



## Pickleball picking up in country

First state-level tournament in Negeri Sembilan underscores rapid growth of relatively young sport.

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# A vote for Madani govt

Victory of BN candidate in Ayer Kuning by-election clear manifestation of people's support for unity administration led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

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The triumph of BN candidate Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir (seventh from left) shows voters have chosen stability, progress and credible leadership over the politics of hatred, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. — **BERNAMAPIC**

## Providing assistance to helpless pets affected by disaster

Independent rescuer plays crucial role in animal relief efforts in aftermath of Putra Heights gas pipeline fire tragedy.

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## Call to end hooliganism at Malaysian football matches

Post-game clashes between rival fans cast shadow on sport and could discourage attendance at future events, says minister.

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SCAN ME

# King sends greetings to Navy

➤ Sultan Ibrahim expresses profound gratitude for dedication, services and sacrifices by naval personnel and veterans in safeguarding sovereignty of country

**KUALA LUMPUR:** His Majesty the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim conveyed greetings to personnel and veterans of the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) yesterday, in conjunction with its 91st anniversary.

According to a post on the Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar Facebook page, His Majesty, as the Supreme Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces, expressed his most profound gratitude for the dedication, services and sacrifices made by all RMN personnel and veterans in safeguarding the nation's

sovereignty and security.

"*Al-Fatihah* for those who have passed away. May they be granted a place among the faithful and the martyrs."

In line with the celebration themed "TLDM Perkasa, Kedaulatan Terpelihara", Sultan Ibrahim also prayed for RMN to remain a respected force on the global stage.

The 91st Navy Day celebrations were held yesterday at the Lumut Naval Base in Perak.

Chief of Navy Admiral Datuk Zulhelmy Ithnain said RMN would

continue to strengthen its role as the country's main line of maritime defence through the implementation of various strategic initiatives that reflect its high commitment to the country's sovereignty and the safety of its waters.

He added that the success of the procurement of new assets, including the Littoral Mission Ship Batch 2 (LMSB2), Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) and Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC), proves that the Navy is on the right track in improving combat readiness and capabilities.

"The keel laying of the LMSB2 was completed on April 8 at Istanbul Shipyard in Turkiye, marking an important phase of ship construction that is estimated to be completed in mid-2026, before being handed over to RMN at the end of 2027."

Zulhelmy said the LCS 1 is expected to be handed over to the Navy in Aug 2026 while the start of

construction for LCS 2 and LCS 3 would be in June 2025 and January 2026 respectively.

"From the 19 FIC units approved in 2020 to support Ops Benteng, 14 have been received and the rest are expected to arrive at the end of this year."

Zulhelmy added that RMN plans to procure two Multi Role Support Ships, three LMS Batch 3 and four Anti-Submarine Warfare helicopters, all of which would be operational before 2035 under the 13th Malaysia Plan, Bernama reported.

"These assets will not only strengthen the element of 'prevent resist' but also contribute to the Navy's combat capabilities and will be developed through partnerships between local and international shipyards to empower the national defence industry sustainably and reduce dependency on foreign original equipment manufacturers."

Zulhelmy said the navy is focusing on vital infrastructure development such as the construction of the Naval Region 4 headquarters in Sarawak to protect national strategic interests in Borneo waters.

He said the welfare of naval personnel is also being addressed through the new Armed Forces Family Home construction project.

"The projects underway are at the National Hydrography Centre, the Kota Kinabalu Naval Base and the Naval Region 2 Headquarters in Sandakan."

Zulhelmy said the 91st Navy Day celebrations were held in a moderate scale, featuring various activities, including a parade, blood donation drives, welfare visits and Armada Open Days at several naval bases, including in Kota Kinabalu, the Tanjung Gelang Base in Kuantan and in Sandakan.



Fadillah visiting the Blyth Offshore Wind Farm in Newcastle on Saturday. — BERNAMAPIC

## TNB shows global expansion capability, says DPM

**NEWCASTLE:** Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) has shown its ability to develop and enhance its overseas energy capabilities and investments continuously, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

He said TNB's investment through Vantage RE Ltd (Vantage RE) in the Blyth Offshore Demonstrator Ltd (BODL) offshore wind farm in Newcastle, United Kingdom (UK), demonstrates the ability of large Malaysian companies to invest and expand internationally.

"Congratulations to TNB for exploring and expanding their reach internationally, especially in the UK, which includes Northern Ireland and Scotland."

"This shows the capability of Malaysian companies, which not only benefits TNB but also our country in terms of foreign investment," he said after visiting the Blyth

Offshore Wind Farm on Saturday.

Also present were TNB new energy officer Mohd Zarihi Mohd Hashim and Sarawak Energy Bhd group CEO Datuk Sharbini Suhaili.

Fadillah, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation minister, expressed hope that more large companies, particularly GLCs, would recognise the potential for investment abroad.

The 41.5MW offshore wind farm, which began operations in 2017, is located approximately 6.5km from the coastline. Vantage RE holds a 49% stake in BODL, the wind farm's owner.

Vantage RE also manages and develops TNB's renewable energy asset portfolio, totalling 1.3GW in the UK and Ireland.

Recently, Vantage RE also constructed a 100MW solar farm in the UK, which will be equipped with a battery energy storage

system in the future, further positioning TNB as a leader and catalyst in the renewable energy industry in Malaysia.

Regarding Malaysia's participation in the two-day Future of Energy Security Summit held in Lancaster House, London, which concluded on Friday, Fadillah said it was an excellent opportunity for Malaysia to learn about the latest energy technologies.

Fadillah added that the summit provided Malaysia with a platform to express its commitment to environmental stewardship and to strengthen collaborations in technology and expertise.

The summit was organised by the International Energy Agency and the UK government, bringing together global decision-makers to plan and shape actions toward the future of energy security. — Bernama

## M'sia to support Palestine at ICJ proceedings

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia will take part in public hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague from today, as the court considers an advisory opinion on Israel's obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The hearings on the "Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, other International Organisations and Third States in, and in relation to, the Occupied Palestinian Territory" are scheduled until May 2.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said would lead the Malaysian delegation, which includes senior officials from the Foreign Ministry Legal Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers and the Malaysian Embassy in The Hague.

"This marks Malaysia's third participation in ICJ Advisory Opinion proceedings related to Palestine, following previous engagements in 2004 and 2024."

"The hearings aim to provide an advisory opinion on the legal responsibilities of Israel concerning its presence and actions in the territory, and the implications for the United Nations, international organisations and third states."

"Malaysia's involvement underscores its commitment to upholding international law and advocating Palestinian rights."

The Foreign Ministry said Malaysia stands firm in her principled stance of continuing to advocate the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This Advisory Opinion stems from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 79/232 adopted on Dec 19, 2024.

Malaysia co-sponsored and voted in favour of the resolution and was part of the core group that initiated the resolution. Malaysia will join 39 other states and four international organisations at the hearings.

On Feb 28, Malaysia submitted a written statement to the court, in pursuance of continued advocacy for Palestinian rights, and emphasised the urgent need for accountability for Israel's clear and blatant violations of international law. — Bernama

## Anwar congratulates Ayer Kuning polls winner

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has congratulated Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir on his victory in the Ayer Kuning state by-election.

"Congratulations to Dr Mohamad Yusri

Bakir of BN on his victory in the Ayer Kuning by-election. *Insha-Allah*, the voice of the people will be translated with grace and competence," Anwar said in a post on his Facebook page.

Mohamad Yusri secured a 5,006-vote

majority after polling 11,065 votes in the three-cornered by-election on Saturday. His closest rival, Abd Muhaimin Malek of Perikatan Nasional received 6,059 votes, while Bawani K.S. of Parti Sosialis Malaysia garnered 1,106 votes. — Bernama



## BN retains constituency, but challenges still ahead

■ BY HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Barisan Nasional (BN) comfortably retained its Ayer Kuning seat in Saturday's by-election, reinforcing its hold on the constituency. However, political analysts warn that the result underscores ongoing challenges, as both the ruling coalition and the opposition struggle to expand beyond their traditional support bases.

International Islamic University Malaysia political analyst and ISEAS-Yusuf Ishak Institute fellow Assoc Prof Dr Syaza Shukri noted that Perikatan Nasional (PN) and Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) appeared to have only maintained their 2022 voter bases, without making significant inroads.

"PN and PSM are holding onto their existing supporters. For PN, this could signal that the green wave may have peaked. They'll need to rethink their strategy and develop a new narrative."

Syaza added that BN's victory indicated that voters were prioritising pragmatism and development-oriented leadership.

"I expected BN to retain the seat because people are looking for practical solutions and tangible development."

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu's Prof Dr Mohd Izani Mohd Zain also pointed to strong cooperation between Pakatan Harapan (PH) and BN at the state level. He said: "Ayer Kuning has always been an Umno stronghold, and with support from PH voters, BN had the upper hand."

He also emphasised that the by-election was influenced more by local issues than national politics.

BN's Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir retained the seat with a 5,006-vote majority, securing 11,065 votes against PN's Abd Muhaimin Malek (6,059 votes) and PSM's Bawani K.S. (1,106 votes).

Despite BN's expected victory, analysts argued that the PH-BN alliance has yet to build strong grassroots momentum.

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) political analyst Dr Abdul Aziz Azizam said: "While BN's victory reaffirmed Ayer Kuning as a traditional BN bastion, the cooperation between PH and BN has not yet sparked the level of voter enthusiasm projected from earlier trends."

Analysts had expected the PH-BN alliance to secure around 68% of the vote, but this target fell short.

Abdul Aziz also pointed out that PN demonstrated consistent support throughout the contest, showing strong staying power. Meanwhile, he cautioned against underestimating PSM, which had made quiet, yet significant gains with a vote share exceeding 6%.

The outcome, he concluded, reflects an increasingly dynamic and competitive political landscape, with Malaysia's democracy continuing to create space for smaller parties to build voter trust.

# Unity formula triumphs in Ayer Kuning by-election

**BAGAN DATUK:** Barisan Nasional's (BN) victory in the Ayer Kuning by-election is a clear reflection of the people's support for the Madani government led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, said BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said the win also showed backing for the unity government in Perak under Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad. Zahid congratulated BN candidate Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir and urged him to continue the service legacy of the late Ihsam Shahrudin.

"Thank you also to the Perak Menteri Besar, who has prioritised the Ayer Kuning by-election since the fasting month. His hard work has paid off," he said when met at the *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* celebration in Bagan Datuk on Saturday.

In a Facebook post, Zahid noted that 10 out of 11 district voting centres (PDM) previously lost to the

➤ Victory shows people's trust in Madani govt, rejecting politics of hatred and choosing stability, progress and credible leadership: DPM

opposition had now returned to BN, Bernama reported.

"The victory proves the people are wiser in their judgment. They rejected politics of hatred and chose stability, progress and credible leadership."

He added that the result was a strong signal that the unity government is accepted for its ability to manage the state and country based on unity, development and people's wellbeing.

Perak BN chairman Saarani said the outcome of the by-election showed voters' support for the unity government's stability agenda.

"The people of Ayer Kuning rejected slander and division, choosing unity and harmony for a better future," he said after the results announcement at Dewan Merdeka on Saturday.

Saarani credited the win to the collective efforts of BN and Pakatan Harapan (PH) machinery during the campaign.

Meanwhile, Umno secretary-general Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki said the result reflected BN's continued success following wins in Nenggiri (Kelantan) and Mahkota (Johor) by-elections.

"The victory shows the people reject politics of hatred, hostility,

insults and extreme racial sentiments."

Umno information chief Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said said the win demonstrated the strength of the unity government's cooperation and the people's trust in BN to continue the development agenda started by Ihsam.

"I am confident Dr Mohamad Yusri will fulfil this trust with dedication and responsibility."

DAP National Political Education director Howard Lee Chuan How said the result affirmed the success of the unity government formula, which would guide future cooperation.

"This victory shows that any future administrative or electoral cooperation will be based on this formula to defeat anything threatening national unity."

Perak Amanah chairman Datuk Asmuni Awi said the win indicated the people's rejection of racial politics.



Mohamad Yusri shaking hands with constituents in Air Kuning yesterday. — BERNAMAPIC

## Newly-elected rep pledges swift action for residents

**TAPAH:** Fresh from his victory in the Ayer Kuning by-election, newly-elected assemblyman Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir wasted no time getting down to work.

Just hours after being declared the winner of the three-cornered contest on Saturday night, Mohamad Yusri was up early yesterday, meeting residents across several areas including Simpang Tiga, Air Kuning Selatan and Kampung Tersusun Haji Tahir.

Greeted warmly by residents who addressed him as "YB" (Yang Berhormat), he listened to their concerns, gathered feedback and assessed pressing issues on the ground.

"My immediate focus is on resolving basic infrastructure issues, creating more local economic opportunities and safeguarding the welfare of all communities," he said, adding that he was committed to delivering on his campaign

promises.

Mohamad Yusri stressed that he had no time to rest, noting that there is less than three years before the next general election.

"This period must be fully utilised to prove that I am capable of carrying the voices and aspirations of the people of Ayer Kuning."

Mohamad Yusri, who is also Tapah Umno division secretary, secured a 5,006-vote majority after polling 11,065 votes in Saturday's

by-election. His closest rival, Abd Muhaimin Malek of Perikatan Nasional, received 6,059 votes, while Parti Sosialis Malaysia's Bawani K.S. garnered 1,106 votes.

The result reaffirmed Ayer Kuning as a Barisan Nasional (BN) stronghold, a seat the coalition has held since 1986.

The by-election was held following the death of incumbent Ihsam Shahrudin on Feb 22 due to a heart attack. — Bernama

## Win proves popularity of current govt: Fahmi

**SANDAKAN:** The victory in the Ayer Kuning by-election is proof that the Madani government's formula has captured and won the hearts of the people.

Madani government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, also the

communications minister, said the majority won by Barisan Nasional candidate Dr Mohamad Yusri Bakir had increased, while the votes received by his opponent from Perikatan Nasional had plummeted.

"Of the 20 district polling centres,

19 were won by the Madani government. This is a positive sign but we must not be complacent. There is still a lot that we must do to strengthen our win in the constituency," he said after launching the Community Day Programme at

Nadi Sim Sim yesterday.

He said the healthy campaigning methods used were the reason why voters in Ayer Kuning chose the Madani government and rejected the opposition, which chose topics that did not resonate with the residents.

Fahmi said the people also rejected campaigns that were racist and divisive.

"We can see that it's a rejection of racist politics. Malaysians reject it, especially in Ayer Kuning where they chose unity over division." — Bernama



# Foundation's massive effort for Myanmar quake victims

► BTCF volunteers acted quickly to assess damage, distribute emergency aid and provide vital emotional support to survivors

■ BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM  
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**PETALING JAYA:** The Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation (BTCF) hit the ground running when the catastrophic 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar on March 28, leaving over 3,700 dead and more than 5,000 injured.

The foundation rolled out a massive, coordinated relief effort across Mandalay and Naypyidaw, two of the hardest-hit regions.

In a statement, it said BTCF volunteers had acted quickly to assess the damage, distribute emergency aid and provide vital emotional support to survivors.

The foundation said BTCF's Malaysia branch had teamed up with the Royal Malaysian Air Force to fly critical humanitarian supplies to Naypyidaw.

The first shipment, containing folding beds and eco-blankets, was sent on April 7 to hospitals and mobile clinics.

"Accompanied by two Malaysian volunteers, the delivery was handed directly to the Myanmar Red Cross Society for distribution."

The tragedy has left more than 10,000 religious structures severely damaged in the predominantly Buddhist nation.

Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, reported the heaviest toll.

The statement said BTCF's international relief efforts have delivered more than 300 metric tonnes of aid, focusing on food, medical supplies and sanitation needs.

Priority distributions have targeted rural villages, temporary shelters, hospitals, monasteries and orphanages. Key supplies include rice, cooking oil, instant noodles, biscuits, eggs, and clean drinking water.

BTCF has also distributed vital medical items, including 600,000 face masks, 1,000 wound treatment packs and nearly 600,000 pairs of gloves, along with 2,620 packs of sanitary pads.

To address electricity shortages, BTCF is providing solar-powered lanterns and lighting kits, while for shelter, more than 100 heavy-



Tzu Chi Foundation volunteers with RMAF personnel who helped transport aid to quake-hit Myanmar. – PIC COURTESY OF TZU CHI FOUNDATION

duty tents, 3,975 foldable beds and 1,900 mosquito nets have been distributed.

Special care packages have been prepared for vulnerable groups, including elderly residents, orphans and families with infants, featuring baby formula, diapers and small toys.

BTCF volunteers have also been delivering hot meals and clean water to overwhelmed healthcare workers and search-and-rescue teams.

Local partnerships, including with the Yunnan Chamber of Commerce, have been crucial in logistics, debris clearing and emotional support services.

BTCF also organised a memorial service in Mandalay on April 17, with 550 monks from 26

monasteries chanting blessings for the victims. BTCF's humanitarian presence in Myanmar began in 2008 after *Cyclone Nargis*, and today it supports over 20,000 long-term member households. Through its network of 784 local volunteers, the foundation continues to provide aid and emotional support across Myanmar's communities.

Berjaya Group founder Tan Sri Vincent Tan remains a key supporter of Tzu Chi Malaysia's charitable missions, helping the foundation expand its humanitarian efforts both across Malaysia and internationally.

BTCF remains committed to supporting Myanmar's recovery and rebuilding efforts in the months and years to come.

## USIM grads top pick among industry employers

**SEREMBAN:** Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) is among the public universities recognised by the renowned industry body Talentbank as the employer's choice university for graduate marketability.

USIM Career and Alumni Centre director Prof Dr Mahazan Abdul Mutalib@Taib said the success is a result of the synergy between the government, industry, faculties and departments at USIM in strengthening the marketability of its graduates.

"It serves to drive us to continue producing superior human capital who are ready for the real working world," he said yesterday.

Higher Education Deputy Minister Datuk Mustapha Sakmud presented the award to the university's deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Datuk Dr Nik Salida Suhaila at a leading hotel in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

He said the recognition is based on data from prestigious employers nationwide, such as Petronas, Public Bank, CIMB, Maybank and Hartalega.

"In line with USIM's mission to produce human capital grounded in Islamic knowledge for universal well-being, this achievement proves that USIM's approach of integrating *naqli* and *aqli* (revealed and acquired) knowledge has gained full trust from the industry."

He added that it also put USIM graduates on par with other leading universities in Malaysia as a top choice for major companies. – Bernama

## 224 cattle vaccinated in Terengganu

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** The Terengganu Veterinary Services Department has vaccinated 224 cattle and buffaloes to prevent the spread of haemorrhagic septicaemia in Kuala Terengganu.

Its director Dr Anun Man said the vaccination covered livestock within a 5km-radius from the outbreak site, first detected on April 7.

"Control measures and quarantine began on April 24 after the outbreak was confirmed, with 25% of the livestock vaccinated in two days."

"We are concerned that if uncontrolled, the outbreak could affect *Aidiladha* sacrificial rites, as livestock movement requires health permits. The high demand for sacrificial animals also raises the risk of illegal imports," she said when observing the vaccination process at Kampung Manir yesterday.

Anun said free-range farming of buffaloes in Terengganu posed a challenge, as the department needs to provide pens for quarantine and vaccination.

"We urge farmers to bring free-range livestock into pens and call us for vaccination."

"Buffaloes, especially in extreme weather conditions, are at higher risk of the disease." – Bernama

## Animal lover recounts poignant rescue efforts at Putra Heights

**PETALING JAYA:** When disaster struck Putra Heights, it was not just human lives that suffered. Countless animals were left trapped, injured or lost amid the devastation.

Among those who sprang into action was Manjit Kaur Shabeg Singh, 57, an independent animal rescuer who played a key role in rescue and relief efforts led by the Stray Animal Feeders of Malaysia (SAFM).

Speaking to *theSun*, Manjit recounted the raw, emotional reality behind the rescue missions.

"When I got a call from the SAFM president about the urgent need to save animals left behind, I didn't think twice. Volunteering was the only option for the sake of those innocent lives."

However, the mission was fraught with heartbreak. Manjit recalled scenes that would haunt her forever – animals that never had the chance to escape.

"Seeing dogs and cats lying lifeless in the very homes they trusted was devastating. Many were caged or tied up, unable to flee even as danger closed in."

"Please, never cage or tie up your pets at home. In a crisis, they deserve the chance to save themselves, just like any family member."

Beyond the emotional toll, logistical hurdles also posed major challenges.

In one painful incident, Manjit and her team found two severely dehydrated dogs but were initially unable to rescue them due to

legal restrictions.

"Walking away from them that day, knowing they needed urgent care, was one of the hardest things I've ever done."

"Thankfully, after days of trying, a kind police officer finally allowed us to jump over the gate and save them. That rescue still feels like a miracle."

"Animals experience fear, confusion, pain and trauma just like humans, but they cannot call for help. In times of crisis, stepping forward to save them isn't just kindness, it's a responsibility."

Although grateful for the recognition she received at SAFM's Volunteer Appreciation ceremony on Saturday at the Sri Maha Kaliamman Temple, Manjit said her true reward

is helping the voiceless.

At the ceremony, SAFM presented medals and certificates to 45 volunteers, veterinary clinics and the temple management for supporting the rescue efforts.

SAFM also launched three animal food banks at the Sri Maha Kaliamman Temple, Ministre' of Pets Veterinary Clinic and Taipan Veterinary Clinic and Surgery, aimed at helping families affected by the fire care for their pets.

"Every contribution, no matter how small, can help save lives and ease the burden on affected pet owners," said SAFM president Kalaivanan Ravichandran, urging the public to donate pet food supplies. – By DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM



# Change behaviour, football hooligans told

► In response to recent fracas, minister says such incidents undermine sporting atmosphere and could make stadiums unsafe

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh has urged a small but disruptive group of football fans to rethink their behaviour, warning that their actions risk alienating families and other supporters from attending future matches.

Reacting to the disturbance that marred the build-up to the Malaysia Cup final on Saturday night, Yeoh said such incidents undermine the sporting atmosphere and could make stadiums unsafe.

"The Safe Sport Code is designed not only for athletes and coaches, but also for supporters. The purpose is to ensure that everyone can enjoy the game safely."

Yeoh's remarks followed an altercation involving a small group of fans at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil before the highly anticipated final between Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) and Sri Pahang FC. The disruption cast a shadow over what was meant to be a celebration of Malaysian football.

"I urge those who attend matches just to create chaos to reconsider their actions. Their behaviour damages the sport. We want positive narratives that promote football as a source of recreation and stress relief for everyone, including families."

Incidents of violence at football matches have long been a concern in Malaysia, Bernama reported.

In 2015, a clash between Selangor and Kedah fans after a Malaysia Cup match resulted in multiple injuries, while in 2018, a brawl between Pahang and Terengganu supporters led to fines and match suspensions.

Such events have prompted calls for greater accountability and stricter enforcement of stadium regulations. The introduction of the Safe Sport Code is part of broader efforts by the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) to create a safer, more inclusive environment for all.

Yeoh also noted a positive trend of more families attending matches,

bringing their children to experience the excitement of top-tier football.

"This is encouraging," she said, praising the largely wholesome atmosphere at the event despite the earlier disturbance.

In a thrilling finale, JDT defeated Sri Pahang 2-1 to secure the 2024/2025 Malaysia Cup.

The victory was historic, making JDT the first club in Malaysian football history to win all three major titles – the Super League, FA Cup and the Malaysia Cup – for three consecutive seasons.

Yeoh's call for improved fan behaviour reflects a broader recognition that football should

unite communities rather than divide them, and that stadiums should be safe spaces for everyone.

Separately, Yeoh congratulated former Badminton Association of Malaysia president Tan Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria, who was elected to the Badminton World Federation Council (BWF) for the 2025-2029 term at the annual meeting of the BWF in Xiamen, China, on Saturday.

"This achievement highlights the recognition of his leadership on the global stage. I wish him all the best and hope he continues to bring pride to Malaysia internationally," Yeoh said.



Yeoh said the Safe Sport Code is designed not only for athletes and coaches, but also for supporters as the purpose is to ensure that everyone can enjoy the game safely. – SCRENGRAB COURTESY OF BULLETIN MALAYSIA

## Man held over attempted murder of motorcyclist

**SHAH ALAM:** Police have arrested a man in connection with a deliberate crash involving a motorcyclist along Jalan Dato Yusof Shahbudin 28, Bandar Sentosa, Klang, on Saturday.

South Klang police chief ACP Ramli Kasa confirmed that the 37-year-old suspect, who has four prior criminal records, was detained in Klang at 1.15am yesterday. He has been remanded for four days until Wednesday.

"An investigation has been opened under Section 307 of the Penal Code for attempted murder. The case will be referred to the deputy public prosecutor soon."

Ramli said police were alerted at 10.20pm on Saturday about an altercation between a car driver and a motorcyclist, which escalated when the driver allegedly rammed the rider.

The incident reportedly began when the 50-year-old motorcyclist slowed down to avoid road bumps. The driver, mistakenly believing the motorcyclist was riding recklessly, honked at him, prompting a chase that led to a confrontation.

During the encounter, the motorcyclist allegedly struck the car's windscreen with his helmet, after which the driver was believed to have rammed into him, dragging the motorcycle under the vehicle.

The suspect fled the scene while the injured motorcyclist was rushed to the Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital in Klang. He sustained injuries to both legs and shoulders, including a dislocated left shoulder, but is reported to be in stable condition.

Ramli urged the public not to circulate videos of the incident to avoid causing unnecessary alarm. – Bernama

## Masterminds of drug trafficking syndicate nabbed

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Police have seized 75kg of marijuana buds, worth RM2.64 million, in a major bust at a storage hideout in Bukit Changgang, Selangor. The drugs were intended for Europe.

A 34-year-old local and a 38-year-old Chinese national, arrested in Sepang on Wednesday, are believed to be the masterminds behind the trafficking syndicate. The arrests took place at 5.25am and 6.15am.

Federal Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department acting director DCP Mat Zani @ Mohd Salahuddin Che Ali said the drugs were found in 144 plastic packages, weighing 75.51kg, in a rented house. The syndicate had been operating since January, using the house as a storage point for shipments to Europe.

The case is being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952. Authorities are also checking the Chinese national's travel documents.

Additionally, RM25,327 in cash was seized under the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1988. Police are also searching for other members of the syndicate. – Bernama

## Police launch murder probe after bodies found in house

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Five witnesses, including neighbours and family members of a woman and her nephew who were found dead in a Semenyih house three days ago, have been called to provide statements in a suspected murder case.

Kajang police chief ACP Naazron Abdul Yusof confirmed that more witnesses will be called today to assist in the investigation.

"No arrests have been made so far, and police are still unable to determine the exact time of death."

"Maggots found on the bodies

have been sent for analysis at the Chemistry Department. Preliminary findings suggest the victims may have been dead for over a week," he said in a statement yesterday.

Naazron confirmed the bodies have not been released for burial as the case is being investigated under Section 302 of the Penal Code for murder.

It was reported that a foul odour from a house in Semenyih, Selangor, led to the discovery of the two bodies on the living room floor.

With assistance from the Fire and

Rescue Department, police entered the property and found the two motionless on the premises. A medical team later confirmed both had died, reported Bernama.

"There was no sign of forced entry as the house was locked from the inside."

