21st century, its food scene is undergoing significant transformations driven by globalisation, health consciousness and sustainability concerns. Amid these shifts, traditional cooking methods and ingredients are making a strong comeback, helping to preserve Malaysia's rich culinary heritage.

Globalisation has ushered in an era where culinary boundaries are increasingly blurred. In Malaysia, this phenomenon is evident in the burgeoning popularity of international cuisines, from Japanese sushi bars to Western fast-food chains. A study published in *Environment-Behaviour Proceedings Journal* examining the Malay centennial generation's dietary habits revealed a strong inclination toward foreign foods, influenced by factors such as novelty, social media exposure and the desire for diverse dining experiences. However, this study highlighted that traditional Malay cuisine remains central in their diets, emphasising a balance between embracing global flavours and preserving local food traditions.

#### Reshaping eating habits

Growing awareness of health and nutrition is prompting Malaysians to reassess their eating habits. Changes in the local diet, such as a higher intake of refined grains and added sugars, have raised health concerns. As a result, there is increasing demand for healthier food choices and a renewed interest in traditional dietary practices.

Sustainability has also become a pivotal concern in Malaysia's food industry. Environmental challenges, including climate change, pose significant threats to food security. Malaysia's food systems are critically vulnerable to environmental changes, necessitating urgent reforms to adapt, mitigate and repair the adverse effects, thereby ensuring a healthier population and planet.

#### Revival of traditional cooking methods and ingredients

In response to the homogenising effects of globalisation and the push for healthier diets, there's a renewed interest in traditional Malaysian cooking techniques and indigenous ingredients. Malaysian culinary practices encompass a diverse range of methods, including steaming,



Global influences may shape our diets, but local flavours remain at the heart of Malaysian cuisine.

## Malaysia's changing food landscape

*Preserving heritage while embracing change, the future of local cuisine is a seamless fusion of the past and present*



As Malaysia's food scene evolves, one thing remains constant – our love for bold flavours and rich traditions.

grilling and baking, each imparting unique flavours and textures to dishes. These age-old techniques are being re-explored and celebrated, ensuring that the essence of Malaysian cuisine endures.

Furthermore, traditional *kuih* (confectioneries) showcase the ingenious use of local ingredients such as rice, coconut and palm sugar. These delicacies not only offer a taste of Malaysia's rich culinary heritage but also align with contemporary preferences for natural and minimally processed foods.

Several local chefs and food establishments are at the forefront of integrating modern tastes with traditional Malaysian cuisine. For instance, ATAS a modern Malaysian eatery in Kuala

Lumpur, reinterprets familiar flavours with contemporary flair, offering dishes that pay homage to indigenous produce while appealing to modern palates.

Additionally, the recognition of Malaysia's breakfast culture by Unesco as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2024 highlights the global appreciation for local culinary traditions. Iconic dishes like *nasi lemak* and *roti canai* continue to be cherished, both domestically and internationally, reflecting their enduring appeal. According to the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (Motac), the Evaluation Body concluded that Malaysia's breakfast culture met all the criteria outlined in Unesco's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In the evolving landscape of Malaysian cuisine, numerous local chefs and food entrepreneurs play a crucial role in re-

actively adapting traditional dishes to align with contemporary tastes and lifestyles. This fusion of heritage and innovation not only preserves Malaysia's rich culinary traditions but also introduces them to a broader, modern audience, for which we are appreciative.

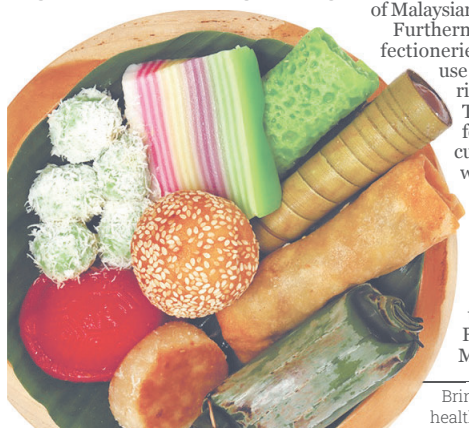
One notable example is the emergence of *nasi lemak* cafés that blend the classic flavours of Malaysia's beloved national dish with a modern dining ambiance. By offering variations of *nasi lemak* that incorporate unconventional ingredients or presentation styles, these establishments attract younger patrons and tourists seeking authenticity and novelty. The contemporary settings, often infused with stylish décor and storytelling elements about the dish's history, enhance the dining experience, making traditional cuisine appealing in today's culinary scene.

Entrepreneurs are also exploring innovative business models that celebrate Malaysian heritage foods. Their efforts are crucial in keeping traditional treats relevant in the modern market. For instance, *kuih* *muih* delivery and subscription services have gained popularity, offering customers regular deliveries of traditional Malaysian sweets like *kuih talam* and *kuih lapis*. This approach caters to busy individuals who seek the comfort of familiar flavours without the time investment required for preparation.

#### Blending local and global flavours

The trend of fusion cuisine, which involves blending different culinary traditions, has led to the creation of dishes that marry Malaysian flavours with international culinary techniques. Contemporary chefs are redefining traditional dishes by incorporating global influences, resulting in a new wave of Malaysian cuisine that respects its roots while embracing innovation. This blending of culinary traditions reflects Malaysia's openness to innovation and its rich, multicultural heritage.

The dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity in Malaysia's food scene not only showcases the resilience and adaptability of its culinary heritage but also inspires hope for its future. Through innovative interpretations, business models, and fusion creations, local chefs and food entrepreneurs are ensuring that traditional Malaysian cuisine continues to thrive and resonate with both local and international audiences.



Bringing back traditional ingredients isn't just nostalgia, it's a way to promote healthier, sustainable eating.





# the Sun Motoring

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Sigma styled headlights.



Retractable door handles.



Top mounted third brake lights.



20-inch wheels.

**THE** Omoda brand was first introduced to Malaysians by Chery, but not as a brand but rather as a model under Chery.

The Chery Omoda 5 as it's known as become a popular SUV on our roads. Malaysians took to it quite well when it was first introduced due to its specifications, good looks and price.

But it was a little bit of a misnomer because Omoda was never meant to be a model but rather a standalone brand under Chery. Something like what Jaecoo is today.

You see, even though Jaecoo and Omoda are brands under the Chery umbrella, they are not available in China. They are meant to be export models for markets outside of China.

And they are supposed to be upmarket brands for those looking for a bit more grandeur than what Chery models could offer.

So, why did Chery introduce Omoda as a model rather than as a brand in Malaysia?

That is something only the company knows but what we do know is that Omoda is also a brand in Malaysia now and its first model is the C9.

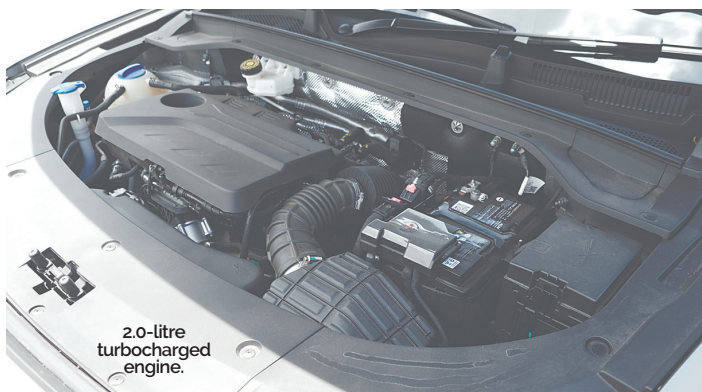
## What is the Omoda C9?

The Omoda C9 is a big D-segment SUV that is priced at C-segment levels. So imagine models like the Hyundai Santa

# Game changer

BY KESHY DHILLON

Omoda C9 packed with features that will give competition a headache



2.0-litre turbocharged engine.

Fe, Mazda CX-8 and Kia Sorento priced like a Honda CR-V.

But that would be an oversimplification because the Omoda C9 offers much

more than just an attractive price point.

## What makes it so attractive?

Despite saying the Amoda's pricing is

not its most attractive proposition, the fact remains it is the first thing that people will notice so let's start with the price tag.

The C9 is available in two variants, a two-wheel drive model which is priced at RM168,800 and the flagship all-wheel-drive variant, which is priced RM20,000 more at RM188,800.

We recently drove the all-wheel-drive variant so we will focus on that throughout this article.

Besides the obvious good looks and those truly iconic Sigma styled headlights, the Omoda C9 is also the only locally assembled car that is available with a matte paint job, and that is one of the factors that many have been attracted to.

But it should be said that maintaining a matte paint job is never an easy task, little scratches don't just buff out, and repainting panels can be costly.

A popular life hack to maintain the





Visually there are four exhausts but in actual fact there are only two.



Generous boot space.



A full sized spare wheel is becoming increasingly rare.

paintjob is to have it wrapped in a similar colour so that scratches do not affect the original paint job.

Its size is the other attraction because it truly is a big car, which makes it an interesting proposition for those with a family.

Overall spaciousness is impressive while the boot space comes in at a massive 660-litres, which is expandable to 1,783 litres with the seats collapsed.

And then there is the operational factor.

Powering the C9 is a 2.0-litre, turbocharged, four-cylinder engine making 261PS and 400Nm of torque.

