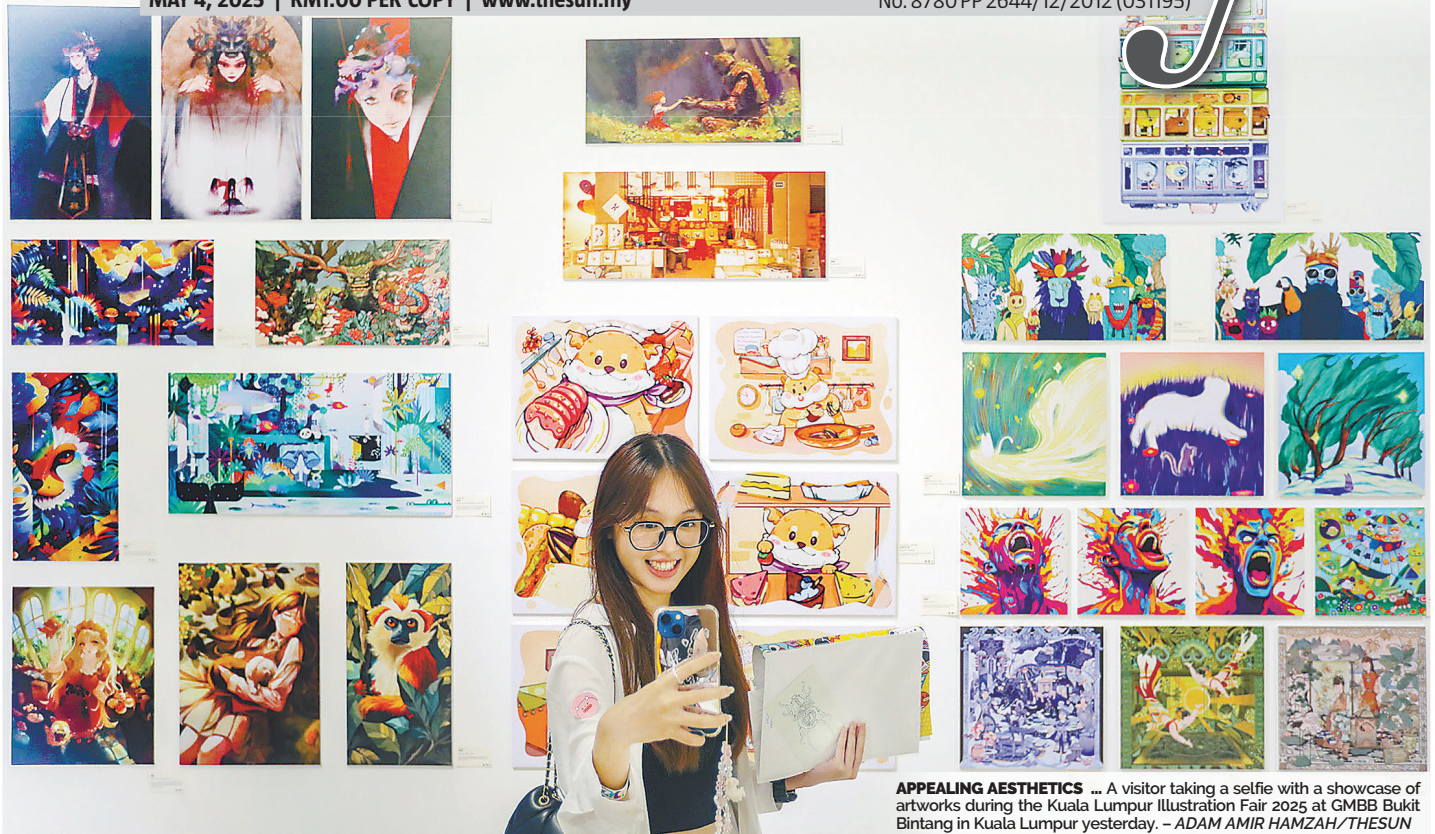


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Credibility at stake

Experts warn country risks losing global trade standing if it fails to respond swiftly to allegations Chinese goods being falsely labelled as M'sian-made to circumvent steep US tariffs.

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Centre for Independent Journalism advocates continued media reform

'Act on allegations Chinese goods sent to US via M'sia'

Perception of complicity to help skirt steep American tariffs could erode nation's credibility as rules-based trading hub, says expert

■ BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia risks long-term damage to its global trade standing if it fails to respond decisively to claims that Chinese goods are being relabelled as Malaysian-made to circumvent steep United States tariffs, experts warn.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia international trade and investment expert Dr Muhammad Faliq Abd Razak said even the perception of complicity could erode the nation's credibility as a rules-based trading hub.

"Malaysia has worked hard to build a reputation for transparency. We cannot let that be undermined by inaction."

His warning follows a Bloomberg report alleging that some China-based freight brokers are rerouting goods through Malaysia and falsely declaring them as locally produced to benefit from Malaysia's lower tariff rate of 24%.

In contrast, recently imposed US tariffs on Chinese goods can soar to 145%.

"This isn't just about illicit trade. It's about the integrity of Malaysia's economic ecosystem and the industries that play by the rules, especially in high-stakes sectors such as steel, electronics and semiconductors."

Muhammad Faliq warned that legitimate Malaysian exporters could face heightened scrutiny, reputational fallout and potential market access loss if authorities fail to act swiftly.

"Malaysia's position in trade frameworks like the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership could be at risk."

"We can't allow opportunistic brokers exploiting regulatory loopholes to tarnish the reputation of honest exporters."

To protect Malaysia's trade integrity, he urged stricter enforcement via tighter Customs surveillance, digital

cargo verification tools and tougher penalties for trade fraud.

While acknowledging the risks, Universiti Utara Malaysia Asian Institute of International Affairs and Diplomacy associate professor Dr Bakri Mat said the issue must be handled carefully.

"This must be viewed through the lens of the broader geopolitical climate. The current situation stems from the US unilaterally imposing steep tariffs, arguably against the spirit of the WTO, which aims to reduce trade barriers."

"Such actions create global uncertainty, often resulting in unintended consequences like abuse of the trade identities of third countries."

He cautioned that foreign media narratives on transshipment could be shaped by national agendas, and Malaysia must avoid knee-jerk reactions.

"We must take these allegations seriously but each claim must be investigated thoroughly and transparently."

"Malaysia's commitments under WTO and Asean Free Trade Area reflect our adherence to fair trade."

However, Bakri said Malaysia must urgently fortify its trade defences to prevent further misuse of its export identity.

"We need to tighten 'Rules of

Origin' verification and ramp up Customs audits."

"Malaysia's risk-based audit system under the Compliance Verification Audit Programme is in place, but enforcement must be more aggressive, especially when sudden or unusual trade patterns emerge."

He added that platforms like the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business and Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements could strengthen both domestic and cross-border enforcement.

Bakri also warned that unchecked abuse of Malaysia's trade label could undermine its strategic appeal as a neutral and reliable trade hub in Southeast Asia.

"Our neutrality and appeal are rooted in institutional credibility. What threatens that isn't a single act of misconduct, it's how we respond. Transparency and consistency are key to preserving our status."

The surge in transshipment allegations comes amid renewed US-China trade tensions. US President Donald Trump recently reimposed heavy tariffs on a wide array of Chinese imports.

In 2024, US imports from China totalled US\$438.9 billion.

theSun contacted Customs authorities for comment but had yet to receive a response at press time.

Merdeka 118 featured in *Thunderbolts*

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians have reacted positively to Merdeka 118 in Kuala Lumpur, the second tallest tower in the world, being featured in Marvel Studios' latest superhero film *Thunderbolts*, which premiered in Malaysian cinemas yesterday.

It is the first time that the 678.9m skyscraper, owned by Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) through its subsidiary PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn Bhd, was selected as a location for a Hollywood film.

Many Malaysians have left comments on various social media platforms, such as "Malaysia shining bright", "Malaysia goes global" and "Malaysia Boleh!"

Marvel Studios set the ball rolling when it previously shared behind-the-scenes footage of *Thunderbolts* star Florence Pugh jumping from the top of Merdeka 118.

The feel-good factor has become more intense since the premiere, judging by the comments.

One post by ApiZ on TikTok read: "Feel proud that Malaysia's name is part of an international movie."

What most Malaysians feel could be best summed up by a comment posted by Saiful Nizam: "I'm proud to be Malaysian."

Local film reviewer Shahril Izzat Rosli also expressed pride in seeing the country's landmark featured in an international movie. - Bernama

Visa exemption timely: Kosovo president

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's decision to grant visa-free entry to all citizens of Kosovo for stays of up to 30 days marks a new milestone that would further boost bilateral ties, said Kosovo President Dr Vjosa Osmani Sadriu.

She said the news has been warmly received by Kosovars.

"This has made quite a big news in our country. I am sure that a lot of people will want to visit (Malaysia) now."

She was speaking to Bernama and RTM in an exclusive interview on Friday during her official visit to Malaysia.

Osmani said Kosovo removed visa restrictions for Malaysia some time ago, allowing Malaysians to travel to Kosovo without

restrictions for up to 90 days, and now Malaysia has reciprocated the move.

She said it is a very timely and welcome decision, which shows the personal dedication of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to enhance the relations between the two countries.

"We are looking forward to seeing more and more citizens from our country visit Malaysia."

She said direct flights between Kosovo and Malaysia in the future would ease communication and travel, and increase tourism between the two countries.

Osmani said Kosovars travel to Malaysia mainly for tourism while Kosovo is also investing a lot in its tourism, especially highland tourism.

She said people-to-people connections between Kosovo and Malaysia remain strong.

Osmani highlighted Malaysia's unwavering support for Kosovo during its most difficult moments in 1999, and early recognition of its independence in 2008.

"At the time, many countries supported us and Malaysia was one of the first. Malaysia's support helped Kosovo reconstruct the country."

She said Kosovo practically had to build the country from the ashes and Malaysia assisted it during its independence and state-building process.

"So, in all of these phases Malaysia was with us, and the people of Kosovo are very grateful." - Bernama



Osmani viewing an exhibit at the Islamic Arts Museum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC

Ministry keeping tabs on severe weather situation in New Zealand

PUTRAJAYA: The Foreign Ministry, via the High Commission of Malaysia in Wellington, is closely monitoring the aftermath of severe weather that affected New Zealand, particularly the Wellington and

Canterbury regions.

It confirmed that no Malaysians have been reported to be affected.

"Malaysians in New Zealand are advised to stay alert and informed through local

authorities and take the necessary precautions."

"The High Commission is in contact with local authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of Malaysians in the affected areas," it said in an advisory

on Saturday.

It added that Malaysians requiring consular assistance may contact the High Commission at 10 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, PO Box 9422, Wellington or call +64-4-3852439/+64-210440188

(for emergencies) or email: mw.wellington@kln.gov.my.

On Thursday, Wellington was hit by the strongest winds in more than a decade, resulting in school closures, office shutdowns and flight cancellations. - Bernama

Affordable home launch positive step to uplift lives

Long-delayed Residensi Kecapi project offers 250 units, ensuring safe, quality housing for urban poor in rejuvenated Sentul area: Minister

BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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KUALA LUMPUR: The long-delayed Residensi Kecapi project yesterday launched 250 low-cost units priced at RM42,000 each, marking a significant step in providing affordable housing for the urban poor.

The launch was officiated by Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa through an initiative led by Sentul Raya Sdn Bhd (SRSB), a subsidiary of YTL Land and Development, in collaboration with Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

The completed project forms part of the larger Sentul Urban Renewal Master Plan aimed at reversing urban decay and uplifting the standard of living for low-income communities.

"The launch of Residensi Kecapi in Sentul West marks the completion of a project that had remained stalled for nearly 10 years. This is not just about building homes or launching a programme, it is about restoring dignity, creating opportunity and delivering hope.

"What we see here today is a powerful example of what can be achieved when the government and private sector come together to uplift lives. This is the true spirit of Malaysia Madani," Zaliha added.

She said ensuring access to quality housing, especially for lower-income families, is a key

part of the national agenda, and lays the foundation for stronger and stable communities.

"I've personally viewed one of the units, which is about 650sq ft and is equipped with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, which I believe offers a comfortable living space with public facilities to support residents' daily needs.

"Of the 250 units built, 135 have been offered to local residents, and so far, 27 agreements have been signed by prospective occupants."

Zaliha said the initiative ensures that low-income families have access to safe, quality housing in the rejuvenated Sentul area.

She also highlighted that the project supports the government's National Housing Policy by providing affordable homes for deserving families in Sentul.

"What I truly appreciate is the commitment to ensuring that the selection and verification process is conducted transparently and thoroughly.

"A special audit team from the Federal Territories Department, the City Hall and SRSB went to the ground to verify the rights of the original landowners and their heirs.

"This is a commendable example of fair and humane governance, the kind of approach that should be at the

core of any urban redevelopment. Ultimately, development should never come at the expense of the people," she said.

Simultaneously, a community development programme was also held in collaboration with UCSI University, targeting the development of children from the People's Housing Project communities.

Zaliha said the programme aligns with the Usaha Jaya Insan initiative under the Federal Territories Department, which aims to eradicate urban poverty.

She also announced the Bintang Cemerlang 2.0 education enrichment programme as part of ongoing efforts to support academic growth and holistic development among children in Sentul's B40 communities.

"As a major developer in Sentul, SRSB introduced the

Bintang Cemerlang programme to support local communities by providing education enrichment opportunities for schoolchildren in the neighbourhood.

"I understand that this programme has now been expanded to include students who fell behind due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with a strong focus on rebuilding foundational literacy and numeracy or 3Ms (reading, writing, and arithmetic)."

Zaliha said the initiative will benefit 23 primary schools in the Sentul area and build on the legacy of the original programme, which has reached over 107,500 individuals since 2008 and garnered multiple awards for its impact on student learning and well-being.

She said the programme also offers training opportunities for teachers to enhance their capacity to support student development.



Zaliha (left) visits one of the Residensi Kecapi low-cost housing units.
- ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

Sec-gen
report cards
to be
submitted
on Wednesday

PUTRAJAYA: Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar said the performance reports of all ministry secretaries-general will be submitted on Wednesday.

Shamsul Azri said the reports are being reviewed by a committee chaired by the Public Service Department before being handed over to him for further scrutiny.

"The reports will be thoroughly reviewed to assess and acknowledge the performance of each ministry.