"Several items have been seized for further analysis. No arrests have been made thus far, but detailed statements from family members and witnesses will be recorded to assist in police investigations."

Naazron said preliminary information indicated the 53-year-old

woman had been living with her 25-year-old nephew and had not been seen around the neighbourhood for nearly 10 days.

"The bodies were sent to the Serdang Hospital Forensic Department, where post-mortem examinations concluded at 2.30pm on Saturday. The cause of death was determined to be suffocation."

Naazron urged those with information about the case to contact the nearest police station or investigating officer ASP Umesh Ratnam Kumar at 012-611-4900.

## Suspect in fatal hit-and-run crash arrested

**MALACCA:** Police have arrested the driver of a four-wheel drive (4WD) after he surrendered at the Central Malacca police headquarters at 12.50pm on Saturday, 13 hours after a fatal hit-and-run in which he failed to assist a motorcyclist and his wife, who was riding pillion.

Police chief ACP Christopher Patit said the incident occurred on Friday night when the suspect, driving a Mitsubishi Triton, rear-ended a motorcycle at a traffic light on the Alor Gajah-Melaka Tengah-Jasin Highway (Lebuhring AMJ) at Balai Panjang.

"The suspect's blood has been

taken for toxicology testing, alongside a urine test to detect alcohol consumption."

The suspect has been detained under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987 for reckless driving, and police submitted a remand application at the Ayer Keroh

Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Roslinah Sinan, 53, died at the scene from severe head injuries after the 4WD crashed into the motorcycle driven by her husband, Hisham Omar, 57, who was seriously injured and taken to Melaka Hospital. The Mitsubishi Triton driver, unhurt, fled the scene. – Bernama

# Pickleball passion in full swing

➤ Rapid rise in popularity of sport prompts N. Sembilan to organise inaugural state tournament

■ BY R. ANBALAGAN  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**SEREMBAN:** Leveraging on the rapid growth of pickleball in Malaysia, Negeri Sembilan hosted its inaugural state-level open tournament, the "Pickleball Network Cup 2025", held at The Pickle Place here on Saturday.

The event attracted 56 skilled players, showcasing the increasing popularity of the sport across the state since its introduction in 2020.

More than just a competition, it reflected a shared commitment among the younger generation to embrace healthy, active lifestyles and strengthen the vibrant sporting spirit of the community.

Bukit Kepayang assemblywoman and state Tourism, Arts and Culture executive councillor Nicole Tan commended the growing enthusiasm for pickleball among young people.

"I'm happy to see that more youngsters are getting involved in this sport. The younger generation are playing until the early hours, and this is a positive development."

"This will deter them from hanging around at eateries or partying all night. It's far better to spend their time engaging in sports activities," she said after the prize-giving ceremony for the event.

"This will also help to keep the younger



Tan and Jayesuria with tournament participants Sharon Tan and Lee Jun Lian. – PIC COURTESY OF NEGERI SEMBILAN PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

generation fit and healthy, as sports is a form of exercise."

Tan added that Negeri Sembilan has emerged as an active hub for pickleball, while expressing confidence that with encouragement from the state government, more youth would be drawn to the sport.

To boost momentum in the sport, she presented a RM1,000 contribution to the Negeri

Sembilan Pickleball Association to support its initiatives in promoting and expanding pickleball throughout the state.

The tournament featured two teams of 28 players each, with the "Dinking Dynamos" group emerging victorious, scoring 113 points against rivals "Smash Spartans", with 67 points.

The top performers, recognised as the "Most Valuable Players" for earning the highest points

for their teams, were Stella Carra Ross and G. Sunder Ganasan from the Dinking Dynamos, along with Vernon Chan and Tira Low from the Smash Spartans.

Association president Michael Robin Jayesuria said there are approximately 500 pickleball players in the state, spanning all age groups.

He added that the sport is rapidly gaining popularity as more people are drawn to its unique combination of table tennis, badminton and tennis.

Jayesuria said the association has actively reached out to advocate the introduction of pickleball in schools, with the ultimate goal of having the sport included in the Sukma Games.

He expressed hope that local governments would allow the use of existing sports facilities for pickleball to engage more youth.

"Many local sports facilities are under-utilised, including courts for *sepak takraw*, badminton and futsal. It would be great if these could also accommodate pickleball games," he said, adding that such sharing of facilities were already in practice at the Rasah Kemayan Sports Complex, where futsal and pickleball games are held.

He said expanding such a practice would allow more people to experience pickleball, setting a trend for such arrangements to be made at other facilities.

Jayesuria also said the Star Fresh Agro Park in Kuala Pilah is paving the way for growth of the sport in the state, having opened four pickleball courts in January.

"This is a fantastic step forward, but we need more private companies to come on board."

"Converting vacant properties into pickleball courts would provide much-needed spaces, and financial support from businesses would also help drive growth of the sport," he added.

theSun

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

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# China **seizes** disputed reef near key military outpost

## ► US, Philippines holding joint drills

**BEIJING:** The Chinese coast guard has seized control of a disputed reef near a major Philippine military outpost in the South China Sea, according to Beijing's state media.

Beijing claims sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea and has waved away competing assertions from other regional countries as well as an international ruling that its position has no legal basis.

China and the Philippines have engaged in months of confrontations in the contested waters, and Manila is taking part in joint military drills with the United States that Beijing has slammed as destabilising.

The Chinese coast guard "implemented maritime control" over the Tiexian Reef, also known as Sandy Cay, during the middle of April, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Saturday.

The tiny sandbank, part of the Spratly Islands, lies near Thitu Island, also called Pag-asa and the site of a Philippine military facility.

CCTV said the coast guard landed on Sandy Cay to "exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction" over the reef, carry out an "inspection" and "collect video evidence regarding the illegal activities of the Philippine side".

The broadcaster published a photograph of five black-clad people

standing on the uninhabited reef as a dark inflatable boat bobbed in the nearby water.

Another shot showed four coast guard officials posing with a national flag on the reef's white surface, in what CCTV described as a "vow of sovereignty".

The group also "cleaned up leftover plastic bottles, wooden sticks and other debris and garbage on the reef", the broadcaster said.

The *Financial Times* reported an unnamed Philippine maritime official as saying that the Chinese coast guard had left after unfurling the flag.

There do not appear to be any signs that China has permanently occupied the reef or has built a structure on it.

In recent months, Beijing and Manila have blamed each other for causing what they describe as the ecological degradation of several disputed landforms in the South China Sea.

Xinhua news agency on Friday cited a report from the Natural Resources Ministry that it said "debunked" Manila's allegations that Beijing's land reclamation projects had harmed the local environment.

Philippine forces are present on Thitu Island and Manila inaugurated a coast guard monitoring base there in 2023 to counter what it describes as Chinese aggression.

The Philippine and US militaries launched on Monday three weeks of annual joint exercises called "Balikatan", or "shoulder to shoulder", which will include an



US marines firing an anti-drone system during a drill in San Antonio town, Zambales province yesterday. – AFP/PPIC

integrated air and missile defence simulation for the first time.

US Marine Corps Lieutenant General James Glynn said at the opening ceremony in Manila that the two sides would "demonstrate not just our will to uphold our defence treaty in existence since 1951 but our matchless capability to do so".

"Nothing builds bonds more quickly than shared adversity," he said, without specifying a common threat.

Beijing said the manoeuvres "undermine regional strategic stability" and accused Manila of "collusion with countries outside the region". – AFP

## BRIEFS

### LABOR DANGLES FREE HEALTHCARE HOTLINE

**SYDNEY:** The Labor government yesterday pledged to bolster Australia's universal healthcare system with a free medical advice line and telehealth service if it wins Saturday's general election. Labor traditionally sees its protection of Australia's Medicare universal healthcare scheme as a key differentiator between it and the Liberal-National opposition. It has sought to make Medicare a core election issue, pledging in February an extra A\$8.5 billion (RM23.82 billion) for the scheme. Health Minister Mark Butler said the new hotline would deliver 24-hour access to medical staff "intended to cover circumstances where people need to be seen immediately". Early voting in the election, which polling shows Labor holding a slim lead over the Liberal-National coalition, began on Tuesday. – Reuters

### RESCUED DACHSHUND DOING WELL

**SYDNEY:** A miniature dachshund, whose rescue after 529 days missing on an island captured global media attention, is recovering well, wildlife rescuers said. Valerie the sausage dog's story of survival made headlines after she was rescued on Friday on Kangaroo Island, about 14km off the coast of South Australia. Valerie went missing in November 2023 when her owners travelled to the island, which is popular with tourists. "She's doing really, really well," Jared Karan, director of Kangaroo Wildlife Rescue, said of Valerie in a video on the charity's Facebook page. His comments came after the charity, set up following Australia's 2019-2020 "Black Summer" of wildfires, said on Friday it was "overjoyed to announce the successful rescue of Valerie". – Reuters

## Taiwan envoy meets Biden, Japanese minister

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan's envoy to the funeral of Pope Francis said he prayed for President Lai Ching-te to be able to attend the inauguration of the new pontiff, and that he had met Japan's foreign minister, easing the island's diplomatic isolation.

The Vatican is one of only 12 countries to maintain formal ties with Chinese-claimed Taiwan, whose government had hoped that Lai would have been able to attend Francis' funeral, giving him the chance to mix with other leaders like US President Donald Trump.

However, former vice-president Chen Chien-jen ended up representing Lai, a devout Catholic who had previously met Francis on six occasions.

Francis had led a wide-ranging outreach to officially atheist China, including signing a deal on the appointment of Catholic bishops in that country, worrying Taiwan.

In comments published by Taiwan's Central News Agency on Saturday after the funeral, Chen said he hoped Francis continued to pray from heaven for even better relations between Taiwan and the Vatican.

"I also hope that when the new

pope is elected, Lai will be able to represent our country to attend the inauguration of the new pope, which I mentioned in my prayers at the mass," Chen said.

The conclave that will elect a new pope is expected to start some time between May 6 and May 11.

Francis' inauguration in 2013 was attended by Taiwan's then-president Ma Ying-jeou.

China did not announce that it had sent any delegation to the funeral, though it did express its condolences.

Chen was accompanied at the funeral by Vice-Foreign Minister Francois Wu, previously Taipei's *de facto* ambassador to France and one of Taiwan's most high profile diplomats who regularly appears in foreign media interviews.

Chen and Wu met ex-president Joe Biden, whose administration gave strong support to Taiwan.

Chen also said he met Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya and "talked about the good cooperation between the two countries".

China says Taiwan is one of its provinces with no right to state-to-state ties, a position the government in Taipei strongly rejects. – Reuters



**CASCADING BEAUTY ...** Visitors taking photographs below wisteria blooms at Ashikaga flower park in Ashikaga city, near Tokyo yesterday. – AFP/PPIC





# Car ploughs into festival crowd

## ► Nine killed, police arrest driver

**VANCOUVER:** Canadian police arrested a man on Saturday after a car ploughed into a street party in the western city of Vancouver killing nine people.

They said the incident happened shortly after 8pm (11am Sunday in Kuala Lumpur) in Vancouver's Sunset on Fraser neighbourhood as members of the Filipino community gathered to celebrate Lapu Lapu Day.

The festival, commemorating a Filipino anti-colonial leader from the

16th century, falls this year on the weekend before Canada's election.

"We can confirm nine people have died after a man drove through a crowd at last night's Lapu Lapu Festival," Vancouver police said.

Police said earlier they had arrested a 30-year-old local man who was a "lone suspect" known to them.

"At this time, we are confident that this incident was not an act of terrorism," they added.

Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was "devastated".

"I offer my deepest condolences to the loved ones of those killed and injured, to the Filipino Canadian community, and to everyone in Vancouver," he wrote on X.

"We are all mourning with you."

Footage posted online and verified by AFP shows a black SUV with a damaged hood parked on a street littered with debris, metres from first aiders tending to people lying on the ground.

Eyewitness Dale Selipe told the *Vancouver Sun* that she saw injured children on the street after the vehicle rammed into the crowd.

"There was a woman with her eyes staring up, one of her legs was already broken. One person was holding her hand trying to comfort her," Selipe told the newspaper.

Photos published by Canadian broadcaster CBC showed emergency crews at the scene as well as large

crowds at the block party earlier on Saturday.

Security guard Jen Idabaca-Castaneto said she saw "bodies everywhere."

"You don't know who to help," she said.

The Philippine consulate in Vancouver said in a Facebook statement it "expresses its deep concern and sympathies to the victims of the horrific incident."

British Columbia premier David Eby said he was "shocked and heartbroken" by the news, while city mayor Ken Sim said "our thoughts are with all those affected and with Vancouver's Filipino community during this incredibly difficult time."

Saturday's event featured a parade, a film screening, dancing and a concert, with two members of the Black Eyed Peas featured on the lineup published by the organisers.

Lapu Lapu Day is celebrated in the Philippines in remembrance of indigenous chief Lapulapu, who led his men to defeat Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in battle in 1521.

Canadians go to the polls today after a frenetic election race where candidates have wooed voters on issues including rising living costs and tackling tariffs.

Carney is favoured to win after assuring voters he can stand up to Washington. — AFP

## No handshake at muted border ceremony

**ATTARI:** With swaggering soldiers giving high kicks set to booming patriotic music cheered on by crowds, it was the usual daily border ceremony between India and Pakistan.

But there was one key thing missing — the usual symbol of cooperation, a handshake between the opposing soldiers, did not take place.

The iron gates that separate the two sides remain locked.

Relations have plummeted after New Delhi accused Islamabad of backing an attack targeting tourists on Tuesday — the deadliest attack on civilians in Kashmir for years.

Islamabad rejects the claims, and the countries have since exchanged gunfire, diplomatic barbs, expelled citizens and ordered the border to be shut.

Many fear the risk of a military escalation in the coming days.

Troops from Pakistan and India exchanged fire in disputed Kashmir for a third night in a row, officials said.

The Indian military held naval drills yesterday — releasing images of warships firing missiles — while the country's security forces pressed on with their hunt for those behind the April 22 attack at a tourist spot in Pahalgam.

The military blamed Pakistan for the "unprovoked" firing of small arms along Kashmir's Line of Control that separates the two countries.

For years, the Attari-Wagah border in Punjab has been a hugely popular tourist attraction.

Visitors from both sides come to cheer on soldiers goose-stepping in a chest-puffing theatrical show of pageantry.



A Border Security Force soldier inspects passports of Pakistani citizens returning to their country through the Attari-Wagah border post. — AFP/PIIC

Numbers were muted at the sunset show on Saturday, but thousands of Indians still came to show their loyalty to their nation.

"There were people from all over who looked and dressed different but were cheering and screaming at the same time — for our country and the soldiers," Simarjeet Singh said,

who came with his friends from college.

Cheering crowds still filled the stadium-like space around the gates with noise, at least on the Indian side, where on Saturday some 5,000 people, about a fifth of full capacity, watched.

There was only a small fraction of

the support on the Pakistani side.

The frontier was a colonial creation at the violent end of British rule in 1947 which sliced the sub-continent into India and Pakistan.

The daily border ritual has largely endured over the decades, surviving innumerable diplomatic flare-ups and military skirmishes. — AFP

## Trump wants 'free' canal transit for US ships

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged free transit for American commercial and military ships through the Panama and Suez canals, tasking his secretary of state with making progress "immediately".

Trump has for months been calling for the United States to take control of the Panama Canal but his social media post also shifted focus onto the vital Suez route.

"American ships, both military and commercial, should be allowed to travel, free of charge, through the Panama and Suez Canals!" he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

He claimed both routes would "not exist" without the United States and said he had asked Secretary of State Marco Rubio to "immediately take care of" the situation.

Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino said on Saturday that toll fees for the Panama Canal are regulated by the Panama Canal Authority, an autonomous governing body that oversees the trade route.

"There is no agreement to the contrary," he said on X.

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had said during a visit to Panama City earlier this month that the United States was seeking an agreement under which its warships could pass through the canal "first, and free".

The United States and China are two of the top users of the Panama Canal.

Egypt's Suez Canal, a key waterway linking Europe and Asia, accounted for about 10% of global maritime trade before attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on shipping routes in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The rebels began targeting vessels after the start of the Gaza war, claiming solidarity with Palestinians, forcing ships to take a long and costly detour around the southern tip of Africa.

The US military has been attacking Houthi positions since January last year, but those assaults have intensified under Trump, with almost daily strikes in the past month.

Trump has vowed that military action would continue until the Houthis are no longer a threat to shipping. — AFP

## AFP journalist who survived Buchenwald camp dies, aged 102

**PARIS:** Jacques Moalic, a former Agence France-Presse journalist who survived deportation to the Buchenwald concentration camp in World War II, has died aged 102, his family said.

Moalic died on Thursday at his Paris home, his daughter said.

Moalic was deported on Dec 18, 1943 to Buchenwald for acts of resistance against France's German Nazi occupiers and witnessed the camp's liberation by American soldiers on April 11, 1945.

After his release, Moalic resumed his law studies.

He then joined AFP becoming a senior reporter and covering top stories from Algeria to Vietnam as well as the French presidency.

In an interview with AFP this year, marking the 80th anniversary of Buchenwald's liberation, Moalic spoke of his last months in captivity.

Around 56,000 Jews, Roma and Soviet prisoners lost their lives at the camp outside the German town of Weimar between 1937 and 1945.

"On April 11, there was a lot of excitement in the camp," Moalic recalled.

The prisoners did not know whether they would be liberated or massacred.

"The SS began to empty the camp, block by block, and each group was sent to Weimar station, where filthy wagons were awaiting."

The remaining prisoners were preparing for a possible fight.

"Then all of a sudden, an American unit arrived," he said.

"The SS did not engage in combat."

"They preferred to get the hell out of there. A few minutes later, we were outside."

In an account published by AFP in 1985, he also recalled after release "the speed with which we shed our prisoner skin, our concentration camp reflexes, as if all we wanted was to escape our nightmare very quickly. I was a number and but now I was taking back my name." — AFP



# 25 killed, 1,000 injured in Iran port explosion

➤ Bandar Abbas schools, offices closed

**TEHRAN:** Fires were still blazing yesterday after a massive explosion tore through Iran's largest commercial port the day before, killing at least 25 people and leaving 1,000 others injured.

The blast occurred on Saturday at Shahid Rajaei Port in southern Iran, near the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of world oil output passes.

The port's Customs office said in a statement that the explosion probably resulted from a fire that broke out at the hazardous and chemical materials storage depot. A regional emergency official said several containers had exploded.

The *New York Times* quoted a person with ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters, as saying that what exploded was sodium perchlorate – a major ingredient in solid fuel for missiles.

Iranian state TV gave an updated toll yesterday of 25 people killed and 1,000 injured,

with thick black smoke still visible in live footage from the scene.

"The fire is under control but still not out," a state TV correspondent reported from the site around 20 hours after the blast.

Citing emergency services, state TV reported that hundreds of casualties "have been transferred to nearby medical centres," while the provincial blood transfusion centre issued a call for donations.

The explosion was so powerful that it was felt and heard about 50km away, Fars news agency reported.

Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said "the situation has stabilised in the main areas" of the port.

He told state TV that workers had resumed loading containers and customs clearance.

Images from news agency IRNA on Saturday showed rescuers and survivors walking along a wide boulevard carpeted with debris after the blast at Shahid Rajaei, more than 1,000km south of Tehran.

Flames could be seen engulfing a truck trailer and blood stained the side of a crushed car, while a helicopter dropped water on massive black smoke clouds billowing from

behind stacked shipping containers.

"The shockwave was so strong that most of the port buildings were severely damaged," Tasnim news agency reported.

The authorities have closed off the roads leading to the site of the explosion, and footage from the area has been limited to Iranian media outlets.

With choking smoke and air pollution spreading throughout the area, all schools and offices in Bandar Abbas, the nearby capital of Hormozgan province, have been ordered closed to allow authorities to focus on the emergency effort, state TV said.

The Health Ministry urged residents to avoid going outside "until further notice" and to use protective masks.

Saturday is the start of the working week in Iran, meaning the port would have been busy with employees.

Three Chinese nationals were "lightly injured," China's state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing its Bandar Abbas consulate.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed sympathy for the victims of the deadly blast, adding he had "issued an order to investigate the situation and the causes". – AFP



Thick, black smoke rises as rescuers arrive near the source of an explosion at Shahid Rajaei port dock on Saturday. – AFP/PIIC

## Abbas appoints aide as potential successor

**RAMALLAH:** Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas appointed a close aide as the first ever vice-president of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Saturday, positioning him as a potential successor to the veteran leader.

Hussein al-Sheikh was appointed by Abbas, 89, after the vice-presidency position was created during a convention held in Ramallah this week.

The new post follows years of international pressure to reform the PLO and comes as Arab and Western powers envision an expanded role for Abbas' Palestinian Authority (PA) in the post-war governance of the Gaza Strip.

"Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas appointed Hussein al-Sheikh as a deputy (vice-president) of the PLO leadership," said a member of the organisation's executive committee, Wasel Abu Yousef.

Founded in 1964, the PLO is empowered to negotiate and sign international treaties on

behalf of the Palestinian people, while the PA is responsible for governance in parts of the Palestinian territories.

The PLO is an umbrella organisation comprising several Palestinian factions, but not Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim gave the appointment a frosty reception.

"The Palestinian people are not a herd to be imposed upon leaders with dubious history who have tied their present and future to the occupation," he said in a statement.

"Legitimacy is held only by the Palestinian people, and its tools are the rifle for resisting the occupation, and the ballot box. The guardianship over our people is long gone."

Sheikh, 64, is a veteran leader of Abbas' Fatah movement, which dominates the PA.

He spent more than 10 years in Israeli jails in the late 1970s and early 80s, during which he learned Hebrew.

In 2022, he was made the PLO executive committee's secretary-general and head of its negotiations department, a sensitive portfolio, demonstrating his close ties to Abbas.

Abbas also recently appointed him as the head of a committee overseeing Palestinian diplomatic missions abroad.

Palestinian analyst Hani al-Masri called for the creation of a vice-presidential post within the PA itself.

"This is not a reform measure but rather a response to external pressure," said Masri of the Palestinian Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies.

"What is required is a vice-president for the PA to whom the powers could be transferred," he said.

However, analyst Aref Jaffa said the new role was created to pave the way for someone to take the reins from Abbas, "as there are many things the Palestinian situation requires". – AFP

## Putin hails end of Kursk incursion

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed on Saturday what he called the complete failure of an offensive by Ukrainian forces into Russia's Kursk region after they were expelled from the last village Moscow said they had been holding.

Putin, speaking amid intensified diplomatic efforts by the Trump administration to end the Ukraine conflict, said the expulsion of Ukrainian forces from Russian soil opened the way for further Russian successes inside Ukraine.

Ukrainian forces seized a swathe of territory in the Kursk region bordering Ukraine last August in a surprise incursion that embarrassed Putin. Russian forces, later reinforced by North Korean troops, have been trying ever since to drive them out.

"The Kyiv regime's adventure has completely failed," Putin said in video footage released by the Kremlin that showed him receiving a report from the head of Russia's military general staff, Valery Gerasimov.

"The full defeat of the enemy in the Kursk border region creates conditions for further successful actions by our forces on other important parts of the front," Putin said.

Gerasimov told Putin that the last occupied settlement in the Kursk region, the village of Gornal, had been "liberated from Ukrainian units" on Saturday.

"Thus the defeat of the armed formations of the Ukrainian armed forces that had invaded the Kursk region has been completed," Gerasimov said.

Gerasimov also praised the North Korean officers and soldiers' contribution in Kursk, saying they had shown "high professionalism, fortitude, courage and heroism", fulfilling combat tasks "shoulder to shoulder" with Russian servicemen.

North Korea sent an estimated 14,000 troops, including 3,000 reinforcements to replace its losses, Ukrainian officials said. Lacking armoured vehicles and drone warfare experience, they took heavy casualties but adapted quickly. – Reuters

## Israeli tourist asked to sign declaration

**TOKYO:** An Israeli tourist was asked to sign a declaration affirming he had not committed war crimes during his military service before being allowed to check in at a hotel in Kyoto.

The tourist said the incident occurred after he presented his Israeli passport at reception, when a hotel clerk handed him the form, stating it was a prerequisite.

The man, a former naval reserve combat medic, initially refused but eventually signed the document after being informed that all Israeli and Russian guests were required to do so.

The declaration, as quoted, required a pledge that the guest had not committed war crimes such as attacks on civilians, sexual violence, torture or any acts violating the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

It further included a commitment to uphold international humanitarian law and to abstain from any future engagement in war crimes.

Israel's Ambassador to Japan, Gilad Cohen, sent a letter to Kyoto Governor Takatoshi Nishiwaki, protesting the hotel's action as "unacceptable".

The hotel manager defended the requirement and said it was appropriate.

"For us, war is a distant thing and we have never met people who kill women and children and bomb schools," the manager said. – Bernama



COMMENT by Dr Jehana Emmy Jamaluddin

# A storm is coming, act now

**I**N 2006, former US Vice President Al Gore released *An Inconvenient Truth*, a gripping visual and literary presentation that opened millions of eyes to the growing threat of global warming.

It was more than just a book; it was a wake-up call. For me, it held a personal weight. My late father owned a copy, its pages worn and corners folded from repeated readings. He used to say: "The planet speaks - we just need to listen."

Once upon a time, the world was worried about the thinning ozone layer. Schoolchildren were taught about the dangers of CFCs or chlorofluorocarbons and how they punched holes in our atmospheric shield.

The world banded together, signed the Montreal Protocol, and slowly, we began to heal the ozone. That success gave us a sense of triumph; a belief that we had solved the big environmental problem of our time.

However, as years passed, a new threat emerged - climate change. Unlike the ozone issue, it did not come with a single chemical to ban. It was complex, inconvenient to our modern lives and easy to ignore.

We dismissed the warnings, called it seasonal heat and built bigger drains. But the weather has changed. It is no longer something we can plan around. It is something we are forced to react to.

## Unpredictable weather patterns

Malaysia is no stranger to rain and heat but recent years have seen more erratic shifts. According to the Meteorological Department, average temperatures have steadily increased across the country.

What used to be predictable seasons are now punctuated by long droughts and intense downpours. Even experienced forecasters struggle with the increasing volatility.

## Monsoon extremes and flooding

Once dependable, the monsoon now brings destruction. Between November 2024 and January 2025, over 122,000 people were displaced by floods in Kelantan, Terengganu and Sarawak.

Homes disappeared, roads collapsed and shelters overflowed. These disasters now recur annually, bringing with them massive economic losses and social disruptions.

The Irrigation and Drainage Department has stepped up mitigation efforts but infrastructure alone cannot stop climate extremes without addressing root causes.

## Emergence of tornado-like phenomena

Malaysia is not known for tornadoes, yet in March 2025, Sekinchan, Selangor, experienced two twisters within a week. The second incident damaged over 30 homes.

Experts said this may become more common due to warmer temperatures and shifting wind patterns. These events show that climate disruptions are no longer limited to familiar patterns - they are evolving fast.

## Health and economic impacts

Rising heat brings more than discomfort - it brings health risks. Heat-related illnesses are increasing. Agriculture and fisheries, critical to rural economies, suffer from unpredictable yields. Food prices are climbing. Jobs are lost. Livelihoods are destabilised.