That is more than plenty to get the C9 up to 100kph in just 8.6 seconds. Not particularly explosive, but the car does weigh-in at an eye-popping 1,876kg.

In terms of fuel-consumption, all-wheel-drive powertrains (AWD) tend to naturally be on the higher end of the consumption spectrum. And that is true for the C9 AWD as well.

While the claimed fuel consumption is rated at 8.5-litres per 100km, the real-world figure that we saw during our drive puts it at about 9 litres per 100km.

Range though is quite decent, with the 65-litre fuel tank providing an official range of 765km, but we were seeing a range of between 570km to 640km during our drive.

So, it is not a particular expensive car to operate on day-to-day basis. And the AWD layout can be regarded as a safety system as well, particularly in slippery conditions.

It is also worth pointing out that the C9 rolls on 20-inch wheels, which look great and truly suits the overall design of the car. But big wheels and their tyres can be expensive to maintain over the long run.

Having said that though, we should also mention that the C9 comes with a spare tyre.

This may not seem like a big deal, but more and more manufacturers are opting to swap the spare tyre for a tyre repair kit,



The dash is minimalistic yet elegant.

and the last thing you want is to be stranded on the roadside not knowing how to use a repair kit. So, this is a plus point.

#### But how is the car really like?

It is a gem that just needs to be polished to be appreciated. While Chinese cars get a lot of praise for their design, powertrains and overall features, they can't yet get overall ergonomics.

But we truly believe that it is just a matter of time, and Chinese cars, including everything from Omoda, will be perfected in just one product cycle.

The ergonomics we are ranting about is the positioning of the centre console. It pushes your left knee inwards which makes the sitting position feel a little awkward when you want to rest your left leg.

The centre console is also placed a little too high for this writer's preference as well. But that's just a matter of personal preference.

The one thing that makes the C9 stand out from the rest of the crowd though is its suspension system.

The C9 comes with a multi-link suspension setup with adaptive suspension called Continuous Damping Control (CDC).

This suspension system works electronically to adapt the suspension to road conditions.

You might think that this works like any other adaptive suspension, and you will not be all wrong, but the CDC system of the C9 works more seamlessly.

It works by calculating speed, steering input, body pitch, roll, bounce, road surface conditions and even brake and throttle behaviour.

It then adjusts the internal fluids of the suspension, thus softening and stiffening the suspension as needed. And all this happens in mere milliseconds.

The great thing with the CDC is that it works seamlessly, and you often do not feel the suspension stiffening or softening (which happens when you select one of the seven drive modes) unless you try to consciously feel for it.

While it will take an entire article of a thousand words to explain how it works and what makes it different than others, all that matters on the road is that it gives you a supple ride quality and when you want to get serious about cornering, it gives you superb control.

#### What about its features?

This is something that Chinese cars truly excel at – loading their cars with fea-

tures and then selling them at unbelievable prices. And the Omoda C9 delivers on this as well.

The interior comes with a massive 24.6-inch curved screen that houses the infotainment system as well as the instrument cluster. In fact, it looks similar to the one found on the Omoda 5.

You also get a 14-speaker Sony sound system with one speaker embedded into the driver's headrest for a truly splendid audio experience.

Besides that though, you get the usual set of features such as ventilated front seats, shift paddles, heads-up display, electronic seats, 540° surround view camera and even powered rear seats with a reclinable back rest.

On the topic of back seats, what we truly like though is the b-pillar mounted air-conditioning vents. That is truly the way vents should be mounted at the back.

In terms of safety, the SUV comes with a Level 2.5 ADAS safety suite that gives you all the safety nets you could need in a car.

#### Verdict?

If you are already considering the C9 but still unsure, consider this review a gentle nudge towards you signing on the dotted line.

Refinement and comfort are the stand-out features of the C9 and the fact that it offers as much tech as it does is the sweet cherry at the top of a very nice cake.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Engine:** 2.0-litre, four-cylinder, turbocharged

**Transmission:** 8-speed automatic

**Power:** 261PS

**Torque:** 400Nm

**Suspension:** Multilink with Continuous Damping Control

**Price (As tested): RM188,800**

**We like:** Refinement, Comfort and tech.

**We don't like:** Matte paint job not easy to maintain.



Seven driving modes to choose from centre dial.



14-speaker Sony sound system.



Air-conditioning controls for rear passengers.



ON SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

## MOTORING XV



### Toyota GR86 Yuzu edition shines bright

**TOYOTA** is turning up the excitement for sports car enthusiasts in 2026 with the introduction of the GR86 Yuzu Edition – a vibrant and limited-run model that pays homage to the Scion FR-S Release Series 1.0.

The special edition gets its name from the eye-catching Yuzu exterior colour, a tribute to one of the most memorable liveries in the lineage of Toyota's compact sports cars.

The GR86 Yuzu Edition is based on the GR86 Premium grade and brings both aesthetic enhancements and performance upgrades.

It features matte-black 18-inch wheels along with black trim elements throughout the exterior.

Inside the cabin, the Yuzu Edition is equally striking with a predominantly black interior accented by yellow details.

The sport seats are upholstered in black Ultrasuede, punctuated by yellow perforations, while the steering wheel, parking brake, and door panels are finished with yellow contrast stitching, adding to the car's custom feel.

Performance upgrades include standard Brembo brakes and SACHS dampers, which offer sharper stopping

power and improved chassis stability without sacrificing the playful driving dynamics that have defined the GR86.

These enhancements are part of the Performance Package, which will also be available as an option for the standard GR86 and GR86 Premium grades in the 2026 lineup.

All GR86 models continue to be powered by the naturally aspirated 2.4-litre, four-cylinder boxer engine producing 228hp and 249Nm of torque.

This engine is tuned to deliver peak torque at 3,700 rpm, providing strong acceleration across the rev range. The

car reaches 0-100kph in just 6.1 seconds when equipped with a six-speed manual transmission and 6.6 seconds with the six-speed automatic option.

Both transmission choices are available across all three GR86 grades: the base GR86, GR86 Premium, and the GR86 Yuzu Edition.

A limited production run will make the GR86 Yuzu Edition an exclusive offering, with only 860 units allocated for North America. Toyota plans to begin deliveries after September 2025, while pricing and complete specifications for all 2026 GR86 grades will be revealed later this year.

## Porsche unveils new Carreras

GTS first street-legal 911 to feature lightweight performance hybrid powertrain

**PORSCHE** Malaysia, represented by Sime Darby Auto Performance, has announced the availability of the latest generation of the 911 sports car in Malaysia.

The Porsche 911 Carrera and the Carrera 4 GTS can now be ordered, with prices starting from RM1,430,000.

The new 911 Carrera 4 GTS becomes the first street-legal 911 to feature a lightweight performance hybrid powertrain.

The newly developed 3.6-litre system significantly enhances driving performance, allowing the model to accelerate from 0 to 100kph in just 3.0 seconds and achieve a top speed of 312kph.

Meanwhile, the 911 Carrera retains its 3.0-litre twin-turbo boxer engine, now upgraded for greater power and efficiency.

Porsche engineers drew inspiration from motorsport to develop the T-Hybrid system for the Carrera 4 GTS.

A newly designed electric exhaust gas turbocharger, equipped with an integrated electric motor, instantly boosts the turbocharger's speed, ensuring immediate power delivery.

The turbocharger also functions as a generator, generating up to 15PS of electric power from exhaust gases.

Unlike previous models, which relied on two turbochargers, this new system operates efficiently with just one, providing a more dynamic and responsive experience.

This motor delivers up to 150Nm of additional torque and a power boost of up to 40kW.

A compact, high-voltage battery replaces the traditional starter battery, storing up to 1.9kWh of energy and operating at 400 volts. The 12V onboard electrical system also benefits from a light-



weight lithium-ion battery.

At the core of the T-Hybrid system is a newly developed 3.6-litre boxer engine. The high-voltage system enables an electrically driven air-conditioning compressor, eliminating the need for a belt drive and making the engine more compact.

The 911 Carrera retains its 3.0-litre twin-turbocharged boxer engine but now features substantial updates. The intercooler from the Turbo models has been incorporated, positioned directly under the rear lid grille for enhanced efficiency.

Turbochargers previously exclusive to the GTS models now power the Carrera, leading to reduced emissions and a

power increase to 394PS with a maximum torque of 450Nm.

The Carrera Coupe accelerates from 0 to 100kph in 4.1 seconds (3.9 seconds with the Sport Chrono package) and reaches a top speed of 294kph.

Buyers can choose from seven different 19-/20-inch or 20-/21-inch wheel designs. For the first time, Exclusive Design wheels with carbon blades are available for the 911 Carrera, reducing drag and improving efficiency.

The 911 Carrera 4 GTS comes standard with 21-inch rear wheels fitted with 315/30 ZR 21 tyres, while the front uses 20-inch wheels with 245/35 ZR 20 tyres.

Inside, Porsche merges traditional 911 design elements with modern technology. The Porsche Driver Experience concept centers controls around the driver for ease of use.

Key controls, including the driving mode switch and driver assistance settings, are positioned near the steering wheel. For the first time, the 911 features a start button on the left side of the wheel.

The new 911 Carrera will be available as a rear-wheel-drive Coupe, while the 911 Carrera 4 GTS will be offered in Coupe and Targa variants with standard all-wheel drive.