"We are not here to punish. The approach involves two elements, namely 'demerit' and 'merit'. If a ministry underperforms, it will be given a 'demerit', but if it carries out commendable work, it will be awarded a 'merit', he said after officiating at the Putrajaya City Trail Series 1/2025 programme organised by Putrajaya Corporation (PPJ) here yesterday.

The Trail is a 15km cycling event that loops around the lake at Putrajaya Botanical Garden to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Also present were Communications Ministry secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Fauzi Md Isa, Federal Territories Department director-general Datuk Seri Noridah Abdul Rahim, PPJ president Datuk Fadlun Mak Ujud and Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd CEO Datuk Izwani Hasli Mohd Ibrahim. - Bernama

Zahid: Umno must
regain dominance
in next election

BAGAN DATUK: Umno must regain its dominance by securing the highest number of parliamentary seats among all political parties in the next general election, said president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman said there are clear signs the party can achieve this goal, as shown by its candidates' victories in a string of recent by-elections.

The most recent example was Umno's win in the Ayer Kuning state by-election, said the Bagan Datuk MP.

"And we have celebrated the victories of our friends who stood as candidates in these by-elections," he said at the 2025 Bagan Datuk Umno branch conference at the Umno Complex in Sungai Sumun on Friday. - Bernama

Rahmah aid initiatives bring relief to single mother

KUCHING: Behind a modest stall at the Kidurong People's Housing Scheme in Bintulu stands Juneita Bokhari, a 74-year-old single mother who has never given up on earning a livelihood to support her family after the passing of her husband nine years ago.

For the past two years, Juneita has been running a humble burger stall with the help of her four sons aged between 18 and 29. She decided to set up the stall just outside their home to ease the family's financial burden, especially since she has no other employment.

Although she receives her late husband's pension, Juneita admits the rising cost of living makes it increasingly difficult to get by, especially with her children

growing up.

"I'm grateful that I still receive my late husband's pension, but the cost of living isn't what it used to be. Besides running this burger stall, I also take cake orders. In a small way, it helps me support my family," she told Bernama.

Juneita said the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah cash assistance that she has been receiving since 2023 was a blessing as it provided her with the business capital needed to buy ingredients and keep her burger stall going.

"The aid can't fully cover our business capital, but it helps us enough to keep the stall running. The total amount I receive under the aid initiative is RM800, disbursed in phases, RM500 for the first phase and the remaining

RM300 in the second phase," she said.

Juneita is also thankful that she is eligible for the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah assistance, which provides RM100 a month effective last month.

This reflects the government's concern for easing the burden of low-income single mothers like her, she said.

The government began disbursing Phase Two Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah payments on March 24, with a total allocation of RM1.7 billion, up from RM1.5 billion the previous year.

The assistance benefits nearly nine million recipients, covering about 60% of Malaysian adults, with payments of up to RM650.

Meanwhile, the Sumbangan

Asas Rahmah is a targeted initiative by the Madani government aimed at helping the low-income group cope with the rising cost of living.

Many recipients, especially housewives, have expressed gratitude for the assistance, which helps to ease their families' daily financial pressures by covering essential household and child-related expenses.

For Farida Bahari, a 50-year-old mother of four from Kuching, the aid helps with household expenses as her husband earns about RM2,000 a month as a construction worker.

"This aid helps us buy groceries and personal care items. It is more meaningful because our youngest child is a person with disability."



Malaysia, Thailand to form joint transport committee

Move to strengthen rail links, revive KL–Bangkok service and boost regional integration

BANGKOK: Malaysia and Thailand will set up a ministerial-level transport committee to discuss bilateral policies and related issues as part of efforts to strengthen the transport sector in both countries.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the proposal to set up the Malaysia–Thailand Ministerial Transport Committee had been submitted to his Thai counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit.

“The formation of this Malaysia–Thailand Ministerial Transport Committee is expected to help resolve various policy-related matters and overcome operational constraints.

“In the next three months, we hope to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will outline high-level cooperation between the two transport ministries to address bilateral issues,” he told Bernama on Friday.

Loke was in Thailand for a one-day working visit, during which he held discussions with Suriya and visited the Bang Sue Central Terminal, where he received a briefing on high-speed rail services.

He explained that the visit helped to

strengthen understanding between Malaysia and Thailand, particularly in the area of transport infrastructure.

“We also discussed cooperation in technical aspects and joint procurement of trains to achieve better value.”

Loke added that such discussions are crucial to improving operations and facilitating rail services between the two countries.

“Most importantly, we hope this can help integrate Malaysia’s rail transport system with Thailand’s and eventually extend the network across Asean. This is part of our effort to realise the Pan-Asian Railway Network.”

The network, also known as the Kunming–Singapore railway, links China, Singapore and all the countries of mainland Southeast Asia.

The infrastructure connecting Malaysia and China is aimed at boosting trade, particularly in the *halal* industry.

Previously, Loke noted that the railway network serves as a gateway to expand market access into western China, including Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang, both of which have sizeable Muslim populations.

He said the network would open direct export opportunities for *halal* products to these regions.

Meanwhile, Malaysia and Thailand also intend to revive the direct train service between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok within the year.

The service will utilise the existing railway line running from Bangkok to Padang Besar, Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur.

“Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad and the State Railway of Thailand have been given three months to carry out initial preparations to begin the Kuala Lumpur–Bangkok train operations.

“This doesn’t require a new track but does call for coordination, joint marketing, and cooperative ticketing between the two countries.”

Loke added that Thai authorities had proposed extending rail services from Sungai Golok to Rantau Panjang and Pasir Mas in Malaysia – a move he welcomed as a step forward in boosting border economies and improving local livelihoods.

“We will need time to prepare for reviving the railway link between Sungai Golok, Rantau Panjang and Pasir Mas.

“This is because track restoration work is required on the long-unused railway lines in Rantau Panjang and Sungai Golok,” he added.

New Digital Arrival Card system gets thumbs up

PASIR MAS: Malaysian tourists have welcomed the introduction of the Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC), describing it as a convenient and efficient replacement for the manual immigration forms previously required at entry points across the country.

The system, which came into effect on May 1, allows foreign visitors to submit personal and travel information online up to three days before arrival.

It aims to streamline border clearance and improve safety through enhanced visitor tracking in line with current technological advancements.

A Bernama check at the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex in Sungai Golok, Narathiwat, near the Malaysia–Thailand border, found many Malaysian travellers already using the digital system since its rollout on Thursday.

Tourist Siti Aishah Karim, 34, praised the initiative as user-friendly and time-saving.

“I submitted my details two days before heading to Rantau Panjang. When I arrived in Sungai Golok, the immigration process was quick and smooth.”

Frequent traveller Sharifah Zafirah Said Madri, 33, described the TDAC as a game changer.

“I often travel to Thailand for business. With the TDAC, I save a lot of time and avoid mistakes that can occur with manual forms. I hope the system will be maintained and further enhanced.”

Retired teacher Siti Mariam Mohamed, 56, admitted she was initially hesitant due to her unfamiliarity with digital platforms.

“It was a bit tricky at first because I’m not used to filling in details on a mobile phone but my daughter helped me, and everything went smoothly at the checkpoint.”

She commended the Thai government’s move, calling it a progressive step towards improving safety and record-keeping for travellers.

The Bernama survey also observed a steady stream of Malaysian tourists crossing into Narathiwat, with many expressing satisfaction with the simplified process.

Heavy traffic was reported in the evenings as day-trippers returned to Malaysia after short visits.

The TDAC is designed to speed up immigration processing, reduce paperwork and improve border security by replacing the traditional paper-based arrival card.

Road project expected to finish ahead of schedule

BUKIT KAYU HITAM: The road alignment project linking the Bukit Kayu Hitam Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security Complex with Thailand’s Sadao Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex is expected to be completed ahead of schedule.

Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said the RM141.57 million project had reached 47% completion as of April 29.

“The site possession date for this project was June 21, 2024, and it is scheduled for completion in September this year. However, I’ve been informed by the

contractor and those involved that it may be completed slightly earlier.

“That’s good news. If we can complete it ahead of schedule, that would be great. Although the physical progress is slightly behind, I’ve been assured that it can still be completed as planned,” he said after inspecting the project yesterday.

The scope includes the construction of a 900m dual carriageway with six lanes and a 300m service road leading to the Bukit Kayu Hitam General Operations Force tactical headquarters.

Nanta added that the project also involves demolishing old buildings and

replacing them with new facilities for the 5th Battalion Camp of the Border Regiment in Bukit Kayu Hitam.

“It also involves the construction of a final control post building and a covered entrance gate,” he said.

The project is intended to improve connectivity, mobility and access in border areas, while ensuring a safe and high-quality road network.

In November 2023, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and then Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin visited the site, where both leaders agreed to expedite the project’s implementation. – Bernama

inDrive seeks clarity after licence revocation notice

KUALA LUMPUR: inDrive Malaysia is currently engaging with the relevant regulatory authorities to seek further clarification following a recent notice of revocation issued by the Land Public Transport Agency (Apad).

The global ride-hailing platform stated it has “proactively reached out to the relevant agencies to understand the situation better and take the necessary actions” to ensure the continuity of its services in Malaysia.

“We are committed to providing safe, reliable and accessible mobility solutions to the tens of thousands of people across Malaysia who rely on our platform every day.

“As a global mobility and urban services platform, inDrive operates with the highest regard for local laws, regulations and the communities we serve.

“We will provide updates once we have received further clarity from the authorities. We thank you for your understanding and continued support,” the company said in a statement to Bernama. – Bernama



inDrive said it has “proactively reached out to the relevant agencies to understand the situation better and take the necessary actions” to ensure continuity of its services. – AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

Veteran journalist James Ritchie dies

KUCHING: Veteran journalist James Alexander Ritchie, better known as James Ritchie, passed away at the age of 75 at the Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) yesterday.

His passing was confirmed by Datuk Seri Robert Jacob Ridu, a former Sarawak State Assembly speaker and family member.

“We are saddened to inform you that veteran journalist Mr James Ritchie, who is also family to me, has gone to be with the Lord. He passed away peacefully at SGH yesterday. May his soul rest in eternal peace,” he said in a brief statement to the media.

James was the recipient of the National Journalists’ Day 2024 Award, presented in a ceremony held here last year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim presented the award to James in recognition of his dedication to journalism spanning over five decades, beginning in 1971. – Bernama

MALACCA: Police busted a drug trafficking syndicate after a raid at a house near Taman Krubong Perdana, and seized methamphetamine worth about RM320,000.

Central Malacca district police chief ACP Christopher Patit said four men aged between 19 and 50 were arrested in the raid at 11.30pm on April 30.

Further inspection of the suspects led to

Drug trafficking syndicate busted with arrest of four

the seizure of 10kg of methamphetamine.

"This syndicate is believed to have been actively operating since early this year. The seized drugs are believed to be intended for markets in a neighbouring country.

"We also confiscated a car and three motorcycles belonging to the suspects,

estimated to be worth a total of RM59,000. Initial urine tests on all four suspects came back negative for drug use," Christopher said in a statement yesterday.

"Background checks revealed that one of the suspects, aged 50, had two prior cases – one under Section 39B of the Dangerous

Drugs Act 1952 and another under Section 6(1) of the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act 1985.

"All the suspects have been remanded for seven days from May 2 to 8, and the case is being investigated under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952." – Bernama



Wathshlah said an independent and inclusive MMC could serve as a vital mechanism to uphold ethical standards and protect press freedom. – ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

'More efforts needed to preserve press freedom'

Recent improvement in world ranking should not cloud challenges faced by media: Journalism group

■ BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: The Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) has urged the government to press on with media reform, warning that press freedom remains fragile despite Malaysia's improved international ranking.

Its executive director Wathshlah G. Naidu acknowledged the country's jump from 107th to 88th place in the Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index.

While welcoming the progress, she stressed that more must be done.

"Although this improvement is encouraging, we cannot afford to be complacent. The rise in rank should not overshadow the ongoing challenges journalists face, particularly with the rise of digital authoritarianism and the growing use of AI in newsrooms," she said in a statement marking World Press Freedom Day.

This year's theme, "Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media," reflects sweeping changes in Malaysia's media landscape.

Major outlets such as *The Star*, Astro Awani and Free Malaysia Today are now using AI-assisted reporting to boost efficiency.

However, these advancements have also triggered major job cuts.

"When AI is used to replace rather than support journalists, we risk losing the depth and nuance that on-the-ground reporting provides. AI should be a tool that supports journalism, not a substitute for it," she added.

Wathshlah also said AI is not the cause of Malaysia's press freedom issues.

Long-standing structural problems such as restrictive laws, opaque media ownership and political interference remain major obstacles to independent journalism.

"The continued use of repressive laws, including the Sedition Act 1948 and Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, still casts a chilling effect on free speech.

"The recent introduction of the Online Safety Act 2024 and proposed amendments to the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 also raise red flags about increased government control under the guise of

morality and security," she said.

Nevertheless, Wathshlah remains cautiously optimistic, citing the passage of the Malaysian Media Council (MMC) Bill and ongoing efforts by the Legal Affairs Division under the Prime Minister's Office to establish a protem committee to draft the Right to Information (RTI) Bill.

"If the MMC is truly independent and inclusive, it could serve as a vital mechanism to uphold ethical standards and protect press freedom.

"A robust RTI law would also empower journalists to fight disinformation and use AI responsibly," she said.

CIJ has also called for an immediate halt to the use of outdated laws during the reform process.

The group urged the government to amend or repeal legislation that restricts press freedom, including the Sedition Act 1948, Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984, the Official Secrets Act (OSA) 1972 and some sections of the Penal Code.

"This is a pivotal moment for real change. We need to move beyond symbolic reforms and build an environment in which the media can operate freely and responsibly.

"A free, ethical and independent media is fundamental to a democracy rooted in truth and accountability," she said.

Man remanded over stabbing of son

KOTA BHARU: A male teacher suspected of stabbing his 11-year-old son twice with a kitchen knife at Kampung Banggol Che Dol in Pasir Mas on Friday has been remanded for seven days starting yesterday.

The remand order against the 47-year-old suspect was issued by Magistrate Ahmad Syafiq Aizat Nazri at the Kota Bharu Magistrate's Court here to assist investigations under Section 307 of the Penal Code for attempted murder.

The suspect arrived at the Kota Bharu Court Complex in lock-up attire at 8.45am.