## National policy and international commitments

Malaysia has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 45% by 2030. The national climate change policy emphasises green technology and urban resilience. Under the 12th Malaysia Plan, steps are being taken towards low-carbon initiatives and disaster risk reduction.

Yet, implementation faces hurdles like bureaucratic delays and lack of public awareness that often slows progress.

## Small actions, big impact

As Al Gore emphasised, change begins with individuals. Here is how we can help:

➔ **Use energy wisely:** Switch to energy-

*"Malaysia is already seeing the effects of climate change - in our skies, on our land and in our communities. The Sekinchan twister, the floods, the sweltering heat - these are no longer warnings. They are consequences."*



Despite efforts under the 12th Malaysia Plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030, progress is still hindered by bureaucratic delays and limited public awareness. - ASHRAF SHAMSUL/THESUN

efficient appliances and unplug devices.

➔ **Travel smarter:** By walking, biking or taking public transport.

➔ **Waste less:** Refuse single-use plastics. Compost and recycle where possible.

➔ **Support renewables:** Encourage solar energy adoption at homes and in our community.

➔ **Conserve water:** Fix leaks. Use water-saving taps.

➔ **Promote awareness:** Engage in conversations about climate issues and support environmental NGOs.

## Listening to the Earth

My father treasured *An Inconvenient Truth* not just for its facts but its heart. "The science is there", he said, "but what matters is whether we care enough to act".

Malaysia is already seeing the effects

of climate change - in our skies, on our land and in our communities.

The Sekinchan twister, the floods, the sweltering heat - these are no longer warnings. They are consequences.

Let this serve as a reminder and a call to action - a pledge that we did not stay silent when the storm arrived. Because it is already here.

*Dr Jehana Emmy Jamaluddin is a senior lecturer at the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, College of Engineering and director of the Centre for Academic Advancement and Flexible Learning, Universiti Tenaga Nasional. This article is written in loving memory of Allahyarham Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Md Jahi, the beloved father of the writer, in honour of the legacy he so passionately lived and left behind. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

# EDUCATION

## FOCUS 2025

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





LETTERS letters@thesundaily.com

# Transparency in medical billing vital

**I**N January 2025, chief executive of Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy Azrul Mohd Khalib highlighted that an estimated 70% of private hospital charges remain unregulated.

This means that hospitals have the liberty to set arbitrary prices for a range of items and services, including essential medical equipment such as wheelchairs, heart monitors and even emesis basins. Only 30% of hospital bills are regulated, primarily covering specialist fees and medication.

This lack of oversight has led to numerous cases where patients unknowingly pay excessive sum of medical bills for items that should otherwise be reasonably priced.

Hidden hospital charges, often labelled as profiteering, are a widespread problem in Malaysia. For example, a simple medical glove that costs RM5 per pair may be billed at RM20. In most cases, patients pay these inflated charges without question. This is because patients rarely scrutinise their medical bills, either due to a lack of knowledge or because they assume that everything charged is legitimate.

As a result, they end up shouldering excessive costs without the ability to challenge these expenses.

One of the most alarming aspects of hidden hospital charges is the suppression of information. Some hospitals use this tactic to increase their revenue without the patient's awareness.

Malaysia's current healthcare system lacks a clear mechanism for patients to challenge inflated or hidden costs, unlike in countries that have implemented price transparency regulations.

For instance, the US introduced the hospital price transparency rule on Jan 1, 2021, which makes it a requirement for hospitals to publicly disclose a list of their standard charges for various services. This enables patients to compare hospital prices before seeking treatment and allowing them to make informed financial decisions regarding their medical care.

Similarly, Singapore was set to introduce the Health Information Bill in mid-2024, which would improve transparency in healthcare pricing and data management. The country also has a robust regulatory system where medical costs in public hospitals are monitored and pricing is often published online, allowing patients to compare treatment costs across different hospitals.

Australia follows a different but equally effective approach. The Australian government regulates healthcare pricing through the Medicare Benefits Schedule, which ensures that citizens and permanent residents receive subsidies for hospital services.

Private hospitals in Australia are required to provide financial consent before treatment, meaning patients must be informed about the estimated costs and any out-of-pocket expenses they may incur. This allows patients to plan their finances accordingly and prevents hospitals from imposing hidden charges after treatment.

Additionally, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission closely monitors healthcare pricing to prevent exploitative billing practices. The right to know the cost of medical treatment is a fundamental consumer right that is often overlooked in Malaysia.

Patients should be entitled to an itemised bill that details each charge, allowing them to identify any unnecessary or excessive fees. Hospitals should also be required to disclose pricing structures upfront so that patients can make financial decisions with clarity.

In instances where patients identify unethical billing practices, they should have a legal avenue to dispute the charges.

Many patients are unaware of the steps they can take to protect themselves from hidden charges.

One of the most effective ways to safeguard against excessive billing is to demand an itemised bill. By requesting a detailed breakdown of all charges, patients can scrutinise their medical expenses and challenge any discrepancies.

Furthermore, patients should not hesitate to dispute unethical fees. If a hospital bill contains unjustified charges, patients should engage with the hospital's billing department to seek clarification.

In cases where disputes remain unresolved, patients should report the matter to the Health Ministry or the National Consumer Complaint Centre (NCCC). This organisation plays a crucial role in advocating for consumer rights and ensuring that unethical hospital billing practices are addressed.

Insurance also plays a crucial role in managing medical expenses. Patients must have a clear understanding of their insurance coverage, including which procedures and treatments are included and which are not.

Many insurance policies require pre-authorisation for specific treatments, making it essential for policyholders to obtain the necessary approvals before undergoing medical procedures.

Patients should communicate with their insurance providers to ensure they are fully aware of the coverage limitations and potential exclusions in their policies.

Key takeaways for understanding insurance include:



Hospitals should be required to disclose pricing structures upfront so that patients can make financial decisions with clarity.

— AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

*"The issue of hidden hospital charges is a growing concern, and by looking at international best practices and adopting measures to regulate hospital pricing, Malaysia can move towards a more transparent and fair healthcare system."*

➤ Always review the policy's terms and conditions to understand claimable and non-claimable expenses.

➤ Verify whether a guarantee letter from the employer or insurer fully covers all medical treatments.

➤ Ask for a pre-treatment estimate and clarify any potential additional costs before proceeding with medical procedures.

➤ Ensure that any required pre-authorisations are obtained before undergoing hospital treatments.

To improve transparency and prevent hospitals from imposing unreasonable charges, the government should consider implementing several key reforms.

Firstly, the government should introduce regulations that mandate hospitals to disclose their pricing structures publicly. This would allow patients to compare costs across different hospitals and make informed decisions regarding their medical care.

For example, legal fees for lawyers are strictly regulated by the Solicitors' Remuneration Order 2023.

Secondly, an independent regulatory body should be established to oversee private hospital pricing and ensure that all charges are fair and justifiable. This body could also act as a mediator in billing disputes, providing patients with a channel to contest excessive fees.

Thirdly, greater public awareness initiatives should be launched to educate consumers on their rights in relation to hospital billing and insurance coverage. Many patients remain unaware of the steps they can take to protect themselves.

If faced with hidden charges, patients have several avenues for recourse. The first step is to file a complaint with the hospital's patient relations officer. If the issue remains unresolved, patients can escalate the complaint to the Health Ministry.

Additionally, consumer protection groups, such as NCCC, can assist in addressing cases of overpricing and unethical billing practices. By taking collective action, patients can play a significant role in pushing for greater transparency in the healthcare system.

The issue of hidden hospital charges is a growing concern and by looking at international best practices and adopting measures to regulate hospital pricing, Malaysia can move towards a more transparent and fair healthcare system.

It is crucial for the government and consumers to work together in addressing this problem, ensuring that patients receive the medical care they need without being subjected to unjust financial strain. The time for change is now and concrete steps must be taken to protect the rights and financial well-being of patients.

In response to these systemic issues, Fomca (Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations) has been lobbying for the establishment of an independent oversight body to regulate managed healthcare insurance third-party administrators (MHIT) and private hospitals.

This body would play a vital role in ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness in billing practices, and it would also serve as a mediator in dispute resolutions between consumers, insurance providers and healthcare institutions.

Fomca believes that such a regulatory framework is long overdue. The absence of regulatory safeguards has allowed MHIT and private hospitals to act with near-impunity, often leaving patients helpless in contesting exorbitant medical bills.

**Zubli Quzairyl Zubli**  
NCCC  
Strategic Partner of Fomca

## Fly smarter: Avoid tight clothing for safer air travel

**I** HAVE noticed that many airline passengers, especially young women, are opting for tight jeans and leggings that accentuate the contours of their legs, in line with modern fashion trends.

I have spoken to some passengers during flights and they mentioned that these outfits are not only comfortable but also enhance mobility.

However, they seem unaware that while these garments may be attractive and comfortable, they can pose significant dangers.

This is especially true if the pants are tight around the waist, thighs and ankles – areas most likely to swell during a flight.

Wearing leggings that are too tight can lead to numbness, tingling and severe leg pain due to compression

of the outer femoral nerve, which controls sensation in the skin on the outer thigh.

Even worse, skin-tight clothing restricts blood flow to and from the legs. Combined with sitting immobile for long periods during a flight, this can lead to blood pooling in the legs, significantly increasing the risk of deep vein thrombosis – a serious condition where a blood clot forms in

a deep vein. These clots can travel to the lungs, causing a pulmonary embolism, which can be fatal.

Restrictive clothing can also hinder the lymphatic system, which is responsible for draining excess fluid from the body back into the bloodstream. The tight clothing acts like a tourniquet, impeding the flow of lymph, and creating a double whammy of negative effects.

Women are advised to set aside vanity when flying, by avoiding tight-fitting clothing to prevent the aforementioned health complications.

Additionally, passengers should regularly move their legs and take short walks along the aisle to promote healthy blood circulation during the flight.

**Dr A. Soorin**

## HLIB named IFN Best Islamic Retail Bank in Malaysia 2024

**PETALING JAYA:** Hong Leong Islamic Bank (HLISB) started 2025 by winning the Best Islamic Retail Bank in Malaysia award at the Islamic Finance News Best Banks Poll 2024, solidifying its position as Malaysia's premier retail bank for Islamic and syariah-compliant banking.

In financial year 2024 (FY24), the bank recorded a 13% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase in profit (before zakat and taxes), boosted by a 17% rise in individual deposits. HLISB recorded an 11% y-o-y growth in its retail financing portfolio in FY24, leading to a 10% increase in retail deposits.

This achievement underscores the bank's dedication to providing customer-centric solutions and driving digital transformation in the Islamic banking space.

HLISB CEO Dafinah Ahmed Hilmi said: "We see ourselves as partners in our customers' financial journeys, striving to design industry-leading Islamic banking solutions that are digital, innovative, and catered to our customers' specific needs."

"With a comprehensive suite of Islamic banking products and services, boosted by a dedicated team of specialists providing syariah advisory services, we look to create a seamless end-to-end ecosystem for our customers, supporting them in achieving their diversified financial goals."

HLISB's recent growth in retail banking can be attributed largely to its seamless and comprehensive digital banking experience, which includes its fully-digital account onboarding experience and an end-to-end digital banking ecosystem.

The bank recently launched its HLB Wallet-i, an e-wallet that allows customers to save, spend and manage their finances across different currencies and geographies, including allowing them to withdraw money across different currencies using the same debit card.

Dafinah said the bank is incredibly proud of the progress it made in 2024, and these recent achievements will further fuel the passion for delivering exceptional banking experiences.

"HLISB is committed to driving growth in key areas in 2025 including supporting the Halal industry, expanding our wealth management offerings, and promoting financial inclusion. We believe these initiatives will not only benefit our customers but also contribute to the overall growth of Malaysia's economy."

"Our commitment to innovation, customer-centricity, and service excellence will continue to guide us as we build on this momentum in 2025 and beyond, reinforcing our position as a bank that is truly 'Built Around You,'" she added.

# Alliance Bank to expand digital payment ecosystem

■ BY JOHN GILBERT  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd will continuously explore strategic partnerships to expand the digital payment ecosystem as part of its Acceler8 strategy.

Group chief consumer banking officer Gan Pan Li (pic) said the bank has collaborated with fintech players, digital wallet providers and technology firms that align with its vision of delivering secure and seamless payment solutions.

"Our goal remains on increasing accessibility, strengthening security and introducing innovative features that enhance customer experience," she told *SunBiz*.

Gan pointed out that in June 2024, Alliance Bank teamed up with MyTaman, a leading smart community app, to offer virtual credit cards (VCC) to more than 150,000 MyTaman users, enabling seamless payments for maintenance fees, rentals and subscriptions.

The following month, the bank collaborated with MetaFin, Malaysia's first do-it-yourself digital platform for insurance and personal financial services, to introduce a Visa virtual credit card, providing users with a secure and convenient digital payment experience within the MetaFin Digital App.

"These initiatives demonstrate our ongoing efforts to enhance our digital offerings and drive innovation in payment solutions, always looking for a space where the VCC can help address lifestyle requirements for consumers," said Gan.

In January this year, Alliance Bank partnered with Samsung and Google to provide Alliance Bank Visa credit card holders with greater convenience in mobile payments. This partnership allows Alliance Bank cardholders to add their Alliance Bank Visa credit cards to their Samsung Pay or Google Pay wallets.

Google Pay can be used by Alliance Bank cardholders whether they are shopping online, browsing in-store, or using public transport by simply tapping and paying through their device.

Gan said Alliance Bank set a target of onboarding over 10,000

➤ Lender continuously seeks strategic partnerships to enhance offerings and drive innovation in solutions

users on Samsung Pay and Google Pay by March, but it is too early to provide comprehensive adoption statistics.

This aligns with the growing shift towards contactless payments in Malaysia, where more than nine in ten Visa face-to-face transactions are now made using contactless methods, she added.

"We anticipate strong adoption among our digitally savvy customers, driven by the convenience and security these platforms offer. Additionally, we have observed an increasing reliance on contactless payments, particularly in retail, public transport and e-commerce transactions."

"Engagement-driven campaigns, such as limited-time offers and rewards, have further encouraged usage, reinforcing the trend toward seamless and secure digital payments," Gan said.

While the current focus is on integrating with Samsung Pay and Google Pay, Alliance Bank recognises the importance of offering diverse payment options to meet varying customer preferences.

"We are exploring future integration with Apple Pay to ensure our customers can seamlessly transact across all major mobile platforms. Very soon, we will be integrating our VCC with an EV charging app, which enables customers to make quick and hassle-free payments for EV charging," said Gan.

She added that Alliance Bank is always looking for ways to enhance its VCC for different

segments of the market, such as e-vehicle charging apps and pickleball court bookings.

"Customer trust and security remain a core priority in our digital strategy, and we will continue to develop new capabilities for the VCC that we will take to market. New features will be announced as part of our go-to-market initiatives," she said.

Asked how Alliance Bank sees this impacting the bank's future customer acquisition and engagement strategies, Gan said by collaborating with brands and platforms that align with these audiences, the bank aims to enhance engagement and drive adoption of its digital banking solutions.

"One such initiative is an upcoming pickleball championship in collaboration with Pickle Social Club and Courtsite, which will serve as a unique avenue to connect with our target customers and solidify our digital-first approach," Gan said.

Elaborating on how Alliance Bank is positioning itself against competitors in Malaysia's rapidly evolving digital banking space, Gan said the bank differentiates itself in Malaysia's rapidly evolving digital banking landscape through a balanced approach to innovation and customer-centric banking.

"In line with the bank's Acceler8 strategy, we focus on delivering faster, better, and more personalised solutions that cater to the evolving needs of our customers."

"We continue to enhance the features of our digital products for ease of use while prioritising security features, and we continuously improve our self-service touch-

points to provide a seamless and accessible banking experience as part of our low-touch service offerings."

"Aside from just digital-based transactions, we also offer services at branches to cater to communities for those who prefer high-touch service offerings, and, by combining innovative digital solutions with meaningful customer engagement, we position ourselves as 'The Bank For Life', a trusted financial partner that grows with our customers and supports them at every stage of their financial journey," she explained.

On Alliance Bank's targets for digital payment transactions and VCC adoption in 2025, Gan said the bank has historically seen a good pickup in digital transactions where a majority of its transactions are via digital channels.

"We believe this sort of trajectory will continue to build up with increasing adoption as the VCC and digital payments become a norm for consumers."

"We feel that the pace of digital transactions will closely align with regulatory initiatives in terms of digital adoption."

"The VCC complements the efforts of regulators in bringing about awareness of scam and fraud prevention through enhanced security measures such as dynamic card numbers, tokenisation and real-time transaction monitoring."

"These features help mitigate risks associated with unauthorised transactions, phishing attempts, and identity theft, concerns that have been on the rise with the growing reliance on digital payments."

"At the same time, we continue to expand the VCC's usability across various sectors, including e-commerce, travel, mobility, and everyday lifestyle transactions, ensuring seamless and secure payment experiences."

"Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our digital ecosystem by aligning with regulatory frameworks and introducing innovative payment solutions that cater to evolving consumer needs," Gan said.

## Allianz EliteChoice – a policy tailored for SMEs

**PETALING JAYA:** Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Bhd has introduced Allianz EliteChoice, an insurance plan designed for small and medium enterprises.

Designed to provide competitive coverage for employee groups ranging from three to 350 employees, Allianz EliteChoice offers flexibility to meet the diverse needs of modern businesses.

In a landscape where employee benefits play an increasingly vital role in attracting and retaining top talent, Allianz EliteChoice stands out by offering extensive life and health coverage, ensuring SMEs can provide their employees with essential financial and healthcare protection.

Allianz Life CEO Charles Ong said, "Allianz EliteChoice is a forward-thinking solution that reflects our

dedication to helping businesses stay competitive while providing their employees with the best possible protection."

"This product offers a comprehensive range of benefits at an affordable price, ensuring both employers and employees can enjoy peace of mind."

The company recognises that SMEs require adaptable and cost-

effective insurance solutions to stay competitive in today's market. Thus, Allianz EliteChoice incorporates the latest in health and life insurance offerings, including several market-leading features designed to cater to diverse business needs and employee expectations.

The new features come at a time when more employers are seeking enhanced employee benefits, especially

in the areas of healthcare, mental health, and advanced diagnostics.

Allianz EliteChoice offers comprehensive benefits, including group hospitalisation and surgical coverage with a room and board limit of up to RM600, an overall annual limit of up to RM500,000, coverage for in-patient mental illness treatment and genomic testing for cancer to ensure advanced diagnostics.





## Malaysian palm oil totalling 100,000 tonnes enters UK tariff-free under CPTPP

**LONDON:** A shipment of Malaysian palm oil from Sabah totalling 100,000 tonnes entered the storage depot at the Port of Liverpool, England, on April 5, said Malaysian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Datuk Zakri Jaafar.

This marked the first consignment of Malaysian palm oil under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) with zero tariff, he said.

"Through the CPTPP, Malaysian and UK companies are now able to expand their markets further and can enhance bilateral trade prospects," he said during a dinner hosted for Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who is also the Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, at the Malaysian High Commission in London on Friday.

The UK acceded to the CPTPP on Dec 15 last year, making it the first European country to join the Asia-Pacific trade bloc. For Malaysia, the CPTPP agreement came into effect on Nov 29, 2022.

On the renewable energy sector, Zakri said Malaysia's involvement in the UK will yield significant long-term benefits for the country, particularly in terms of technology transfer.

"The launch of high-capacity solar farms operated by a TNB subsidiary at Eastfield and Bunkers Hill in January this year showcases Malaysia's capability to participate in global sustainable energy solution efforts," he said.

The solar farms were launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Jan 17 during his official visit to the UK.

The farms – in Bunkers Hill, Rotherwick, and Eastfield, Harbury – are advanced and innovative projects. The combined capacity of 102MW highlights Malaysia's expertise in driving global sustainable energy solutions.

Malaysia is the UK's fourth-largest trading partner in Southeast Asia, with total trade reaching RM15.3 billion in 2024.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's total investment in the UK reached £19 billion (RM83 billion) in the same year. – Bernama

## Sabah wants to be Asean's renewable energy model

■ BY JOHN GILBERT  
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**KOTA KINABALU:** Sabah can transform into a model for renewable energy development within the Asean region with the support of financial institutions and robust regulatory framework inputs from industry experts.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor said it is with utmost confidence that the government welcomes investors, entrepreneurs and partners from around the globe in establishing a symbiotic relationship that will ultimately play a vital role in shaping the state's future.

"Sabah is open for business, and throughout my tenure as the head of the administration, we have established not just a framework but also an action plan that has made significant strides in creating a business-friendly environment as a result of streamlining our policies.

"The fact that we have much more development translates directly into exciting opportunities. I believe that the untapped potential means there is still an ample market

➤ Government welcomes investors from around the globe, ample market share to be captured across supply chain of clean power industry, says CM

share to be captured across the supply chain of this industry," he told delegates at the Sabah Renewable Energy Conference 2025: Corridor to Transform Vision to Reality last week.

The conference was hosted by Malaysian Rating Corporation Bhd (MARC), in collaboration with Qhazanah Sabah Bhd, the strategic investment arm of the Sabah state government. The event was attended by representatives from Qhazanah Sabah, MARC, Energy Commission of Sabah, Sustainable Energy Development Authority and government officials from Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

Hajiji said while there are climate shift and energy volatility, Sabah has shown resilience, where the state has adapted and colla-

borated closely with the federal government.

"In every growing economy, it is a consensual understanding that energy is not a side agenda. It is the core of economic development and with the vision of reducing carbon footprint shared globally, Sabah is no exception to partake in this endeavour.

"Every school that lights up, every factory that expands, and every job that is created to support the adoption of renewable energy tells us one thing: Sabah's energy future is Malaysia's economic future. "The government firmly shares this belief and transcends it beyond just kilowatts and carbon emissions," he said.

Hajiji said it is because of this

that Sabah is increasing its efforts to proactively build a renewable energy future, capitalising on its abundant resources to build its readiness to meet the global energy landscape that is tangled in the trilemma of security, affordability and sustainability.

"I believe if we can commission the 50-megawatt Sabah Solar PV Park that is responsible for powering over 10,000 households, then we can envision a future and initiate our progress towards achieving more than 50% capacity of renewable energy share comprising multiple portfolios of renewable resources.

"However, we cannot deny that big visions would require long-term commitment that begins with establishing a framework that is personalised to Sabah's needs."

Hajiji said this understanding led to the establishment of the Energy Commission of Sabah and the shift of regulatory autonomy from federal to Sabah.

He also noted the importance of synergistic relationship, and such synergy is best achieved by promoting better alignment of Sabah's development to that of Malaysia.

"And we do this by charting our own strategic measures that are customised to suit our advantages. This establishment is our call for action towards gaining autonomy in deciding what we believe is best for us. It is a call for action that Sabah is ready to embark on a journey that will push our energy trajectory into one that position our state as one of the key drivers in contributing to Malaysia's success in reducing its carbon footprint.

"With the transfer of regulatory authority and guidance from the Sabah Energy Road Map and Masterplan, we aim to align with the goals of the National Energy Transition Roadmap by developing our own flagship projects.

"These initiatives will mark Sabah's journey towards becoming a low greenhouse gas emission state by 2050," Hajiji said.



From left: MARC Ratings CEO Rajan Paramesran; Sabah Energy Corporation Sdn Bhd CEO Datuk Adzmir Abd Rahman; Jetama Sdn Bhd CEO Datuk Ahmad Naim Uddang; Qhazanah Sabah chairman Datuk Dr Yusof Yacob; Sabah Finance Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun; Ahmad Rizal; Malaysian Rating Corporation group CEO Arshad Mohamed Ismail and chief commercial officer Badrul Hisham Zawawi; Maybank managing director responsible for clients within the federal and state government in group global banking Ahmad Faizal Ahmad Zazli; and community distribution regional director Amylin Blantocas Tiamson at the launch of the Sabah Renewable Energy Conference 2025 last week.

## 'Strategic location, abundant natural resources fuel RE development'

**KOTA KINABALU:** The growth of renewable energy (RE) in Sabah is not just an aspiration but a step forward towards reality, Qhazanah Sabah Bhd group CEO Datuk Ahmad Rizal Dahli said.

He said Sabah is strategically located near several rapidly growing regional economies, giving the state the potential to tap into new market opportunities and benefit from spillover effects – especially with its close proximity to emerging economic hubs such

as Indonesia's Nusantara.

"With Sabah's abundance of natural resources – especially its high solar radiation levels – it holds enormous potential for renewable energy development.

"In fact, the state could generate up to 99.4GW from solar PV alone, making it a promising player in shaping sustainable energy solutions for the future," he told delegates at the Sabah Renewable Energy Conference 2025 held last week.

Ahmad Rizal said the synergy between public and private sectors, regulators and investors, and innovators and implementers is essential.

"Looking ahead, it is essential to foster collaboration that leverages the strengths of all stakeholder groups – from financial institutions and technology providers to regulators and asset developers.

"To achieve this, we recognise that green financing, sustainable investment models, and ESG-

aligned capital flows are no longer optional – they are key drivers of future growth," he said.

Ahmad Rizal said RE goes beyond just power generation and infrastructure – it is about uplifting communities, creating quality jobs, and building resilience across Sabah, especially among rural and indigenous populations.

"To us, partnerships reflect the significant collaboration between the public and private sectors to achieve a collective goal to drive

the change within Sabah's renewable energy industry.

"Let today be the start of stronger collaboration and bold, forward-thinking ideas. Together, we must commit to building a Sabah that stands out in Malaysia's clean energy future. This is no longer a choice – it's a necessity. Each of us has a role to play in protecting our environment while still creating economic opportunities," Ahmad Rizal said. – by JOHN GILBERT



# TCGF – the way forward for large businesses

**T**HE Inland Revenue Board (IRB) has opened its doors to large taxpayers and offer them an opportunity to cooperate with them to manage their tax affairs with the ultimate intention of providing certainty to the taxpayers grounded on building trust and transparency between both parties.

This programme is called the Tax Corporate Governance Framework (TCGF). This is a two-way process where there will be open lines of communication between the two parties to minimise potential disagreements.

Internationally, many countries have initiated this programme, and the underlying principle is "cooperative compliance". The purpose is to encourage taxpayers to improve the level and quality of compliance such that the tax authorities have a sustainable recurring revenue source with minimal deployment of resources.

## Ultimate aim

The principal goal here is to ensure that taxpayers report the correct taxes in their tax returns, and the taxes are paid on time. To achieve this, the IRB needs to be satisfied that there is a system of controls in place in the taxpayer organisations which will produce the required results reliably.

This must start with data collection points such as sales, purchases, orders, etc, and thereafter the data must be recorded accurately and must be complete. The data must be processed and analysed in

accordance with the tax principles, and while doing this, tax risks must be identified and managed in accordance with the company's tax philosophy without infringing the tax laws.



BY S. M. THANNEERMALAI

If there is a conflict between the tax philosophy of the organisation on a particular transaction versus the IRB's current position, the TCGF allows the taxpayer to engage with the IRB prior to the transaction being undertaken, or prior to the filing of the tax return. This avenue provides near certainty on where the taxpayer stands in relation to any controversial tax issues. This was not available in the past, and it is a "golden opportunity" for taxpayers to avoid future surprises.

## Eligibility for participation

There are three conditions to be met: large companies, public listed companies, government linked companies and state-owned enterprise earning RM100 million and above; taxpayers who have been filing their tax returns and paying their taxes diligently for the past three years; and taxpayers with established tax control framework (TCF). All three conditions must be fulfilled. Investment holding companies and dormant companies are not eligible.