## Zenvo's 1,850hp Mjolner hypercar

**DANISH** automaker Zenvo Automotive has revealed the Mjolner—an all-new 6.6-litre quad-turbocharged hybrid V12 engine that produces a staggering 1,850hp.

Designed for Zenvo's upcoming Aurora hypercar, Mjolner is claimed to be the most powerful V12 ever fitted to a road car, outpacing even Bugatti's 1,775hp Tourbillon.

The mid-mounted V12 alone generates 1,250hp at up to 9,800 RPM. Combined with a hybrid system, total output hits 1,850hp. The engine, co-developed with British firm Mhale will enter production testing soon, with manufacturing to take place at Mahle's UK facility.

Built for real-world use, Mjolner is the first in a new modular engine series that could yield V-10, V-8, or V-6 variants.

Only 100 units will be produced.

Zenvo chairman Jens Sverdrup noted the engine's record-setting power was unintentional: "We set out to push boundaries, not chase numbers. This engine is all about delivering a visceral connection."

The Mjolner will debut in the carbon-fiber-bodied Aurora, Zenvo's first all-new model since 2008.

Weighing under 1,300kg, the Aurora will be offered in two variants: the grand touring Tur (1,850hp, AWD with dual front electric motors) and the track-focused Agil (1,450hp, RWD with a single motor). Both use a bespoke 7-speed paddle-shift gearbox from Ricardo.

Zenvo targets 0-100kmh in 2.3 seconds for the Tur and 2.5 seconds for the Agil. The Tur is expected to reach 300kph in just nine seconds and top out at 450kph.

Pricing has yet to be revealed, but expect figures rivaling Bugatti's finest.



# Icon set to return



Prelude prototype with production-ready interior unveiled

**HONDA** has taken another step toward reviving the iconic Prelude, unveiling its near-production interior for the first time.

First introduced as a surprise concept at the 2023 Japan Mobility Show, the Prelude captivated enthusiasts with its sleek coupe silhouette.

While its cabin remained hidden behind blacked-out windows back then, Honda has now revealed a closer look at what buyers can expect.

The Prelude's cockpit carries a sense of familiarity, borrowing heavily from the Civic's design. However, it lacks the latter's signature continuous vent layout.

In many ways, the dashboard bears a closer resemblance to the Acura Integra, another model that shares its mechanical underpinnings.

Unlike the Integra and Civic, which use conventional automatic gear levers, the Prelude adopts a button-based gear selector. Notably, Honda has confirmed that a manual transmission will not be offered.

One of the Prelude's standout

features is its S+ mode, which enhances the simulated shifting characteristics of its eight-speed transmission.

This system allows drivers to engage paddle shifters, delivering an experience similar to the Hyundai Ioniq 5 N's artificial gearbox, though in this case, there's a real internal combustion engine at work.

Honda explains that the "S+ Shift" mode optimises engine RPM control during acceleration and deceleration, resulting in a sharper and more responsive drive.

The driving experience is further enhanced by artificial engine sounds, which are pumped through the speakers.

A recent video from a Japanese *YouTube* provided a deeper look at the Prelude's interior layout. The coupe features two rear seats, but the sharply sloping roofline restricts headroom in the back.

However, Honda has compensated for this with a practical approach – the rear seats fold nearly flat, and the Prelude's hatchback-style trunk opening makes loading bulkier items easier.

A compact storage compartment between the rear seats adds to the interior's versatility.

Unlike the Integra, which offers a third seat in the rear, the Prelude maintains a strict two-seat configuration.

While Honda has yet to release full technical specifications, Japanese reports indicate that the Prelude has a shorter wheelbase than the Civic, but features wider front and rear tracks.

It also borrows high-performance components from the Civic Type R, including its adaptive dampers and dual-axis front suspension, designed to enhance handling precision.

The driving modes have been expanded to include a GT mode, which complements the standard Comfort and Sport settings.

As anticipation builds, enthusiasts await further details on the Prelude's final specifications and market launch.

Honda's decision to bring back this legendary nameplate underscores its commitment to blending nostalgia with modern performance innovations.

## Aston Martin Valhalla nears final validation

**ASTON MARTIN** has officially released on-road images of the Valhalla as it nears the final stages of validation ahead of its production launch in the second quarter of 2025.

Currently undergoing rigorous testing both on-road in the UK and on-track near Barcelona, the mid-engined hybrid supercar is being fine-tuned to ensure exceptional performance in real-world conditions.

The Valhalla has been seen in two striking liveries – Podium Green with Lime Green accents and Verdant Jade with Valkyrie Gold – while being put through its paces at the Idiada proving ground in Spain.

The car is powered by a 4.0-litre twin-turbo flat-plane crank V8, the most powerful V8 ever fitted to an Aston Martin, and is paired with three electric motors, allowing for plug-in hybrid capability and a dedicated EV driving mode.

It also features Aston Martin's all-new 8-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (DCT), which incorporates an integrated e-Motor and an electronic rear differential for enhanced control and efficiency.

As Aston Martin's first series-production mid-engined supercar and its first plug-in hybrid model, the Valhalla represents a groundbreaking step for the brand.

Production of the Valhalla will be strictly limited to just 999 units, ensuring its exclusivity among high-performance supercars.

As testing nears completion, anticipation continues to build for Aston Martin's most advanced road-going machine yet, which is set to redefine the brand's future in the high-performance automotive landscape.



**LOTUS** has unveiled a refreshed model range for its all-electric Eletre hyper-SUV and Emeya hyper-GT, introducing a simplified naming structure and updated trim levels that pay homage to the brand's rich heritage.

The restructured line-up aims to provide greater convenience, clarity, and personalisation for customers as they configure their ideal Lotus electric performance car.

Effective immediately, both the Lotus Eletre and Emeya will be available in either "600" or "900" variants, reflecting the two available power output levels.

According to Lotus, the new naming convention is designed to help customers better identify and choose models based on desired performance and equipment.

The 600-series models deliver 612hp of power via dual motors and all-

wheel drive, while the 900-series steps up to an electrifying 918hp for peak performance.

The Eletre range now consists of six distinct trim levels: the base Eletre 600, followed by the 600 GT, 600 GT SE, and 600 Sport SE.

Topping the line-up are the high-performance 900 Sport and the flagship 900 Sport Carbon, which adds lightweight carbon fibre exterior

and interior elements.

The Emeya follows a similar structure, although the base Emeya 600 is currently only available in the UK, while European markets begin with the Emeya 600 GT.

The Emeya 600 is powered by a 102 kWh battery pack and sprints from 0 to 100kph in just 4.15 seconds, reaching a top speed of 250kph.

The Eletre 600, with a slightly larger 112 kWh battery, completes

the same sprint in 4.5 seconds and reaches up to 256 kph.

For those craving ultimate speed, the Emeya 900 and Eletre 900 offer breathtaking acceleration times of 2.78 seconds and 2.95 seconds respectively, showcasing Lotus' continued commitment to high-performance electrification.

With WLTP ranges of up to 610km for the Emeya and 600km for the Eletre, both vehicles are engineered not only for speed and agility but also for long-distance practicality.

In the UK, the Eletre 600 is priced from approximately £84,990 (RM515,000), while in Europe, it starts at around €99,990 (RM520,000).

The Emeya 600 GT is priced from about €107,990 (RM565,000) in European markets.

## Lotus revamps Eletre, Emeya line-Up



**PIXAGRAM**  
Example

The picture shows a person in chains or manacles. Look for any answer which has the same letters as either CHAIN or MANACLE.



**Pixagram** is Picture Anagram. Find the words based on the pictures shown and match them with answers that have the same letters.

**PIXAGRAM 2**

Answers are to be chosen from A to F

**MEMES:**

Memes (popular and common phrases) are shown as a series of pictures. In the following EXAMPLES there are 2 categories: Economics(1), Clothing (1). Write down the correct phrases.



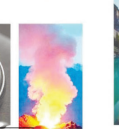
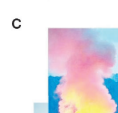
A: **Hand me down**  
(a synonym for used clothing passed from elder child to younger child)



B: **Invisible hand**  
(term used in economics)

**MEMES: 2**

There are 5 categories: TV series (1), Health Risk(1), Metaphor(1), Vortex (1), Rock Song (1). Write the correct phrases.

**CHAIN LETTER 2**

The same couple of letters appear (in boxes) in the answers to the clues below. All answers are PROPER names.

- Q1. Citizen of Laos
- Q2. Mathematical Transform
- Q3. North Star
- Q4. Yuan dynasty emperor
- Q5. Old sultanate of Malaya

HINT: The 2 letters are represented by the note indicated by the arrow.

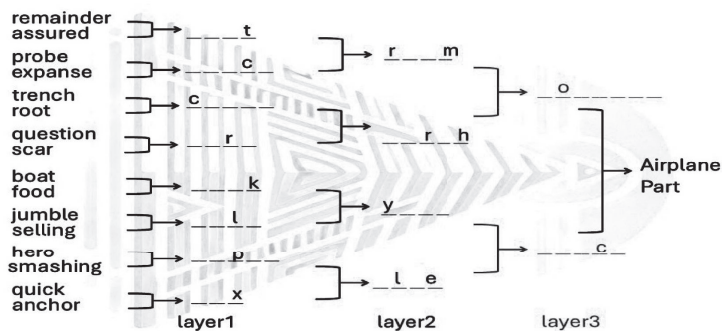
**PSYCHRAEMID**

Each pair of words by Meaning or Association leads to another word (indicated by →)

Example: satellite blue → ----

By meaning (synonym), MOON is a satellite of Earth.  
By association (phrase or idiom), "blue moon" describes a rare event.  
Hence the answer is MOON.