On Friday, the media reported that the boy sustained serious injuries after allegedly being stabbed in the chest and abdomen by his biological father.

Pasir Mas district police chief ACP Kama Azural Mohamed said police were alerted to the incident at 9.08am.

He said the incident is believed to have been caused by a domestic crisis, as the suspect is undergoing divorce proceedings with his wife for the third time.

Police also revealed that the suspect is believed to suffer from mental health issues and has been receiving psychiatric treatment since 2008. – Bernama

Four hurt in palm oil factory boiler blast

SHAH ALAM: Four workers suffered burns when a steam boiler at a palm oil factory in Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor, exploded yesterday.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department assistant director of operations Ahmad Mukhlis Mukhtar said a call about the incident was received at 8.55am and firefighters from the Bestari Jaya Fire and Rescue station were despatched, Bernama reported.

"Four men were injured in the incident – one local, one Bangladeshi and two Nepalese aged between 27 and 38.

"A fire caused by the explosion was extinguished before firefighters arrived," he said, adding that the four had been heating water in the boiler as part of the factory's operations when the explosion occurred.

Floods worsen in Sabah interior district

KOTA KINABALU: The number of flood evacuees in Sook rose to 392 people from 126 families as of 8am yesterday, compared with 272 from 87 families recorded at 8pm on Friday night, Bernama reported.

Sook is an interior district in Sabah located 147km south of Kota Kinabalu.

The State Disaster Management Committee Secretariat said in a statement a new temporary relief centre was opened at Dewan Kampung Ansip Tengah, housing 117 people from 39 families.

Another 206 individuals from 64 families are taking shelter at a relief centre at Dewan Sekolah Kebangsaan Pekan Keningau 2.

MALACCA: The foldable children's mattress that won the GiatMara design competition in 2020 has now become the main source of income for sewing entrepreneur Nureisah Ahmad.

She said the victory was a turning point that inspired her to expand the product into a larger-scale business.

The mother of two boys, aged seven and 13, shared that winning the competition five years ago earned her a RM20,000 grant in the form of an embroidery machine, a valuable asset that helped kickstart the new venture.

Reflecting on her journey, Nureisah said it all began when her tailoring business was severely impacted by the movement control order (MCO) implemented to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"I started my sewing business in 2016, mainly fulfilling bulk orders for schools and uniformed bodies. But when the MCO hit, everything came to a halt, that's when I knew I had to pivot.

"After some discussions with my family, we came up with the idea of producing foldable mattresses as ready stock for babies and children up to six years old," she told Bernama at her sewing workshop in Taman Puncak Bertam.

Nureisah, who runs the business with her younger

Winning mattress design kickstarts thriving venture

Contest victory inspires sewing entrepreneur to start business with RM20,000 grant for embroidery machine

sister, Nurhaliza, 28, said the foldable children's mattress quickly gained popularity among parents due to its portability, making it easy to carry to daycare centres and nurseries.

Marketed under the brand Beekaboo, the former GiatMara student said the three-inch-thick foldable mattress comes in various sets, such as the daycare set and the newborn set, which includes a pillow. Customers can also opt for additional features like blankets or personalised name embroidery.

"The business began with custom-made mattress sets in 2020 and in 2022, we shifted our focus to ready-stock products to meet growing demand.

"One of the key features is

the mattress can be folded into a compact size, making it easy to carry, even young children can take it to daycare centres on their own," she added.

According to Nureisah, what makes the product even more appealing is the mattresses are machine-washable and come in a variety of attractive patterns.

Prices range between RM50 and RM99, depending on size and suitability for different age groups.

Nureisah said her factory is now capable of producing over 100 mattresses in four different sizes daily, with orders and sales managed entirely through e-commerce platforms.

"A single mattress can be produced in just 30 to 45 minutes.

"There's strong demand not



Nureisah (right) packing foldable mattresses for shipment at her factory. — BERNAMAPIC

only across Malaysia but also from Singapore, thanks to the high-quality materials we use, including *kekabu* (kapok fiber)," she said.

Among the unique selling points of her products are fast shipping – with orders despatched within a day – and a consistently high response rate

on all online platforms.

"We've received numerous positive testimonials. The stylish and reversible design is a major draw for customers, it's like getting two mattresses in one," she said.

To meet increasing demand, Nureisah has expanded her workforce to 10 employees.

Catfish farming project economic boost for village residents

TAPAH: A community-driven effort to build 10 cement ponds for a catfish farming project in Kampung Pekan Keci/Kampung Mak Teh is creating promising new economic opportunities for the residents.

Launched last November with an allocation of RM100,000 under the Sejahtera Komuniti Madani (Sejati Madani) programme, the project is expected to generate a five-figure income following its first harvest next month.

Village Development and Security Committee chairman Shaiful Haikal Ahmad Sopian, 37, said a total of 50,000 catfish fry had been released in the ponds in stages since January.

"Catfish was selected because it's a hardy species that is easy to farm and enjoys steady demand in both urban and rural markets," he told Bernama during a recent visit to the project site in Air Kuning.

The small town in the Batang Padang district is in the Ayer

Kuning state constituency and the Tapah parliamentary constituency. The area has now become a focal point after the Ayer Kuning state by-election.

Shaiful Haikal said for this inaugural project, each pond uses clean water sourced from the Batang Padang River, and organic pellet feed to ensure the catfish remain fresh and free from the usual muddy smell often associated with pond-reared fish.

The project is carried out

through a *gotong-royong* initiative involving committee members and villagers, who have also been trained in pond management and site maintenance.

"When the first harvest is ready, we plan to channel the profits into the village committee fund to support welfare activities and the provision of public facilities in the village. We want everyone in the community to benefit from it," said Shaiful Haikal.

The project, that received

technical guidance from the Perak Fisheries Department, has attracted the attention of several wholesalers keen to become regular buyers.

The village committee is also planning to expand pond capacity to meet the anticipated increase in market demand.

Apart from generating income, the project also serves as an entrepreneurship training platform for youth and housewives in the village, he added.

EDUCATION

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ON SUNDAY MAY 4, 2025

WORLD

7

PAP monopoly put to test

Close watch on ruling party votes

SINGAPORE: Voters here cast their ballots yesterday in an election almost certain to perpetuate the unbroken rule of the People's Action Party (PAP), in a test of public approval for the new prime minister as the city-state braces for economic turbulence.

The election is a bellwether for the popularity of PAP, which has ruled since before Singapore's 1965 independence, with attention on whether the opposition can challenge the ruling party's tight grip on power and make further inroads after small but unprecedented gains in the last contest.

Although PAP has consistently won in landslides with about 90% of seats, its share of the popular vote is closely watched as a measure of the strength of its mandate, with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong keen to improve on PAP's 60.1% in the 2020 election – one of its worst performances on record.

Wong, 52, became the Asian financial hub's fourth prime minister last year, promising continuity, new blood and to lead Singapore his own way.

He took over at the end of the two-decade premiership of Lee Hsien Loong, the son of former leader Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of modern Singapore.

Heavy rains marked the opening of polls at 8am, but stopped by mid-morning.

By noon, almost half of eligible voters had cast their ballots at one of 1,240 polling stations.

Polls closed at 8pm, with a result expected early today.



Singaporeans registering to vote yesterday. – AFP/PPIC

Voting is compulsory in Singapore.

Wong voted in the middle of the day at a polling station near the Botanic Gardens. He did not comment before or after casting his ballot.

Living costs and housing availability in one of the world's most expensive cities are key issues and a challenge for Wong, whose government has warned of recession if the trade-dependent economy becomes collateral damage in the war over steep US tariffs.

PAP has long had the upper hand in politics, with a big membership to draw from, influence in state institutions and far greater resources than

its untested opponents, which are each running in only a small number of constituencies.

The election will be a lopsided affair, with 46% of all candidates representing PAP, which is contesting all 97 seats compared with 26 for its biggest rival, the Workers' Party, which won 10 last time, the most by an opposition party. Although a PAP defeat is unlikely, some analysts say the election could alter the political dynamic in the years ahead if the opposition could make more headway, with younger voters keen to see alternative voices, greater scrutiny and more robust debate.

"It is to be expected that (its)

overall electoral support will gradually dip from election to election," said National University of Singapore political scientist Lam Peng Er.

"Would Singaporeans be that surprised if PAP's electoral support were to dip to 57% or 58%? It would surprise nobody. I don't think it would even surprise PAP."

The party is keen to avoid upsets and warned voters of the consequences of seat losses for key Cabinet members, whom Wong said were critical to balancing ties between the United States and China and navigating Singapore through potentially choppy economic waters. – Reuters

Gunman kills three in south Thailand

BANGKOK: A gunman shot dead three people, including a child in southern Thailand, as authorities pursued the suspect, police said.

The attacker opened fire on Friday in Tak Bai district in Narathiwat province.

Three people were killed, including a nine-year-old girl and a 75-year-old man.

"One victim died at the scene and two others succumbed to injuries at the hospital," said police officer Wathana Thurarut, adding that two more people were wounded.

Police believe the suspect, who remains at large, is linked to a rebel group.

Violence frequently rocks the southern provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala, where separatists seeking autonomy have killed more than 7,000 people since 2004.

However, attacks on civilians in residential areas remain relatively rare, with most targeting security personnel.

In 2004, Thai security forces shot into a crowd of protesters outside a police station in Tak Bai, killing seven.

Subsequently, 78 others suffocated in the back of military trucks after they were arrested – a deadly crackdown widely seen as a trigger for the southern unrest.

Last year, a Thai court dismissed the long-delayed Tak Bai case, brought by families of victims against seven officials, when the statute of limitations expired.

Analysts have warned the decision could further inflame tensions in the region. – AFP

Cambodian firm faces ban

LONDON: The US Treasury plans to ban Cambodian financial firm Huione Group from the US financial system, deeming it of "primary money laundering concern" over its alleged role in laundering illicit funds from cyber heists and online scams.

The Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) said it had proposed severing Huione's access to the US financial system by outlawing US firms from opening or maintaining correspondent banking accounts for or on behalf of Huione.

The proposal now enters a 30-day consultation period.

Phnom Penh-based Huione Group is the "marketplace of choice for malicious cyber actors" such as North Korea and criminal syndicates who have stolen billions of dollars, said Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

FinCEN said Huione Group laundered at least US\$4 billion (RM17 billion) in illicit funds

between August 2021 and January 2025, including at least US\$37 million in crypto from cyber heists by North Korea and US\$36 million of crypto from scams.

FinCEN's proposal cited a Reuters story published last year that found Huione Pay, a unit of Huione Group, received crypto worth over US\$150,000 between June 2023 and February last year from a digital wallet used by North Korean hacking outfit Lazarus.

Huione Pay said in response to its 2024 story that it had not known it "received funds indirectly" from hacks by Lazarus, adding that the digital wallet that sent the funds was not under its management.

Crypto transfers allow North Korea to circumvent international sanctions, the United Nations has previously said, offering a way to buy banned goods and services.

North Korea's UN mission previously said reporting on Lazarus was "all speculation and misinformation". – Reuters

India bans Pakistan imports amid tensions over killings

NEW DELHI: India said it has banned the import of goods from or transiting via Pakistan as diplomatic tensions between the two neighbours flared in the wake of a deadly attack on tourists in Kashmir.

The Directorate-General of Foreign Trade said the ban will take effect immediately.

"This restriction is imposed in the interest of national security and public policy," it said.

Gunman killed 26 tourists in last week's attack on a mountain destination in the Pahalagam area of the Kashmir valley.

The region is claimed by India and Pakistan, and has been the site of wars, insurgency and diplomatic standoffs.

India has accused Pakistan of involvement in the attack, which Islamabad denies. Pakistan said it has "intelligence" that India intends to launch military action.

Six crushed to death in Goa temple stampede

NEW DELHI: Six people were crushed to death at a temple in India's coastal state of Goa, officials said yesterday, after thousands gathered for a popular fire-walking ritual.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said he was "deeply saddened by the stampede" at Lairai Devi temple in the village of Shirgao early yesterday.

"Six people died even before they could be taken to the hospital," Sawant told reporters.

He visited the hospital and said "all possible support" would be given to the families of those killed or injured.

Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said "approximately 80" people were injured.

"Five are critical and on

ventilator support, while the remaining are being treated in the specially created emergency ward," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office expressed "condolences to those who lost their loved ones".

The Lairai Zatra is a key Hindu celebration in Goa and marked by a fire-walking ceremony. – AFP



Radio Free Asia shuts language services

WASHINGTON: Radio Free Asia said on Friday it will lay off almost all of its staff and close production in several languages, including a rare Uyghur service, after President Donald Trump cut off funding.

Radio Free Asia – created by the United States with a mission to deliver news in countries without free media – said it will terminate 280 staff members in Washington, accounting for more than 90% of its US-based workforce, as well as 20 positions overseas.

It said it would no longer produce original content in Uyghur, in what it described as the world's only editorially independent news service in the language of the mostly Muslim people centred in China's northwestern Xinjiang region.

The United States has described China's treatment of Uyghurs as genocide, a charge strongly rejected by Beijing.

Radio Free Asia will also terminate services in Tibetan, Burmese and English. It will maintain production in Mandarin, Cantonese, Khmer and Vietnamese.

"We are in an unconscionable situation," Radio Free Asia president and CEO Bay Fang said in a statement.

"We are losing journalists who broke the news about the (Communist Party's) genocide against the Uyghurs, who risked their lives covering a civil war in Myanmar, who exposed human trafficking networks in Southeast Asia and who brought to light the crackdown on religious freedom in Tibet," she said.

The Trump administration in mid-March said it was ending financing for US government-funded broadcasters, including Voice of America, even though Congress had approved the money.

A federal court last week issued a preliminary order to the government to restore funding, saying a legal challenge by Radio Free Asia as well as US-funded Arabic media was likely to succeed.

The Trump administration has not complied and another court on Thursday temporarily stayed last week's order pending court procedures.

Voice of America, which was administered more directly by the government, shut down production after the funding cutoff but is also challenging the Trump move in court.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty – created to reach inside the Soviet bloc during the Cold War – remains operational, with the Czech government keeping it afloat.

In an additional show of support, rockers REM. reissued their 1981 single Radio Free Europe on Friday to benefit the broadcaster in advance of World Press Freedom day.