The reality on the ground level is that most companies do not have comprehensive TCF in place. To encourage organisations to participate in the TCGF, the IRB must not impose the availability of a TCF as a precondition for entering the programme. If there is a willingness

and a clear commitment by the organisation to institute a TCF, the IRB should accept such organisations into the programme and allow them a grace period of six to 12 months to institute a TCF to increase the level of participation by the large companies.

The RM100 million threshold is reasonable for manufacturing companies where the material element is large, and achieving the RM100 million threshold is much easier when compared to companies in the services sector which principally relies on manpower. If the IRB wants to increase the participation of the service companies, then the threshold of RM100 million should be reduced to a smaller amount.

## Implementation timeline

Taxpayers should be advised that implementing the TCGF programme will entail anywhere from nine to 15 months. Once you have been accepted into TCGF, you will be subject to less scrutiny on your tax returns for the next three years together with a dedicated officer from the IRB being assigned to each participant. The underlying intention here is to avoid audits and investigations for such taxpayers. However, if there are significant fluctuations or variations that need an explanation, there will be a dialogue initiated by the IRB or by the taxpayer to understand such fluctuations.

*This article is contributed by Thannees Tax Consulting Services Sdn Bhd managing director SM Thanneermalai (www.thannees.com).*

## CLSA makes debut in Malaysian structured warrants market

**PETALING JAYA:** Foreign broker CLSA Securities Malaysia Sdn Bhd has officially launched its structured warrant offerings, marking a new chapter in the country's trading landscape.

As the second international issuer of structured warrants in Malaysia, CLSA has entered the market at a time when retail investor participation is thriving, following the FBM KLCI's best annual performance in 14 years in 2024 outperforming many of its regional peers.

"While structured warrants may look similar on the surface, we believe it is the quality of execution that truly sets an issuer apart," said Kit Lim, CLSA country head of Malaysia.

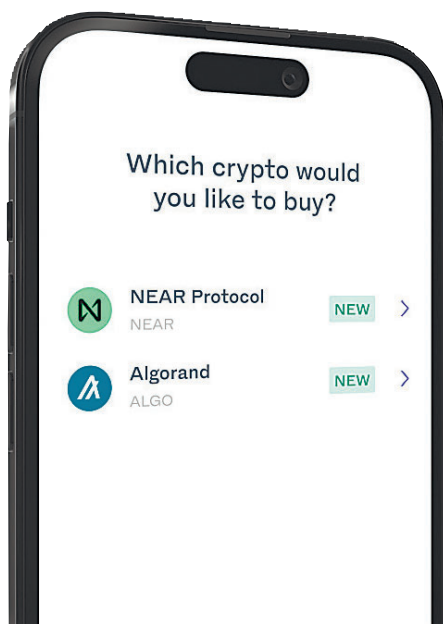
Backed by the global expertise and award-winning market-making technology from its parent company, CITIC Securities, CLSA is looking to marry its regional presence with local expertise to bring bespoke, competitive and tailored dynamic structured warrants to local market participants.

To mark its entry, CLSA will make its debut with six structured warrants encompassing some of Malaysia's most actively traded companies, including MyEG Services Bhd and Gamuda Bhd.

"These are names familiar to every Malaysian investor and this is just the beginning. We look forward to expanding our coverage, deepening engagement with investors, and building a trading experience that matches the ambition of Malaysia's growing retail market," Lim said.

CLSA said in a statement that its approach in Malaysia is designed to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving investor landscape, from traditional long-term investors to the new wave of digitally native Gen Z traders. While the younger generation appears to be attracted to faster-paced, more leveraged products like cryptocurrencies and forex trading, CLSA believes that structured warrants may represent an attractive alternative for this demographic of Malaysians.

## Luno Malaysia adds Algorand and NEAR Protocol to digital asset offerings



The launch of the new coins brings Luno Malaysia's digital asset offerings to 20.

**PETALING JAYA:** Luno Malaysia has expanded its list of digital assets with the launch of two new coins – Algorand and NEAR Protocol.

The launch is also the first batch of digital assets approved by the Securities Commission Malaysia this year for both Luno and the country. The two new coins bring Luno's digital assets offerings in Malaysia to 20. The widened offering enables investors to explore more of the crypto ecosystem and diversify their portfolios safely and securely.

Algorand is an eco-friendly blockchain enabling fast, low-cost transactions and scalable, secure decentralised applications (dApps), aiming for a sustainable, borderless digital economy while NEAR Protocol is a fast, scalable blockchain with low-cost transactions, high throughput, and user-friendly tools for dApp development, focused on decentralisation and sustainability.

Luno country manager for Malaysia, Scarlett Chai, said, "In 2024, Luno led the approval of seven digital assets with the Securities Commission Malaysia. We aim to double that this year, starting with these two digital

assets. The team is actively engaging the regulator to launch new digital assets expeditiously."

She said the addition of two new digital assets expands the platform's total assets to 20, while the recent milestone of surpassing one million customers reinforces Luno's position as Malaysia's leading regulated digital asset exchange.

In addition to the launch of ALGO and NEAR, Luno is broadening its Staking feature to include NEAR in the coming weeks. NEAR Staking would allow customers to earn up to 7% per annum in passive rewards, which are earned daily.

"Our recent staking launch of Polkadot and the upcoming NEAR Protocol rearm Luno's commitment to growing Malaysia's digital asset landscape by not only making digital asset investments a safe and accessible option, but also being innovative by enabling our customers to grow their holdings," said Chai.

Today, Luno is the country's only regulated digital asset exchange, providing customers with staking services for Ethereum, Solana, Cardano, Polkadot and, soon, NEAR Protocol.

## CTOS Digital Q1 revenue rises to RM76 million

**PETALING JAYA:** CTOS Digital Bhd reported a revenue increase of 6.3% to RM76.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2025 (Q1'25) compared to the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, driven by stronger contributions from the direct-to-consumer and key account segments.

The group's international business also maintained positive momentum, supported by healthy client onboarding. Share of profits from associates increased by 54% to RM2.8 million backed by strong performance by Juris Technologies Sdn Bhd (JurisTech).

Profit after tax and minority interest stood at RM14.4 million for the quarter.

The company declared a first interim single-tier dividend of 0.44 sen per ordinary share in respect of Q1'25, which will be paid on July 23. This translates to a payout ratio of 70% for the quarter. The entitlement date is June 25.

CTOS Digital group CEO Erick Hamburger commented: "We continue to see uptick in revenue as growth opportunities remain abundant both domestically and regionally. Financial institutions are increasingly seeking more sophisticated data and tools for credit analysis, underpinning sustained demand for the group's offerings. Innovation remains central to our strategy, and several product enhancements and new solutions are scheduled for launch in 2025, further reinforcing our commitment to continuous improvement and value creation."

In parallel, he added, they have embarked on a series of cost optimisation initiatives to enhance operational efficiency and reallocating resources more effectively.



# We're not fixated on growth forecasts, says Amir Hamzah

➤ More important to focus on building resilience and ensuring Malaysia has right tools and policies to continuously thrive amid heightened global volatility: Minister

**KUALA LUMPUR:** As Malaysia's growth forecast is being revised downward in reflection of a broader global trend, Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan is emphasising the importance of not being overly fixated on growth figures.

Instead, he said, the focus should be on building resilience and ensuring the country has the right tools and policies to continuously thrive amid heightened global volatility, a journey that the government has embarked upon over the last three years.

The minister expressed confidence that despite headwinds and multilateral bodies revising Malaysia's growth target, mirroring declining global growth and trade numbers,

Malaysia will continue to register growth in 2025.

On Friday, the World Bank projected Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for this year at 3.9%. Earlier in the week, the International Monetary Fund set its growth forecast for the country at 4.1%, down from 4.7% previously.

These predictions came in lower than the government's target of 4.5% to 5.5%.

"The good thing is that it (the revised predictions) is still a growth," Amir Hamzah said at the Asean Leadership Forum by Centre For Strategic and International Studies held in Washington, DC.

He said Malaysia's economic fundamentals remain strong and

resilient, mainly supported by robust domestic demand, a well-diversified economy and sustained investments.

"Malaysia remains well positioned to navigate global uncertainties," he added.

Amir Hamzah pointed out that the country registered GDP growth of 5.1% in 2024, higher than the 3.6% achieved in the previous year.

In the one-hour conversation, Amir Hamzah shared the Madani Government's focus on resetting the country's economy. "(Among others,) we have been trying to push the economy ahead from a middle income to a high income economy on a global scale and for that, we all have to punch through and break through the middle income trap."

One of the key challenges in achieving this vision lies in rethinking and redesigning the country's economic foundation, an effort that is central to the Madani Economy Framework, Amir Hamzah said.

The framework, launched in 2023, focuses on redesigning the economy with good governance in place and at the same time build a better social

protection as well as increasing living wages in the country.

"This is important because a stable society provides a much more conducive environment for progression in the country. At the same time, we want to re-strengthen our social nets and enhance good governance in the country," he said.

Hence, the key is to attract the right types of investments that focus on skills and investments in new priority sectors.

"So, it wasn't a surprise when Malaysia evolved to become one of the better data centres in Asia, and it also wasn't a surprise that artificial intelligence (AI) has also taken off (in terms of) what we can do and offer in Malaysia," Amir Hamzah said.

Last year, Malaysia's foreign direct investment saw significant growth, recording a historic high of RM378.5 billion in approved investments, a 14.9% increase year-on-year.

Malaysia, the minister said, is also accelerating its green transition by attracting investments in renewable energy, electric vehicles and hydrogen technology. - Bernama

## CPO futures tipped to see bullish trading this week

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The crude palm oil (CPO) futures market is expected to trade on a bullish note this week, driven by a price discount relative to soybean oil, which could spark increased buying interest, according to trader David Ng.

Ng told Bernama that CPO prices are forecast to range between RM4,050 and RM4,250 per tonne.

Interband Group of Companies senior palm oil trader Jim Teh also predicted a firmer market, with CPO futures likely to trade between RM3,800 and RM3,900 per tonne.

He said physical demand would primarily come from India, China and the Middle East.

He added that buying interest could extend to Pakistan and some European Union countries.

On the supply side, Teh noted that local CPO stocks remain abundant, with better-than-expected production in April, supported by favourable weather conditions.

Meanwhile, Fastmarkets Palm Oil Analytics senior analyst Sathia Varqa said market participants would focus on April's supply and demand estimates, particularly the extent of the production increase.

Last week, on a Friday-to-Friday basis, the spot month May 2025 contract rose RM22 to RM4,139 per tonne, while June 2025 gained RM68 to RM4,057. The July 2025 contract increased RM82 to RM4,057 per tonne.

August 2025 climbed RM86 to RM4,047, September 2025 grew RM80 to RM4,039, and October 2025 rose RM69 to RM4,029 per tonne.

Weekly trading volume declined to 410,686 lots from 434,196 the previous week, while open interest edged up to 239,139 contracts from 239,000.

The physical CPO price for May South was RM50 lower at RM4,200 per tonne.

## HSI issues actively traded in holiday-shortened week

### WARRANTS WATCH

**VOLATILITY** on global markets persisted amid growing economic uncertainties, driven by continued trade tensions between the United States and China. Last week's warrants turnover totalled RM565.7 million, down 11.8% from the previous week, partly due to the shortened trading week in Hong Kong (HK) in conjunction with the Easter holiday last Monday.

Despite that, warrants over the Hang Seng Index (HSI) continued to dominate, comprising over 80% of turnover, while warrants over the Hang Seng TECH Index (HSTECH) showed an increase in trading activity, recording a total turnover of RM11.8 million.

HSI April futures traded lower on Tuesday morning before rebounding to close 0.8% higher at 21,593, while

HSTECH futures edged up by 0.1% to 4,909. The HSI and HSTECH futures then extended their gains on Wednesday but declined by 1.2% to 21,910 and 2% to 4,976 respectively on Thursday as sentiments deteriorated after the US Treasury Secretary said that the White House had not offered to cut tariffs unilaterally. The HSI futures ended Friday on a positive note, closing just above the 22,000 level, up 2.7% week-on-week (w-o-w).

With the volatility, investors took positions in a range of HSI calls, with HSI-CWC4 and HSI-CWEP taking the top two spots in terms of value traded, while HSI-PWFQ was the highest value traded put warrant.

Meanwhile, trading activity in the HSTECH was largely in the put warrant HSTECH-H17 as the HSTECH April futures rose 1.5% w-o-w.

The US market also closed higher last week, with the S&P 500 Index

### Top warrants by value traded:

Warrant name	Value traded (RM mil)	Issuer	Exercise level	Expiry date
HSI-CWC4	85.5	Kenanga	25,000	29 May 2025
HSI-CWEP	59.7	Macquarie	27,000	30 Jun 2025
HSI-CWEI	56.6	Kenanga	27,000	30 Jun 2025
HSI-PWFQ	55.4	Macquarie	18,000	30 Jun 2025
HSI-PWD2	50.4	Kenanga	19,000	29 May 2025

(SP500) and the Nasdaq-100 Index (NDX) increasing 4.6% and 6.4% w-o-w, respectively.

Further, investors also turned to warrants over local stock underlyings last week. Warrants in focus were over YTL Power International (YTLPOWER) and Genting Bhd, among others. Shares of YTLPOWER rose 4.1% week-on-week (w-o-w), while Genting shares were down 2.1%. Among the associated call warrants in focus last week were YTLPOWER-C77, YTLPOWER-C80, Genting-C3T and Genting-C3N.

To view the full list of structured warrants available on Bursa Malaysia, visit [malaysiawarrants.com.my](http://malaysiawarrants.com.my).

*Provided for Malaysian residents' information only. This commentary has not been reviewed by the Securities Commission Malaysia. It is not an offer or recommendation to trade and is not research material. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. You should make your own assessment and seek professional advice. The warrants will not be offered to any US persons.*

## Malakoff to install rooftop solar power systems at Mardec's key facilities

**PETALING JAYA:** Malakoff Radiance Sdn Bhd (MRSB), the commercial and industrial (C&I) solar subsidiary of Malakoff Corporation Bhd, has formalised a strategic collaboration with Mardec Bhd through the signing of a solar power purchase agreement.

The agreement signed on April 18 paves the way for the installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems at five of Mardec's key facilities across Peninsular Malaysia.

The project will be implemented under the Net Energy Metering Scheme, delivering a combined installed capacity of about 3.54 megawatt-peak (MWp). Facilities involved include Mardec Processing

Sdn Bhd, Mardec Industrial Latex Sdn Bhd and M-POL Precision Products Sdn Bhd. The largest installation with a capacity of 1.15 MWp, will be located at Mardec Processing in Baling, Kedah. Installation is set to begin in mid-July, with commissioning to follow shortly after.

Mardec is a key player in Malaysia's rubber industry, specialising in the processing and trading of Standard Malaysian Rubber, latex concentrate and specialty rubber products. It also plays an important role in supporting

rubber smallholders by promoting sustainable sourcing.

Malakoff managing director and group CEO Anwar Syahrin Abdul Ajib said, "This initiative with Mardec Berhad marks an important milestone in our commitment to driving industrial-scale RE solutions. By embedding solar into core operational facilities, companies can not only lower their carbon footprint but also strengthen long-term operational resilience."

In 2024, he added, MRSB secured 22.1 MWp of C&I solar projects with

17.4 MWp successfully installed across various sectors. The client portfolio includes Senai International Airport, Malaysia Flying Academy, UMW Group of Companies, Projek Lintasan Kota Holdings, Gas Malaysia, Pos Malaysia and DRB-Hicom. To date, it has built a strong C&I solar portfolio totalling 60MW.

"Each initiative we undertake contributes to a larger vision of accelerating the nation's clean energy transition. Collectively, these efforts are helping to reshape Malaysia's energy landscape, and we remain committed to pursuing strategic partnerships that drive long-term sustainability," said Anwar Syahrin.

Malakoff is actively advancing the growth of its RE initiatives while ensuring Malaysia's energy security remains uncompromised. Through its business pillar, Malakoff Green Solutions, the company has built an impressive RE portfolio of 173MW. This includes diverse projects such as large-scale solar, commercial and industrial solar installations, small hydropower generation, and the implementation of carbon-free mobility infrastructure.

These initiatives highlight Malakoff's commitment to its purpose of "Enhancing Life, Enriching Communities," demonstrating the company's dedication to fostering a sustainable and resilient energy future.





# China must overcome AI chip challenges: Xi

➤ President says political support essential to 'promote self-reliance' in field

**BEIJING:** President Xi Jinping said China must "overcome" the challenges of developing core AI technologies including high-end chips, state media reported on Saturday, as Beijing seeks to become a world leader in the rapidly developing industry.

China aims to dominate the artificial intelligence sector, a goal complicated by the trade standoff with Washington that could further deprive Chinese industry of certain key technologies.

The world's two leading economies are locked in an escalating tit-for-tat trade battle triggered by US President Donald Trump's new levies on Chinese goods, which have reached 145% on many products.

Beijing has responded with 125% duties on imports from the United States.

In this context, Xi called for "continuing to strengthen basic research, focusing our efforts on overcoming challenges in key technologies such as advanced chips and core software, and building an autonomous AI system", according to Xinhua news agency.

Xi made the remarks during a quarterly meeting of the Politburo, the inner circle of China's top leaders.

Since the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, generative AI models have proliferated in the United States and China.

Chinese startup DeepSeek shook up the AI world in January with its R1 chatbot, matching the performance of its US competitors at a lower cost.

But Xi acknowledged that the Chinese industry still had "gaps".

It was "essential" to "promote self-reliance" in the field, he added.

Political support was essential to achieve this, Xi stressed, citing in particular "a combination of policies such as intellectual property rights, taxation, public procurement, and the opening up of infrastructure".

Under Trump and his predecessor Joe

Biden, Washington has banned or restricted exports to China of advanced processors which are known for helping develop high-end AI models.

The Trump administration has imposed new licensing requirements to export to China some chips used in AI, which US companies Nvidia and AMD have said will hit them hard.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang visited Beijing this month and said he was "willing to continue to plough deeply into the Chinese market and play a positive role in promoting US-China trade cooperation", Xinhua reported.

Washington's controls are officially imposed in order to prevent China developing military technologies, but they also allow the United States to maintain its competitive edge.

China's AI ambitions have prompted concern in numerous countries worried about the handling of personal data, particularly the possibility that such information could be transferred to Chinese authorities. - AFP

## Toyota mulls ¥6 trillion buyout of key supplier

**TOKYO:** Toyota Motor said it is exploring the possibility of investing in a potential buyout of key parts supplier Toyota Industries - a buyout that reportedly could cost ¥6 trillion (RM184 billion).

"We are currently exploring various possibilities, including partial investment," the automaker said in a filing with the Tokyo stock exchange on Saturday following reports about the possible buyout.

Bloomberg News reported that Toyota chairman Akio Toyoda and his founder family have proposed acquiring Toyota Industries in a possible ¥6 trillion deal.

Toyota Industries, which has a market value of ¥4 trillion, said in a statement it had received proposals about going private through a special purpose company but denied it had received a buyout proposal from the Toyota chairman or the Toyota group.

Two sources familiar with the matter said Toyota Industries is considering tapping Toyota and its group companies as well as major banks to fund a buyout.

They also said the proposal did not come from Akio Toyoda or the Toyota group.

The sources, who declined to be identified as the matter is not public, said if Toyota Industries were to go private, it would help improve the Toyota group's corporate governance as cross-shareholdings would be unwound.

Both Toyota and Toyota Industries said in their statements that nothing has been decided.

Toyota owned 24% of Toyota Industries as of September last year, while Toyota Industries held 9.07% of Toyota and 5.41% of Denso, another key Toyota supplier.

Toyota Industries has faced increasing shareholder pressure to unwind its cross shareholdings so that it can boost shareholder returns and make investments.

One of the sources said going private would also give Toyota Industries the freedom to focus on growth strategies without worrying about shareholder returns.

Cross-shareholdings, where companies hold shares in each other and are very common in Japan, have been under increasing scrutiny from regulators and shareholders as the practice can insulate management from having to serve the interests of general shareholders.

Toyota Industries is a major manufacturer of forklifts, produces the RAV4 sport utility vehicle for Toyota Motor as well as engines. - Reuters

## Nintendo fans test Switch 2 ahead of launch

**TOKYO:** Nintendo fans were given a chance to try out the company's new Switch 2 gaming device at an event near Tokyo on Saturday, ahead of a release that some worry could be overshadowed by tariffs driving up prices.

"Since Mr. Trump became president tariffs have gone up so I am concerned about a price hike not just for the game console but for accessories too," said Hidenori Tanaka, 55, a real estate company employee who attended the event.

Consumers around the world could face higher prices for electronic devices as tariffs imposed by the US President Donald Trump's administration on trading partners including China raise costs for companies operating global supply chains.

While Trump has rolled back some tariffs, the threat of a damaging trade war still looms.

Gamers at the pre-launch event began lining up outside the Makuhari Messe convention centre near Tokyo from mid-morning to play *Mario Kart World*, *Donkey Kong Bonanza* and other titles on the Switch 2.

Despite the possibility of higher prices, there are early indicators of robust consumer demand for the successor to the Switch, which has sold more than 150 million units since 2017 and transformed Nintendo's fortunes.

The Kyoto-based gaming company said last Wednesday it had received 2.2 million applications in the lottery for Switch 2 in Japan and could not fulfil all the demand.

"Honestly, I didn't think I had a shot. Everyone on social media was saying they missed out, so I figured I would too," said Hyuma Hashiguchi, 28, who won the lottery to



An attendee playing with the Nintendo Switch 2 gaming device at a media event in Tokyo. - REUTERS/PIC

be among the first to buy the Switch 2.

Nintendo is holding hands-on events around the world including in New York, Berlin and Hong Kong.

The Switch 2 will sell for ¥49,980 (RM1,530)

for a Japanese-language-only version.

In the United States, Nintendo initially paused pre-orders due to tariff concerns but later said it would maintain pricing at US\$449.99. - Reuters

## TikTok to enter Japan's e-commerce industry, Nikkei reports

**TOKYO:** Chinese social media platform TikTok will enter the online shopping industry in Japan within the next few months, the *Nikkei* newspaper reported yesterday.

The company is preparing to recruit sellers soon for its e-commerce arm TikTok Shop in Japan, *Nikkei* said, citing a source involved in the operations.

The social media platform did not

immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

TikTok Shop, where users can run livestreams selling everything from sneakers to eyeshadow and earn a commission on sales, is known for discounted products.

TikTok is looking to expand its business outside of the US, where it awaits a deal that will secure its presence in the country.

In March, TikTok Shop launched to users in France, Germany and Italy, expanding its reach further into Europe.

Last week, US President Donald Trump said a deal over the fate of the social media platform may have to wait, as he signaled a potential end to the tit-for-tat tariff hikes between America and China that shocked markets.

Earlier, Trump had extended the deadline to

spin off the US assets of TikTok for the second time in April and reassured a potential deal is still "on the table".

The future of TikTok in the United States, used by nearly half of all Americans, has been up in the air since a 2024 law, passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, required China-based parent, ByteDance, to divest the app by Jan 19. - Reuters



# Scrap ring-fencing, UK banks urge govt

➤ Lenders say rules are too onerous and hamper competitiveness

**LONDON:** Bank ring-fencing should be scrapped to support the UK economy, bank bosses from HSBC, Lloyds, NatWest and Santander UK said in a letter to the Finance Ministry, which said it would work with them to boost growth.

In a letter sent to British Finance

Minister Rachel Reeves last week, first reported by Sky News on Saturday, the chief executives said bank ring-fencing – which separates consumer lending operations from more volatile investment banking – “is not only a drag on banks’ ability to support business and the economy, but is now redundant”.

A spokesman for HSBC confirmed the letter existed as reported and that the bank was a signatory.

NatWest and Santander UK declined further comment on the letter and Lloyds did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside of regular business hours.

The ring-fencing rules were

introduced after British taxpayers had to bail out several failing lenders during the 2008 financial crisis.

Banks have long argued that the rules are too onerous and hamper Britain’s competitiveness versus other global financial centres.

Reeves has stepped up pressure on regulators and other public bodies to remove barriers that might be hindering growth.

A Treasury spokesperson said the banking sector was “critical to delivering our number one priority of economic growth” and indicated the government was open to allowing more risk-taking in support of that goal.

“That’s why the Chancellor (Reeves) has set out a new approach to regulation that supports growth, instead of excessively focusing on risk, and why we are co-designing the first-ever Financial Services Growth and Competitiveness Strategy with industry,” the spokesperson said.

In their letter, the bank chiefs said that given global economic challenges, it was crucial that the government removed “unnecessary constraints on the ability of UK banks to support businesses across the economy and sends the clearest possible signal to investors in the UK of your commitment to reform”.

“Removing the ring-fencing

regime is, we believe, among the most significant steps the government could take to ensure the prudential framework maximises the banking sector’s ability to support UK businesses and promote economic growth,” the letter said.

But Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey in February warned that the costs of that global financial crisis should not be forgotten in the backlash against the burden of financial regulation, saying there is no trade-off between economic growth and financial stability.

The Bank of England declined to comment on the letter on Saturday. – Reuters

## India asks firms to acquire overseas iron ore, coking coal assets

**MUMBAI:** India is encouraging companies to acquire iron ore, coking coal, and other key raw material assets overseas, Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said on Saturday, as the country ramps up its steelmaking capacity to meet rising demand.

“We are encouraging our companies to acquire assets abroad, right from iron ore to coking coal to even limestone and dolomite,” Poundrik said at an industry event in Mumbai.

“Raw material securitisation is the most important aspect of steelmaking.”

India, the world’s second-largest producer of crude steel, aims to boost its overall steelmaking capacity to 300 million tons by 2030, up from about 200 million tons currently.

To support this expansion, coking coal imports are projected to rise to 160 million tons by 2030 from around 58 million tons now, Poundrik had projected on Friday.

Despite an uptick in steel output, India’s coking coal imports dipped 0.7% in the fiscal year ended in March due to lower shipments from Australia and US, said commodities consultancy BigMint.

India relies on imports to meet 85% of its coking coal needs, with Australia supplying more than half of those shipments.

In a bid to diversify supply, India has also been exploring partnerships with Mongolia.

However, logistical challenges remain in sourcing material from the landlocked country, Poundrik noted.

India’s state-run miner NMDC is exploring coking coal assets, in Indonesia and Australia, chairman Amitava Mukherjee said last Thursday. – Reuters

## China’s Q1 industrial profits return to growth

**BEIJING:** China’s industrial profits returned to growth in the first quarter, official data showed yesterday, but are likely to come under further pressure amid a trade war with the United States.

With Washington’s aggressive tariffs threatening to hit China’s crucial export engine hit and no time frame yet for any bilateral trade talks, economists and investors are waiting for the Chinese government to roll out more support measures to cushion the blow to the world’s second-largest economy.

Cumulative profits of China’s industrial firms rose 0.8% to 1.5 trillion yuan (RM900 billion) in the first quarter from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed, reversing a 0.3% decline in the first two months.

In March alone, profits rose 2.6% on-year.