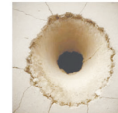
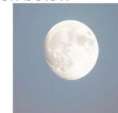
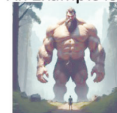
Find out the 8 words in layer 1,  
4 words in layer 2 and 2 words in layer 3.  
The two words in layer 3 should match the definition given.

**TO-PIX**

Part 1: Identify Words based on picture clues

Part 2: Subject the Words to the Operation mentioned

An Example is given below



Part 1 Dwarf Giant Moon Hole

Part 2 Operation: Place suitable colours before the words to get heavenly bodies

Part 2 WHITE Dwarf RED Giant BLUE Moon BLACK Hole

**TOPIX 2**

STEP 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 1 words are less than 6 letters long.

STEP 2 Operation: Include a letter to each to get the first names of members of a famous band

STEP 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET PIX 2**

Based on the pictures of shop signs seen on Malaysian streets, find the answers to the "treasure hunt" questions.



Q1:



He's hiding here! \_\_\_\_\_

Q2: Communist club? \_\_\_\_\_

Q3: Score after six \_\_\_\_\_

Q4: Sounds like a request to keep quiet! \_\_\_\_\_

Q5: Business of one who was first granted "licence to kill"? \_\_\_\_\_

All puzzles are created by Jay Menon.

He runs **RoadRunners MS**

(Treasure Hunts/ Team Building)

He is Past Chair of **Malaysian Mensa**

Interested in taking the test?

(<https://mensa.my/test-info>)

He is co-founder of the **Treasure Hunt Society of Malaysia**

(<https://www.facebook.com/thsmalaysia>)

He can be reached at [jay1men@gmail.com](mailto:jay1men@gmail.com)



## Your weekend horoscope

Conquering  
wealth sectorMastering kitchen *feng shui***ARIES**

Mar 21 – Apr 19

A spark of tension is flickering with your partner, but you are listening to a wise inner voice guiding you towards calm. You are resisting the urge to rush decisions, finding clarity instead. Patience is shaping your choices this week. Balance is bringing harmony to your relationships.

**TAURUS**

Apr 20 – May 20

A team project is sparking your creativity, and you are embracing a fresh change to shine. You are discovering hidden talents that surprise even you. This chance is pushing you to explore your limits. Do not be afraid to take a leap. Growth is unfolding as you dive in fully.

**GEMINI**

May 21 – June 20

Standing firm in your choices, you are opening up to a new way of seeing things. You are releasing old habits that no longer fit, feeling lighter with each step. Control is coming from focusing on your own actions. A fresh perspective is guiding your week. A new start is high.

**CANCER**

June 22 – July 22

Excitement is bubbling as a travel opportunity knocks on your door. You are diving in, sensing there is more to gain than meets the eye. Connections are forming with new faces, promising future rewards. Unleash your inner social butterfly. Networking is paving the way for bright prospects.

**LEO**

July 23 – Aug 22

Patience is becoming your strength, and you are finding power in staying calm. You are spreading love, healing your mind and soul with every kind act. Nourishing yourself is keeping you grounded amid busy thoughts. Balance is restoring your inner peace. Soon, you will find fulfilment.

**VIRGO**

Aug 23 – Sept 22

A fiery passion is igniting your dreams of leaving a lasting mark. Signs are guiding you, rekindling your drive to chase what once felt out of reach. You are welcoming help in all its forms with open arms. The universe is nudging you towards success.

**THE** kitchen is more than just a place for cooking, it represents the heart of the home, influencing financial stability and overall well-being. In *feng shui*, the kitchen is closely linked to wealth accumulation and nourishment, as it is where food, a symbol of abundance, is prepared.

A well-maintained kitchen ensures a steady flow of prosperity while promoting good health for the household. The kitchen is one of the most active spaces in a home, with fire (stove) and water (sink, refrigerator) elements interacting constantly.

These opposing forces must be balanced to prevent disruptions in wealth, health and family harmony. A poorly planned kitchen layout or neglected maintenance can lead to financial leakage, health issues or even unnecessary conflicts among home dwellers.

**Optimising kitchen space**

The stove symbolises financial resources, so its position plays a critical role in wealth accumulation. The stove should not be directly opposite the sink or refrigerator, as fire (stove) and water (sink or fridge) elements may clash, leading to financial instability or health concerns. It is best to place the stove against a solid wall for support rather than leaving it “floating” in the middle of the kitchen, which may cause financial uncertainty. Avoid positioning the stove directly under a window, as this can lead to energy loss, symbolising wealth flowing away easily.

**Proper stove placement**

A cluttered kitchen creates stagnant energy that can impact financial growth and health. Regular cleaning and proper organisation are essential. Ensure all cooking appliances are in good working condition, as broken or unused items can block financial opportunities. Do not store knives openly on countertops, as they create sharp, aggressive energy (*sha qi*) that can lead to arguments or financial stress. Expired food should be



discarded, as keeping spoilt or outdated ingredients can affect health and stagnate wealth flow.

**Balanced ventilation and lighting**

A kitchen with good airflow and sufficient lighting enhances positive *qi* circulation. Open windows regularly to allow fresh air to remove stagnant energy. If windows are not available, ensure ventilation systems work efficiently. Good lighting, especially near the stove and food preparation areas, symbolises clarity in financial decisions and nourishes the home with vibrant energy.

**Dining area**

In many homes, the kitchen is connected to the dining area. This space also plays a role in fostering family unity and financial stability. A

clean and well-maintained dining table encourages harmony and abundance. Avoid using it as a storage area for bills, keys or clutter, as this may symbolically invite financial stress. Sitting down to eat meals together strengthens family bonds and enhances collective energy, creating a supportive environment for wealth accumulation.

**Maintenance**

A leaking sink or broken water pipes represent financial loss and missed opportunities. In *feng shui*, water symbolises wealth and water leakage suggests money slipping away unnoticed. Promptly fixing any leaks ensures wealth remains stable.

*This article is contributed by feng shui consultant Daniel Siew*

**LIBRA**

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Feeling torn between two worlds, you are learning each day holds unique lessons worth treasuring. You are blending experiences without forcing them to fit together. Sharing your insights is restoring your confidence. Harmony is growing as you embrace both sides.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Rising above past shortcuts, you are discovering the beauty of raw creativity this week. A fresh perspective is opening your eyes to genuine success. You are appreciating the process with newfound respect. Inspiration is guiding you towards true achievement. Do not shy away from putting in the work.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov 22 – Dec 21

Shouldering big dreams, you are finding strength in an inner voice that keeps you steady. You are supporting yourself and others with quiet resilience. This calm is revealing the beauty in life's simple miracles. Stability is grounding your chaotic moments. Soak in the peace.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Your instincts are urging you to finish what you began, and you are seeing wishes unfold in surprising ways. You are building a solid system to fuel your ambitions. Time is becoming your ally as you work wisely. Progress is shaping up with every step. Go forward with confidence.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Beneath a cheerful surface, you are sensing a shift, and a big change is lifting your spirits. You are facing truths that refresh your outlook with clarity. Walls are opening up, giving you room to breathe. Growth is coming through this newfound honesty.

**PISCES**

Feb 19 – Mar 20

Peace is settling into your work, and you are aligning with years of hard-earned wisdom. You are showcasing your talents. A like-minded mentor is sharing valuable business insights. Collaboration is sparking growth and inspiration.

*This is contributed by Mystic Kali Tarot*

**ITALIAN** Lorenzo Musetti (*pic*) beat a "heartbroken" Stefanos Tsitsipas 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday to knock out the holder and reach the semifinals of the Monte Carlo Masters.

Musetti fought back after losing the first set against the three-time tournament winner to tee up a last four tie with Australian Alex de Minaur.

The 23-year-old claimed his first victory over the Greek former world No. 3 in five meetings.

"It has a special, let's say, flavour not just because he's the defending champion here, but because before today, I never won against him," Musetti told reporters.

"It was probably one of the toughest challenges that I've faced in my career so far.

"Regarding the match of tomorrow, I think there is no favourite.

"Tomorrow we'll gonna see who is the favourite one on the court, and when we will shake hands, there's gonna be a winner," the world No. 16 added.

Tsitsipas missed out on defending his



title having won in 2021, 2022 and last year.

"It's difficult to accept," Tsitsipas said. "I felt I had every reason to try and win. It is definitely heart-breaking," he added.

Earlier, De Minaur produced a ruthless performance to dismantle an out-of-form Grigor Dimitrov 6-0, 6-0 in just 45 minutes, with the match finishing to a backdrop of boos from the crowd.

Dimitrov mustered just one winner in total, made 23 unforced errors and won only five points in the second set.

Carlos Alcaraz battled back from a set down to beat French rising star Arthur Fils in a gripping quarterfinal.