Trump has long bristled at media coverage of him and complained about an editorial "firewall" that prohibited the government from intervening editorially in taxpayer-funded media. – AFP

Labor wins election

Opposition leader Peter Dutton loses seat

SYDNEY: Australia's Anthony Albanese claimed a historic second term as prime minister yesterday, in a dramatic comeback against once-resurgent conservatives that was powered by voters' concerns about the influence of US President Donald Trump.

Peter Dutton, leader of the conservative Liberal party, conceded defeat and the loss of his own seat – echoing the fate of Canada's conservatives and their leader whose election loss days earlier was also attributed to a Trump backlash.

Supporters at Labor's election party in Sydney cheered and hugged each other as Albanese claimed victory and said Labor would form a majority government.

"This is a win for the ages," Labor Treasurer Jim Chalmers told ABC.

Albanese "has pulled off one of the great political victories since federation".

The results coming in were "absolutely unbelievable", Labor supporter Melinda Adderley, 54, said through tears at the election party.

Albanese would be the first Australian prime minister to win a consecutive term in two decades.

The Australian Electoral Commission website published early results showing Labor ahead of a coalition of the Liberal and National parties, 55.94%-44% on a two-party preferred basis.

Dutton said he had phoned Albanese to congratulate him.

"We didn't do well enough during this campaign. That much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that," Dutton said in a speech.

He also said he had spoken to Labor's

candidate in the seat of Dickson that he had held for two decades, and congratulated her on her success.

"We have been defined by our opponents in this election, which is not the true story of who we are" Dutton said, pledging the conservative party would rebuild.

Cost-of-living pressures and concerns about Trump's volatile policies had been among the top issues on voters' minds, opinion polls had shown.

"If you sling enough mud, it will stick," said Liberal Senator for the Northern Territory Jacinta Price, whose comments that her party would "make Australia great again" had fuelled comparisons to Trump's own "Make America Great Again" slogan.

"You made it all about Trump," she said on ABC. Dutton had said he would appoint Price to a ministry of government efficiency, one of several echoes of Trump's policies.

"Losing Peter Dutton is a huge loss," she added.

Opposition Liberal Party spokesman Senator James Paterson defended the conservative campaign, which he said was negatively affected by "the Trump factor".

"It was devastating in Canada for the conservatives. I think it has been a factor here, just how big a factor will be determined in a few hours' time," he told ABC.

The Liberals had been leading in opinion polls as recently as February as voters blamed the government for cost of living pressures and high housing costs.

As counting got under way, Labor's Chalmers said the government had been "in all sorts of trouble" at the end of 2024 but got back into the contest because of Albanese's strong campaign performance, policies that addressed concerns about the cost of living, and the Trump effect. – Reuters



Labor party supporters celebrating in Sydney. – REUTERS/SPIC

TikTok fined €530m over China data transfer

DUBLIN: TikTok was hit with a massive EU fine of €530 million (RM2.3 billion) on Friday, accused of sending personal data of Europeans to China and failing to guarantee it was shielded from access by Chinese authorities.

TikTok said it planned to appeal the fine from Brussels. It insisted it had "never received a request" from Chinese authorities for European users' data.

The social media giant did acknowledge during the investigation that it had hosted European data in China, contrary to a previous denial, said Ireland's data protection watchdog.

This fine, the second largest ever imposed by the EU, followed an investigation into the lawfulness of data transfers by TikTok.

In 2023 Ireland's Data Protection

Commission (DPC) fined TikTok, which has 1.5 billion users worldwide, €345 million for breaches of European rules on processing child data.

TikTok is a division of Chinese tech giant ByteDance. But since it has its European headquarters in Ireland, the Irish authority is the lead regulator in Europe for the social platform as well as others such as Google, Meta and X. – AFP

Israel security Cabinet plans to expand Gaza operation

TEL AVIV: Israel's security Cabinet approved plans for an expanded operation in the Gaza Strip, Israeli media reported on Friday, adding to signs that attempts to stop the fighting and return hostages held by Hamas have made no progress.

The decision came after comments from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the head of the military, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir this week indicating that Israel intended to step up the campaign in Gaza.

Since the collapse of an earlier ceasefire agreement in March, Israeli troops have been carving out wide buffer zones in Gaza, squeezing the 2.3 million population into an ever narrower zone in the centre of the enclave and along the coast and

shutting off the entry of aid trucks.

"As long as Hamas does not release our hostages, we will significantly deepen our military action," *ynet*, one of Israel's main news outlets quoted an unnamed Israeli official as saying.

A spokesperson for Netanyahu's office declined to comment on the reports, which said the decision would be approved by the full Cabinet today.

On Thursday, Netanyahu said that while Israel was seeking the return of its hostages, of whom up to 24 are believed to be alive, its ultimate goal in Gaza remained to defeat Hamas.

"In war, there is the ultimate goal – and that ultimate goal is the victory over our enemies," he said.

Despite efforts by Egyptian and Qatari mediators to restore the ceasefire, neither Israel nor Hamas has shown willingness to back down on core demands, with each side blaming the other for the failure to reach a deal.

Israel, which wants the return of 59 hostages still held in Gaza, has insisted that Hamas must disarm and be excluded from any role in the future governance of the enclave, a condition that Hamas rejects.

The group, which ran Gaza since 2007, has insisted on agreeing a lasting end to the fighting and a withdrawal of Israeli forces as a condition for a deal that would see a release of the hostages.

Earlier, Netanyahu's office issued a statement denying that it had rejected a

ceasefire proposal put forward by Egyptian mediators, and saying Hamas was standing in the way of a deal to halt the fighting.

Gaza's civil defence agency said an airstrike on the Khan Younis refugee camp killed at least 11 people including three babies up to a year old.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal reported 11 killed "after the bombardment of a family home in the camp" in southern Gaza early yesterday.

Bassal told AFP that eight of the dead had been identified and were all from the same family, including a boy and girl, both one-year-old, and a month-old baby.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strike. – Reuters/AFP

theSun day

MAY 4, 2025

Special



ALSO INSIDE

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Where & what to eat
this month

Why talent matters
more than money

Quiet hands that keep the world moving

ON SUNDAY MAY 4, 2025

II theSunday Special



NOT all heroes wear capes. Some wear scrubs, uniforms, or faded work boots. They show up day after day, quietly, steadfastly to keep the world turning. They deliver our parcels, care for our children, drive our buses, stock our shelves and heal our wounds. Yet, too often, their efforts go unnoticed. We walk past them, benefit from their labour and rarely stop to thank them.

The global crisis, Covid-19 pandemic made the world pause and truly see them. We must realise that the people we often overlook are the ones holding society together.

But recognition shouldn't only come in times of crisis. These everyday heroes deserve our respect and understanding always. We often misunderstand or underestimate what they do. A zookeeper doesn't just care for the animals; a librarian's work involves far more than books alone. Without them, chaos replaces care and disorder takes over calm. Imagine a zoo without animal keepers or a library where books lie scattered like forgotten thoughts.

On this Labour Day, let's honour the work, heart, dedication and unseen sacrifices behind every job title.

We rarely stop to notice them. The ones who never seek recognition carry the world's weight in their quiet, steady hands. Across every industry, they work in the background unnoticed, uncelebrated. Yet, without them, nothing would move. These are the unsung heroes we never knew we needed, until we take a moment to see them truly.

Winney Abdul Rauf, nurse midwife

"People assume that since we work in

Quiet hands that keep the world moving

BY HANNEF ESQUANDER



Every birth I witness reminds me of how powerful and precious life is. As a nurse midwife, I strive for excellence, not for praise, but because every mother and baby deserves the best. This Labour Day, I honour all workers who give their best, day in and day out. Your dedication moves the world forward."

Winney, nurse midwife

healthcare, we know everything about all the different illnesses and treatments at the hospital. I get asked many health-related questions, especially by my older relatives and friends. In reality, nurses who have completed their training are assigned to their respective units and specialities, such as orthopaedics, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology," explains Winney, who is a nurse midwife with almost 30 years of service under the Ministry of Health.

A few years after her placement at a local government hospital, Winney decided to take her career to the next level by signing up for a post-basic midwifery course that enabled her to further her career goals of helping others and contributing to the well-being of the people of this nation. As a nurse midwife, Winney has welcomed the birth of hundreds of babies, an achievement she can genuinely be proud of.

"Even to this day, the thought of welcoming new life into the world and being

part of that journey remains incredibly special. As nurse-midwives, we attend normal childbirths. But of course, things don't always go as planned. Emergencies like postpartum bleeding and eclampsia can quickly become life-threatening if not managed promptly. When a life is lost, it adds an emotional weight to this profession. It does affect me, but at the end of the day, we have done everything we could," explains Winney, a mother of four and recently, a grandmother.



In caregiving, it's not about being seen but being there. Whether holding a hand or lifting a spirit, I give with heart, not for recognition but because every life deserves dignity and kindness. To all who serve quietly and selflessly: I see, salute and stand with you this Labour Day."

Muhammad Fadhil,
professional caregiver

**Muhammad Fadhil Abdol Halip,
professional caregiver**

"I provide home care services to patients across Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. The service includes bathing, grooming, hygiene care and assistance with activities of Daily Living (ADL). I also help with medical check-ups, escort services and long-term care for elderly patients or those with chronic conditions. My care sessions can range from one hour to full 24-hour services depending on the client's needs," Fadhil explains.

Fadhil's decision to pursue caregiving stemmed from a deep awareness of an often-overlooked need in society. He saw that many male patients, especially the elderly or bedridden, are in serious need of attentive care but often lack proper support as family members are too busy with their own lives. Often, they do not have the experience to handle sensitive patient needs, especially regarding personal hygiene and emotional well-being. Fadhil wants to help these individuals live with dignity and comfort in their homes.

"It is a very challenging job. One of the hardest parts is when patients feel embarrassed or unsure about accepting

help. It takes patience and empathy to build trust. I always remind them that I'm not here to judge. I'm here to make their life easier, safer and more dignified," shares Fadhil, who previously worked in the F&B industry.

Public perception of his profession is still evolving. Many people remain unaware that such services exist, especially those tailored for male patients who may prefer a male caregiver. However, those who have experienced the service directly or through a family member are usually very grateful. It changes their perception of home care and makes them realise how crucial it is for the well-being of both patients and their families.

"I hope to continue doing what I'm doing now with passion, kindness and dedication. I'm just thankful to be able to make an impact with my work and change the lives of the clients I serve," says Fadhil, who runs his own private caregiver and nursing service company, Loving Life.

K. Kenzaki, cabin crew

"It is not just a job but a calling that blends adventure, discipline and human connection. My role is to ensure our guests' safety, comfort and overall experience from the moment they step on board until they arrive at their destination. It's a dynamic role that involves safety briefings, in-flight service, handling unexpected situations and always being ready with a warm smile. We take pride in creating a welcoming atmosphere that reflects the airline's friendly and vibrant spirit," says Kenzaki, a young cabin crew member for a local airline.

For Kenzaki, this career choice was deeply rooted in a lifelong curiosity and love for exploration. He loved travelling and meeting people from different walks of life. His profession allows him to combine his passion for service, culture and adventure. But despite the perks of travelling and meeting new people, the



I rescue strays because every life deserves a chance, no matter how small or forgotten. The work is messy, emotional and often unseen, but it's real. To all who serve without applause, especially in fields that require a deep heart, this Labour Day is for you. Your compassion changes lives."

Lee, animal rescuer

role comes with its fair share of challenges, many of which are rarely seen by others.

"People often think our job is just about serving food while keeping poise and smiling, but there is so much more behind the scenes. They don't always realise our intensive training, especially in safety and emergency procedures. We are trained first responders, not just service providers. While some appreciate us, others don't always see the complexity of what we do. It is not easy to remain calm and professional during emergencies or while handling difficult situations at 35,000 feet, ensuring the safety and comfort of hundreds of passengers," Kenzaki explains.

Sofie Lee, animal rescuer

"About five years ago, I began rescuing stray cats and dogs in my community. What started as something personal slowly grew bigger. The increasing need for help and rising costs left me with no choice but to officially form Pads & Paws KL, a registered rescue organisation," Sofie shares.

With a small team of passionate volunteers, Pads & Paws KL focuses on rescuing and rehoming cats, supporting community feeders and raising awareness about animal welfare. The organisation works across Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, helping with food, medical care and neutering. It also organises talks in schools and businesses to educate the public.

"Rescue work comes with its emotional weight. The hardest part is seeing suffering you can't fix. It's draining, especially when people expect you to do more when already stretched thin. It is more than picking up strays. My team and I must do late-night rescues, vet runs, trap-neuter-release-manage, fundraising and constant coordination. But I'm blessed to work alongside fosters, adopters, pet taxi volunteers and donors who make it possible. This truly takes a village," Sofie adds with a hopeful smile.



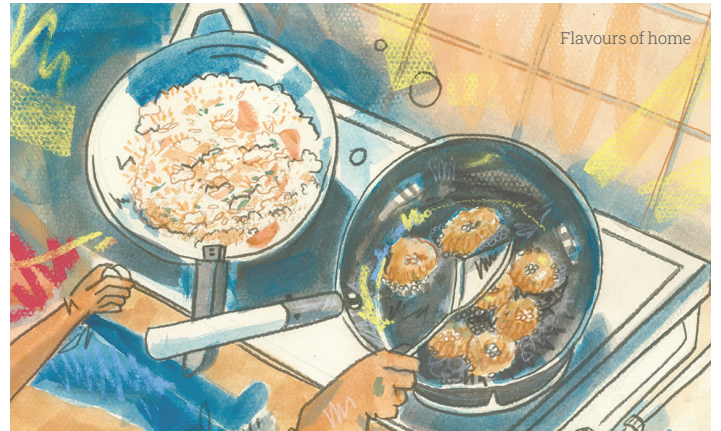
As cabin crew, we bring people safely across the skies, often with a smile that hides fatigue. Behind every flight is a team that works hard to make travel smooth and safe. This Labour Day, I encourage my fellow crew and all workers to keep showing up with pride. You matter, even when the world rushes past."

Kenzaki, cabin crew

This Labour Day, let's pause to look beyond the spotlight and honour the quiet strength of everyday heroes. They may not hold grand titles or receive public applause, but their work shapes lives, brings hope and holds communities together. From the nurse midwife welcoming new life to the animal rescuer offering a second chance, their actions remind us that true impact doesn't need recognition – just heart.