The profit gain in the first quarter followed a 3.3% fall in 2024, reversing the trend of continuous declines in cumulative profits of enterprises since the third quarter of last year, Yu Weining, an NBS statistician, said in a separate statement along with the data release.

Thanks to a consumer goods trade-in campaign, profits in the wearable smart device manufacturing sector soared by 78.8% while those for household kitchen appliance makers rose 21.7%, said the statement.

China reported stronger-than-expected economic growth in the first quarter as government stimulus boosted consumption and supported investment, but deflationary pressures persisted, ripping into corporate profits and workers’ incomes as firms tried to navigate rising trade disruptions.

“At the current stage, the external environment is becoming more complex and severe, and unstable and uncertain factors are increasing,” said Yu, adding the government will further strengthen policy implementation and promote the continuous improvement of corporate profitability.

Beijing has made increasingly louder calls on exporters to find local buyers as an alternative to the US market, now effectively frozen after Washington hiked tariffs on Chinese goods by 145%, but many export-reliant factories have decried weak domestic demand, price wars, low profits and payment delays in the Chinese market.

The ruling Communist Party’s Politburo on Friday pledged to support firms and workers most affected by the impact of US tariffs, also saying new monetary tools and policy financing instruments will be set up to boost innovation, consumption and foreign trade.

Profits at state-owned firms dipped 1.4% in the first quarter.

Private-sector companies saw a 0.3% fall, but foreign firms recorded a 2.8% gain, according to a breakdown of the NBS data.

Industrial profit numbers cover firms with annual revenue of at least 20 million yuan from their main operations. – Reuters



Riyadh Metro trains travel along their tracks in the middle of a road in Riyadh. – AFP/PPIC

## Saudi Arabia reports record non-oil exports of 515 billion riyals

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia’s non-oil exports reached an all-time high of 515 billion riyals (RM600 billion) in 2024, the state news agency said on Saturday, as the kingdom continues its push to diversify its economy away from oil dependence.

The world’s leading oil exporter is investing billions of dollars to achieve its Vision 2030 plan, which focuses on reducing its reliance on oil and spending more on infrastructure to

boost industries like tourism, sports and manufacturing.

Saudi Arabia is also working to attract more outside investment to ensure its ambitious plans stay on track.

Non-oil exports rose 13% year-on-year, and over 113% since the launch of Saudi vision 2030, state news agency SPA added.

Abdulrahman Althukair, CEO of the Saudi Export Development Authority, was quoted by

SPA attributing the jump in non-oil exports to the “kingdom’s sustained efforts in economic diversification”.

On Friday, Saudi Arabia announced its 2024 annual report for the kingdom’s 2030 Vision plan, which saw the kingdom attract foreign direct investment worth 77.6 billion riyals.

It has set itself a target to attract US\$100 billion in annual foreign direct investment by the turn of the decade. – Reuters



# Washington signals it will stay in IMF and World Bank

## ► Policymakers have no alternative to dollar system

**WASHINGTON:** Global policymakers who gathered in Washington last week breathed a collective sigh of relief that the US-centric economic order that prevailed for the past 80 years was not collapsing just yet despite Donald Trump's inward-looking approach.

The Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were dominated by trade talks, which also brought some de-escalatory statements from Washington about its relations with China.

But some deeper questions hovered over central bankers and finance ministers after Trump's attacks on international institutions and the Federal Reserve: can we still count on the US dollar as the world's safe haven and on the two lenders that have supported the international economic system since the end of World War II?

Conversations with dozens of policymakers from all over the world revealed generalised relief at Trump's scaling back his threats to fire Fed chairman Jerome Powell, the guardian of the dollar's international status whom he had previously described as a "major loser".

And many also saw a silver lining in US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent's call to reshape the IMF and World Bank according to Trump's

priorities because it implied that the United States was not about to pull out of the two lenders that it helped create at the Bretton Woods conference of 1944.

"This week was one of cautious relief," Austria's central bank governor Robert Holzmann said.

"There was a turn (in the US administration's stance) but I fret this may not be the last. I keep my reservations."

A politicisation of the Fed and, to a lesser extent, the hollowing out of the IMF and World Bank are almost too much to fathom for most officials.

Deprived of a lender of last resort, some US\$25 trillion (RM109 trillion) of bonds and loans issued abroad would be called into question.

At the heart of policymakers' concerns is that there is no ready alternative to the United States as the world's financial hegemon – a situation that economists know as the Kindleberger Trap after renowned historian Charles Kindleberger.

To be sure, the euro, a distant-second reserve currency, is gaining popularity in light of the European Union's newly found status as an island of relative stability.

But policymakers were adamant that the European single currency was not ready yet to dethrone the dollar and could at best hope to add a little to its 20% share of the world's reserves.

Of the 20 countries that share the euro only Germany has the credit rating and the size that investors demand from a safe haven.

Some other members are highly indebted and prone to bouts of political and financial

turmoil – most recently in France last year – which raise lingering questions about the bloc's long-term viability.

And the euro zone's geographical proximity to Russia – particularly the three Baltic countries that were once part of the Soviet Union – cast an even more sinister shadow.

With Japan now too small and China's heavily managed currency in an even worse position, this left no alternative to the dollar system underpinned by the Fed and the two Bretton Woods institutions.

In fact, the IMF and the World Bank could scarcely survive if their largest shareholder, the United States, pulled out, officials said.

"The US is absolutely crucial for multilateral institutions," Polish Finance Minister Andrzej Domanski told Reuters.

"We're happy they remain."

Still, few expected to go back to the old status quo and thorny issues were likely to await, such as widespread dependence on US firms for a number of key services from credit cards to satellites.

But some observers argued that the market turmoil of the past few weeks, which saw US bonds, shares and the currency sell off sharply, might have been a shot in the arm as it forced a change of tack by the administration.

"When Trump talked about firing Powell, the fact that markets reacted so vigorously to that ended up being a disciplining reality just reminding the administration that, if you cross that line, it could have some very severe implications," said Nathan Sheets, global chief economist at Citi. – Reuters

## Japan premier goes to Vietnam and Philippines to talk tariffs

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba left yesterday for a four-day trip to Vietnam and the Philippines, as Tokyo seeks to shore up regional ties after Donald Trump's tariff onslaught.

Ishiba's trip comes after China's President Xi Jinping conducted his own Southeast Asia tour, with Beijing trying to position itself as a stable alternative to the United States as leaders battle to counter Trump's tariffs.

Before leaving for the trip, Ishiba called Vietnam and the Philippines – along with the rest of Southeast Asia – a "growth centre" that is driving the world economy.

But they face "major impacts" due to US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, he said, adding that Japanese businesses operating in the region could also be hit.

"We would like to listen carefully to the opinions and concerns of Japanese companies in the region and make use of that in how we deal with the tariff measures," he said.

Despite being the biggest investor into the United States, Japan has been pinched by steep levies imposed by Trump on imports of cars, steel and aluminium.

The country is included in Trump's blanket 10% levy, although the American leader has paused his "reciprocal" duty of 24%.

Trump also paused "reciprocal" duties of 46% on Vietnam and 49% on Cambodia, where some Japanese companies are thought to have shifted an increasing share of production in recent years, partly to avoid the fallout from the last US-China trade war. – AFP

## US, EU not close to agreement: Brussels

**BRUSSELS:** The United States and European Union still have much work ahead when it comes to reaching a deal to avoid tariffs under President Donald Trump, the EU's economy chief said last week.

The bloc is keen to arrive at a pact in the coming weeks, said EU economy commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis, but there is "a lot of work ahead" to reach "more concrete" areas of cooperation.

Since returning to the White House, Trump has imposed sweeping 10% tariffs on friend and foe, including the EU.

The US president has also sought to raise levies on EU goods further, and a 90-day pause on this action is due to expire in early July.

Dombrovskis told reporters that the EU aims to reach a negotiated solution within this window, adding that the bloc faces "asymmetrical" tariffs.

Despite the pause on higher tariffs on EU products, European nations continue to come up against US steel and aluminum tariffs, and those on automobiles.

Separately, Dombrovskis expressed concern about possible sizeable trade diversions from China, noting that with steep US tariffs on Chinese imports, the US market is now "basically closed for Chinese goods".

Dombrovskis said he also spoke with counterparts from China last week, and urged Beijing to show "restraint" when it comes to exporting industrial goods. – AFP



(From left) Moderator CNBC anchor Sara Eisen, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, German Finance Minister Jorg Kukies, International Monetary Fund managing director Kristalina Georgieva, Argentina's Minister of Deregulation and State Transformation Federico Sturzenegger and Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor of global economics and management Kristin Forbes during a discussion at IMF Headquarters One in Washington. – AFP/PICT

## Fast track US trade deals, developing countries urged

**WASHINGTON:** Developing countries should strike swift trade deals with the United States at the "earliest possible" opportunity, the president of the World Bank told AFP, after a busy week with global financial leaders in Washington.

Ajay Banga was interviewed by AFP at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund's Spring Meetings, which have been held this year under a cloud of uncertainty about President Donald Trump's stop-start tariff rollout.

The Bank has been advising developing countries to get a deal done quickly with the United States, and to then focus attention on cutting trade barriers and boosting regional flows of goods, Banga said.

"You need to negotiate trade systems with the US at the earliest possible (opportunity)," he said. "If you delay, it hurts everyone."

Banga also addressed the criticism levelled by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent at the Bank earlier this week.

Bessent criticised China's "absurd" developing country status and called on Banga and IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva to "earn the confidence of the administration".

"I don't think he's wrong," Banga said of Bessent's comments on China.

"A country that is the size of China and the capability of China, at some point, should no longer be taking money from IBRD," he said, referring to the

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development – an arm of the World Bank that lends largely to middle-income countries.

Such a move would require the support of the World Bank's executive board, which is made up by member states.

China, Banga said, borrowed around US\$750 million from the IBRD last year, while paying billions of dollars to the institution in repayments and donations.

"My view is, I've brought it down to 750 (million), and I'm trying to figure out a way to deal with China to bring it down further," he said.

"I want to get it done. And that's what I'm talking to the Chinese about." – AFP



# MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 25

## Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

25 APRIL 2025

Participation		Retail (21.03%)		Institution (41.60%)		Foreign (37.37%)	
		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	
		<b>-73.87</b>		<b>-51.99</b>		<b>+125.85</b>	
Bought	Sold	Bought	Sold	Bought	Sold	Bought	Sold
(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)	(in RM mil.)
372.70	446.57	784.18	836.17	790.74	664.89		

Preliminary status (Excluding Trade Amendments) | Final data, refer to Bursa website



### Need Some Ideas?

Our Monthly Trader's Talk will be held Every 1st Monday of the Month Live webinar with Q&A

IPacOnline @ipaconline1972 Inter-Pacific Securities iPac\_TV

SUNBIZ presents a summary of the day's trading activity on Bursa Malaysia and other markets in an easy to digest format.

Sources: Bursa Malaysia, Bernama, shareinvestor.com and websites

**DISCLAIMER:** The data and reports are provided as a service to investors. Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

## Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	11,219.84 +65.30
FBMKLCI	1,509.20 +2.68
CONSUMER PRODUCTS & SERVIC	496.94 +0.44
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERV	148.73 +2.82
CONSTRUCTION	258.42 +3.59
FINANCIAL SERVICES	17,991.19 -4.73
ENERGY	674.68 +8.84
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA	503.56 +8.54
HEALTH CARE	1,869.15 +23.94
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	977.85 +7.14
PROPERTY	974.86 +15.10
PLANTATION	7,224.92 +31.56
FBMSHA	11,084.26 +94.94
FBMACE	4,623.57 +20.07
TECHNOLOGY	47.73 +2.06

TURNOVER: 3.096 bil

VALUE: RM1.946 bil

## FBM KLCI expected to move within tight range

BURSA Malaysia is expected to see continued cautious trading this week, with the FBM KLCI consolidating within a tight range of 1,513 to 1,515 points, as investors await clarity on Malaysia's strategic response to the recent US tariff announcements from a special Dewan Rakyat sitting on May 5.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors Sdn Bhd head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan said that compounding the cautious tone, it will be a holiday-shortened trading week, with Bursa Malaysia closed on Thursday in observance of Labour Day – potentially weighing on liquidity and limiting upward momentum.

"Despite the recent gains, the FBM KLCI has struggled to decisively breach the psychological resistance level at 1,515 – a level we previously highlighted as critical. This hesitation introduces uncertainty regarding the sustainability of the current uptrend heading into next (this) week," he told Bernama.

He said that after the recent three consecutive days of gains, profit-taking may intensify, particularly among retail investors seeking to lock in short-term gains amid ongoing policy uncertainties.

Mohd Sedek said sentiment remains fragile and highly sensitive to geopolitical developments.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng believes investors are ready to buy the breakout at around 1,518, add to their positions, or use leveraged tools to maximise profits as the benchmark index is showing signs of recovery after reclaiming the 20-day exponential moving average (EMA).

"The gap between the 20-day and 50-day EMA is narrowing, hinting at a potential convergence that could develop into a bullish crossover if momentum continues." "As such, we anticipate the FBM KLCI to trend within the range of 1,490-1,520 (this week)." Last week, the key index gained 9.80 points to 1,509.20.

## Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWC4	0.090	-0.005	-5.26	2,180,952
HSI-PWFQ	0.100	-0.010	-9.09	1,924,231
HSI-CWEP	0.110	-0.005	-4.35	1,483,595
HSI-PWD2	0.055	-0.010	-15.39	1,187,600
HSI-CWC7	0.050	-0.005	-9.09	837,938
BPURI	0.265	-0.110	-29.33	541,835
INSAS-WC	0.040	-0.005	-11.11	480,482
RTECH	0.275	+0.030	+12.25	432,126
MYEG	0.905	+0.010	+1.12	423,609
NATGATE	1.300	+0.120	+10.17	422,706
HSI-CWEI	0.165	+0.005	+3.13	417,170
TANCO	0.860	+0.005	+0.59	360,394
HSI-PWFK	0.110	-0.005	-4.35	347,760
YONGTAI	0.225	+0.005	+2.27	329,878
HSI-PWDU	0.050	-0.010	-16.67	267,627
INARI	1.940	+0.140	+7.78	263,357
HSI-CWCT	0.080	+0.005	+6.67	251,735
GAMUDA	3.990	+0.060	+1.53	247,210
YTLPOWER-C77	0.030	+0.005	+20.00	246,774
NEXG	0.370	+0.010	+2.78	245,319



## Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
MPI	17.440	+1.280	5,957
BLOPLNT	11.200	+0.400	14
PIE	4.180	+0.330	8,473
VITROX	3.020	+0.320	69,794
PANAMY	13.600	+0.220	88
IDEAL	4.000	+0.200	80
CVIEW	2.000	+0.170	778
VSTEC	2.840	+0.170	7,263
SP500-C52	0.780	+0.165	22
ALLIANZ	17.840	+0.160	233
BAT	6.450	+0.160	997
AMWAY	5.390	+0.150	273
KESM	3.040	+0.150	122
KHIND	2.300	+0.150	1
PENTA	2.430	+0.150	30,595
AHEALTH	2.280	+0.140	2,175
INARI	1.940	+0.140	263,357
UWC	1.890	+0.140	53,203
BKAWAN	18.780	+0.120	61
KLK	19.640	+0.120	922

## Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
MSM-C2	0.030	+200.00	5,867
INARI-C3E	0.025	+150.00	12,104
D&O-C14	0.010	+100.00	2,500
DNEX-C38	0.010	+100.00	4,000
FBMKLCI-CQU	0.010	+100.00	3,500
HIAPTEK-CG	0.010	+100.00	150
MSM-C1	0.030	+100.00	500
NEXGRAM-WD	0.010	+100.00	500
SP500-C50	0.090	+80.00	10,522
INARI-C3F	0.050	+66.67	24,925
JTASIA-CZ	0.025	+66.67	1,500
MPI-C9	0.100	+66.67	9,200
KBG-CK	0.085	+54.55	1,100
GREATEC-C15	0.015	+50.00	319
JTASIA-C3	0.045	+50.00	1,827
MNC-WC	0.015	+50.00	2,001
NATGATE-CL	0.015	+50.00	6,121
PENTA-C49	0.015	+50.00	13,000
YINSON-C41	0.015	+50.00	14,500
PINGAN-C26	0.065	+44.44	1,500

## World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	40,113.50	20.1	0.05
S&P 500 [US]	5,525.21	40.44	0.74
NASDAQ [US]	17,382.94	216.9	1.26
NYSE [US]	18,899.80	4.39	0.02
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	5,154.12	39.14	0.77
FTSE 100 [UK]	8,415.25	7.81	0.09
DAX [GER]	22,242.45	177.94	0.81
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	35,705.74	666.59	1.9
TOPIX [JPN]	2,628.03	35.47	1.37
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	21,980.74	70.98	0.32
CSI 300 [CHN]	7,968.93	2.63	0.07
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	183.08	0.72	0.39
SH SE COM [CHN]	3,295.06	-2.23	-0.07
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,546.03	23.97	0.95
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	79,212.53	-588.9	-0.74
ASX 200 [AUS]	7,968.23	47.71	0.6
ALL ORDINARIES INDEX [AUS]	8,175.12	49.89	0.61
FBM KLCI	1,509.20	2.68	0.18
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,823.78	-8.14	-0.21
WTI [US\$/BBL]	63.02	0.23	0.37
BRENT [US\$/BBL]	66.87	0.32	0.48
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,298.40	-50.2	-1.5
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	33.33	-0.5	-1.47
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	975.99	0.59	0.06
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	489.5	-1.55	-0.32
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	9,374.00	-18.5	-0.2
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	485.5	1.5	0.31
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	545	0.5	0.09
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	49.81	-0.26	-0.52
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	9,392.00	261	2.86
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	165.4	-0.2	-0.12

As at 5pm, April 25

## Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
UTDPLT	22.260	-0.740	6,539
F&N	26.720	-0.480	1,816
SP500-H53	1.190	-0.310	1,167
BPURI-WB	0.185	-0.300	3,861
HSI-PWFI	0.565	-0.285	100
HSI-PWFU	0.705	-0.275	100
KLUANG	5.440	-0.180	1
PETDAG	19.000	-0.160	704
SP500-H55	0.795	-0.155	1,593
NIKKEI-HM	2.010	-0.150	55
NDX-HK	0.620	-0.145	425
NDX-HL	0.595	-0.125	782
CTOS-C18	0.030	-0.120	833
HEIM	26.120	-0.120	1,962
HSI-PWF8	0.030	-0.120	100
BPURI	0.265	-0.110	541,835
GENTINGC3T	0.045	-0.105	207,261
NIKKEI-HK	0.500	-0.105	1,785
CTOS	1.050	-0.090	152,405
CTOS-C17	0.060	-0.090	450

## Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
CTOS-C18	0.030	-80.00	833
HSI-PWF8	0.030	-80.00	100
GENTINGC3T	0.045	-70.00	207,261
BPURI-WB	0.185	-61.86	3,861
CTOS-C17	0.060	-60.00	450
CTOS-C16	0.015	-50.00	1,350
HSI-CWAI	0.005	-50.00	8,562
HSI-PWD3	0.005	-50.00	13,143
UM-C1D	0.075	-50.00	200
MRCB-C1Q	0.075	-50.00	1,000
MYEG-C7Q	0.005	-50.00	2,996
PICHEM-C1F	0.005	-50.00	1
ZENTECH	0.005	-50.00	4,134
YTL-C1N	0.080	-46.67	826
PICHEM-C1L	0.090	-40.00	85,280
TENCENT-HIE	0.015	-40.00	100
INARI-C3M	0.095	-36.67	168,080
HSI-PWFI	0.565	-33.33	100
ARTRONIQ-WA	0.010	-33.33	25,043
COMFORT-WB	0.010	-33.33	14

## MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by SunBiz Team



## Gold futures on Bursa likely to remain volatile this week

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Gold futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to remain volatile this week due to the global economic uncertainty and shifting geopolitical dynamics.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said the precious metal is likely to trade within a wide range as investors weigh mixed signals from major economies.

"With Asean leaders preparing for potential trade deals with the United States and China showing diplomatic flexibility, the narrative may continue to lean toward cautious optimism.

"If that continues, gold could struggle to regain strong upside momentum in the near term. Given the unpredictable nature of global trade negotiations, the downside may also be limited.

"One-week implied volatility currently stands around 6.2%, suggesting a projected trading band of roughly US\$90 based on spot prices near US\$3,300," he told Bernama.

Innes said a reasonable expected range would be between US\$3,270 and US\$3,360 per troy ounce this week, reflecting both ongoing uncertainty and the market's rapid reaction to policy signals.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the April spot month gained to US\$3,307.20 per troy ounce from US\$3,305.20 per troy ounce last week, while May 2025 added to US\$3,316.20 per troy ounce from US\$3,315.60 per troy ounce.

The June, July and August 2025 contracts each increased to US\$3,332.80 per troy ounce from US\$3,330.30 per troy ounce last week.

Volume fell to 871 lots from 1,984 lots previously, while open interest declined to 88 contracts from 175 contracts.

According to the London Bullion Market Association's afternoon fix on April 24, physical gold was priced at US\$3,314.75 per troy ounce.

## Ringgit set to hover between RM4.37 and RM4.38

**THE** ringgit is expected to hover within a tight range of RM4.37 to RM4.38 this week, as markets focus on a series of key US data releases, said Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid.

He noted that the US Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index for April to be released this week is expected to show a decline to 88.5 points, down from 92.9 in March. This will be followed by the Institute for Supply Management Manufacturing Index, which is expected to fall further to 47.9 points in April.

Additionally, the US non-farm payroll and personal consumption expenditures inflation reports will be closely watched, he added.

"It will be a data-heavy week, with markets looking for clues on whether the US Federal Reserve (Fed) may reduce the Fed Funds Rate in the near term.

"We remain positive on the ringgit, as prospects for US rate cuts are gaining momentum," he told Bernama.

The ringgit ended at 4.3705/3770 against the US dollar last week, marking an improvement from 4.4100/4175 in the previous week.

It also gained against the euro, strengthening to 4.9596/9670 from 5.0133/0218, rose versus the Japanese yen to 3.0431/0481 from 3.0971/1028, and appreciated against the British pound to 5.8128/8214 from 5.8516/8616.

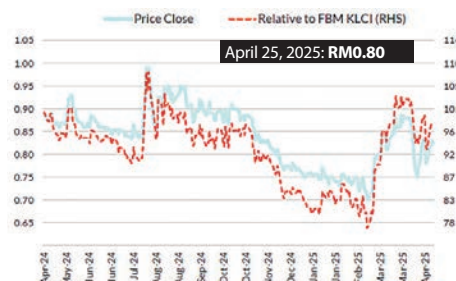
The ringgit traded mostly higher against Asean currencies, gaining against the Indonesian rupiah to 259.6/260.2 from 261.2/261.8, appreciating against the Singapore dollar to 3.3228/3280 from 3.3603/3667, and strengthening against the Thai baht to 13.0195/0450 from 13.1599/1902.

However, the local note traded almost flat against the Philippine peso, at 7.77/7.78 from 7.77/7.79 the previous Friday.

## Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.4415	4.3075	4.2975
1 Australian Dollar	2.8570	2.7420	2.7260
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3790	3.2800	3.2720
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1980	3.1120	3.1000
1 Euro	5.0450	4.8820	4.8620
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.6680	2.5690	2.5530
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3790	3.2800	3.2720
1 Sterling Pound	5.9150	5.7280	5.7080
1 Swiss Franc	5.3820	5.1540	5.1390
100 UAE Dirham	122.3000	115.9800	115.7800
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.7310	3.4740	3.2740
100 Chinese Renminbi	61.2600	58.6800	58.6800
100 Danish Krone	69.2800	63.7500	63.5500
100 Hongkong Dollar	57.8400	54.9700	54.7700
100 Indian Rupee	5.2900	4.9700	4.7700
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0273	0.0247	0.0197
100 Japanese Yen	3.1110	3.0120	3.0020
100 New Taiwan Dollar	14.7000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.7100	40.1800	39.9800
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6000	1.5000	1.3000
100 Philippine Peso	7.9900	7.5300	7.3300
100 Qatar Riyal	123.1800	116.9400	116.7400
100 Saudi Riyal	119.6900	113.6300	113.4300
100 South Africa Rand	24.4500	22.0700	21.8700
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5200	1.4000	1.2000
100 Swedish Krona	47.6000	43.3400	43.1400
100 Thai Baht	13.8800	12.3000	11.9000

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Texchem Resources Bhd  
Buy. Target price: RM1.58

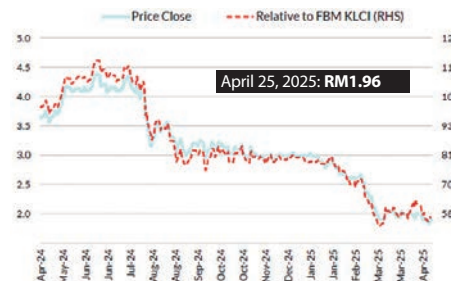
Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

**1Q25** results were in line with expectations. We expect earnings to improve further, supported by continued volume recovery and contributions from new businesses, which should drive operating leverage. Current 5.8x FY25F P/E presents an attractive entry point into Texchem Resources' diverse businesses, backed by a solid balance sheet and strong cash flow generation.

1Q25 core profit of MYR2.3m (1Q24: -MYR1.3m) came in at 13% of our full-year forecast. We deem the results to be in line, as we anticipate stronger earnings ahead across all business units, driven by better seasonality and continued recovery.

The polymer engineering business should continue to see recovery driven by improving demand in the hard disk drive and semiconductor sectors, steady growth from medical and life science clients, and contributions from new high-margin businesses. We understand the group has no direct exposure to the US, and is therefore not affected by Trump's reciprocal tariffs, while management sees minimal demand disruption at this stage. In the industrial segment, the focus on bulk chemicals should continue yielding positive results leading to higher sales and market share gains. The food business diversified its supply chain to Thailand in FY24 to mitigate the impact of FX control measures. Meanwhile, the restaurant business is expected to benefit from better seasonality ahead, with plans to enhance the menu, expand into more profitable suburban areas, close underperforming outlets and optimise operating efficiencies. Lastly, dividend payout should recommence in FY25 post earnings turnaround and completion of the MYR102.2m payment for the 28% stake in Sushi King acquired in 2022.

Maintain BUY with RM1.58 TP – **RHB Research, April 25**

Unisem Bhd  
Buy. Target price: RM2.93

Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

**UNISEM'S** 1Q24 core earnings are below expectations, dragged by the sub-optimal utilisation rate at its Malaysia unit and steeper pre-operating costs despite the stronger revenue (+16.1% YoY). Management expects stronger loadings in 2Q and even higher earnings in 2H25, supported by the ramp-up of its newly operating plant in Gopeng. We believe the stock has an attractive risk-reward profile, given management's assured outlook and the pick-up in orders received despite the imposition of tariffs from the US.

1Q25 revenue of MYR424m (+16.1% YoY) met expectations but core earnings of MYR4.3m (-66% YoY) were a miss, at a mere 3.5% and 3.9% of our and Street full-year estimates. Its EBITDA margin dropped to 16.9% (from 19.1% in 1Q24) - due to changes in the product mix, pre-opening expenses for the Gopeng plant, as well as the Ipoh and wafer bumping services plants being in the red. The higher ETR of 48% for 1Q25 was due to the non-deductible loss incurred by its Malaysian unit. A first interim DPS of MYR0.02 (flat YoY) was declared.