# Italian job

## Musetti stuns Monte Carlo Masters champion Tsitsipas to reach semis

The four-time Grand Slam champion, targeting his first Masters title since winning in Indian Wells last year, saved three break points in the 11th game of the second set

en route to a dramatic 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory. "I think his level is high right now and he puts a lot of pressure on his opponents," Alcaraz said of his beaten opponent.

"Today I could feel it but in some moments he just made a few mistakes and I tried to make the most of those points and wait for my chances."

He will face unseeded fellow Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina for a place in the final.

Alcaraz's only title this season remains the ATP 500 event in Rotterdam in February but he appears to be enjoying his return to play.

The 20-year-old Fils, seeded 12th, suffered a third successive quarterfinal loss at Masters events this season after going out in the last eight at Indian Wells and the Miami Open.

Alcaraz is a strong favourite to lift the title after early exits for Novak Djokovic and Alexander Zverev, at an event where he had lost his only previous match in 2022.

He showed all of his battling qualities to get the better of Fils, in what is likely to have been their first meeting of many. - AFP



Chennai Super Kings' MS Dhoni in action. - REUTERS/PIC

## Not even Dhoni can halt Chennai's slide

302 Jobs

## theSun WE ARE HIRING!

- 1) EXECUTIVE / SENIOR - HR & Admin
- 2) ASST MANAGER / MANAGER - HR & Admin

### Job Description

- Maintain HR records, including employee files, salaries and benefits information.
- Handle employee attendance records, payroll and claims.
- Handle employee relations and resolve any workplace conflicts or issues.
- Provide HR support and guidance to managers and employees.
- Ensure compliance with all employment laws and regulations.
- Stay updated on changes in work legislation and industry standards.
- Handle employee training and development programmes.
- Manage employee benefits programmes and ensure compliance with regulations.
- Stay updated on current industry trends and best practices in HR management.
- For Senior/Assistant Manager - with supervisor skills.
- Handle staff training and recruitment matters.
- Experience in payroll system would be advantageous.
- Handle General Admin and other HR duties.

### Requirements

- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- Executive: 1+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Senior: 3+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Asst Manager: 5+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply for Assistant Executive post.
- Basic HR knowledge and proficiency in Microsoft Office.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

### 3) EXECUTIVE - Safety & Building Maintenance

### Job Description

- Perform routine and preventive maintenance on factory & office building systems, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems.
- Conduct regular inspections of the factory & office building to identify and address maintenance issues.
- Respond promptly to maintenance requests and ensure timely resolution.
- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities, including work orders, inspections and repairs.
- Ensure all maintenance activities comply with relevant health, safety and environmental regulations.
- Coordinate with external contractors and vendors for specialised maintenance and repair works.
- Monitor and optimise energy usage to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- Assist in preparation and management of maintenance budget.
- Assist in any ad-hoc operations and admin tasks assigned by Management from time to time.

### Requirements

- Diploma/Degree in Building or Facilities Management, Safety & Health or related field.
- Additional certificate: Electrical Chargeman, preferably A4 or minimum A1 would be an added advantage.
- Minimum of one year of experience in Building Maintenance or Safety & Health.
- Adequate technical knowledge of building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing etc).
- Excellent problem-solving and troubleshooting skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work flexi hours.
- Able to handle urgent and last-minute job request.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: [thesun.hr2@gmail.com](mailto:thesun.hr2@gmail.com)  
(Closing Date: April 30, 2025)

302 Jobs

## WE ARE HIRING!

### 1 MEDIA SALES - Specialist

**Job Description**

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

**Requirements**

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

**Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)**

### 2 MEDIA SALES - Representative/Agent (Freelance)

**Requirement**

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: [thesun.hr2@gmail.com](mailto:thesun.hr2@gmail.com)

**EVEN** the great Mahendra Singh Dhoni seems unable to arrest the spectacular slide of Chennai Super Kings, who succumbed to their fifth consecutive defeat of the new Indian Premier League season yesterday.

Dhoni led Chennai to five IPL titles before relinquishing the captaincy last year but the former India captain is back in charge again after skipper Rituraj Gaikwad was ruled out of the remainder of the season with an elbow injury on Thursday.

The change in leadership did not translate into change of fortune, though, as Chennai suffered an eight-wicket shel-lacking by Kolkata Knight Riders on Friday. Openers Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway could not cash in on the power-play overs, and the lack of fire power in Chennai's middle order was evident again in their sluggish batting.

"Our openers (are) not the ones who will start slogging or look to hit across the line," Dhoni said after the heavy loss at Chepauk, where Chennai fans started to leave the MA Chidambaram Stadium at the halfway stage.

"But what is also important is not to get desperate seeing the scoreboard. You need maybe one or two boundaries and run rate keeps on going.

"If you start looking for 60 in six overs with our line-up, it will be very difficult for us."

Chennai are now languishing at ninth in the 10-team league with their playoff hopes diminishing, but batting coach Mike Hussey said he was hopeful for a turnaround in a long tournament.

"Well, this one hurts a lot. I mean, it really does," Hussey told reporters.

"We're certainly not putting the white flag up just yet. You only have to get in to scrape into that fourth (playoff) place.

"In a big, long tournament like the IPL, it is about momentum. Certainly the momentum is not with us at the moment whatsoever... But that's not to say things can't turn around and can't turn around quickly." - Reuters



## SHORTS

### Rookie apologises for peeing in Rae's creek

Jose Luis Ballester has apologised to Augusta National Golf Club for peeing in a creek on the famed course in view of patrons during his opening round of the year's first major, the Spanish amateur said yesterday.

The 21-year-old Ballester made headlines during Thursday's opening round when went to the tributary to nearby Rae's Creek to urinate during a lull in the action while playing partner Justin Thomas dealt with an issue on the 13th green.

"Well, I already apologised to the club, and I think we just move on from this moment," Ballester said after he missed the halfway cut in his Masters debut.

Ballester, who won the US Amateur last year, said some friends reached out to express their support for him after the incident garnered international attention.

"A couple (of) friends reached out just to say hey, 'You'll be fine. I'm still your friend,'" said Ballester, a senior at Arizona State University.

"So yeah, it's good to have those friends that have your back when the news is not that good about you."

### Langer walks away with no regrets

Twice champion Bernhard Langer admitted that his stellar form this week did make him consider if he made the right decision to end his Masters career but walked away yesterday comfortable with his choice after missing the cut.

The 67-year-old German, making his 41st and final Masters start, reached the par-four 18th needing nothing worse than a par to play the weekend but was unable to get up-and-down after his approach shot missed the green.

Langer's par attempt at the final hole just missed the edge of the cup, a costly bogey that ultimately left him one agonizing shot outside the cut.

"There were times last couple of days when I thought, you know, did you make the right decision here, or should you have waited another year or two with your last Masters?"

"Because I was, you know, playing quite well and very smart," said Langer, whose youngest son was his caddie this week.

"But I think looking back, it is still the right decision... it's just the golf course is too long for me."

Augusta National has been the site of many fond memories for Langer and while he is content with his decision to move on, he was quick to express what he would miss most about playing the famed layout.

"Just competing and walking down the fairways and being out there, facing the challenges that this course represents," said Langer.

"I mean, this is the best manicured golf course we play year in and out. I just love being here and facing the decisions you face."

### Couples 'sure' of playing next year

This week marked the final Masters Tournament for Bernhard Langer, but Fred Couples feels he has at least one more in him.

Both Langer and Couples were on track to make the cut late in the second round Friday before missteps down the stretch drove them to 3-over 147 and 4-over 148, respectively. The cut line landed at 2-over.

Couples, who bogeyed three of his final five holes, was disappointed with his result but already has designs on returning to Augusta National Golf Club next year, when he'll be 66.

"Well, sure, I'm playing next year for sure, yeah," Couples said. "I made that - they made that clear they wanted me to come back, so I'm coming back next year."

"Again, as soon as I get in that car and drive out Magnolia Lane and come back tomorrow and have a nice lunch, I'll be fine."

"But I'm not out there to - the goal is to make the cut at my age. I didn't, and I'm kind of spinning my wheels thinking just why it was so mediocre."

"Obviously on 15 I hit the worst drive I've hit in 20 years," he quipped afterward.

"But I'm not upset about anything. I tried as hard as I could, and let me tell you, it's a hard course."

## Red Bull should complain less: Norris

**RED BULL** should complain less about other teams and focus more on doing a better job with their own, according to McLaren's Formula One championship leader Lando Norris.

Norris goes into today's Bahrain Grand Prix a point clear of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, winner in Japan last weekend, after three rounds.

McLaren ended Red Bull's reign as world champions last season, although Verstappen took his fourth successive drivers' title, and there has been plenty of talk about where their speed is coming from.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner has

pointed to a coming technical directive (TD), clamping down on front wing flex, as a potential game-changer from race nine but Norris dismissed that.

"We're all fully within the rules. We're doing a good job. Red Bull have had plenty of time to do the same thing as us and they're not," he told British media reporters.

"It is more that they should do a better job rather than keep complaining about things," added the Briton, who was runner-up to Verstappen last year.

"We respect the FIA doing what they're doing and we're happy that they keep trying to correct things because we don't

want anyone outside of those rules, but the last ones didn't affect us," he added.

"I don't know if the new ones will or not but there are plenty of things that Red Bull do that also push the limits just as much."

"So we can also play that game, but we focus on ourselves rather than complaining about others."