ON SUNDAY MAY 4, 2025

IV theSunday Special



AWARD-WINNING local artist Rupa Subramaniam has taken this a step further by bringing her work to the masses through web exhibitions. theSunday speaks to the artist about her efforts to make art inclusive and the journey that has led her to where she is today.

Since 2014, Rupa has developed an art practice that intersects with community and social issues and strongly focuses on digital dissemination. Her piece, "This Body is Mine", which reimagines Hindu goddesses protesting cultural body policing, reached over two million views worldwide. Since then, she has participated in exhibitions such as Art Battle MY and Banana Leaf for Malaysian Indian artists while also curating shows focusing on feminism.

Creating art for all

Art should not be seen as something exclusive to the elite; it is more accessible than ever and can be appreciated by people from all walks of life

BY HANNEF ESQUANDER

"As a third-generation South Indian and Sri Lankan diasporic woman from a B40 background, I ensure my work breaks barriers of elitism and resonates with my community. Last year, I celebrated my first decade in the arts, exhibiting at Open Studios Weekend 2024, Phoenix Art Space in Brighton, Leicester Gallery at De Montfort University and the University of East London in the United Kingdom. It has been quite a journey from my first exhibition at the University of Malaya Gallery," shares Rupa.

Art has been an integral part of her life from a young age. However, at 17, she lost her mother after a long illness, which left her feeling unmoored. She turned to art as a means of self-soothing and healing; eventually, the calling became too strong to ignore.



As a third-generation South Indian and Sri Lankan diasporic woman from a B40 background, I ensure my work breaks barriers of elitism and resonates with my community."



“Her art blends traditional forms with global influences and provides social commentary. For future projects, Rupa is exploring the layered fragments of ordinary life with cultural resonance.”

“Quitting my nine-to-five job to become a full-time artist was thrilling and motivated me to challenge myself. However, I indulged in bad working habits by taking on more projects than I could handle. Many of these had unrealistic deadlines with small budgets. The lack of structure compared to the corporate world, its access to resources and not being able to work with a professional team of the same calibre can all be upsetting. Of course, I also miss receiving a steady pay cheque!” says Rupa.

She sees her work as a historical documentation of the lived experiences of Indian women in Malaysia, which, in her words, “can be quite a heavy burden to carry”. Her art blends traditional forms with global influences and provides social commentary. For future projects, Rupa is exploring the layered fragments of ordinary life with cultural resonance. Moving away from multidisciplinary collaborations, she is rediscovering collage formats for her upcoming show, Chasing Bubble’s, which will have a more personal and playful touch compared to her previous works.

“I choose to do web exhibitions because I see online space as an untapped market globally. Even Google, with all its expertise and resources, has been experimenting with web exhibitions since 2011 and hasn’t quite figured it out yet. Local art institutions are still thinking in binary terms when it comes to online space. I see pixels as the virtual black box, so I push the boundaries to show what I can do single-handedly with minimal resources. My second web exhibition, “Butterflying the Highway”, for instance, experiments with the web wireframe, storytelling methods and leaves its threads hanging loose,” Rupa explains. With its ability to evolve and transform, nature

is a significant inspiration for her work, along with fellow creative minds such as Charis Loke, Mona KV and Vesha Naidu, whose insights are interwoven into her art in numerous ways.

“Unfortunately, our industry is more fragmented than ever and cross-discipline collaboration remains underutilised. We could be having dynamic shows with tattoo artists, illustrators, crafters and more, yet exhibitions keep repeating old formats – maintaining silos. Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is at its infantile stage here. In London, the National Portrait Gallery puts up shows like The Time is Now – Artists Rename the Black Figure. Their website features “Muslim” and “female” artists as suggested searches. I hope more support and encouragement are given to minority artists here so they have equal opportunities to showcase their work.”

Rupa encourages everyone to engage more deeply with art exhibitions instead of just taking Instagram-worthy photos. “Post-pandemic, there has been a growing resurgence of interest in the arts, with art events attracting an increasingly diverse and dynamic audience. How deeply the crowd is engaging with the work beyond taking photos is debatable. We still rely upon international institutional validation rather than judging for ourselves critically which works are good.

I agree with fellow artist Marcus Kueh’s elaborate statement that we are a nation using culture as a performative circus show. We’re a long way from being like Korea and being able to export our culture. We first must develop cultural confidence to display the rhetoric of our lived experiences. This includes discussing concepts of race, religion and our bodies without getting censored,” she concludes with a powerful statement.



Pacifying prayers



Gambling time



Papa-yeah: 5 reasons to eat papaya on an empty stomach

IT'S easy to take papaya for granted. We see it everywhere in Malaysia – from roadside fruit stalls to backyard trees, sliced into rojak, served chilled after nasi campur or packed into Tupperware for school lunches. It's not flashy, not trendy and definitely not imported. But maybe that's exactly why it works.

With its soft flesh and subtle sweetness, this bright orange fruit has quietly been a part of our lives for generations. It doesn't need a marketing campaign or a buzzy health label, it's just always been there, doing its job. While most of us eat it as an afterthought, usually post-meal or when it's already cut and served, there's growing awareness that eating it can make all the difference.

Eating papaya on an empty stomach first thing in the morning is something many traditional households have quietly practised for years. Whether for digestion, skin or simply to "settle the stomach", this routine is now being revisited by a new wave of nutrition-conscious eaters. What modern science is beginning to confirm is something your grandmother probably knew all along, papaya isn't just easy to digest; it actively helps your body prepare for the day ahead.



Papayas ... No hype, no hashtags, just honest goodness.

Forget the protein shakes and expensive powders, your best morning detox might just be sitting quietly in your kitchen, orange and unbothered. Here's why it deserves pride of place on your plate first thing in the morning



Beta-carotene and vitamin C in papaya help support glowing skin.

So, before you reach for your toast or kopi O, consider starting your morning with something softer, cooler and surprisingly powerful. Here are five reasons papaya might just be the most underrated way to start your day.

Smooths digestion and eases bloating

Papaya contains a natural enzyme called papain, which helps your digestive system break down protein more efficiently. Malaysians who start the day with nasi lemak or mee goreng may want to consider a small bowl of papaya first; it can help "prep" the stomach and reduce the heavy, sluggish feeling that comes after a rich meal. Eating papaya on an empty stomach allows papain to do its job without being crowded out by other foods, making it easier for your system to stay regular. If you struggle with constipation or frequent bloating, this may be a game-changer.

Cleanses the gut gently

Thanks to its high fibre and water content, papaya acts as a natural cleanser, helping to flush out waste and toxins from the digestive tract. Many Malaysians reach for jamu or herbal drinks to cuci perut (stomach cleansing), papaya does something similar but naturally and gently. Regular morning consumption can support a more efficient digestive process, which is especially important for those who often skip breakfast or eat late at night. Unlike harsh laxatives or fibre supplements, papaya does the job without shocking your system, making it suitable even for older adults or those with sensitive stomachs.

Boosts skin from the inside out

With our tropical sun and city pollution, the skin needs all the internal support it can get. Papaya is loaded with vitamin C and beta-carotene, both of which are known to support collagen production and

fight free radicals. Starting the day with papaya can contribute to clearer, more hydrated skin over time. Local beauty traditions have long included papaya in scrubs and facials, but eating it is just as powerful. If you're dealing with dullness, breakouts or tired-looking skin, your solution might be hiding in your fridge – sliced and ready to go.

Supports immune health and energy levels

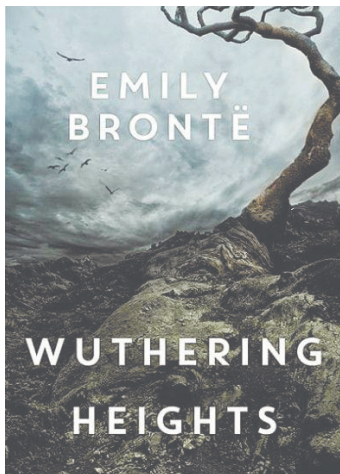
Papaya offers a mild, natural energy boost with no caffeine required. The fruit's natural sugars provide fuel without the crash that comes with sugary drinks or overly processed breakfast items. Add to that its immune-boosting properties (thanks again to vitamin C, flavonoids and antioxidants) and you have a fruit that not only wakes you up but helps you stay well. With Malaysia's ever-shifting weather and high rates of common colds and flu, adding papaya into your morning routine can help strengthen your body's first line of defence.

Gentle on the stomach, even for those with gastric issues

Unlike acidic fruits like pineapple or oranges, papaya is naturally alkaline and low in acid, making it a soothing option for those who experience gastric reflux, indigestion or sensitive tummies. If your mornings start with a glass of kopi O' kosong or spicy breakfast favourites, papaya can help buffer the impact. Many Malaysians who suffer from angin (wind) or ulcers find that starting the day with papaya calms the gut rather than aggravating it. It's a quiet but effective way to balance the stomach before heavier foods come into play.



Science is catching up to what grandma always knew – papaya prepares your body for the day.



Adapted from a best-selling classic book by Emily Brontë.

Bookworms get ready to see *Wuthering Heights* on screen

BY FARRAH AFRIENA

WATCHING your favourite book come to life could be a trajectory event that can change your outlook on the book itself. Rarely do we see a film adaptation receive as much love as it does on paper. Book lovers are critical, especially on casting and how the details are depicted to retain the essence of the treasured story.

Though this is not the first time *Wuthering Heights* is seen on screen, fans are curious (and furious!) after seeing exclusive paparazzi photos from the film shoot. They are now wondering if this film adaptation can do the book justice or just to milk views from Emily Brontë's faithful readers.

Before diving into the online discourse, let's familiarise yourself with prominent settings in the *Wuthering Heights* classic novel.

The story opens in the late winter months of 1801, where a man named Lockwood rented a manor house in a secluded area in England named Thrushcross Grange.

He then had terrifying nightmares of a woman and discovered the ugly yet tragic truths with the help of a housekeeper that had been serving for over 30 years.

This decades-long gothic love story was between Heathcliff, a young man adopted by a wealthy man, Earnshaw, during his trip to England and Catherine, Earnshaw's daughter. He was significantly favoured, which caused envy and mistreatment by the wealthy man's biological son, Hindley. After the passing of Earnshaw, their fate was further spun into a web of love, revenge and obsession. Heathcliff was forced to face the abuse by Hindley and the marriage of his longtime lover to another powerful family, the Lintons.

Heartbroken and enraged, Heathcliff disappeared for years before returning as a powerful man to take revenge on those who wronged him. His ruthless actions led to the downfall of both the Earnshaw and the Lintons, causing suffering across generations.

Directed by Emerald Fennell, this phenomenal filmmaker was known for her two highly successful films - an Oscar-winning *Promising Young Woman* and online sensation *Saltburn*.

Starring Jacob Elordi as the brooding Heathcliff and Margot Robbie as the wistful Catherine Earnshaw, this adaptation aims to capture the raw intensity of the original novel while offering a fresh cinematic vision.

After collaborating on her last two films, Fennell will reunite with Robbie's production company, LuckyChap.

As for the main leads, Robbie and Elordi are no strangers to each other, owing to their previous collaboration in a Chanel No. 5 campaign last year.

Moreover, the Barbie actor opened up about her now co-star in a recent interview with *Harper's Bazaar*.

"I worked with him on *Saltburn* in a producer-actor capacity, so I haven't shared the screen with him before," Robbie said.

"But I've seen him on set, been around him on set and he's just got an incredible presence. He's a movie star - he's got that charisma. He holds a frame. He's also really lovely and from the same state as me in Australia."

Warner Bros. has scheduled the new iteration of the classic *Wuthering Heights* for a Valentine's Day release to meet audiences on 13 February 2026, as confirmed to *Variety*.

Now, onto the sensational part. The paparazzi photos that sparked interesting reactions were none other than the wedding scene of Catherine Earnshaw and Edgar Linton. It features Robbie as Earnshaw, the main female lead, who appears in a glittery white dress and glorious blonde locks, which led to fans expressing their thoughts.

First, Earnshaw was described as a dark-haired beauty in her teenage years. Robbie is undeniably a talented Hollywood star, but fans are not convinced of her ability to embody Earnshaw as she's neither a brunette nor a teenager.

Next, fans expressed their disagreement on the casting of Elordi as Heathcliff. In a flashback to the casting announcement in September 2024, fans swarmed to social media to criticise the perceived whitewashing of Heathcliff, whom Brontë implied to be non-white in the novel.

Over the past century, *Wuthering Heights* has seen multiple big-screen adaptations, beginning with the 1939 classic starring Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon. Other notable versions are the 1992 adaptation with Juliette Binoche and Ralph Fiennes and the 2009 film featuring

Charlotte Riley and Tom Hardy. The most recent adaptation, directed by Andrea Arnold in 2011, stars Kaya Scodelario and James Howson in action.

While not receiving an excellent first impression in online platforms, the internet also captured opposite reactions that expressed excitement about the 2025 remake.

Will the *Wuthering Heights* version directed by Fennell mirror the same success as her previous works or will it be buried under a list of forgotten adaptations? It all depends on the crowd's acceptance of how ready they are to see *Wuthering Heights* on screen with an open heart.

Wuthering Heights has seen multiple screen adaptations

1939 Film: This version, directed by William Wyler, is considered a classic adaptation and is notable for its cinematography and performances. It won an Academy Award for Best Cinematography and was nominated for Best Picture.

1992 Film: This adaptation, directed by Peter Kosminsky, features Ralph Fiennes as Heathcliff and Juliette Binoche as Catherine. It's known for including the second-generation story, which is often omitted in other adaptations.

2009 TV Miniseries: This ITV adaptation, directed by Coky Giedroyc, stars Tom Hardy and Charlotte Riley.

2011 Film: Andrea Arnold's adaptation features Kaya Scodelario as Catherine and James Howson as Heathcliff.



Robbie as the main female lead donning a white sparkly dress with a blonde lock that sparked interaction among fans on the internet.

Half truths, misquotes & other myths we love to repeat

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

MYTH: Humans evolved from apes

TRUTH: Humans and modern apes share a common ancestor, but did not evolve from the apes

The phrase "humans evolved from apes" is misleading. It makes it sound like we used to be chimpanzees

or gorillas and then magically became humans and that is not how evolution works. Instead, humans and modern apes (like chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans) all branched off from a now-extinct common ancestor millions of years ago. Think of it like a family tree. Humans and chimpanzees are like cousins, not parent and child. We both evolved along separate paths from the same "great-great-grandparent species."