USD-denominated revenue continued to trend upwards in 1Q25 - up 2.5% QoQ or 23.6% YoY to US\$93.7m, despite a seasonally weak 1Q due to the festive season and a short February. The turnover growth was on better loadings at Unisem Chengdu for the Chinese smartphone market and EV customers.

Management expects revenue to strengthen by 5-10% QoQ in 2Q25. Demand - for power management items for a Chinese phone manufacturer, micro-electro mechanical systems or MEMS microphones, power management integrated circuits or PMICS for servers, and EVs - continues to grow.

BUY with new RM2.93 TP – **RHB Research, April 25**

IJM Corp Bhd  
Buy. Target price: RM3.14

Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

**IJM Corp** announced that it has completed the acquisition of a 50% stake in JRL Group Holdings (JRL), a UK-based construction company for MYR283m. This development is not entirely new as the due diligence exercise on the acquisition was made known in 4QCY24 but earnings contribution has yet to be imputed pending the deal's completion.

JRL was founded in 1996 and provides fully integrated building solutions in the UK represented via various brands specialising in turnkey contracts, mechanical and electrical, facade solution, hire and sale of tower cranes among others. Orderbook wise, JRL has an outstanding orderbook of GBP1.5bn which adds to IJM's current balance orderbook of MYR6bn. We view execution risk to be manageable as JRL was the main contractor for IJM Land's maiden UK project - Royal Mint Gardens Phase 1. JRL's presence will also fit well with IJM's Innova JV with Network Rail Property (GDV exceeding GBP3bn), targeting multiple railway-adjacent sites across four London boroughs.

After two straight years of losses, JRL recorded a PAT of GBP10m from a revenue of GBP410m for the first eight months of FY24. On an annualised basis, JRL would record a GBP15.5m PAT on an annualised basis for the full year of FY24. Taking into consideration the GBP50m price tag and a GBP7.8m annualised estimated PAT (effective 50% stake for IJM) for FY24 - the deal would be transacted at a P/E of 6.4x, which is not lofty in our view in comparison to listed peers of JRL in the UK which are trading at an average forward P/E of 10x. Looking ahead, we are estimating JRL to record a profit of between GBP16m and GBP18m over the next two years.

Keep BUY, with new RM3.14 TP – **RHB Research, April 25**





# Robots as salespersons

See one at work  
in KL - **P22**

## WEEKLY FOCUS

### MONDAY

Technology and  
social media

### TUESDAY

Family  
and parenting

### WEDNESDAY

Fashion  
and beauty

### THURSDAY

Home  
and living

### FRIDAY

Travel  
and leisure

### SATURDAY

Food  
and beverage

**INSIDE**

**p23**

Beware of new  
phishing tactics

**p24**

Slick flick proves Malaysia  
can do premium action

**p25**

Keluang Man film nears  
finish line, unveils trailer

**M**ALAYSIANS can now see a humanoid robot at work at the Omoda C5 Joystar 4S dealership in Kuala Lumpur.

Called the AiMoga Robot, it has assumed the role of an "intelligent sales consultant" there. What that exactly means is a little unclear, but here is what we know about it:

The robot was co-developed by Chery (the parent company of Omoda & Jaecoo) and the AiMoga team. As the first intelligent humanoid in the brand's smart ecosystem, its role at the Kuala Lumpur dealership marks its debut on the international stage. It reflects Chery's transformative push from "intelligent manufacturing" to "intelligent service".

Last month, in a sleek silver-gray exosuit, it was seen gracefully moving through the showroom at the Intelligent Strategy Launch held by Chery. In a gentle and natural tone, it introduced vehicle features, served beverages and assisted guests with test drive bookings – demonstrating a warm, approachable and highly capable service personality. Suffice to say, it quickly drew the attention of the audience and the media.

Interestingly, the AiMoga Robot's origins can be traced to a virtual avatar created to appeal to younger consumers with the launch of the Omoda C5. The persona Mornine appeared in promotional animation, brand livestreams and on other digital platforms, gradually becoming a recognisable "intelligent face" for the brand. But Chery's ambition pushed it to take the new step, turning the virtual into the real.

The AiMoga Robot is equipped with an on-device multimodal sensing model that integrates input from vision, speech and other modalities. This allows it to accurately interpret user commands, physical gestures and surrounding showroom environments. It also leverages a bionic motion system and automotive-grade hardware to support upright walking and dexterous hand operations. It is also capable of multi-robot coordination, enabling collaborative tasks such as guided tours and reception services alongside other robots.

When making decisions, the robot harnesses the power of DeepSeek's large models to understand natural language semantics and generate personalised, context-aware responses.

In addition, Chery's existing supply chain, manufacturing infrastructure and rigorous testing systems – originally built for vehicle production – now serve as a powerful industrial backbone for robotics



Mornine is seen at the Omoda & Jaecoo Global User Summit.

## Sales robot debuts in KL car dealership

► Powered by DeepSeek, it gives glimpse into AI future

development. This cross-domain capability allows the AiMoga Robot to move quickly from research and development (R&D) to commercial deployment, laying a solid foundation for scalable applications across diverse real-world scenarios.

### History

In 2023, the AiMoga Robot completed its first round of R&D testing, with the debut prototype rolling off the production line by

year-end. By early last year, it made its public debut at the Omoda & Jaecoo Global Dealer Conference, demonstrating core capabilities including upright walking, voice-based interaction, hand gestures and sustained human-robot conversation.

In October last year, at the Omoda & Jaecoo Global User Summit, the robot showcased advanced functions such as vehicle walkaround explanations, semantic map construction and autonomous navigation. Then in November, during the National Skills Competition, it successfully performed a water delivery task through a multi-robot control system, highlighting its ability to



Mornine stars in an Omoda promotional film.

execute complex, coordinated actions across multiple agents.

This year, it entered commercial deployment at a 4S dealership in Kuala Lumpur, marking its transition from experimental prototype to on-duty team member in real-world service environments.

### Eastern wisdom meets future tech

The name *Mo Jia* reflects a fusion of cultural heritage and technological ambition. *Mo* pays tribute to Mozi, the ancient Chinese philosopher and scientist, symbolising critical thinking and precision craftsmanship. *Jia* refers to armour, representing the embodiment of mech-style technology in physical form.

The English name AiMoga blends artificial intelligence (AI) with multi-objective genetic algorithm (Moga), encapsulating a forward-looking technical philosophy and a phonetic echo of

the Chinese name. It reflects the brand's global orientation and deep-rooted technological foundation.

In the future, the AiMoga Robot is set to extend its presence into high-touch human-machine interaction scenarios such as shopping malls, exhibitions, cinemas and government service centres. It is also expected to enter more emotionally resonant spaces – including homes, schools and eldercare facilities – where companionship, empathy and adaptability are essential.

Its capabilities in language comprehension, multimodal generation and dexterous hand operations will continue to evolve to meet these demands. As new use cases emerge and technical capabilities grow, the AiMoga Robot will accompany users around the world in exploring the limitless possibilities of AI.

Omoda & Jaecoo's parent company Chery's Intelligent Strategy Launch event.





**S**CALING up their efforts, attackers are now sending phishing emails to individual and corporate users with attachments in Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) format, which is commonly used for storing images similar to JPG, JPEG and PNG files.

According to Kaspersky, opening these SVG files will lead users to phishing pages that mimic Google and Microsoft servers, with the ultimate aim being to steal said users' login credentials. There has been an almost six-fold increase in phishing via SVG files in March compared to February, and over 4,000 of these emails have been detected globally since the start of the year.

SVG is a format for describing two-dimensional vector graphics using XML, a markup language that provides rules to define any data. SVG supports JavaScript and HTML, unlike JPEG or PNG image format.

This makes it easier for designers to work with non-graphical content such as text formulas and interactive elements. However, attackers are exploiting this by embedding scripts with links to phishing pages within the image file.

Users might open these files out of curiosity, thinking they are images but the SVG file will act like an HTML page without description of graphics. When opened in a web browser, the file will appear as a web page with a link that supposedly points to an audio file.

Clicking on this redirects the user to a phishing page mimicking a Google Voice audio recording with the audio track actually being a static image.

Then, clicking "Play Audio" will once again redirect users to a corporate email login page, allowing attackers to capture their credentials. The page will also include the target company's logo as a means to lower the user's guard.

In a separate instance, mimicking a notification from an e-signature service, attackers presented an SVG attachment as a document that required review and signature.

Unlike the first example, where the SVG file acted as an HTML page, in this case it contains JavaScript that, when the file is opened, launches a browser window with another fake login phishing site, this time mimicking Microsoft.

Cybersecurity and anti-virus firms have posited that the adoption of SVG is yet another sign of phishers are relentlessly exploring new techniques to circumvent detection of their scams. Kaspersky anti-scam expert Roman Dedenok said it signals a clear upward trend and it could evolve further into more sophisticated, targeted attacks.

**To avoid becoming a victim of phishing or malicious messages:**

- ➡ Only open emails and click links if you are sure you can trust the sender.
- ➡ When a sender is legitimate, but the content of the message seems strange, it is worth checking with the sender via an alternative means of communication.



Phishers are experimenting with new ways to carry out attacks. —FREEPIKPIC

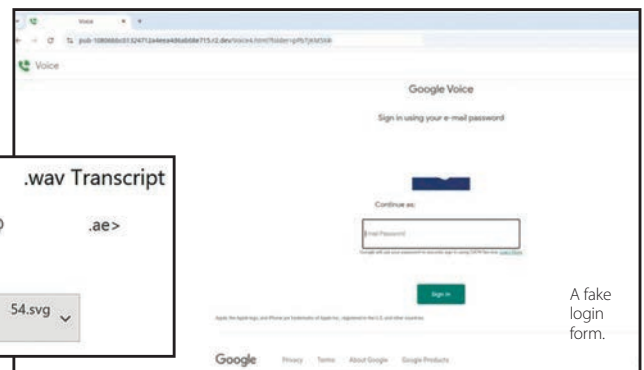
## SVG files fuel phishing surge

➤ Cybercriminals exploit image format to mimic Google, Microsoft logins

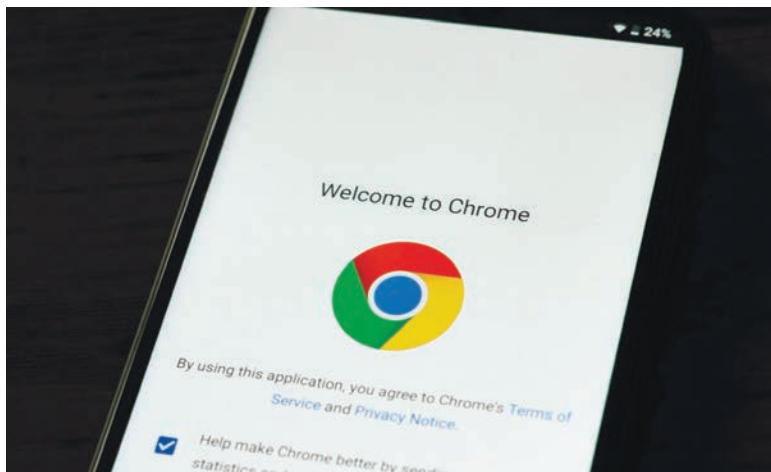
- ➡ Check the spelling of a website's URL if you suspect you are faced with a phishing page. The URL may contain mistakes that are hard to spot at first glance, such as a 1 instead of l or 0 instead of O.
- ➡ Use a proven security solution when surfing the web.



A phishing email with an SVG attachment.



## Trial testimony reveals OpenAI's interest in Google's Chrome



The estimated price of the Chrome browser, which has more than three billion users, is at US\$15 billion (RM65 billion) or more. —PEXELSPIC

**OPENAI** is ready to buy Chrome if Google is forced to sell its popular browser as part of antitrust trial, a top executive recently testified, according to media reports.

OpenAI product manager Nick Turley revealed the startup's interest in the world's most popular internet browser while testifying in court in Washington DC.

Turley spoke in front of a judge who will decide what remedies to impose on Google after making a landmark decision last year that the tech giant maintained an illegal monopoly in online search.

US government attorneys have urged Judge Amit Mehta to force Google to sell off its Chrome browser, arguing artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to ramp up the tech giant's online search dominance.

Google countered in the case that the US government has gone way beyond the scope of the suit by recommending it be forced to sell Chrome and holding open the option to force a sale of its Android mobile operating system.

The legal case focused on Google's agreements with partners such as Apple and Samsung to distribute its search tools,

noted Google president of global affairs Kent Walker.

"The DOJ chose to push a radical interventionist agenda that would harm Americans and America's global technology leadership. The DOJ's wildly overbroad proposal goes miles beyond the court's decision," Walker wrote in a blog post.

A Bloomberg analyst has estimated the price of Chrome browser, which has more than three billion users, at US\$15 billion (RM65 billion) or more.

Turley said during his testimony that OpenAI had approached Google about integrating its search technology into the ChatGPT AI-powered digital assistant but was rebuffed, according to media reports.

Google is among the tech companies investing heavily to be among the leaders in AI, and is weaving the technology into search and other online offerings.

The DOJ case against Google regarding its dominance in internet search was filed in 2020.

Mehta ruled against Google in August last year and the tech giant has appealed. —AFP

# Malaysian action punches ahead

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

**M**ACHISMO, loyalty and lens flares – that is *Blood Brothers: Bara Naga* in a nutshell. Directed by Syafiq Yusof and Abhilash Chandra, this Malaysian action thriller does not shy away from wearing its genre influences on its tailored suit sleeve and for what is trying to do, it works.

The film's strength lies in its high-octane action sequences and cinematic flair, while anchoring itself firmly in themes of loyalty and betrayal between men who communicate primarily through punches, loaded stares and the occasional monologue about honour. For audiences looking for something deeply rooted in Malaysian machismo with a side of melodrama, this is as close as it gets to local action nirvana.

## Visually stunning cinematography

Visually, *Bara Naga* is a stunner. From neon-lit corridors to misty night chases, the film makes every shot feel like it is meant for the big screen. The cinematography, courtesy of a talented visual team, does not just look good, it looks expensive. Drone shots glide over Kuala Lumpur city skylines, slow-motion shots catch bullets mid-flight and every explosion is framed with maximum style and poise.

Even if one were to nitpick about certain story elements (more on that later), the visual language of *Bara Naga* speaks loud and clear: Malaysia can do action just as slick as any other regional heavyweight. The team knew exactly what they wanted this film to look like and they delivered in spades.

## Brotherhood of man

While the plot threads might occasionally unravel or trip over themselves in their quest to deliver twists and turns, the heart of *Bara Naga* is firmly in its depiction of male camaraderie. Whether it is shirtless sparring, side glances charged with past trauma or conversations about loyalty held in the rain, the film taps into a deep emotional well that can only be described as a straight man's depiction of trust issues.

The relationships here between bodyguards, mafia bosses, long-lost siblings and bromantic rivals are what give the film its pulse. And yes, while the tone may occasionally veer into melodramatic soap opera territory, it is always entertaining.

Here is where things get interesting. The action sequences in *Bara Naga* do not hold back, there are knife fights, hand-to-hand combat, car chases and at least three scenes where someone walks away from an explosion. While some may argue that the action set pieces are a bit overcooked (and they are), they are also undeniably fun.

It is the kind of fight choreography that looks like it was designed by someone who grew up

➤ Visually slick ride that proudly flexes its muscles for local audiences



*Blood Brothers: Bara Naga* is about power, pride and plenty of firepower.

loving *The Raid*, *John Wick* and a healthy dose of K-drama slow motion action scenes. Occasionally, it does feel like the film could have tightened the pacing in between shootouts, but as far as Malaysian action flicks go, this is a confident swing and it mostly hits.

## Proudly Malaysian

From the language to the power structures, cultural references to emotional beats, *Bara Naga* is unapologetically Malaysian. That is not a flaw, rather it is part of the charm. The film leans into its cultural specificity, crafting an action flick that speaks to local audiences while also attempting to raise the bar in terms of production values and storytelling.

Yes, some scenes are dramatic to the point of parody. Yes, there are plot holes big enough to drive a convoy of armoured tanks through. But none of that overshadows the fact that this is a huge step forward for the local industry, a sign that Malaysian cinema is not only growing in ambition but also in technical polish.

## Worthy step forward

*Blood Brothers: Bara Naga* is not perfect. It plays safe in some areas, stretches belief in others and occasionally forgets to explain why certain things are happening. But at the end of the day, it delivers what it promises: a testosterone-fuelled, brotherhood-heavy action fest that is beautifully shot, emotionally intense and made to cater to its home audience.

It may not be Malaysia's answer to *The Departed* just yet, but it is a solid swing in the right direction. Watch it with the understanding that it is not trying to be flawless, it is trying to be fun and maybe a little bit cathartic for anyone who has ever been let down by their "bro".

**Cast:**  
Sharnaaz Ahmad,  
Syafiq Kyle,  
Shukri Yahaya,  
Amelia Henderson,  
Syazwan Zulkifli

**Director:**  
Abhilash Chandra,  
Syafiq Yusof

## E-VALUE

7

## ACTING

8

## PLOT

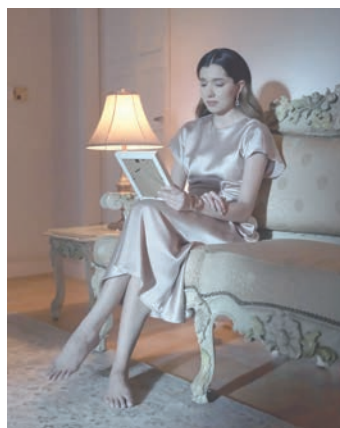
7



(From left) Jaki (Syazwan) and Ariff (Syafiq) are estranged brothers forced back into the fire, bound by blood and betrayal.



In this film, brotherhood is twisted, complicated and full of machismo.



Sheila (Amelia) holds her own in a world ruled by secrets, steel and silent loyalties.



Ghaz (Sharnaaz) leads with ice in his veins as the brother turned executioner.



**A**FTER three years in the making, local superhero film *Keluang Man* has released its official trailer, heightening excitement ahead of its nationwide premiere on May 29.

Directed by Anwari Ashraf, the film offers a modern take on *Keluang Man*'s world, blending thrilling action and high-quality visuals to captivate loyal fans and a new generation of viewers.

Executive producer and Astro Shaw head Raja Jastina Raja Arshad said since the film project was announced three years ago, numerous efforts have been undertaken to bring it to life.

"We are excited to reintroduce this iconic Malaysian superhero in a way that makes an impact across various platforms. This includes collaborations with Kopi Wonda, *Keluang Man*'s debut in full costume during the 67th National Day celebration and a giant mural in Kluang, Johor," she said at the official trailer launch.

She added that *Keluang Man* is not just a movie, but the beginning of a local cinematic universe that blends entertainment, commercial value

# *Keluang Man* trailer releases after three-year wait for film

➤ Local superhero movie to hit screens nationwide on May 29

and cultural heritage.

The film features a star-studded cast, including Nas Muammar Zar or Nas-T, Remy Ishak, Anwaar Beg Moghal, Datuk Rosyam Nor, Shweta Sekhon, Halim Othman, Amelia Henderson, Sham Sunder, Dennis Yin and many more.

The *Keluang Man* animated series, created by Kamn Ismail, originally aired on television for seven seasons with a total of 140 episodes from 1998 to 2005. - Bernama



The cast and production team celebrate the upcoming release of the film after a three-year wait. - BERNAMAPIIC

## Jimmy Lin, Nicky Lee to perform in joint Malaysian show

**MANDARIN** singers Jimmy Lin and Nicky Lee are joining forces for their Jimmy x Nicky Concert Live in Malaysia 2025 at Arena of Stars, Resorts World Genting on June 21 at 6pm.

This concert is apparently not only a musical feast but also a testament to the deep bond of friendship between the two artistes. Having first met in 2023 through the third season of the hit variety show *Call Me by Fire*, they quickly went from being on-screen teammates to close friends. Now, they will bring that connection to life on stage and share a night of music, memories and brotherhood with fans.

Lin rose to fame in the 1990s and swiftly captured hearts across Asia with his sunny image and timeless love songs, earning him the nickname "Taiwan's Little Whirlwind". His classic hits such as *Seventeen-Year-Old's Rainy Season* and *Not Every Love Song Has a Beautiful Ending* defined an era and made him the ultimate idol of a generation. Beyond music, his successful ventures into film and professional



Lin (left) and Lee will share a night of music, memories and brotherhood with fans on June 21.

rating have solidified his status as a multifaceted star.

Lee, on the other hand, is celebrated for his rich, soulful voice and emotionally charged performances. In 2007, he was honoured with the Golden Melody Award for Best Mandarin Male Singer, a

testament to his vocal prowess and influence in the Mandarin R&B scene. With heartfelt tracks like *Overthinking* and *I'll Be Fine*, Lee has earned a loyal fanbase and critical acclaim alike.

Together, they are set to take fans on a nostalgic journey through youth and love. The concert's concept, a fusion of Lin's vibrant whirlwind energy and Lee's emotional depth, pays homage to their roots while showcasing their artistic evolution.

The concert is presented by Resorts World Genting and managed by Jazzy Group. The stage will be designed around a "Corridor of Memories" concept, featuring LED visuals that highlight key milestones in both artistes' careers. With dynamic lighting and specially curated performance segments, fans can expect an immersive and emotionally charged experience. In addition to performing their signature hits, Lin and Lee will also debut new segments created just for this concert.

Tickets range from RM358 to RM1,288.

## Spider to play first-ever unplugged concert on Oct 25

**LOCAL** rock band Spider will hold its first-ever "unplugged" concert on Oct 25 at the Mega Star Arena in Kuala Lumpur.

Organised by Naga Legend Entertainment, the Spider Unplugged Concert will celebrate the band's artistic journey that has coloured the Malaysian music industry for nearly three decades since its formation in 1996.

According to Naga Legend Entertainment representative Fandy Alias, the company is thrilled that Spider, now consisting of Tam (vocals), Aie (drums), Iss (bass) and Pown (guitar), welcomed the proposal to organise the concert.

"The 'unplugged' concept is being introduced for the first time with Spider, and it will definitely be a great moment for the fans. We believe it will offer an exclusive, unique and luxurious experience," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Tam, in the same statement, said the band is selective when it comes to participating in concerts,

emphasising the importance of quality and high preparedness before agreeing to perform.

"Spider does not just want to get on stage, play music, sing casually and leave. We prioritise the concept and quality, including the audio and technical systems, to ensure fans can truly experience the best performance," he said.

Tam also described the Spider Unplugged Concert as a performance never before seen, marking a new era for the band in connecting with their fans through a more intimate musical style.

Throughout its music career, Spider has produced numerous hit songs such as *Nazraku*, *Aladdin*, *Relaku Pujuk*, *Kasih Latifah* and *Cinta Dewa Dewi*. The band has also received accolades, with *Relaku Pujuk* winning the 2004 Juara Lagu award, while *Nazraku* was named Best Pop Rock Album at the 2005 Anugerah Industri Muzik.

Concert tickets start from RM198. - Bernama

### ALBUM REVIEW

## Sherelle shaping future of EDM in UK

BY R.BALA

**CALL** it jungle, footwork or hardcore, Sherelle's new album has been described as the future of EDM. Fresh, vital and capturing the heartbeat of modern urban existence with frantic rhythms and repetitive vocal samples, *With A Vengeance* is the ultra hip sound of modern dance.

Gaining prominence after her *Boiler Room* livestream went stratospheric in 2019, Sherelle is fast garnering a reputation for delivering titanic bass drops, not just at club nights but also at festival appearances. She deliberately keeps ticket prices to her shows low in response to the current cost-of-living crisis, further enhancing her reputation.

So does *With A Vengeance* live up to the hype? The answer is a resounding "yes".

Deeply hypnotic, Sherelle's signature

160bpm can make the head spin. The title track is case in point, with sirens wailing as the tune's foundation, making it the perfect soundtrack to urban decay.

There are no *Summer of Love* vibes here as the EDM on display is hard-hitting with lots of bleakness sprinkled throughout. Released on April 9, key tracks have already taken UK clubs by storm as ravers zone out to bass and drum heavy tunes such as *Speed (Endurance)* and *XTC*.

Just like Goldie and Tricky, Sherelle's brand of EDM is meant to be slightly disconcerting and maybe even evoke a sense of uneasiness.

The closest thing resembling a mainstream hit is *Freaky*, with its almost sing-a-long refrain. This might just be the stepping stone to Sherelle becoming an in-demand remixer and producer to A-listers pop stars.



Sherelle is fast garnering a reputation for delivering titanic bass drops.

- PIC FROM FACEBOOK @SHERELLE

The ghetto house vibes are here to ensure hardcore ravers have high NRG tunes to keep their brains, eardrums and feet wired. Pumping out bass heavy bombast are tunes such as *Ready*, *Steady*, *Go!* and *Love Your Enemies*, which will keep the party going through the wee hours of the morning.

Pump up the volume, indeed.



The concert will celebrate the band's almost three-decade journey in the music industry. - PIC FROM FACEBOOK @SPIDER.MY

# Life-saver liver

➤ Organ's many functions show why it must be protected

**T**HE liver is a hard-working organ that plays an essential role in digestion, detoxification, immunity and metabolism. A healthy, well-functioning liver is the foundation for good health.

## Essential functions

➤ **Detoxification**  
Trending detox diets often appear online, claiming various health benefits. However, the liver is the primary organ responsible for dealing with toxins and it does not need any fads to get the job done.

The liver produces its own enzymes to break down metabolic waste and convert substances so that they can be secreted in urine and faeces. Without this function, waste substances such as bilirubin would build up in the body, leading to problems like jaundice. Eventually, this build-up would affect even brain function and leads to a coma.

## ➤ Digestion

The liver produces bile, a digestive fluid that helps to break down fat so it can be absorbed, and also helps store fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K. Without bile, the human body would be unable to absorb these vitamins, which could lead to deficiencies that affect different aspects of health, such as impaired vision from low levels of vitamin A, weakened bones from insufficient

vitamin D, muscle weakness from lack of vitamin E and poor blood clotting without vitamin K.

## ➤ Immunity

Among its many other functions, the liver produces Kupffer cells, which are concentrated in the liver. These cells help to filter and remove harmful pathogens like viruses and bacteria, which can enter the liver from the gastrointestinal tract. By helping to prevent inflammation and infection, Kupffer cells play a vital role in protecting liver health, allowing it to perform its various functions in the body.

## ➤ Metabolism

The body's ability to store energy and manage blood sugar levels is also regulated by the liver, which stores glycogen (a form of glucose) so that it can be released for energy when needed. Another important metabolic function is the development of proteins that help with blood-clotting, and albumin, which is essential for maintaining blood volume. In terms of these metabolic functions, the implications of poor liver health would include low energy, dysregulation of blood sugar levels, easy bruising and swelling in the abdomen and legs.

## Everlasting organ? Not really

Much has been said about the liver being the only organ that is capable of self-regeneration, and while that is good news, there are limits to what it can handle.

Unhealthy lifestyle habits are the leading cause of poor liver health and liver disease, and the main culprits are excessive alcohol intake, diets that are very high in saturated fat, sugar and processed



Few people recognise the critical importance of the liver, but this humble organ does more than most people realise.

food, obesity, which is related to diet and lack of exercise, and the impact of certain medications, supplements and traditional or herbal remedies.