Norris said people who judged from online videos were "a bit clueless."

"How do they know it's the rear wing that's flexing?," he asked. "They don't, it could be the whole car."

"So, you know, people can just come up with what they want but really they have absolutely no idea." - Reuters



Justin Rose lines up his putt on the green on the 8th hole. - REUTERS/SPIC



IN a perfect world for Justin Rose, he would have slipped into a Green Jacket long ago, but the Englishman said yesterday, after grabbing the halfway lead at the Masters, that winning one in the twilight of his career would be even sweeter.

The 44-year-old Rose has not triumphed in a major since earning his first at the 2013 US Open and has finished runner-up twice at Augusta National, including a playoff loss to Sergio Garcia at the 2017 Masters.

"Beggars can't be choosers, you know. But I would take it right now for sure," Rose said after a 1-under 71 that left him at 8-under on the week and one shot clear of Bryson DeChambeau.

"Sometimes if it happens too early in your career, you've got a lot to live up to. I think if it happens now, I would enjoy it, I think, probably a lot more. You know, come a bit more as a gift towards the end of your career."

Rose was hardly on anyone's radar ahead of the year's first major, but he

## Rose in search of elusive Green Jacket

never doubted his ability and chances after having been in contention at some of golf's blue-riband events in 2024.

Rose earned a share of sixth place at last year's PGA Championship and went on to finish joint second at the British Open after playing his way into the field through qualifying.

While the hunt for a second career major goes on, Rose said he feels other career accomplishments during that stretch has made it not feel like such a long wait.

Since winning his one major, Rose won gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics golf tournament, reached No. 1 in the world ranking and claimed the season-long race for the 2018 FedExCup trophy and US\$10 million (RM45m) bonus.

"I think really big milestone moments in my career have happened in that 12 years, which distracts you

from the fact that you haven't won a major in that period," said Rose.

"Yeah, 12 years slips by pretty quick. But like I said, it doesn't necessarily feel like - I haven't been dwelling on that fact at all, really."

To end his wait for a second major, Rose will have to fend off a high-profile pack of pursuers that, in addition to LIV Golf's DeChambeau, includes Rory McIlroy two shots back in a share of third and Scottie Scheffler a further shot back.

But Rose would not have it any other way.

"That's the company that I expect to keep, and that's where I have tried to be my whole career," said Rose.

"That's where I've been for a lot of my career. So I've been a top-10 player in the world for a decade or more... so yeah, this is nice to, obviously, yeah, be back in that mix." - Reuters

## DeChambeau finding right balance

**BRYSON DECHAMBEAU**, the man who once planned to overpower Augusta National, is in contention again at the Masters, where he has found patience and understanding crucial to balancing his naturally aggressive game.

"It's a daily battle," the reigning US Open champion admitted after firing a 4-under 68 yesterday for a 7-under total that had him one shot off the lead.

"It's not easy to try and be more conservative when you know the leaders are starting to run away," he said, adding that the intricacies of Augusta National only compound that problem.

"You get these little shelves in certain areas and these little fingers that you've

got to hit the ball into, and you've got to hit a cut or a draw. You have to have every shot in the bag."

"It's just difficult to try to accomplish. I would say, just the goal of just being patient and being understanding."

DeChambeau has a mixed history at Augusta National, where he finished tied for 21st as an amateur in 2016 but outside the top 25 in his next six starts.

That included missed cuts in 2022 and 2023 before he finally seemed to find his way last year, when he shot an opening-round 65 and was tied for the lead through 36 holes on the way to a share of sixth place.

Along the way, he provoked the ire of

fans of the iconic Georgia course, notably in 2020 when he claimed the muscle he'd packed on made it a "par 67" for him.

This year, he's a darling of Augusta patrons - some no doubt won over not only by DeChambeau's golf - now largely showcased on the LIV Golf tour - but also by his engaging YouTube channel.

"I think the patrons have always been great here," DeChambeau said. "Even when I was in my trying times, I feel like there was still a lot of support."

"Now it just feels like a bolster of energy everywhere. It's quite different, and it's a lot of fun." - AFP

# Exception to the rule

Salah expensive to keep but Liverpool couldn't afford to lose him

SO now Mohamed Salah, to adapt his own phrase, is very much more in than out.

All it took, it seemed, was for the Egyptian's goals to dry up for the first time in a remarkable season for Liverpool to present Salah with a contract he would sign.

Maybe Salah's occasional willingness to go public in frustration has been justified. Or perhaps Liverpool's quiet approach has. Saying nothing in public did not equate to doing nothing in private.

With Salah signed up and Virgil van Dijk making progress in his own contract talks, director of football Richard Hughes may conclude that two out of three isn't bad.

Three expiring contracts provided the hospital pass. The apocalyptic scenario was that Salah, Van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold would all go, leaving Liverpool with a huge bill to rebuild their side and, almost certainly, a weaker team next season.

Even Salah's recent dip in form has outlined his importance: when he stopped scoring, Liverpool started losing.

He will not be a pauper with his new deal but Liverpool's cost-conscious owners clearly decided the false economy would be to let him leave on a free transfer.

Their reluctance to give lengthy contracts to thirtysomethings has been justified by the fortunes of Salah's peers. Gini Wijnaldum, Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Jordan Henderson are not the forces they once were, and are not burdens on Liverpool's wage bill. Salah and Van Dijk can be the exceptions to every rule, however.

The forward's new deal will take him up to his 35th birthday. But – and despite the stutter in the last month – he is having a career-best campaign in his thirties; in more ways than one, given that he has 32 goals to accompany his 22 assists.

It is unlikely to earn him the *Ballon d'Or*; Liverpool's relatively early Champions League exit and his own underwhelming display against Paris Saint-Germain should see to that. But he would still have bordered on the irreplaceable.

In part, because of a consistency that has meant Salah has had no off-year in

eight seasons at Anfield, but also because his departure would have required a new configuration of the forward line; he has been so good that two top-class players would be needed to compensate.

As Arne Slot put it, simply but effectively, "what makes him special is he scores goals". And far more than anyone else.

Luis Diaz had a scoring spell and Cody Gakpo has produced the best form of his Liverpool career, but each could accelerate in Salah's

slipstream, when he was setting such a pace in the goalscoring charts that it rendered it easier for others to follow.

Now Salah's stay at Liverpool will extend to a decade. He could reach 300 goals in their colours.

The status of Liverpool's greatest player generally comes down to debates about the merits of Steven Gerrard and Kenny Dalglish. Salah is giving himself a greater chance of entering the conversation as an equal.

And his motives have never been purely financial, not least because he already earns a lot.

Outsiders concluded Salah and Saudi Arabia made sense; he rarely seemed to.

When Liverpool rejected a £150 million (RM825m) bid two years ago, they did not merely get Salah for another two years but a further four.

He wanted to stay; his complaints when he felt the club were too small to facilitate that showed as much.

Salah may have been astute enough to realise that he was already in a desirable position, with one of the world's best teams built around him. The grass was not greener elsewhere.

Meanwhile, a manager who tried to bore everyone into submission by not talking about contracts started to suggest that he was eager to keep his top scorer.

Now there is no doubt that Slot got what he wanted: a vote of confidence from the forward in the new manager. Salah and Jurgen Klopp were very good for each other, despite the fractious end.

Slot has spared Salah some defensive duties – aided by Dominik Szoboszlai's ability to cover vast amounts of ground – and has been repaid with goals.

Salah's last seven appearances have only produced two goals, both against Southampton.

It would be premature to suggest he has been sent spiralling into decline; similar suggestions this time last year have been emphatically disproved.

"We have brought the maximum of his qualities," said Slot; only his 44-goal debut year for Klopp compares.

Perhaps his recent relapse does indicate, however, that Salah cannot sustain his brilliance for entire campaigns, and he tends to make flying starts.

It is a method that is propelling Liverpool to the title, and after the defeat to Fulham, he has now provided a timely boost to morale.

It may mean in future that Salah's minutes have to be rationed to keep him fresher for longer.

Both Slot and Klopp have tended to take the view that his thirst for goals is such that they would rather keep him on.

But now Liverpool are keeping Salah on in a different sense. And amid the delight, there may be a sense of relief. – The Independent



Mo Salah – REUTERS/PIC

## Slot reveals key factor that kept Mo at Anfield

**ARNE SLOT** says Mohamed Salah's decision to renew his contract at Liverpool is a "compliment" to the club and its management, given the wealth of options he could have had if he decided to leave on a free.

Salah put pen to paper on two-year deal on Friday, bringing a welcome end to the contract saga that has persisted throughout the campaign.

The Egyptian's previous contract was set to expire at the end of the season, meaning he would have departed Anfield for nothing if an agreement was not reached.

Admitting relief at tying down their talisman for the immediate future, Slot singled out Reds sporting director Richard Hughes as key to getting a deal over the line.

"It is a big compliment to Richard (Hughes) because Mo Salah, as such a great player as a free agent, can go to any club in the world he wants to," Slot said.

"I am part of the process but I don't deserve the compliments. It's Mo, his agent and then FSG, Richard, they all put the effort – which means money! But also effort."

"What it might tell you is that we want more next season and Mo is convinced we can do so. That is positive for us."

"If I'd put myself in the shoes of a player we might want to sign, it is always nice to tell them while presenting our project

that Mo Salah has signed a new contract.