Evidence: Fossils like *Australopithecus afarensis* (e.g. Lucy) and DNA comparisons support that humans have been evolving on their own unique path for about 6 to 7 million years.



MYTH: A chicken can live without its head

TRUTH: A headless chicken may survive for a few moments, but not functionally or for long

This myth exploded after a famous 1940s case of "Mike the Headless Chicken", who reportedly lived for 18 months after his head was cut off. However, the truth is, a small part of Mike's brainstem was still intact, allowing basic reflexes. People took this as proof that chickens could "live without thinking" and the story became a strange piece of biological folklore.

Evidence: Neuroscience shows that brainstems can control basic reflexes like breathing or balance, but conscious life, decision-making and function require the whole brain. Mike was a rare fluke, not the norm.

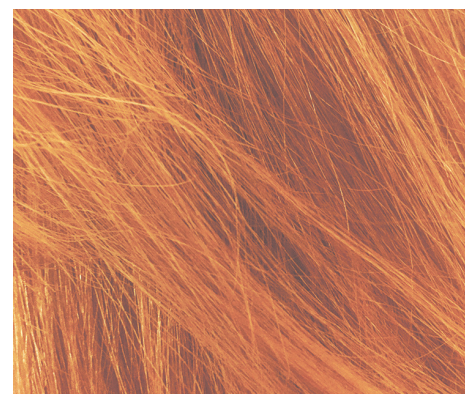


MYTH: Ginger-haired people are going extinct

TRUTH: Ginger or red hair is rare, but it is not disappearing, just recessive

Red hair is caused by a recessive variant of the gene MC1R, which means you need two copies of it to be a redhead. Red hair alleles are currently found at a much higher concentration in some northern and western European populations. The idea that redheads are going extinct has been circulating for years, fuelled by tabloid headlines and online "science" memes. The myth plays into the drama of the dying breed and uniqueness, which makes it sticky. Red hair is caused by a recessive gene, indicating both parents must carry it for a child to have red hair.

Evidence: It is not vanishing, just less likely to appear when the gene is not paired. In multicultural societies like Malaysia, red hair is already rare, but that does not mean it is gone. The gene can "hide" in people's DNA and reappear generations later.



MYTH: MSG is bad for your health

TRUTH: MSG is safe for most people and not inherently harmful

Monosodium glutamate (MSG) became controversial in the 1960s after a letter in a medical journal coined the term "Chinese Restaurant Syndrome," describing symptoms like headaches or fatigue after eating Chinese food. This sparked decades of suspicion, rooted in xenophobia and food racism. MSG is a common source of the savoury 'umami' flavour in many foods, such as tomatoes, soy sauce and parmesan cheese. It is used as a flavour enhancer by the food industry, but claims about MSG's negative health effects have been around for a while, with supposed ill effects ranging from headaches to cancer.

Evidence: MSG has been studied extensively in 2007 by a team at the University of Hohenheim that examined all the research on MSG and concluded that unusually high doses are not harmful. It has also been conclusively established that MSG makes things taste more delicious.

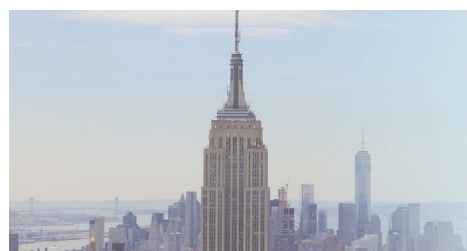
MYTH: Dropping a penny from the Empire State Building can kill someone

TRUTH: A falling penny might sting, but it will not kill or seriously injure anyone

This myth lives on in classrooms, cartoons and trivia games. The idea is that a penny dropped from the Empire State Building's 102nd floor (380 metres) could gather enough speed to become a lethal missile. Some versions claim it could "drill through your

skull." But in reality, it is pure physics fiction. Pennies are too small, light and flat to gain deadly speed. Air resistance quickly slows them down and they flutter like leaves, not bullets.

Evidence: Physicists and *MythBusters* tested it with a penny, reaching terminal velocity (top falling speed) of about 40 to 50 mph. It might bruise you or get lost in someone's hair, but it will not kill.



KUALA LUMPUR'S dining scene continues to evolve with remarkable flair, offering a dynamic tapestry of flavours that cater to every culinary desire. New restaurants and cafés open their doors each month, inviting food enthusiasts and café-hoppers alike to indulge in the latest gastronomic delights.

In Bukit Bintang, the Ministry of Crab at Tuah 1895 has made its debut, bringing the first Malaysian outpost of the celebrated Sri Lankan restaurant. Over in TTDI, Yafa offers an authentic taste of Palestine, allowing diners to immerse themselves in the Middle East's cuisine and rich cultural history.

With each new dining gem that graces the city, Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley's culinary landscape becomes ever more exciting and diverse. Be sure to reserve your table and indulge in the freshest dining experiences the city has to offer.

FOR CAFE CULTURE CLUB

Cove

Originating from Korea, Cove brings its unique concept to Malaysia, adding its own twist. The cafe boasts a cosy atmosphere, featuring soft diffused lighting and warm wooden accents. The menu offers a blend of Korean-inspired bites alongside an impressive selection of drinks, pastries and cakes.

Address: No. 2-G, Jalan Anggerik Aranda BG 31/BG, Kota Kemuning, 40460 Shah Alam.



Asylum Coffeehouse

After its success in Singapore, Asylum Coffeehouse has opened its first Malaysian outlet in the food haven of Bangsar. Their signature Keluak blend takes centre stage, complemented by locally inspired drinks like the Milo-based Milopresso, PB&J latte and the Zero latte, a creamy espresso-only creation.

Address: Asylum Coffeehouse, 28, Jalan Kemuja, Bangsar, 59000 Kuala Lumpur.



Nookout

For a quick caffeine fix, visit Taman U Thant's Nookout, nestled within Scrut Auto. This relaxed corner cafe serves up a no-fuss, reliable brew. The Butterscotch Bliss is a must-try, perfect for those who love a sweeter coffee treat.

Address: 232, Lorong Nibong, Off Jalan Ampang, Taman U Thant, 55000 Ampang.

Where & what to eat this month

BY AQILAH NAJWA JAMALUDDIN

A guide to the latest restaurants and cafes from Bukit Bintang to Shah Alam, offering something for every taste

FOR SEAFOOD LOVERS

Ministry of Crab

One of the standout new openings in KL is the Ministry of Crab at Tuah 1895, marking the first Malaysian location of the famed Sri Lanka-based restaurant. If you love crustaceans, this is a must-visit. The menu celebrates the island's seafood, prepared with Japanese precision, reflecting chef Dharshan Munidasa's Sri Lankan-Japanese heritage.

Address: GF-03 M-02, TUAH 1895, 2, Jalan Hang Tuah, Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur.



Kappa Kaisen Izakaya

If sushi and tempura are your favourites, head to Kappa Kaisen Izakaya in Bukit Damansara. This spot offers a variety of fresh seafood dishes, including chirashi dons and tendons in mini portions, which are perfect for sampling more of the menu. Pair your meal with Japanese sake and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

Address: 54-1F, Jalan Medan Setia 2, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur.

KAI Japanese buffet

For a luxurious buffet experience, visit KAI at Sunway Resort Hotel. This pork-free venue offers a premium selection of Japanese dishes, both buffet-style and à la carte, with everything from sashimi to teppanyaki. Whether for lunch or dinner, KAI is sure to satisfy every craving.

Address: Lobby Level, 1, Persiaran Lagoon, Bandar Sunway, 47500 Petaling Jaya.



FOR GRILL & CHILL SEEKERS

Charr

Charr dining, the newest wood-fire barbecue restaurant in the city centre, is founded by chefs Leong Chee Mun, Wah Yin Xing and Kenneth Ngai. Situated at The Manor in KLCC, this intimate yet atmospheric venue highlights bold, smoky flavours. The menu showcases a variety of internationally inspired dishes, all infused with the distinctive taste of fire-kissed ingredients.

Address: 47-3A, The Manor, 3, Persiaran Stonor, 50450 Kuala Lumpur.

Yafa

Head to Yafa in Taman Tun Dr. Ismail for an authentic taste of Palestine. The restaurant honours the culinary heritage of the owner Zara's father-in-law, who was born in Yafa, Palestine. The menu offers heartwarming dishes like lamb, cauliflower, chickpea stew, maqluba and refreshing fattush salad, all prepared to reflect traditional Palestinian flavours.

Address: 7, Lorong Datuk Sulaiman 7, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur.



Moto

Moto, a Japanese-European fusion restaurant, has opened in Setia Alam. The menu features European classics with a Japanese influence, like a bouillabaisse made from sashimi-grade fish bones, seasonal seafood and sourdough baguette. Other highlights include French escargot, grilled ribeye and pesto tagliatelle, all expertly crafted with a unique twist.

Address: Lot 2 & 3, Ground Floor, Jalan Setia Nusantara U13/17 Seksyen U13/17, Setia Alam, 40179 Shah Alam.



Why talent matters more than money

Access to knowledge is becoming a greater asset than financial capital. Are we ready for this shift?

BY BOBBY VARANASI

FOR centuries, wealth was defined by land, natural resources and financial capital. Those who controlled physical assets – gold, oil, factories or vast stretches of farmland held the power. Economic dominance was built on the back of industries that required massive investments, where money could buy influence, infrastructure and innovation.

But that equation is changing. Today, knowledge is fast becoming the world's most valuable currency. The traditional economic order, where financial capital dictated success, is being reshaped by the rise of knowledge economies where expertise, creativity and intellectual capital drive competitive advantage.

Countries, businesses and individuals who understand and adapt to this shift will thrive. Those who do not may find themselves left behind in an economy that no longer plays by old rules.

Capital to knowledge

In the past, wealth creation revolved around industries that required heavy capital investment. Owning factories, machinery and distribution networks was essential to economic growth. Even in the 20th century, success was largely determined by who could afford to build, manufacture and distribute at scale.

However, with the rise of digital technology, automation and global connectivity, knowledge is overtaking financial capital as the primary driver of economic growth. Ideas, expertise and intellectual property are now more powerful than ownership of land or machinery:

- Tech giants like Google, Apple and Microsoft have built businesses with trillion-dollar valuations not through physical assets but through innovation, research and intellectual capital.
- Small startups with limited financial backing can disrupt industries with the right talent and ideas.
- Nations that invest in education, research and digital infrastructure are outperforming those that are still reliant on traditional resource-based economies.
- The message is clear: financial capital is still important, but knowledge capital is what truly drives long-term success.

Why talent is the new currency

The value of knowledge is not just about having access to information, it is about the ability to apply it effectively. Businesses no longer just need money to succeed; they need people who can think critically, solve complex problems and drive innovation.

Consider the following trends:

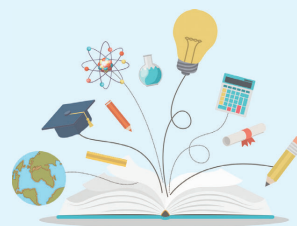
The decline of asset-based dominance:

In today's digital economy, physical assets matter far less than they once did. Many of the most valuable companies do not own vast factories or massive inventories – they own intellectual property, data and software. For instance, Airbnb, the world's largest accommodation platform, owns no hotels. Uber, the largest transportation network, owns no vehicles. Their value lies in their technology, algorithms and ability to leverage data effectively.



The demand for skilled talent: As automation and artificial intelligence take over routine transactional jobs, companies are searching for employees who can adapt, innovate and create. The highest-paid professionals today are not factory workers or machine operators but engineers, software developers, designers and problem-solvers. This trend will only accelerate as industries shift towards knowledge-driven models.

Education as an investment, not an expense: In a knowledge economy, education is not just a means to get a job but an essential economic driver. Countries that prioritise science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, research funding and digital literacy are seeing significant economic advantages. Meanwhile, nations that fail to invest in knowledge risk being left behind.



How businesses must adapt

The transition to a knowledge-driven economy presents opportunities and challenges for companies. The firms that will succeed are those that understand that their greatest asset is their workforce.

- **Investing in people:** Businesses must shift from seeing employees as a cost to viewing them as assets. Continuous learning, skills development and knowledge sharing should be at the core of corporate strategy. This requires a fundamental shift in leadership focus: the aspiration to nurture and build "thinking minds" that work autonomously, yet cohesively, toward managing complex futures.
- **Embracing remote and global talent:** With technology enabling remote work, companies no longer need to limit themselves to local hiring. A business in London can source talent from Bangalore, Cape Town or Kuala Lumpur, accessing expertise from anywhere in the world.
- **Prioritising creativity and innovation:** The ability to generate new ideas, solve problems and think critically is now more valuable than operational efficiency alone. Companies that foster a culture of curiosity and experimentation will lead in this new economy.

Many of the most valuable companies do not own vast factories or massive inventories – they own intellectual property, data and software."





Knowledge is fast becoming the world's most valuable currency.

Global divide: Knowledge Haves vs. Have-nots

As with any economic shift, there is a risk of growing inequality. Just as financial wealth created divides in the past, access to knowledge is now determining economic winners and losers.

- Developed nations that have invested in education, digital infrastructure and research are accelerating ahead.
- Emerging economies with strong tech and innovation ecosystems, like India and China, are positioning themselves as global leaders in knowledge-based industries.
- Countries that fail to adapt, those still dependent on outdated economic models, risk falling into a new kind of poverty: knowledge poverty.