## Stages of liver disease

While early symptoms of liver disease are non-specific, more obvious signs appear as its condition deteriorates.

Fatty liver is the initial stage of liver disease and it is not associated with any symptoms – only a scan will reveal the fat deposits that have built up in the liver. This progresses to inflammation and subsequently scarring – by this time, you may have symptoms such as fatigue and abdominal pain that comes and goes. Without intervention, scar tissue will build up from the liver's ongoing attempts to heal itself, advancing to fibrosis. At this stage, liver functions are impacted, leading to more severe symptoms, such as abdominal pain from an enlarged liver or fluid build-up in the abdomen.

The next stage of liver disease is known as cirrhosis, in which the damage to the liver and its blood vessels becomes irreversible.

When the liver becomes cirrhotic, you are likely to have symptoms such as jaundice and

find yourself more prone to bruising or bleeding. As liver functions continue to worsen, you may even vomit blood and experience confusion or weakness. Moving forward, the damaged cells can become cancerous, leading to liver cancer or progressing to liver failure.

## Healthy liver, healthy life

As liver damage has its roots in unhealthy lifestyle habits, the key to turning things around is to adopt healthier habits.

### ➤ Watch what you eat

Eat more good fats from sources such as olive oil, avocado, fatty fish, seeds and nuts. Consume salt and sugar in moderation. Cut back on processed foods, saturated fats and substances such as alcohol.

### ➤ Stay active and maintain a healthy weight

This is good for overall health. Among those who are overweight, a 5-10% reduction in weight can reverse fatty liver.

### ➤ Get adequate sleep

The liver works hardest while we are at rest.

*This article is contributed by IMU University family medicine specialist Dr Chow Suet Yin.*

## Hospital Picaso opens Cancer Centre

**HOSPITAL** Picaso in Petaling Jaya has opened its Cancer Centre, a purpose-built facility offering seamless cancer care under one roof.

By integrating early screening, diagnostics, advanced treatment and supportive care in one central location, the centre fosters close collaboration between specialists. This model enhances decision-making, reduces treatment delays and ensures a more personalised patient-centred experience – raising the standard of care for cancer patients in Malaysia.

"By integrating the entire process – from screenings to surgeries – all orchestrated within a single centre, we are redefining the cancer journey through a wholesome approach, providing advanced surgery and personalised care for every patient," said Hospital Picaso consultant clinical oncologist Dr Mastura Md Yusof at the opening of its Cancer Centre last Thursday.

Championing an integrated approach to cancer care, patients at Hospital Picaso will no longer need to coordinate between multiple care providers independently. The centre brings all essential services under one roof – from early screenings and diagnostic imaging to specialist consultations, advanced surgery and post-treatment care. With an integrated care, patients benefit from faster decision-making, shared



Patients will benefit from faster decision-making, shared clinical insights and a more seamless care journey, resulting in better experiences and improved outcomes.



Since June 2024, the hospital has completed 900 procedures at its chemotherapy daycare centre.

clinical insights and a more seamless care journey – resulting in better experiences and improved outcomes.

This Cancer Centre comes at a crucial time as cancer remains the third leading cause of death in

Malaysia, with 65.1% of cases between 2017 and 2021 detected at late stages. These alarming figures highlight the urgent need for not only earlier detection but also a more integrated approach to treatment from diagnosis through

to recovery.

"In a multidisciplinary team, we are not just treating cancer, we are caring for the whole person. When specialists collaborate early, from diagnosis through to treatment planning, it leads to more informed decisions, faster interventions and ultimately, better outcomes for the patient," added Mastura.

With the lifetime risk of developing cancer now at one in eight for both men and women, the need for accessible, coordinated care has never been more urgent. A facility that brings together all aspects of treatment and support under one roof is both timely and essential in tackling this national health challenge with greater precision, compassion and speed.

Hospital Picaso Cancer Centre offers a comprehensive range of oncology services under one roof – from early screening and precision diagnostics to surgery and advanced cancer treatments. This includes systemic therapies such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy, alongside a wide range of radiotherapy treatments tailored to each patient's needs.

Since its opening in June 2024, the hospital has done 350 robotic operations, 28 intraoperative radiation therapy cases, 102 radiotherapy cases and 900 procedures at the chemotherapy daycare centre, all within 11 months.

## BRIEF MULTI-SPECIALTY TERTIARY MEDICAL FACILITY IN PUTRAJAYA

Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd (PJH) and Sunway Healthcare Holdings Sdn Bhd (SHH) have inked a heads of agreement to jointly develop an integrated private medical centre in Precinct 7, Putrajaya. Within proximity of Putrajaya Sentral, Putrajaya Hospital, the National Cancer Institute and Academy of Medicine Malaysia, PJH and SHH aim to build a modern and high-quality integrated healthcare ecosystem. The first component – the proposed medical centre – is expected to house a tertiary hospital with over 300 beds, offering advanced medical services and specialist care, including a burns unit. Located next to the soon-to-be-launched Destina Putrajaya – PJH's latest commercial development slated to open in November – the proposed medical centre will benefit from connectivity across Putrajaya and modern public transport links.

## SUNWAY MEDICAL CENTRE VELOCITY EXPANDS

Sunway Medical Centre Velocity (SMCV) is embarking on a multi-phase expansion, including the expansion of its medical wards to accommodate increased inpatient capacity, a revamped accident & emergency (A&E) department and the enhancement of specialist services. SMCV is increasing its inpatient ward capacity to 247 beds with the addition of an 18-bedded medical ward at Tower B. Its A&E department's layout will be restructured, with registration, treatment and consultation rooms, radiology and pharmacy services now conveniently located on the same floor. The upgraded emergency department features three consultation rooms, four green zone observation bays, seven yellow zone bays including an asthma bay and two red zone bays for high-dependency cases. It plans to also develop Tower A into a 22-storey integrated medical facility.

## HEALTH MINISTRY MONITORING NEW U.S. TARIFFS

The Health Ministry is closely monitoring two key issues following the tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, particularly those affecting medical devices and pharmaceutical products. Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said although Trump had previously indicated an intention to exempt pharmaceuticals from these tariffs, recent developments suggest otherwise. "Some of the announced tariffs remain unclear, and with Trump's unpredictability, we must remain vigilant. It is crucial for me, as the health minister, to stay attentive to these two matters," he told a press conference after opening the state-level 2025 Madani Afiat Programme in Tunjong last Saturday. He was responding to questions about the potential impact of the US tariffs on the nation's healthcare supply chain. Dzulkefly said the ministry was also making early preparations to find alternative markets and sources to ensure the country's healthcare supplies are not affected.





Notices

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Notices

**In The Matters of Companies Act  
2016 And Matters concerning  
PENDANA OLYMPIC SION, BHD,  
Registration No. 201301008473  
(1038315-I)  
(In Members Voluntary  
Liquidation)**

# NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016 a FINAL MEETING of the members of the above Company will be held at Lot 4.81, 4th Floor, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 30TH MAY, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. for the purpose of passing the following special resolutions:-

- To receive and discuss the final liquidation account laid before the meeting showing the manner in which the winding-up of the Company has been conducted and the assets of the Company disposed off and hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.
- To direct under Section 518(3)(b), Companies Act 2016, the manner in which the books of accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be disposed off.

Poo Chood Ying  
(Liqudator)

Kuala Lumpur  
Dated This : 28th April, 2025

## NOTE:

- A member entitled to attend and vote at this Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead; such proxy may but need not be a member of the Company.
- The instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited with the liquidators office at Lot 4.81, 4th Floor, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting or any adjournment.

## PERISTIHATAN JUALAN DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERAKSIKANAN NO: PA-38-237-02/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Sekyen 256 dan 257 Kanak Nara Negara, 1965

Dalam perkara mengenai Gandingan Penersehan No: 0704SC2013002947 bertarikh: 18/09/2013) ke atas sebuah bangunan jalan yang dipanggil dengan nama **HAKIMIL STRATA NO. HAKIMIL GK3234/M1/1/9, LOT 10314, Mukim 13, Daerah Timor Laut, Pulau Pinang**

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Aituran 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012

ANTARA

**OCCB BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD (No. Syarikat : 29540-W) ...PLAINTIFF**

DAN

**TEDW SEAN YAO (No. Kad Pengenalan : 840407075787) ...DEFENDAN**

Memurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah: Judan dan Perintah bertarikh 9 Mei 2022 dan 26 Mac 2025, adalah dengan ini dinyatakan bahawa Timbalan Pendengar/Pendong Kanak Pendaftaran Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

## AKAN MENJUAL SECARA LELONG AWAM

Pada Hari Khamis, 13 Mei 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi

**SEKOR ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WE-ELENG, PUNAS OPERASI e-ELEONG,  
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PANGKAT DARU MAKURM**

**NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmil secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tangkapan, bebaskan serta mengumpul pasli dengan tepat daripada terdakwa sebelum jualan dijalankan.**

Sila tayari https://eleng.hakam.gov.my/biddersweb

## BUTIR-TUTIR HAKMIL:

No. Hakmil :	Hakmil Strata No. Hakmil GK3294/M1/1/9
No. lot :	Lot 10314
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri :	13/ Timor Laut/ Pulau Pinang
Pegangan :	Hakmil Kakal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan :	9 / 1 / M1
Keluasan Tanah :	0.0000000000 kak persegi
	0.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar :	TEDW SEAN YAO
Syarat Nyata :	tidak berhadik dibayar oleh pembeli yang berjaya kepada OCCB BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD untuk tujuan ruman bandaran sahaja
Kawasan Kapentingan :	Tiada
Behaman / Lain-lain :	Tiada
Sekatan Rizab :	Tiada

## Lokasi Dan Perihal Hartanah :

Hartana tersebut adalah Ruman bandar yang beralamat pada di 2-G-6, Taman Happy Valley, Lereng Lembah Ria 1, 11500, Ayer Itam, Pulau Pinang.

## HARGA RIZAB :

Hartana tersebut akan dijual atas "persimpingan sedia ada" bertakrif kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak RM 621,000.00 (**RINGGIT MALAYSIYA: ENAM RATUS DUA PULUH SATU RIBU SARAJAN**) dan kepada syarikat jualan yang diluluskan. Pembelian bermaksud hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **OCCB BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD I HARU BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Bagi harga belanjau hendaklah dibayar oleh pembeli yang berjaya kepada **OCCB BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk buti-butir selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman :	GHAZI & LIM
Alamat :	19TH FLOOR, PADANG NWVE NO 6, LEBUHR FARQUHAR, 10200, MP, MY
No. Telefon :	04-2623688
No. Fax :	04-2623188/2627438
No. Rujukan :	0138/16/JBL/Lr/zl

[illegible]

# Reality bites for Djokovic

Serb crashes to nervous Arnaldi in Madrid opener, Swiatek advances

**N**OVAK DJOKOVIC (pic) admits he may have played his last-ever match at the Madrid Open after he crashed out in his opening round encounter yesterday, while Iga Swiatek advanced to the last-16 on the women's side of the draw.

Djokovic's bid for a 100th career title was scuppered by Italian Matteo Arnaldi, who beat the Serb 6-3, 6-4 in the second round.

The fourth-seeded Djokovic suffered a second consecutive opening defeat, after losing his opener against Alejandro Tabilo in Monte Carlo two weeks ago.

Asked if this was his last on-court appearance in the Spanish capital, Djokovic said: "It could be. It could be. I'm not sure if I will come back. So, I don't know."

"I mean, I'll come back, maybe not as a player, of course. I hope it's not, but it could be."

Arnaldi, ranked 44th in the world, recorded just the second top-five win of his career and scribbled "OMG" on the camera lens after his landmark victory.

The athletic 24-year-old squandered a 2-0 lead early in the contest but pounced again in the eighth game, breaking the Djokovic serve. The Italian wrapped up the opening set in 48 minutes.

Djokovic, a three-time champion in Madrid, fired 20 unforced errors in the first frame and

finished the contest with a total of 32.

"He's my idol, he's always been. I was just glad that I could play him because I never played him, I just practised once with him. So playing him on a stage like this was already a victory for me," said Arnaldi, who showcased an entertaining brand of all-court tennis.

"But, you know, he is not at his best right now, so I came on court to try to play my best tennis and win. It happened. So right now, I don't even know what to say."

The 37-year-old Djokovic conceded he is trying to accept a "new reality", where he is approaching tournaments with low expectations, given his recent subpar results.

"(My expectations were) Not big at all, to be honest. I was hoping I can play one more match than I played in Monte Carlo," said the 24-time Grand Slam champion.

"Kind of new reality for me, I have to say, trying to win a match or two, not really thinking about getting far in the tournament."

"But that's, I guess, the circle of life and the career; eventually it was going to happen."

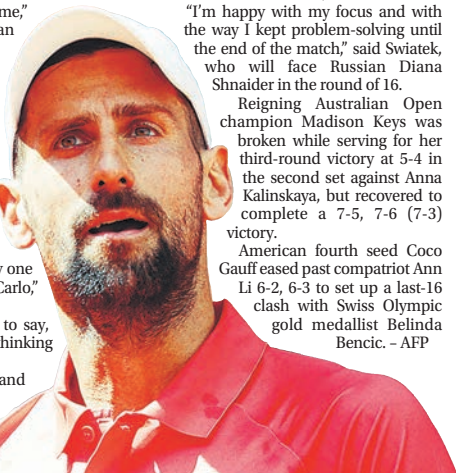
Defending champion Swiatek enjoyed a less

stressful third-round win compared to her three-set opener against Filipina teenager Alexandra Eala, needing just one hour and 17 minutes to beat familiar foe Linda Noskova 6-4, 6-2.

"I'm happy with my focus and with the way I kept problem-solving until the end of the match," said Swiatek, who will face Russian Diana Shnaider in the round of 16.

Reigning Australian Open champion Madison Keys was broken while serving for her third-round victory at 5-4 in the second set against Anna Kalinskaya, but recovered to complete a 7-5, 7-6 (7-3) victory.

American fourth seed Coco Gauff eased past compatriot Ann Li 6-2, 6-3 to set up a last-16 clash with Swiss Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic. - AFP



## Kolkata-Punjab match rained off

**DEFENDING CHAMPIONS** Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings shared a point each after rain forced this Indian Premier League season's first no result in Kolkata yesterday.

Chasing 202 for victory, Kolkata were seven for one when rain stopped play, and after about 90 minutes officials called off the match at Eden Gardens.

Punjab, still searching for their first title in the popular T20 tournament, climbed a place to fourth in the 10-team table with five wins, three losses and one no result.

Kolkata, who won their third title last season, stay at seventh with three wins, five defeats and one no result.

Punjab reached 201-4 after Priyansh Arya, who hit 69, and Prabhsiman Singh, who top-scored with 83, lay the foundations for the total in an opening stand of 120.

Kolkata's bowlers attempted check the surge with key wickets including Glenn Maxwell bowled by spinner Varun Chakravarthy and Marco Jansen out to Arora.

The run-flow also dipped after the 15th over but skipper Shreyas Iyer smashed an unbeaten 16-ball 25 and along with England's Josh Inglis, on 11, took the team past 200.

Kolkata began their chase with a cautious first over before rain stopped play and consistent drizzle made officials call off the game. - AFP

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Notices

**In The Matters Of Companies Act 2016 And Matters Concerning YL MARKETING (JB) SDN. BHD.**  
Registration No. 199301004994 (259731-1-B)  
(In Members Voluntary Liquidation)

**NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016 a FINAL MEETING of the members of the above Company will be held at Lot 4.81, 4th Floor, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 30TH MAY, 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the purpose of passing the following special resolutions:-

1. To receive and discuss the final liquidation account laid before the meeting showing the manner in which the winding-up of the Company has been conducted and the assets of the Company disposed off and hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.
2. To read under Section 518(3b), Companies Act 2016, the manner in which the books of accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be disposed off.

Poo Choo Ying (Liquidator)

Kuala Lumpur  
Dated This : 28th April, 2025

**NOTE:**

1. A member entitled to attend and vote at this Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead, such proxy may but need not be a member of the Company.
2. The instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited with the liquidators office at Lot 4.81, 4th Floor, Wisma Central, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting or any adjournment.

CALL TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

MS. SHOBA / MS. BALQISH

03 7784 8888

018 261 6626

Selanjutnya ambilah perhatian bahawa Pengurusan Kes e-review bagi Petyen Penceranian tersebut di Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di Pulau Pinang adalah pada 15 Mei 2025 jam 9 pagi. Petyen ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu melalui permohonan kepada Mahkamah.

Bertarikh pada 28th April 2025

Ang. On & Associates

.....  
Petyen Penceranian, Ang. On & Associates  
Petyen Penceranian bagi Petyen Petyen  
dimainkan di atas dan yang mempunyai  
alamat penempatan di Unit G082,  
Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan  
14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya,  
Selangor  
Tel: 017-7171474  
Ruj.LPKAR/LTM/MDHS (25)191 2023  
Email: sawpractico@karamu@gmail.com

**DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYSIA DI PULAU PINANG GUAMAN SIVIL NO. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025**

PA. 33 - 341 - 11/2024.

Dalam perkara Sekyen 54 (1) (a) to (d), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12) dan 95 Akta Membaruh Undang-Undang (Perkawinan dan Penceraian) 1976

Dan

Dalam perkara Penceranian dan Perkahwinan Prosiding Peraturan 1980

Dan

Dalam perkara Sekyen 3 dan 6 Akta Pengawasan Kanak-Kanak Bayi 1960

DIA NTARA

ANG SU YIN [Y] (NO. K/P: 771125-07-5352)

DAN

LEE ENG WAH (NO. K/P: 670119-07-5705)

... RESPONDEN

**NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI BERBENTUK IKLAN**

Kepada:

LEE ENG WAH (Nric No. 670119-07-5705) Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 99-22-022 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majistret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menampalkan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Nota Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan nota tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membeli dalam tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfalkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 28 hariaban April 2025.

LL

Pegawacara bagi pihak Plaintiff Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengiklanan ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu. Pegawabeta & Pegawacara, pegawacara bagi Plaintiff yang dimainkan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penempatan di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 017-7171474  
Ruj.LPKAR/LTM/MDHS (25)191 2023  
Email: sawpractico@karamu@gmail.com

**DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAN SIVIL NO. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025**

Antara

MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulunya dikenali sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR)

Dan

ZULKAFU BIN HUSSAIN (NO. K/P: 620923-02-5909)

...DEFENDAN

**NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGIKLANAN**

Kepada,

ZULKAFU BIN HUSSAIN (NO. K/P: 620923-02-5909) SRH-03A, Jalan Bakawali 2 Apartment Seri Bakawali Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

DAN

ZAMRI BIN SAID (NO. K/P: 640112-02-5815)

...DEFENDAN

**NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGIKLANAN**

Kepada,

ZAMRI BIN SAID (NO. K/P: 640112-02-5815) No. SRB3-12, Jalan Bakawali 2 Pangsupari Seri Bakawali Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI, PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulunya dikenali sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlamat di Jalan Bukit Kerajau, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor. Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 14.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majistret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menampalkan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Nota Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan nota tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membeli dalam tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfalkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 28 hariaban April 2025.

LL

Pegawacara bagi pihak Plaintiff Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengiklanan ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu. Pegawabeta & Pegawacara, pegawacara bagi Plaintiff yang dimainkan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penempatan di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 017-7171474  
Ruj.LPKAR/LTM/MDHS (25)191 2023  
Email: sawpractico@karamu@gmail.com

**DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KUALA KUBU BHARU GUAMAN SIVIL NO. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025**

Antara

MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulunya dikenali sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR)

Dan

ZAMRI BIN SAID (NO. K/P: 640112-02-5815)

...DEFENDAN

**NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGIKLANAN**

Kepada,

ZAMRI BIN SAID (NO. K/P: 640112-02-5815) No. SRB3-12, Jalan Bakawali 2 Pangsupari Seri Bakawali Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI, PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulunya dikenali sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlamat di Jalan Bukit Kerajau, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor. Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 14.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majistret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menampalkan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Nota Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan nota tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membeli dalam tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfalkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 28 hariaban April 2025.

LL

Pegawacara bagi pihak Plaintiff Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengiklanan ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu. Pegawabeta & Pegawacara, pegawacara bagi Plaintiff yang dimainkan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penempatan di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 017-7171474  
Ruj.LPKAR/LTM/MDHS (25)191 2023  
Email: sawpractico@karamu@gmail.com

**DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAN SIVIL NO. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025**

Antara

MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulunya dikenali sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR)

Dan

NOOR HAZMAM BINTI ABDUL AZIZ (NO. K/P: 660127-08-6002)

...DEFENDAN

**NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGIKLANAN**

Kepada,

NOOR HAZMAM BINTI ABDUL AZIZ (NO. K/P: 660127-08-6002) No. 17, Jalan Putera Perdana 7/14 Taman Putera Perdana 47130 Puchong Selangor

DAN

NOOR HAZMAM BINTI ABDUL AZIZ (NO. K/P: 660127-08-6002) No. SRB3-12, Jalan Bakawali 2 Pangsupari Seri Bakawali Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI, PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NOCV-34-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulunya dikenali sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlamat di Jalan Bukit Kerajau, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor. Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 22.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majistret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menampalkan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Nota Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan nota tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membeli dalam tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfalkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 28 hariaban April 2025.

LL

Pegawacara bagi pihak Plaintiff Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengiklanan ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu. Pegawabeta & Pegawacara, pegawacara bagi Plaintiff yang dimainkan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penempatan di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Tel: 017-7171474  
Ruj.LPKAR/LTM/MDHS (25)191 2023  
Email: sawpractico@karamu@gmail.com

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 flex hours.
- Able to handle urgent and last-minute job request.

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





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SPORTS 29

# Where Eagles dare

**O**LIVER GLASNER conceded that Crystal Palace were at least mathematically more likely to secure their first major silverware after they booked their place in the FA Cup final with a 3-0 triumph over Aston Villa at Wembley.

Ismaila Sarr recorded a second-half brace after Eberechi Eze opened the scoring in the 31st minute, though the winning margin could have been even greater had Jean-Philippe Mateta not missed a penalty after the break.

It is just the third time the Eagles have reached an FA Cup final in their history – having lost to Manchester United on both occasions in 1989-90 and 2015-2016 – and the Palace boss, who had resisted discussing their trophy chances earlier in the week, remained pragmatic when asked if he

could now be more forthcoming about the possibility.

He said: “Yes, because it’s the final. We can play the final, so most teams who play the final can win the trophy. So it’s nothing new, I think, (that) I tell you.”

The Austrian – in his first full season with the Eagles – gave his players full permission to celebrate their achievement, but resisted busting moves of his own in the dressing room.

“No. It’s better not to (dance),” he joked. “And with all the happiness and pride, it was not the last step. It was one more step, but an important step. When you play the final, you want to win it.”

“I’m really proud. I’m enjoying walking in front of the stands seeing how happy people are. In the dressing room, it’s a great mood. I think when I

## Glasner concedes Palace can secure first major silverware in FA Cup final

started dancing, I (would have) destroyed this moment.”

Glasner insisted he was not yet thinking about the final, though he was looking forward to finding out their opponents on Sunday afternoon from the comfort of his sofa before they regroup on Thursday.

He added: “The players can party tonight and they will, they fully deserve it.”

“They have a few days off, but also that’s regardless of the result today and we will meet on Thursday, and they will prepare for Nottingham and Tottenham (in the Premier League).”

Villa boss Unai Emery was dealt a blow when he learned he would not have Marcus Rashford at his disposal for the semifinal, though his side were not without their chances to get on the scoresheet.

Their focus now also turns back to the Premier League and trying to secure European football next season by another means.

“I’m sorry for our supporters,” he said. “We have to change again our objective because the Premier League is our priority. Through it we can again play in Europe next year.”

“We lost a possibility to get one trophy in the Champions League and again today, but we have to keep going. Only one team is winning and to play in Europe consistently is the next objective and the priority when I arrived here.”

“This is the message I send always to the supporters: to be consistent in Europe, to try to play for a trophy – we did this year and last year we did as well in the Conference League.” – The Independent

## Ipswich relegated as Magpies, Blues boost Euro bids

**I**PSWICH were relegated from the Premier League after slumping to a 3-0 defeat against Newcastle, while Chelsea kept alive their hopes of a top five finish with a 1-0 win over Everton on Saturday.

Emblematic of the self-inflicted wounds that hampered Ipswich this season, Kieran McKenna’s side had Ben Johnson sent off in the 37th minute for two bookings in quick succession at St. James’ Park.

Newcastle’s Alexander Isak converted a penalty after Jacob Murphy was fouled by Julio Enciso in first half stoppage-time.

Dan Burn’s 56th-minute header doubled Newcastle’s lead and William Osula’s 80th-minute goal left Ipswich with no chance of beating the drop.

Third-bottom Ipswich are 15 points behind fourth-bottom West Ham with four games left, ensuring their first season in the top-flight for 22 years will end with an immediate return to the Championship.

Out of their depth among the Premier League elite, Ipswich have won just four of their 34 league games.

Their relegation alongside Southampton and Leicester, who were both already condemned to the drop, means all three promoted sides will be back in the second tier next season.

“We’ve been through it the last few weeks, we

knew it was pretty likely. At the end we have fallen short but it’s not for lack of effort,” McKenna said.

“We know there’s a time for reflection. Today the mathematical completion doesn’t change too much. We’ve been through the emotions.”

Newcastle climb to third place as the League Cup

winners eye Champions League qualification.

Enzo Maresca saluted Chelsea’s “nasty” performance after a gritty success that kept them in the hunt for a Champions League berth.

Nicolas Jackson struck for the first time since December to seal a vital victory at Stamford Bridge. The Senegal striker’s first half blast from 20 yards moved Chelsea into fifth place with four games left.

Chelsea’s third win in their last five league matches eased the pressure on Blues boss Maresca, who has come under fire for his team’s cautious tactics during their slump in the second half of the season.

“First half we controlled the game, we dominated, created chances and didn’t concede nothing. Then second half we dropped a little bit,” he said.

“We were strong, nasty enough when we needed to be like that. Overall I think we deserved to win and we are happy.” – AFP



Chelsea’s Nicolas Jackson (left) celebrates with Noni Madueke after scoring their first goal. – REUTERS/PICT

Actors and Wrexham owners Rob McElhenney (left) and Ryan Reynolds celebrate with the English League One trophy after being promoted to the Championship. – REUTERS/PICT

## Cardiff go down, Plymouth on brink

**C**ARDIFF were relegated from the Championship after a 0-0 draw with West Bromwich Albion, while Plymouth are on the brink of dropping into the third tier despite a 2-1 win at Preston on Saturday.

Just six years after Cardiff were playing in the Premier League, the Bluebirds have slumped into the third tier for the first time since 2003.

Former Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey was unable to save Cardiff in his spell as interim manager of the club he still plays for.

Luton delivered a hammer blow to Cardiff earlier in the day with their dramatic 1-0 win against Coventry effectively leaving Ramsey’s men needing to win their two final games to have any chance of survival.

The stalemate in the Welsh capital ended bottom of the table Cardiff’s hopes of beating the drop.

Fourth-bottom Luton climbed out of the relegation zone for the first time since January thanks to Shandon Baptiste’s 90th-minute winner against Coventry at Kenilworth Road.