"It shows how ambitious this club is – Mo, the owners and the ones who came last year – we are ambitious to keep performing to the level this club has been at in the last few years."

Salah may have been embroiled in a contract standoff for the better part of a season, but he has not let that impact his output in what has been a stellar individual campaign for the 32-year-old.

He has netted 32 goals in all competitions, 27 of which have come in the Premier League, leading the goalscoring charts and acting as the rocket fuel behind Liverpool's push for a 20th league title.

Slot has hailed the character of his star winger, insisting that business off the pitch never altered how he judged him as a person and a player.

"First of all, he has always been judged as a player, but I also see him as a human being and he is humble, works hard and puts so much effort in to become the player he is," Slot added.

"He keeps that effort every single day. He can score goals, even if he is not in the best half hour or 15 mins, and that is why he is mentally so strong."

"He has to be strong mentally and apart from the other things that is probably what stands out for me."

"He has shown or so many years in a row how much value he has to the club, like all the fans and the teammates they are very happy he has extended for two more years."

Salah was one of three key Reds players locked in negotiations over a new deal, with captain Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold also verging on free agency when their contracts expire this summer.

While Alexander-Arnold is closing in on a move to Real Madrid for next season, Liverpool are optimistic Van Dijk will follow Salah in extending his stay at the club, having provided a positive update on his own contract talks after the club's 3-2 loss at Fulham.

After speaking openly about Salah's extension now it had been confirmed, Slot reverted back to his usual rule of no contract talk when pressed about Van Dijk.

"You know the answer, the boring one as always," he said. "We talk about contracts if they are signed, so we talk about Mo."

"I am very happy with Virgil, this season he has been incredible for us. Maybe some moments lately where he can do better but for the other 89 minutes, such an important player. Hopefully he can do the same and be our leader again." – The Independent



ANGE POSTECOGLOU has "no doubt" that Tottenham have a leak inside the club and has vowed to "deal with" the culprit.

Tottenham's team news was revealed earlier than anticipated ahead of Thursday's Europa League quarterfinal clash with Eintracht Frankfurt.

Postecoglou says this is the latest instance of a persisting issue for the club, which has only exacerbated Spurs's on-pitch struggles this term, with the club languishing in 14th in the Premier League table.

However, the Australian manager believes

# 'We will deal with it'

Postecoglou claims Tottenham have identified 'leak' inside club

the situation is close to being resolved, having "narrowed down" where the leak could be coming from.

"There is no doubt we've got a leak inside the club," he said. "Someone continues to leak out information and they have all year.

"I don't know why as it just makes our job even more difficult. It doesn't help us as you don't want to give the opposition a helping hand.

"We've narrowed it down. I've got a fair idea where it's coming from. We will deal with it.

"It certainly doesn't help us on game days. It's sometimes half-truths and sometimes more. You'd like to think that everyone within our camp is working with us rather than against us."

Spurs came out of their first leg with Frankfurt with the tie level, with Pedro Porro can-

celling out Hugo Ekitike's early opener at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

They now face a tough trip to Deutsche Bank Park as they look to keep their season alive, with Frankfurt currently flying high in third in the Bundesliga.

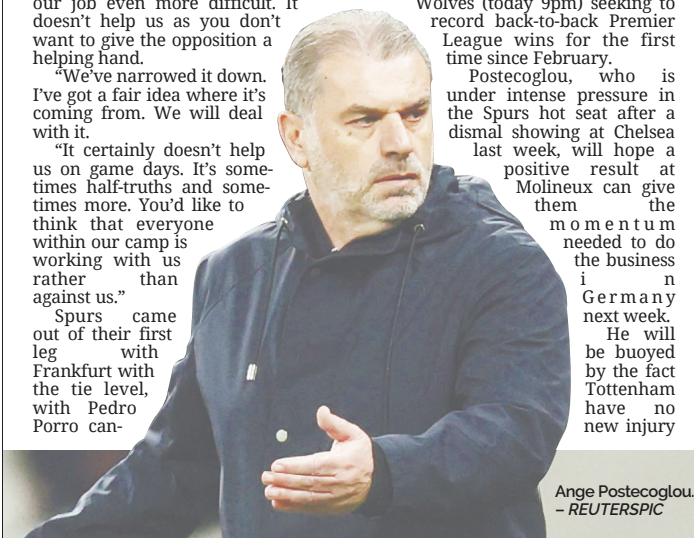
But first, Tottenham travel to Wolves (today 9pm) seeking to record back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time since February.

Postecoglou, who is under intense pressure in the Spurs hot seat after a dismal showing at Chelsea last week, will hope a positive result at Molineux can give them the momentum needed to do the business in Germany next week. He will be buoyed by the fact Tottenham have no new injury

concerns – something that has plagued their season so far.

"A couple of boys cramping up near the end, a couple of small knocks, a couple who will be tired, but heath wise fine," he added.

"It was a big physical toll last night. It was always going to be a challenging game for us. It's a big game (Sunday) and a big performance is needed so having some fresh legs will help that. Fair to make some changes." – The Independent



Ange Postecoglou.  
– REUTERS/SPIC

## Burnley back on top of Championship

BURNLEY stepped up their bid for promotion to the Premier League with a 2-1 win against Norwich to send them back to the top of the Championship yesterday.

Scott Parker's side extended their unbeaten league run to 29 matches thanks to first half goals from Hannibal Mejbri and Jaidon Anthony at Turf Moor.

Norwich were much improved in the second half and substitute Jack Stacey pulled one back.

Burnley, relegated from the top-flight last season, are unbeaten in their last 21 home league games and Norwich were unable to end that impressive streak.

"Overall, I am delighted with the group. We set about it first half, and had an incredible first half. Every phase of our game, from the attacking front, looked a real threat," Burnley manager Scott Parker told BBC Radio Lancashire.

"Defensively, in terms of our positioning, meant we really suffocated Norwich. In the second half we dropped our energy, mostly due to the business of the schedule.

"Once a goal goes in, it becomes a nervy time. But we are disappointed about the goal, we've been superb defensively, but I thought our reaction, and the stadium's reaction, was really positive.

"This is about staying very level, very focused, not getting involved in the emotions of this time of year. My

message is to stay calm, there's four games left, let's keep chalking them off."

Parker's men dominated possession and their patient probing paid off when Mejbri struck in the 14th minute.

Burnley doubled the lead when Anthony's shot from outside the area struck Norwich captain Shane Duffy on the back and wrong-footed Gunn in the 24th minute.

Stacey, a 67th-minute replacement for Emiliano Marcondes, hauled the Canaries back in it in the 76th minute.

Kenny McLean headed a corner goalwards and Stacey was first to react, turning the ball home from close range for only the sixth goal conceded by James Trafford on home soil this season.

"We simply have to avoid the first goal, it's not good enough defensively, our back line is all over the place," Norwich manager Johannes Hoff Thorup told BBC Radio Norfolk.

"The second goal, we gave away a freekick in our own half, pass it straight to them and they score from a deflected shot, that's more difficult to avoid.

"That left us in a bad position, so I am not satisfied with that, it wasn't part of the plan.

"The second half was really, really strong. When we got the goal we gave them a final push without creating final chances." – AFP/Agencies

### SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

**DRAW NO:** 5951/2025 **DATE:** 12/04/2025 (SAT)  
**STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.**  
 196901000099 (84202)

#### TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

**1st Prize** **5527**  
**2nd Prize** **2167**  
**3rd Prize** **4918**

Special	Consolation
1013 1526	4279 3747
3782 5108	1207 7740
8087 7525	3312 2781
6664 8848	9091 4657
3444 1867	8036 7315

**4D JACKPOT**

Jackpot 1 **RM 6,991,780.00**

5527 2167	2167 5527
5527 4918	4918 5527
2167 4918	4918 2167

Jackpot 2 **RM 156,472.69**  
 Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

**4D Zodiac**

1st Prize **5527** + **MONKEY**  
 2nd Prize **2167** +  
 3rd Prize **4918** +  
 4th Prize **Special Prize** +  
 5th Prize **Consolation Prize** +  
 6th Prize **Any 4D drawn number**

#### TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

**5D** 1ST **6 6 7 5 7**  
 2ND **7 5 9 4 5** 4TH **6 7 5 7**  
 3RD **1 7 3 3 2** 5TH **7 5 7**  
 6TH **5 7**

**6D** 1ST **6 0 3 4 8 6**  
 2ND **6 0 3 4 8** or **0 3 4 8 6**  
 3RD **6 0 3 4** or **3 4 8 6**  
 4TH **6 0 3** or **4 8 6**  
 5TH **6 0** or **8 6**

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**SUPREME** 22 26 29 36 42 53  
 Jackpot **RM 32,236,570.69**

**POWER** 11 14 15 17 35 44  
 Jackpot **RM 11,351,462.85**

**STAR** 1 7 25 41 43 44 + 28  
 Jackpot 1 **RM 4,897,816.08**  
 Jackpot 2 **RM 100,000.00**

**Star 6/50 Jackpot 2**  
**RM 189,305**  
**Toto 4D Jackpot 2**  
**RM 147,084**  
**Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System)**  
**RM 2,603** won on 09/04/2025!  
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### WINNING NUMBERS

PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL **damacai**

Draw Date: 12/04/25 (Sat) Draw No: 5998/25 Venue: PERAK TURF CLUB

#### 1+3D SUPER1+3D

**1st Prize** **7367**  
**2nd Prize** **4189**  
**3rd Prize** **8377**

Starters	Consolation
2956 7361	1127 8901
6522 8192	8412 0483
9519 4811	2384 1093
0616 2964	0103 6033
2453 2621	8700 9309

#### 1+3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM15,550,749.60**

7367 + 4189	4189 + 7367
7367 + 8377	8377 + 7367
4189 + 8377	8377 + 4189

Jackpot 2 **RM345,783.80**  
 Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

#### 3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
307 367 +	OK	RM50,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
794 189 +	MONKEY	RM892,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
738 377 +	OK	RM1,961,506.00

Starters	Consolation
152 956 077 361	771 127 448 901
006 522 858 192	588 412 920 483
569 519 514 811	892 384 291 093
430 616 272 964	770 103 896 033
842 453 712 621	838 700 259 309

#### 3D

**1st Prize** **367** **2nd Prize** **189** **3rd Prize** **377**

**3D Jackpot** **RM1,046,203.40**

367 + 189 + 377	189 + 377 + 367
367 + 377 + 189	377 + 367 + 189
189 + 367 + 377	377 + 189 + 367

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

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## RESULTS &amp; STANDINGS

**ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP:** Burnley 2 Norwich 1.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Burnley	42	24	16	2	57	13	88
Leeds	41	24	13	4	80	28	85
Sheff Utd	41	26	7	8	56	31	83
Sunderland	41	21	13	7	57	37	76
Bristol City	41	16	15	10	53	44	63
Coventry	41	18	8	15	58	53	62

**LA LIGA:** Valencia 1 (Guerra 45+4) Sevilla 0.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Barcelona	30	21	4	5	83	29	67
Real Madrid	30	19	6	5	63	31	63
Atletico	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:** Udinese 0 AC Milan 4 (Leao 42, Pavlovic 45, Hernandez 74, Reijnders 81).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Inter Milan	31	20	8	3	69	30	68
Napoli	31	19	8	4	48	25	65
Atalanta	31	17	7	7	63	30	58
Bologna	31	15	12	4	51	35	57
Juventus	31	14	14	3	47	29	56
Lazio	31	16	7	8	52	42	55

**BUNDESLIGA:** Wolfsburg 2 (Fischer 58, Skov Olsen 75) RB Leipzig 3 (Openda 11, Simons 26, 49).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bayern	28	21	5	2	81	27	68
Leverkusen	28	18	8	2	63	34	62
E. Frankfurt	28	14	6	8	55	42	48
RB Leipzig	29	13	9	7	47	37	48
Mainz	28	13	7	8	46	32	46
B. M'gladbach	28	13	5	10	45	41	44

**FRENCH LIGUE 1:** Lens 0 Reims 2 (Nakamura 33, 88).

TOP 6	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

## Aaron-Wooi Yik only M'sians still standing in China

**NATIONAL** men's doubles pair Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik were the only Malaysian representatives who made it to the semifinal stage of the 2025 Badminton Asia Championship (BAC) in China after beating Indonesian Fajar Alfian-Muhammad Rian Ardianto in the quarterfinals on Friday.

The Malaysians took 30 minutes to beat the Indonesians 21-16, 21-11 and are scheduled to meet home pair Liang Wei Keng-Wang Chang to book a place in the final today.

Wei Keng-Chang advanced to the semifinals after beating another Indonesian pair Shohibul Fikri-Daniel Marthin 21-19, 21-19 in 42 minutes.

Meanwhile, Malaysians Goh Sze Fei Nur Izzuddin Mohd Rumsani failed to make it to the semifinals, losing 21-16, 18-21, 22-20 to Chinese pair Chen Bo Yang-Liu Yi. – Bernama

## Devils return very meaningful, says FAM boss

**FOOTBALL** Association of Malaysia (FAM) president Datuk Mohd Joehari Mohd Ayub has described Manchester United's return to Malaysia after 16 years as a very meaningful moment for national football.

He said the match would not only be of world standard but represented the progress and growth of football culture in the region.

"The match is special for Malaysia as it is exclusive in the Asean region. Being host to a club as big as Manchester United is a very meaningful moment for Malaysian and

Asean football.

"We urge fans to fill the stadium and support this unforgettable occasion," he said in a statement today.

Meanwhile, Asean Football Federation (AFF) president Maj Gen Khiev Sameth said the match between the Asean All-Stars and the English League giants was a crowning moment for football in the region.

"To watch our best players go up against one of the world's largest clubs is not only historic but a benchmark for football in this

region. Their match represents confidence, hard work and unity," he said.

Manchester United last played in Malaysia during their 2009 pre-season tour, beating Malaysia XI twice, 3-2 on July 18 and 2-0 on July 20 at National Stadium.

Besides the Match in Malaysia, Manchester United will also play Hong Kong in Hong Kong Stadium on May 30, Leeds United in Stockholm on July 19 before departing for the United States for the Premier League Summer Series against West Ham United (July 26), Bournemouth (July 30) and Everton (Aug 3). – Bernama



Tan Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria. – BERNAMAPIC

**HONOURARY** life president of the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) Tan Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria retained his position as president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) for a third consecutive term after being announced as the unopposed winner for the 2025-2029 term.

The development came after the Independent Election Panel of OCM for the 2025-2029 term chaired by Datuk Seri Mohd Firuz Jaffril confirmed that Norza was not challenged as the only candidate named for the contest after the nomination closing date at 5pm on April 9.

"An official announcement on this matter will only be made after the (OCM) election is over (at 44th OCM annual general assembly on April 19)," he said at a press conference on Friday.

Norza, commenting on his unchallenged re-election as OCM president, expressed his gratitude for the support given by the affiliated members of the organisation.

"I was elected unopposed in my previous two terms for 2018-2021 and 2021-2025. I am truly delighted and honoured to be given the opportunity to serve a third consecutive term as OCM president, once again unopposed.

"With their continued support, I remain fully committed to leading the Olympic Movement in Malaysia, upholding the Olympic Values under the auspices of the IOC," he stated in a statement uploaded to the OCM's Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Mohd Firuz, who is also

## BAM strongman uncontested for 3rd term as Olympic chief

a Court of Appeal Judge, informed that three other positions were also uncontested – secretary-general, assistant secretary-general (women), treasurer, and assistant treasurer.

The sole candidate for the position of secretary-general is the deputy president of the Malaysian Weightlifting Federation (PABM) Datuk Mohd Nasir Ali.

The assistant secretary-general (women) is Moira Tan Siew See (a former national netball player), the treasurer is the vice-president of the Malaysian Cricket Association (MCA) Datuk Ahmad Feisal Ahmad Tajuddin and Assistant Treasurer is the acting president of BAM Datuk V. Subramaniam.

However, the focus of this OCM election is on the contest for the position of deputy president, which will see a straight fight between Malaysian Karate Federation (Makaf) president Datuk Nur Azmi Ahmad, who is also OCM vice-president and Malaysian Lawn Bowls Federation (PLBM) president Datuk Awalan Abdul Aziz.

The incumbent (OCM deputy president) was former president of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) Tan Sri Hamidin Mohd Amin, who is not defending his current OCM position. – Bernama

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Draw No: 188/25 Date: 12/04/2025

### 4D Classic

1st Prize	<b>8660</b>
2nd Prize	<b>6869</b>
3rd Prize	<b>7229</b>

SPECIAL	CONSOlation
<b>1429 0542</b>	<b>1403 1450</b>
<b>2193 4535</b>	<b>5139 6986</b>
<b>4247 5402</b>	<b>0045 5228</b>
<b>0356 1876</b>	<b>7322 1881</b>
<b>1611 2129</b>	<b>6100 3898</b>

### 4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM4,180,148.67**  
**PARTIALLY WON**

<b>8660 + 6869</b>	<b>8660 + 7229</b>
<b>6869 + 8660</b>	<b>6869 + 7229</b>
<b>7229 + 8660</b>	<b>7229 + 6869</b>

Jackpot 2 **RM351,089.66**  
**WON**  
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

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+ <b>9 14</b>							
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<b>2nd Prize</b> RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days							

### Jackpot Gold

Jackpot 1 **RM12,679,135.08**  
Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 **RM100,000.00**  
Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	<b>6 0 6 9 2 9</b>
GROUP 2	<b>60692</b> OR <b>06929</b>
GROUP 3	<b>6069</b> OR <b>6929</b>
GROUP 4	<b>606</b> OR <b>929</b>
GROUP 5	<b>60</b> OR <b>29</b>
OR <b>69</b>	
GOLDEN NUMBER	<b>16</b>

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit to [www.magnum4d.my](http://www.magnum4d.my) for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY.





# theSun Sports

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SCAN ME

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (top)  
in action with Paris St Germain's  
Nuno Mendes. – REUTERS/PIC



Italian Job

Story on **page 12**

## Exception to the rule

Liverpool's reluctance to give lengthy contracts to thirtysomethings has been justified but Salah can be the anomaly. The Egyptian's new deal will take him up to his 35th birthday and despite the stutter in the last month – he is having a career-best campaign in his thirties, with 32 goals and 22 assists.

Story on **page 13**