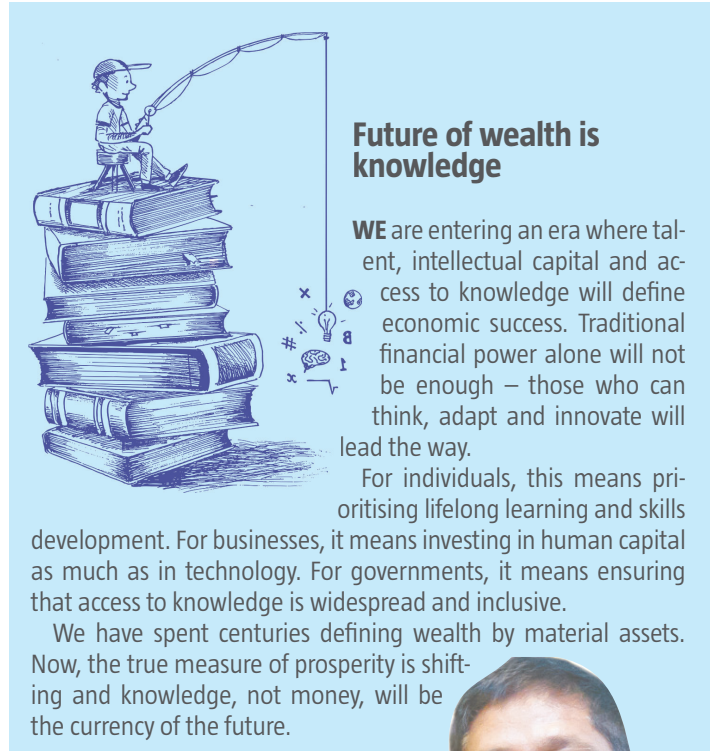
The same divide is happening within businesses and individuals. Companies that upskill their employees will thrive, while those that neglect talent development will struggle to keep up. Workers who continuously learn and adapt will stay in demand, while those who resist change may find themselves replaced by automation.



Companies that upskill their employees will thrive, while those that neglect talent development will struggle to keep up.



Businesses no longer just need money to succeed; they need people who can think critically, solve complex problems and drive innovation."



Future of wealth is knowledge

WE are entering an era where talent, intellectual capital and access to knowledge will define economic success. Traditional financial power alone will not be enough – those who can think, adapt and innovate will lead the way.

For individuals, this means prioritising lifelong learning and skills development. For businesses, it means investing in human capital as much as in technology. For governments, it means ensuring that access to knowledge is widespread and inclusive.

We have spent centuries defining wealth by material assets. Now, the true measure of prosperity is shifting and knowledge, not money, will be the currency of the future.



Bobby Varanasi is a respected global thought leader in globalisation, economic sustainability, and business transformation. Recently, he won the Innovation Leadership Award at the World Innovation Congress 2025.

Answers will be posted on Sunday, May 11

JayMen's PIX-ZLE Page

PUZZLES with Pictures ... In Other Words!

PIXAGRAM

Example

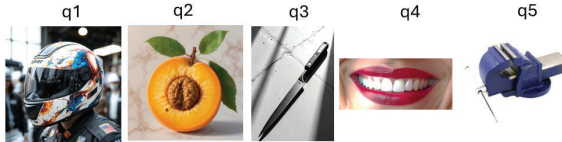


The picture shows a person in chains or manacles. Look for any answer which has the same letters as either CHAIN or MANACLE.
Answer -



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

PIXAGRAM 5



Answers are to be chosen from A to F



CHAIN LETTER 5

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

- Q1. Zodiac sign _ _ _ _
Q2. Famous beach _ _ _ _
Q3. US rapper _ _ _ _
Q4. Thai King _ _ _ _
Q5. Sesame Street character _ _ _ _

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



PYRAMID 5

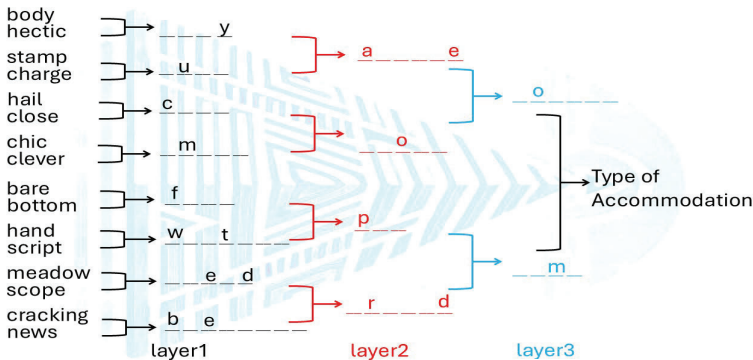
Each pair of words by Meaning or Association leads to another word (indicated by →)

Example : satellite → blue →

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

Find out the 8 words in layer 1,
4 words in layer 2 and 2 words in layer 3.

The two words in layer 3 should match the definition given.



STREET PIX 5

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

- Q1 : Joy of cartoons, say _____
Q2 : American states in short form _____
Q3 : Sounds like a bird of prey _____
Q4 : He'll have you in stitches! _____
Q5 : Zero to a million! _____



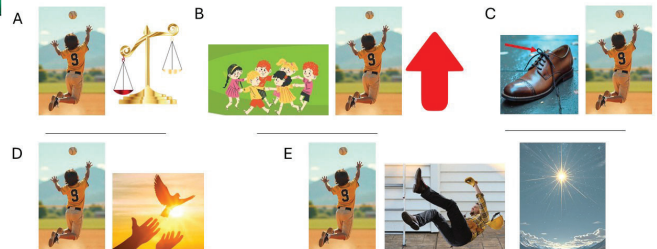
MEMES: Memes (popular and common phrases) are shown as a series of pictures. In the following EXAMPLES there are 2 categories : Economics(1), Clothing (1). Write down the correct phrases.

A **B**

A : Hand **me** **down** **B : Invisible** **hand**
(a synonym for used clothing passed from elder child to younger child) (term used in economics)

MEMES: 5

There are 5 categories : Keeping Up(1), 50's song(1), Surprise(1), Baseball(1), Fishing(1). Write the correct phrases.

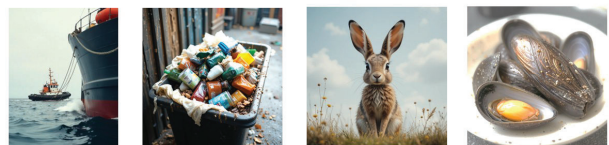


TO-PIX

Part 1 : Identify Words based on picture clues
Part 2: Subject the Words to the Operation mentioned
An Example is given below

Part 1 Dwarf	Giant	Moon	Hole
Part 2 Operation : Place suitable colours before the words to get heavenly bodies			
Part 2 WHITE Dwarf	RED Giant	BLUE Moon	BLACK Hole

TOPIX 5



STEP 1 _____

Step 1 words are less than 7 letters long.

STEP 2 Operation : The above words sound like body parts. Write the body parts down.

STEP 2 _____

All puzzles are created by **Jay Menon**.
He runs **RoadRunners MS**
(Treasure Hunts/ Team Building)
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In a world wired for overdrive, pets have become accidental spiritual teachers, grounding us.

Pets anchor us in a world of distractions

Why having a pet might be the most grounding thing in a digitally overloaded life

BY SIMON VELLA

IT'S 8pm. You're doomscrolling Instagram while half-watching a K-drama, replying to WhatsApp messages and checking your emails – all at once. Your mind is buzzing, your posture's wrecked and you still feel unproductive.

Then your cat climbs onto your lap-top and sits squarely on your keyboard. Suddenly, you're present. In a world wired for overdrive, pets have become accidental spiritual teachers – grounding us in moments of simplicity, demanding presence and offering a kind of clarity no mindfulness app can rival.

The noise we don't notice

Let's be honest: modern life is a sensory siege.

Notifications ping from every direction. Our attention is split into pixels. We binge media but can't focus on dinner conversations. We tweet our thoughts before we've finished having them.

In Malaysia, where smartphone penetration exceeds 93% and where a 24/7 online culture is the norm, digital fatigue is real. According to the Global Digital Report 2024, Malaysians spend an average of 8 hours and 17 minutes per day online. That's more than we spend sleeping.

And while there's nothing wrong with being digitally connected, there's a cost. Our minds are cluttered. Our stress thresholds are lower and genuine connection, even with ourselves, gets buried under swipe fatigue.

Enter the pet

You know what doesn't care about your phone's battery percentage? Your dog. Your cat. Your turtle, parrot, rabbit, iguana.

They operate on their own timeless, undistracted rhythm. They don't understand algorithms or email replies.

What they *do* understand is presence:

- When you're with them, be *with* them.
- When you're distracted, they notice.
- When you're upset, they feel it.
- In the simplest ways, pets pull us out of the noise and into the now.



Rituals over routines

Digital life has blurred our boundaries – working from home, online banking, on-demand everything. Days bleed into nights. Weekends feel no different from weekdays. Even prayer or meditation can be reduced to app reminders.

But pets? Pets create rituals:

- Morning walks start your day before the world invades.
- Scheduled feeding forces you to put the laptop down.
- Evening snuggles remind you to sit still, even for a while.
- These moments, though ordinary, become sacred. They mark time. They shape energy. They restore rhythm.

For many in urban Malaysian condos, especially post-pandemic, those daily pet rituals became anchors – not just for the animal's sake but the owner's sanity.

They don't care about your follower count

In a world obsessed with validation – likes, shares, DMs. It's easy to feel like we're constantly being judged, evaluated or performative.

Your pet? They don't care about your online persona.

They don't care how many followers you have or what you wore to that event. They care that you're late for walk time. They care that your tone changed. They care that you smell like stress.

This kind of non-transactional attention, love that isn't curated, can be deeply healing.

Forced disconnection

Sometimes, the best thing a pet can do is interrupt you:

- A paw on your thigh mid-Zoom call.
- A meow that breaks your social scroll spiral.
- A walk that pulls you away from your screen and into the sunlight.
- You might grumble. But five minutes later, you'll feel better. Calmer. More human.
- In a society that tells us we need more information, connections and hustle. Pets remind us that less can actually feel like *more*.

Your emotional mirror

When you're agitated, your dog may pace or avoid you. When you're calm, your cat sleeps nearby. When you're down, your rabbit watches you more closely than usual.

Pets don't just respond to your presence. They reflect your energy and they do it honestly – without manipulation, bias or judgment.

That emotional honesty is grounding. It reminds us that being calm isn't just for us. It creates safety for those around us, including the ones with tails.

The anti-app

We've turned mindfulness into a subscription. We wear fitness trackers to remind us to breathe. We use digital planners to schedule downtime.

But sometimes, what you need isn't another app; it's a living being. One who lies next to you in silence. Who snores gently while you think. Who doesn't care about the clock, the feed, or the deadline.

That kind of presence can't be downloaded. It can only be shared.

Malaysian moments: Simple, still, real

In the Malaysian context, especially with the rise of the urban pet culture, more people are recognising pets as more than companions – they're balancers.

From café owners in Subang Jaya who bring their cats to work, to retirees in Ipoh who talk to their dogs like lifelong friends, to stressed-out students in hostel rooms hugging rescued strays.

These are all quiet resistances to the noise of modern life.

Sometimes, that's the most powerful act of wellness we can commit to: allow ourselves to be still, present and kind even if we had to be dragged there by a wagging tail.

Closing thought

You don't need to meditate on a mountaintop. You don't need to delete your social media. You just need to look into the eyes of a being who needs nothing more than you – here, now, unfiltered.

That's where peace lives. Right there, under the fur, next to your heartbeat, in the space where words are unnecessary.

So maybe the secret to digital balance isn't silence, it's presence. Maybe your pet, without saying a word, has been teaching you that all along.



Easy Rider E-Clutch

THERE was much noise when the Honda CB650R E-Clutch was launched.

The “complaints” were not about the bike per se, but about the new Honda E-Clutch system. To rehash – the E-Clutch system provides the features of an automatic gearbox.

Now, netizens, upon hearing the word “automatic,” most probably jumped to the conclusion that the CB650R and its CBR650RR are now equipped with CVTs (constantly variable transmission) like scooters, since there is no mention of the DCT (Dual-Clutch Transmission).

On another hand, so-called “purists” questioned the reasoning for automatic transmission on big capacity motorcycles.

These arguments show how we can be conflicted sometimes. On one side of the scale, we love new technologies. And on the other side, we are afraid of changing paths from convention, be it the most mundane.

It also highlights the pitfalls of social media, because all the comments about the Honda E-Clutch have been made

New Honda CB650R has a transmission that everyone will love

BY WAHID OOI

before its launch in Malaysia and no one has actually ridden the bike to experience it firsthand.

What is the 2025 Honda CB650R E-Clutch?

The Honda CB650R “naked bike” and the CBR650R “sportbike” were launched back in 2020, as the successor to the

CB650F and CBR650R, respectively, which ran from 2014 to 2019.

The CB650F, on the other hand was the successor to the long-running and supremely popular CB600F. So, throughout its history, this model lineage has always been powered by an inline-four engine.

Then, in 2024, Honda launched the

current CB650R and CBR650R E-Clutch.

Apart from the clutch, the current bike features several design updates:

- Horseshoe-shaped front LED Daytime Running Light (DRL).
- Reshaped air intake funnels on both sides of the fuel tank (although these are decorative).
- A USB Type-C charging port.
- New TFT screen with multimedia and navigation, connected through the Honda RoadSync phone app.

Other features

- 649cc, DOHC, inline-four, producing 93.8 HP (70kW) at 12,000RPM and 63Nm at 9,500RPM.
- Engine power is transmitted through a manual multi-plate wet clutch, with the E-Clutch feature.
- Front suspension consists of 41mm Showa Separate Function Fork - Big Piston (SFF-BP) USD forks.
- Rear suspension consists of a monoshock damper with 10 stage adjustable preload.



The E-Clutch system can be turned off and can even be customised to suit your needs.



This matte green colour looks fantastic.



Quality of switches is top notch.



LED headlights easily distinguish the CB650 in a crowd.



The brakes work great, allowing you to brake late for fun.

- ➔ Braking duty is handled by twin 310mm rotors gripped by radially-mounted four-piston Nissin calipers up front, and a single 240mm disc at the back.
- ➔ Dual-channel ABS is standard.

How does the E-Clutch Work?

We are not going to into the in-depth technical stuff here, instead we will talk about how the Honda E-Clutch works for the rider. Let us start by doing some comparisons.

■ On a kapecai without a manual clutch

We only need to tap the gear lever into gear and open the throttle to get moving. And, we tap on the lever again when we want to change gears, up or down. We do not need to change the neutral (N) i.e. "free gear" when we stop. The engine does not cut out when we stop in any gear.

■ On a motorcycle with a clutch lever

We need to pull in the clutch, tap the gear lever to select a gear, then slip out the clutch lever to get going. While on the move, each gear change thereafter must be performed after pulling in the clutch lever and releasing it to complete the change.