Preston’s Championship future still hangs in the balance after slumping to a 2-1 defeat against Plymouth, who are all but relegated.

Preston sit just one point above the relegation zone after Nat Phillips struck six minutes from time to give Derby a priceless 1-0 win at third-bottom Hull.

Derby had dropped to 22nd place after Luton’s win over Coventry, but the Rams made it successive away victories to move up to 19th.

John Eustace’s side still need to beat Stoke on the last day of the season next weekend to guarantee their survival.

If Hull win at Portsmouth in their final game, that will be enough to finish ahead of the loser of Derby’s clash with Stoke. – AFP

the game. “What a feeling, it’s incredible,” Wrexham forward Steven Fletcher said. “For this club to go back to back to back is amazing and something special, it gets better each

time. “We want to go again. It’s a big ask but we’ll reset and the sky is the limit with this club.”

Fans were undoubtedly cheering on the other side of the Atlantic as well on Saturday as the team is wildly popular there thanks to the “Welcome to Wrexham” documentary and the team’s North American owners, who bought the club in early 2021. – Reuters

## Wrexham’s rise continues with third straight promotion

**W**REXHAM earned promotion for a record third straight season with a 3-0 home win over Charlton Athletic in League One on Saturday, the latest chapter in a stunning rise under the ownership of Hollywood A-listers Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney.

Sam Smith struck twice after Ollie Rathbone opened the scoring to send the Red Dragons up to the Championship next season in front of a jubilant Racecourse Ground crowd that included Canada’s Reynolds and American McElhenney.

They are the first team ever to enjoy three successive promotions in the top five tiers of English football and return to the second tier of the country’s football pyramid for only the second time after relegation in 1982.

Phil Parkinson’s side, who hail from North Wales, clinched second place with 89 points and one game remaining in the season.

Birmingham City, who top the League One table with 102 points, had already sealed promotion as champions.

“When the big games come and you produce one of your best performances, we did it last week at Blackpool (5-1 win) and backed it up today with a really strong performance, that makes me very proud,” a beer-drenched Parkinson told Sky Sports.

“I just want to savour it. Everyone’s talked about the history, it can never be taken away from this group of players and the staff.”

The final whistle sparked mayhem as thousands of fans poured onto the pitch carrying banners saying “Back to back to back” and hoisting grinning players on their shoulders amid clouds of red smoke, while Parkinson cracked his first smile of



**REAL MADRID** manager Carlo Ancelotti was devastated as he felt his side should have taken more from yesterday's 3-2 loss in the Copa del Rey final against Barcelona where they conceded a late equaliser that led the game to extra-time, when their bitter rivals roared back to score a winner through Jules Kounde.

Pedri put Barca ahead in the 28th minute with a brilliant curling strike but Real took control in the second half as Kylian Mbappe came off the bench to score the equaliser from a freekick in the 70th minute.

Aurelien Tchouameni gave Madrid the lead seven minutes later with a towering header from a corner before Ferran Torres found the equaliser in a counter attack in the 84th minute that took the game to extra-time.

## Ancelotti rues late goal

Just when it seemed like the title would have to be settled in a penalty shootout, Kounde drilled beyond Thibaut Courtois in the 116th minute to earn Barca a record-extending 32nd Copa del Rey trophy.

"We were close to winning and we conceded a strange goal very late ... A ball at the back of

the defence... But against Barca it can happen," Ancelotti told a press conference after the match.

"We tried until the end, we came close. The second half was very good, but that's football. The match was evenly balanced. Barca were better in the first half, we were better in the second.

Barcelona's players raise the trophy after winning the Copa del Rey final yesterday.

— AFP/IC



## Jubilant Flick eyes treble

... after Barcelona sink Madrid in extra-time to win Copa del Rey title

**B**ARCELONA manager Hansi Flick was thrilled with his side's heroics to roar back and grab a breath-taking 3-2 win in extra-time and beat fierce rivals Real Madrid to lift the Copa del Rey title yesterday.

The German coach said that his treble chasing players should not hold back in celebrating the record-extending 32nd Spanish Cup title and worry later about Thursday's (3am Malaysian time) Champions League semifinals first-leg against Inter Milan.

"It has been a simply perfect night," Flick said. "I am very proud. For me, it's amazing what they are doing, how they fight."

"I really appreciate what they do, that they never give up. I think everyone, the club, the fans, are proud of this team."

"To win a title in a game like the *Clasico* against Real Madrid is always special. I'm happy for my players and for the thousands of fans who were in the stands, they deserved this title."

"Now we must celebrate and then the objective must be to recover, recover and recover. The treble is an option, but we have to keep working."

Barca, in scintillating form, recorded their third consecutive win against a stumbling Real Madrid who have already lost 4-0 at Santiago Bernabeu in La Liga in October and 5-2 in the Spanish Super Cup final in Saudi Arabia in January.

The *blaugranas* are undefeated in domestic competition since late December, playing some of the best football in Europe this season, in the driver's seat to win the Spanish league

title.

Barca top La Liga on 76 points, four ahead of Real, and after Thursday's Champions League match against Inter, they will face last-placed Valladolid before hosting Real in a La Liga clash that could decide the league title on May 11.

Flick attributed his side's success to the attitude of his players and how focus they have been, saying that the sky is the limit if they keep their feet on the ground.

"At the beginning of the season I said I was here, with my assistants, to create a good atmosphere in the dressing room," Flick said.

"I wanted show them they could enjoy the game and that they could play at the highest level. I think creating that atmosphere in the dressing room is important and key."

"It gives a lot of confidence. This is a matter of everybody. The staff, the players... They have a fantastic mentality. If you look at how they came back from the game, the ability to think positive to turn it around." — Reuters



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal celebrates with the trophy. — REUTERS/SPIC

"There is nothing bad to say about the team who fought really hard. We competed very well. If we had won, it wouldn't have been a scandal. We did great until we were shocked late."

In a season in which they are struggling with inconsistency, Real Madrid are now left only with La Liga as they bid to avoid a trophy-less campaign.

"We have competed and we will also compete at Barcelona in the upcoming La Liga game. We will compete like we did tonight," Ancelotti said.

"We have to keep competing for the league title. We played a level game and were very close to lifting the cup. I'm hurt for not being able to lift the cup, but I have nothing to reproach my players because we played the game we had to play."

Ancelotti also dismissed talks about his future, with several reports linking him to the vacant Brazilian national team coaching job.

"I can go on, I can stop, but it will be an issue for the next few weeks, not today." — Reuters



### SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 5958/2025 DATE: 27/04/2025 (SUN)  
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.  
196901000090 (8420)

#### TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	6418
2nd Prize	9074
3rd Prize	0858

Special	Consolation
4500 1445	5342 9664
5825 9261	6161 6688
9149 2329	2955 5033
8188 7301	2650 4094
5276 8931	2560 0570

#### 4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 **RM 12,924,509.37**

6418 9074	9074 6418
6418 0858	0858 6418
9074 0858	0858 9074

Jackpot 2 **RM 252,866.90**

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

#### 4D Zodiac

1st Prize	6418	+	
2nd Prize	9074	+	
3rd Prize	0858	+	TIGER
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	+	

#### TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH
	3 7 1 7 8	6 2 2 0 4	6 6 6 1 5	7 1 7 8	1 7 8	7 8

6D	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH
	7 0 9 2 1 2	7 0 9 2 1	7 0 9 2	7 0 9	7 0

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<b>SUPREME</b>	7 30 35 39 48 56
Jackpot	<b>RM 36,153,721.81</b>

<b>POWER</b>	6 14 18 27 43 49
Jackpot	<b>RM 12,161,795.60</b>

<b>STAR</b>	2 7 42 44 49 50 + 29
Jackpot 1	<b>RM 5,254,924.48</b>
Jackpot 2	<b>RM 100,000.00</b>

Toto 4D Jackpot 1 (i-System)  
**RM 136,053**

Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System)  
**RM 113,041**

won on 26/04/2025!

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### WINNING NUMBERS damacai

Draw Date: 27/04/25 (Sun) Draw No: 5905/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

#### 1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	9320
2nd Prize	6812
3rd Prize	2131

Starters	Consolation
5110 7687	6419 6159
5114 7506	1042 2035
0286 8835	9457 3806
8873 4351	2620 1942
5425 9628	8410 3956

#### 1+3D

Jackpot 1 **RM23,630,369.90**

9320 + 6812	6812 + 9320
9320 + 2131	2131 + 9320
6812 + 2131	2131 + 6812

Jackpot 2 **RM236,924.90**

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

#### 3+3D

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
859 320 +	DOG	<b>RM140,000.00</b>
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
716 812 +	SNAKE	<b>RM982,611.00</b>
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
732 131 +	DOG	<b>RM2,051,506.00</b>

Starters	Consolation
305 110 747 687	746 419 426 159
215 114 067 506	841 042 112 035
050 286 658 835	129 457 253 806
878 873 104 351	262 620 591 942
435 425 149 628	858 410 833 956

#### 3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
320	812	131

#### 3D

Jackpot **RM1,137,570.50**

320 + 812 + 131	812 + 131 + 320
320 + 131 + 812	131 + 320 + 812
812 + 320 + 131	131 + 812 + 320

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

**1+3D Jackpot 2 RM228,891.60 won on 26/4/25!**



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## RESULTS &amp; STANDINGS

**COPA DEL REY (Final):** Barcelona 3 (Pedri 28, Torres 84, Kounde 116) Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 70, Tchouameni 77) aet.

**ENGLISH FA CUP (Semifinals):** Crystal Palace 3 (Eze 31, Sarr 58, 90+4) Aston Villa 0.

**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE:** Brighton 3 (Ayari 13, Mitoma 89, Baleba 90+2) West Ham 2 (Kudus 48, Soucek 83), Chelsea 1 (Jackson 27) Everton 0, Newcastle 3 (Isak 45+4-pen, Burn 56, Osula 80) Ipswich 0, Southampton 1 (Stephens 14) Fulham 2 (Smith Rowe 72, Sessegnon 90+2), Wolves 3 (Cunha 33, Strand Larsen 56, Gomes 85) Leicester 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	33	24	7	2	75	31	79
Arsenal	34	18	13	3	63	29	67
Newcastle	34	19	5	10	65	44	62
Man City	34	18	7	9	66	43	61
Chelsea	34	17	9	8	59	40	60
Nottm Forest	33	18	6	9	53	39	60
Aston Villa	34	16	9	9	54	49	57
Fulham	34	14	9	11	50	46	51
Brighton	34	13	12	9	56	55	51
Bournemouth	33	13	10	10	52	40	49
Brentford	33	13	7	13	56	50	46
Crystal Palace	34	11	12	11	43	47	45
Wolves	34	12	5	17	51	61	41
Everton	34	8	14	12	34	41	38
Man Utd	33	10	8	15	38	46	38
Tottenham	33	11	4	18	61	51	37
West Ham	34	9	9	16	39	58	36
Ipswich	34	4	9	21	33	74	21
Leicester	34	4	6	24	27	76	18
Southampton	34	2	5	27	25	80	11

Note: Top five qualify for Champions League.

**CHAMPIONSHIP:** Blackburn 2 Watford 1, Cardiff 0 West Brom 0, Hull 0 Derby 1, Luton 1 Coventry 0, Middlesbrough 0 Norwich 0, Millwall 1 Swansea 0, Oxford 2 Sunderland 0, Preston 1 Plymouth 2, QPR 0 Burnley 5, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Portsmouth 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	45	27	16	2	66	15	97
Leeds	44	27	13	4	89	29	94
Sheff Utd	45	28	7	10	62	35	89
Sunderland	45	21	13	11	58	43	76
Bristol City	44	17	16	11	57	49	67
Coventry	45	19	9	17	62	58	66
Millwall	45	18	12	15	46	46	66
Blackburn	45	19	8	18	52	47	65
Mid'boro	45	18	10	17	64	54	64
West Brom	45	14	19	12	52	44	61
Swansea	45	17	9	19	48	53	60
Sheff Wed	45	15	12	18	59	68	57
Watford	45	16	8	21	52	60	56
Norwich	45	13	15	17	67	66	54
QPR	45	13	14	18	52	63	53
Portsmouth	45	14	11	20	57	70	53
Oxford	45	13	13	19	46	62	52
Stoke	45	12	14	19	45	62	50
Derby	45	13	10	22	48	56	49
Preston	45	10	19	16	46	57	49
Luton	45	13	10	22	42	64	49
Hull	45	12	12	21	43	53	48
Plymouth	45	11	13	21	50	86	46
Cardiff	45	9	17	19	46	69	44

Note: Top two promoted to Premier League; third to sixth in playoffs; bottom three relegated.

**BUNDESLIGA:** Eintracht Frankfurt 4 RB Leipzig 0, Bayer Leverkusen 2 Augsburg 0, Bayern Munich 3 Mainz 0, Hoffenheim 2 Borussia Dortmund 3, Wolfsburg 0 Freiburg 1, Holstein Kiel 4 B. Moenchengladbach 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich	31	23	6	2	90	29	75
Leverkusen	31	19	10	2	66	35	67
E. Frankfurt	30	15	7	8	58	42	52
Freiburg	31	15	6	10	44	47	51
RB Leipzig	30	13	10	7	48	38	49
Dortmund	31	14	6	11	60	49	48

**FRENCH LIGUE 1:** Strasbourg 3 Saint-Etienne 1, Le Havre 1 Monaco 1, Lyon 4 Rennes 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	31	24	6	1	84	31	78
Monaco	31	16	7	8	58	36	55
Marseille	30	17	4	9	62	42	55
Lyon	31	16	6	9	62	42	54
Nice	31	15	9	7	59	39	54
Strasbourg	31	15	9	7	51	38	54

PROMOTED/CHAMPIONS RELEGATED

**N**ATIONAL women's squash ace S. Sivasangari advanced to the final of the 2025 Grasshopper Cup in style after defeating the tournament's second seed in the semifinals in Zurich, Switzerland, yesterday.

The world No. 11 produced an impressive performance to overcome Tinne Gilis of Belgium 3-1 (13-11, 7-11, 11-8, 15-13), according to the official website, Grasshopper Cup 2025 - PSA Squash Tour.

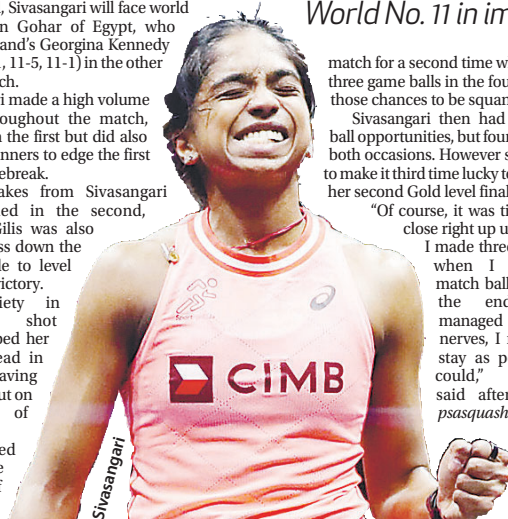
In the final, Sivasangari will face world No. 1 Nouran Gohar of Egypt, who defeated England's Georgina Kennedy 3-1 (11-2, 8-11, 11-5, 11-1) in the other semifinal match.

Sivasangari made a high volume of errors throughout the match, particularly in the first but did also hit enough winners to edge the first 13-11 in the tiebreak.

The mistakes from Sivasangari were punished in the second, though, as Gilis was also finding success down the backhand side to level with an 11-7 victory.

The variety in Sivasangari's shot selection helped her regain her lead in the third, leaving Gilis caught out on a number of occasions.

Gilis looked to be on the verge of levelling the



# Second Gold final for Sivasangari

World No. 11 in impressive form in Zurich

match for a second time when she had three game balls in the fourth, only for those chances to be squandered.

Sivasangari then had two match ball opportunities, but found the tin on both occasions. However she was able to make it third time lucky to advance to her second Gold level final.

"Of course, it was tight - it was close right up until the end.

I made three silly errors when I had three match balls. I think in the end I just managed to keep my nerves, I managed to stay as positive as I could," Sivasangari said afterwards, via [psasquashtour.com](https://psasquashtour.com).

"I had m y whole team behind

me today so I'm really grateful for that. They kept me going and I'm really happy to be into the final. I've been trying to push myself to beat these players and it's coming.

"I just tried to stay positive (when I was 2-1 up). Even when I'm down though I try to just take it one point at a time. We have had some close matches in the past, and I'm happy to winning it this time." - Bernama/psasquashtour.com

## Malaysians on Fire in Washington

**MALAYSIAN** duo Rachel Arnold and Ng Eain Yow both produced spell-binding performances to reach the finals of the Bronze-level 2025 Squash on Fire Open in Washington, United States.

In a blockbuster start to the yesterday's proceedings, Rachel overcame top seed Rowan Elaraby in a five-game thriller.

The Egyptian looked in control of the match as she stormed to an 11-3 first-game win, but tRachel began finding her shots, and attacked the front corners well to level the match at 1-1.

Elaraby saved two game balls in the third to force a tie-break, but Rachel showed composure to close out the game 12-10 and take the lead for the first time in the match.

The top seed managed to force the game to a decider, but Rachel was just too accurate throughout the fifth game to book her place in tomorrow's final and to get a chance at her second World-Event title of her career.

Speaking after the match, Rachel said, "I'm pretty happy with my performance. I fought well today in the fifth. It was edgy at times but I'm

really happy with the win.

"I think it was here-and-there. Sometimes Rowan [Elaraby] would get the momentum, and then there was mine. I just tried to stay positive throughout the entire match and then it really helped.

"I'm feeling positive (ahead of the final). I think I'll be the underdog really and want to just try my best."

The men's draw also saw Malaysian success, as No. 2 seed Eain Yow progressed to the finals after beating unseeded Kareem El Torkey.

Despite Eain Yow staying ahead throughout the match, the Egyptian made it difficult for him, with some outlandish recoveries in the back corners to force Eain Yow to play pin-point accurate shots to earn his points.

The Malaysian No. 1 will face top seed Marwan ElShorbagy for a chance at the title, after the Englishman defeated France's Gregoire Marche in a tough four-game battle, that saw fantastic athleticism from both players. - PSA Squash Tour

## BRIEFS

### Three more golds for Hoe Year

**NATIONAL** swimmer Khiew Hoe Year made more waves at the Malaysia Open Swimming Championships 2025, adding three more gold medals to his already impressive haul at the National Aquatics Centre in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, on Saturday. The Kuala Lumpur swimmer had no problem to dominate his pet event, men's 400m freestyle by clocking 3 minutes 52.55 seconds (s) and finished ahead of his teammate, Muhammad Dhuha Zulfikry who took silver medal (3:55.96s) while Hong Kong's Wang Yi Shun claimed bronze (4:03.08s). Barely catching his breath, the 22-year-old struck gold again in the men's 200m backstroke with a time of 2:04.21s while Hii Puong Wei of the Amateur Swimming Association of Sarawak took silver (2:06.99s) and Selangor Aquatics' Daniel Williams splashed into third with 2:07.46s. He then wrapped up his fine run by anchoring Kuala Lumpur's men's 4x200m freestyle relay team to victory, clocking a total time of 7:32.38s. Selangor Aquatics took home silver (7:37.83s) and Hong Kong China Swimming team grabbed bronze (7:43.06s). With Saturday's triple victory, Hoe Year has now scooped up six

golds at the meet - adding to his earlier wins in the men's 100m freestyle and backstroke on Thursday, and the men's 200m freestyle on Friday.

### Hakim Danish makes podium

**YOUNG** Malaysian rider Muhammad Hakim Danish Ramli delivered an impressive performance by finishing on the podium in the opening race of the Spanish Grand Prix (GP) Rookies Cup on Saturday. Competing at the Jerez Circuit, the 17-year-old rider secured second place, just 0.037 seconds behind home rider Brian Uriarte, who overtook him at the final corner to win with a time of 25 minutes 37.402 seconds. Third place went to Indonesian rider Veda Pratama, who clocked 25:40.629 seconds. "I am not too happy with this result (P2) because I lost one position. Nevertheless, it was a very good race to start the season. I only made a very small mistake on the last lap, and that gave Uriarte the opportunity," he said in a statement on the official race website. For the record, the Terengganu-born rider had previously secured a similar podium finish in the second race of the 2024 edition at this circuit. This podium success earned Hakim Danish 20 points, placing him behind Uriarte, who leads the standings with 25 points.

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8064 + 5728	8064 + 8490
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GROUP 1	2 8 6 4 9 0
GROUP 2	2 8 6 4 9 OR 8 6 4 9 0
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GROUP 4	2 8 6 OR 4 9 0
GROUP 5	2 8 OR 9 0
	OR 6 4
GOLDEN NUMBER	17

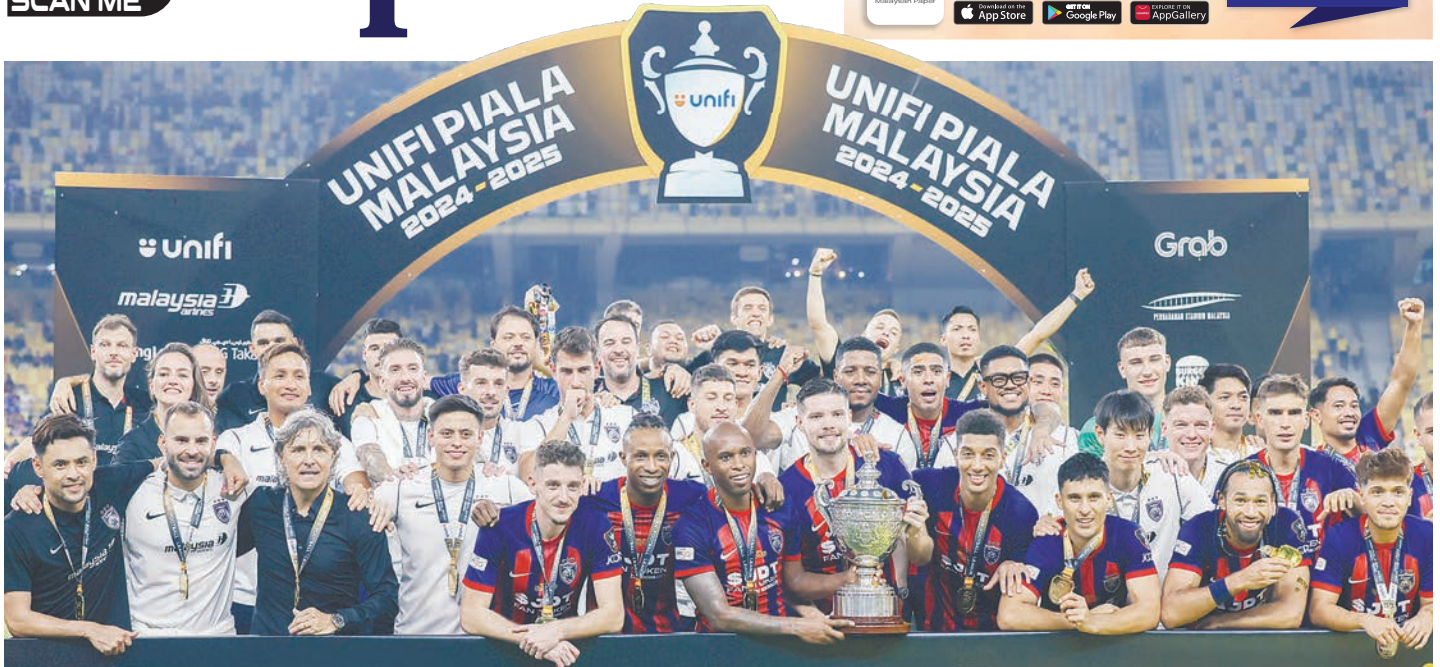
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SCAN ME



Team JDT pose for photos after winning the Malaysia Cup final against Sri Pahang at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on Sunday night. — BERNAMAPIC

**JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (JDT)** achieved a triple treble when they clinched the Malaysia Cup by beating Sri Pahang FC 2-1 at National Stadium, Bukit Jalil on Saturday night.

The local powerhouse has won the country's three major footballing titles – the Super League, the FA Cup and the Malaysia Cup – in a single season thrice, completing an amazing feat known as the triple treble.

Southern Tigers strikers Bergson Da Silva and Arif Aiman Mohd Hanapi rose to the occasion by scoring a goal apiece in the second half to overcome the early goal by Sri Pahang scored by T. Saravanan early in the first half.

JDT head coach Hector Bidoglio said the players had shown great character throughout what had been a long and challenging season for the Southern Tigers.

"The players were great. I'm very happy. We had a tough and long season, working until now, and the players always played with good personalities.

"I'm proud and happy the players worked well," the Argentine coach told a post-match press conference after the match.

Goalscorer Arif Aiman admitted that the Elephants gave a strong fight but JDT did not easily succumb to the pressure.

He said conceding an early goal did not dampen the team's spirit, which was firmly

# Tigers roar

JDT complete triple treble with Malaysia Cup win over Sri Pahang

focused on winning the prestigious title for a third consecutive time.

"Sri Pahang gave a tough fight but we kept playing with full effort even when trailing 1-0.

"We believed the goals would come, and not just myself, the entire team worked hard to equalise, and the second goal came because we really wanted to win this match," he said.

Arif Aiman expressed his determination to further elevate his career to the highest level.

"At my age now, I just have to work hard. I need to forget about any other lifestyle. I must focus on building my career and continuing to improve. That is all," said the 22-year-old player.

The high-intensity final saw both teams reduced to 10 men after referee Razlan Joffri Ali showed red cards to Sri Pahang striker Sergio

Aguero and JDT defender Park Jun Heong.

Sri Pahang FC head coach Fandi Ahmad said that the 2024/2025 Malaysia Cup semifinal clash against Sabah FC was in many ways, their true "final."

The former Pahang and Singapore striker added that his team celebrated reaching the final as they believed luck might not be on their side in the ultimate showdown.

"They (players) were committed to this (final) because we didn't do well in the league... this year we were supposed to fight for the top three but things happened along the way and thereafter we knew our fight was for the (Malaysia) Cup.

"Actually, the semifinal match against Sabah FC was our final, this one is a bonus. After that

game everybody celebrated because we were in the final because things might not work out for us in the final," he after the final whistle.

JDT got their equaliser less than 10 minutes after the break when an incident inside the penalty area between Sri Pahang's Mohd Azril Nasrulhaq Badrul Hisham and JDT's Oscar Arribas let to a VAR review and referee Razlan Joffri Ali pointing to the spot, which Bergson calmly converted.

Commenting on the use of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) during the match, Fandi expressed his disappointment.

"For me, the VAR is a disappointment because nobody knows what's happening, only the inside people, we can't say good or bad.

"I won't say anything but whether it's a fair call or not fair call I can't say. I think you all know but what can we say," he said, declining to comment further on the officiating quality.

Sri Pahang FC defender Adam Nor Azlin feels despite the defeat, this season has been a massive achievement for the Elephants.

"Although we lost, we feel that having reached the final is already an achievement. That's why we fought from the start to the end.

"We are definitely disappointed that we lost but that's the name of the game... sometimes you play well but you still lose and sometimes you play badly but still end up winning," said the former JDT player. — Bernama



Reality bites for Djokovic

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Where Eagles dare

Story on page 29



Jubilant Flick eyes treble

Story on page 30