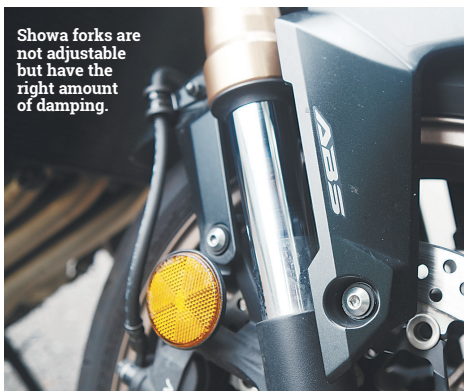
Fitting a quickshifter allows us change gears without using the clutch lever while the motorcycle is moving.

When we stop, we need to either put the transmission into (N) or hold in the clutch lever if the transmission is still in gear. Releasing the clutch lever while the bike is idling in gear will result in the engine stalling.

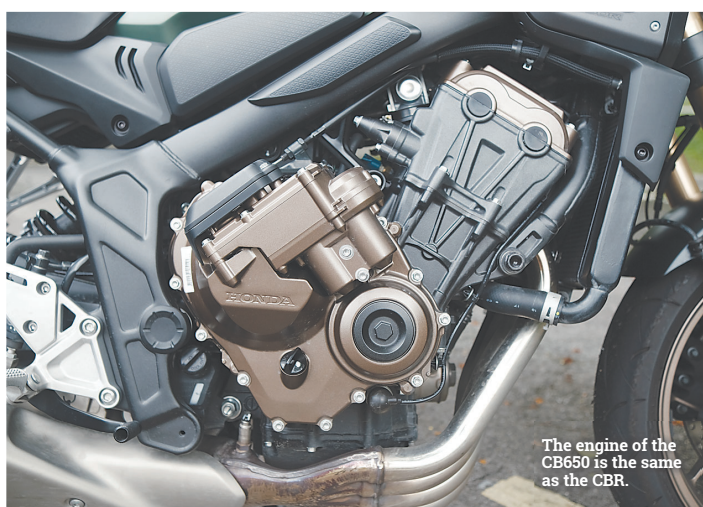
Now, Honda engineers got to thinking of combining these two attributes into one large capacity motorcycle, and it resulted in the E-Clutch. It essentially turns the bike into a large kapecai.

- On the CB650R E-Clutch
- ➔ Start the engine.
- ➔ Do not touch the clutch lever.
- ➔ Click into 1st gear (or 2nd).
- ➔ Shift gears as usual, like a bi-directional quickshifter.
- ➔ Do not pull the clutch lever when you come to a stop, regardless of gear position, whether (N), 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or whatever gear.
- ➔ You will notice that the clutch lever goes limp like it has a loose cable when idling in (N).

Showa forks are not adjustable but have the right amount of damping.



This is how you can tell if a Honda comes with an E-Clutch system.



The engine of the CB650 is the same as the CBR.

Riding the Honda CB650R E-Clutch

If there was only one feature that we absolutely love about this range of bikes, is the engine's torque. On virtually all the sub-700cc inline-four bikes that we rode previously, their engines were gutless below 6,000RPM.

We reviewed the previous CB650R and are happy to report that the 2025 version's agility and ease of handling remains. The bike is eager to change directions, without being unstable on straight roads.

Corners were easily handled as the bike leaned and leaned as much as we wanted it to even at very high speeds, and it never once ran out of cornering clearance. It seemed that the peg feelers were superfluous.

The seating position is very comfortable. The reach to the handlebar was slightly further than on most naked bikes, as the platform is shared with the CBR650R sportbike, but it put us in a sportier crouch.

This "sportier crouch" allowed us to put more weight on the front tyre resulting in better handling, and also to overcome windblast.

Speaking of windblast, the most comfortable speeds for naked bikes are usually around 130-140kph, but we were able to ride comfortably at 150-160kph while sitting upright. All thanks to that riding position – well done, Honda!

The Showa SFF-BP forks do play a huge role here as they absorb road irregularities so well, so much so that you do not feel you've hit a pothole or bump.

The rear monoshock's damping seems to be improved, too. It is now stiffer and has 10 levels of preload adjustment, and we needed to only increase it by 3 steps to compensate for our weight.

By comparison, we had complained that the previous model's monoshock was too soft, causing the rear to squat, consequently moving the bike's balance to the rear, and causing instability up front.

We overcame this by cranking the preload adjustment to maximum to put more weight onto the front tyre, but it resulted in a harsh ride at the rear.

Brakes were super strong too! There is so much bite that we bet that the other road users had a mild panic seeing us brake so late.

Testing the Honda E-Clutch feature

We have to admit that testing the E-Clutch the first time was a little stressful. But that was only because we consciously knew it was there.

We had to remind ourselves each time: "Do not touch the clutch!" before we tapped it into 1st gear.

However, it was so easy once we got used to it, by ignoring the clutch lever altogether and pretending it did not exist like a DCT-equipped bike.

As we got moving, shifting gears was a pleasant affair, like going through the gears with a quickshifter.

Of course, we did pull in the clutch once in a while, especially when traversing speed bumps which resulted in the E-Clutch resorting to manual mode.

But the system will revert back to auto-

matic after some delay and shifting without clutch.

The system also allows the rider to customise how much foot pressure is needed to engage gears. There are three levels: soft, medium, hard. It started in medium but I preferred to set it to soft.

This feature made riding the bike in traffic so easy. All you had to do was modulate the throttle and the system does its thing.

We even experimented by riding in much taller gears in traffic i.e. 5th and 6th, but the system, plus the engine's torque, kept it from stalling.

Automatic gearboxes have a lag when you slam on the accelerator, right? Not so with the E-Clutch.

The bike took off like it had Launch Control, keeping the clutch slipping just right for optimal acceleration without letting the front wheel loop over backwards. Impressive. Very impressive.

We hear what netizens say, "But what if the E-Clutch glitches out? Does that mean I can't shift gears anymore?"

The answer is the Honda E-Clutch will revert to a fully manual mode if that happens, so you will still get to the nearest workshop or home.

Conclusion

The 2025 Honda CB650R E-Clutch was a hoot to ride, ever more so with the new feature. We ourselves were thinking if the system was necessary before we rode it, but came away impressed.

Honestly, the bike does not truly need the E-Clutch because it is already a great platform, but having it opens up a new dimension in riding, making the daily commute and in fact, any ride, easy.

On the product front, the E-Clutch distinguishes the CB/CR650 lineup from its peers. It was Honda who first developed and introduced this system successfully before the competitors did so.

Check it out at the nearest Honda Big Wing showroom.

Specifications

Engine: 649cc, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke, DOHC

Power: 94hp @ 12,000rpm

Torque: 63Nm @ 9500rpm

Transmission: 6-speed e-clutch

Price (as tested): RM47,999

We like: E-Clutch system works brilliantly once you get used to it.

We don't like: Nothing.

Geely's Xingyuan makes appearance

... amid rumours of Malaysian launch as Proton e.MAS 5

FOLLOWING its appearance at the 2025 Bangkok International Motor Show, the Geely Xingyuan – also known under the Geome sub-brand – has made its way to China's premier automotive event, Auto Shanghai 2025.

Displayed alongside Geely's high-tech Galaxy Cruiser SUV prototype, the compact electric vehicle (EV) has reignited speculation about its potential rebadging and entry into the Malaysian market under the Proton badge as the e.MAS 5.

If confirmed, the Xingyuan would become the second model in Proton's e.MAS series, complementing the larger e.MAS 7, which has already been introduced in Malaysia.

While official announcements remain pending, industry watchers note that the Xingyuan's compact dimensions and urban-friendly electric powertrain make it an ideal fit for markets such as Malaysia, where demand for affordable, efficient electric mobility is growing.

In China, the Xingyuan is offered with two electric powertrains, both using lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries supplied by CATL. Fast-charging

capabilities allow for a 30% to 80% charge in just 21 minutes. The entry-level variant comes equipped with a 30.12kWh battery, offering a range of 310km under the Chinese Light-Duty Vehicle Test Cycle (CLTC), and is paired with a rear-mounted motor delivering 79PS and 130Nm of torque.

The higher-end model features a larger 40.16kWh battery that stretches the range to 410km, along with a more powerful 116PS, 150Nm electric motor. Both versions include a deep front trunk – or "frunk" – enhancing cargo versatility.

Five variants are currently offered in the Chinese domestic market. Sized for the urban commuter, the Xingyuan is noticeably more compact than its e.MAS 7 sibling.

It measures 4,135 mm in length and 1,805 mm in width, with a wheelbase of 2,650 mm – figures that position it firmly in the B-segment crossover category.

With growing anticipation surrounding its potential localisation, the question remains whether this small electric hatch will arrive in Malaysia bearing the Proton badge.



Pet-friendly electric SUV

WE have seen the Jaecoo J5, a compact SUV aimed at the ever-competitive segment populated by the likes of Honda HR-V, Toyota Corolla Cross and the Proton X50. This time, however, at the Auto Shanghai 2025, we are looking at the Jaecoo J5 EV, the fully-electric version capable of up to 470km driving range.

The zero-emissions version gets a slightly different look compared to the regular petrol sibling, especially from the front. The waterfall grille is gone, replaced by a transparent strip connecting the two LED headlights, with "Jaecoo" lettering. Lower down at the bumper, there are some perforated body panels and intakes with square pins. Overall, the J5 EV has a cleaner look compared to the J5.

On the side, you don't get the blacked-out A-pillars like on the bigger J7, but you do, however, still get a floating roof effect with the blacked-out D-pillars. There's also conventional

door handles rather than flush pop-out ones, and you get a full-width tail-light strip, a rear spoiler, and a plastic diffuser.

The J5 EV utilises steering-mounted gear stalks, so this frees up space down the centre console for dual smartphone pads, including a Qi wireless charger, twin cup holders, and an open storage underneath.

Jaecoo labels the J5 as a "pet-friendly" SUV. By this, it means that the J5 gets extended seats for extra comfort and safety for your furry friends. The company also says it will offer a range of accessories, such as a feeding device and boarding steps for smaller pets.

The Jaecoo J5 is most likely to be launched in Malaysia before the end of the year, with CKD in the pipeline. However, there is no confirmation about the fully-electric J5 EV at the moment. Do you think the J5 EV should also make its way to Malaysia?

Volvo EX90 named 2024 World Luxury Car of the Year

THE newly launched all-electric Volvo EX90 has secured one of the automotive industry's most prestigious accolades – the title of World Luxury Car of the Year 2024. The award, announced ahead of the New York International Auto Show, underscores Volvo's leadership in combining premium design, sustainable innovation, and safety-focused technology in a singular package.

Chosen by a panel of 96 respected motoring journalists from 30 countries, the EX90 was praised for its refined Scandinavian aesthetics, cutting-edge electric performance, and groundbreaking safety systems. The recognition affirms the EX90's status as the most advanced and safest vehicle Volvo has ever produced.

At the heart of this innovation lies Volvo Cars' proprietary Superset technology stack, developed entirely in-house.

A standout feature of the EX90 is its pioneering use

of lidar technology – a first for the brand.

Among the EX90's most lauded innovations is its Driver Understanding System, recently recognised by *Time Magazine* as one of the Best Inventions of 2024.

The Volvo EX90 is now available in Peninsular Malaysia at a recommended retail price of RM442,888. This includes five years of complimentary digital services, unlimited-mileage vehicle warranty, 24-hour roadside assistance, and an eight-year warranty for the high-voltage battery pack.

To celebrate its launch, Volvo Car Malaysia is offering the first 50 customers a complimentary RM5,000 package comprising a wallbox charger voucher and a foldable sunshade for the panoramic sunroof.

Test drives can be arranged via Volvo Car Malaysia's official website or through participating authorised dealerships.



CHINESE automotive giant Geely Auto made headlines at Auto Shanghai 2025 with the global unveiling of its advanced Galaxy Cruiser SUV prototype, alongside a suite of major innovations in vehicle safety and battery technology.

The presentation underscored Geely's vision for the future of intelligent and sustainable mobility, with a firm emphasis on safety and accessibility through technological progress.

The Galaxy Cruiser, described by the company as a robust and technologically

Galaxy Cruiser SUV prototype on display in Shanghai

advanced SUV, serves as a bold statement of intent. The prototype introduces a number of industry-first capabilities that blend off-road resilience with smart connectivity.

It is the first vehicle in its class capable of switching in real time between pure electric, hybrid, and extended-range power modes, aided by an AI-controlled four-wheel drive system designed to handle

diverse terrains and unpredictable driving environments. This system allows the SUV to effortlessly transition from urban commuting to challenging off-road conditions.

In a landmark step towards industry-wide safety standardisation, Geely introduced the Geely Global Safety Centre, described as the largest standalone automotive safety laboratory in the world.

The Galaxy Cruiser and the supporting infrastructure unveiled at Auto Shanghai represent more than just an ambitious product showcase. They reflect Geely's determination to redefine the future of mobility by uniting electrification, artificial intelligence, and a profound commitment to safety.

In doing so, the company positions itself not only as a leader in Chinese automotive innovation but also as a key player shaping the global conversation around next-generation transport.

Latest models in the pipeline

Chinese marque showcases Galaxy Starship 7 EM-i Hybrid SUV, Proton e.MAS 7 PHEV

GEELY has displayed its latest petrol-electric hybrid SUV, the Galaxy Starship 7 EM-i, at Auto Shanghai 2025, marking the public appearance of a model that could soon carry Proton branding in Malaysia as the Proton e.MAS 7 PHEV.

Positioned as a hybrid counterpart to the fully electric Galaxy E5 – sold in Malaysia as the Proton e.MAS 7 – the Galaxy Starship 7 introduces Geely's second-generation NordThor 2.0 plug-in hybrid system.

This new powertrain is a refined version of the EM-P system also used by Lynk & Co and incorporates significant enhancements in efficiency and performance.

Visually, the Starship 7 distinguishes itself from its EV sibling through conventional door handles, which replace the flush, pop-out style found on the E5 and e.MAS 7.

The front fascia incorporates a full-width LED light bar and tiered daytime running lights, with the main headlights now positioned lower on the bumper.

At the rear, subtle changes to the tail lamps, tailgate, and bumper design give the Starship 7 its own unique identity.

The hybrid system is anchored by a 1.5-litre turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine with a thermal efficiency of 46.6%. This high level of efficiency is made possible by an optimised combustion



chamber that increases air swirl.

Geely offers the Galaxy Starship 7 in China with a choice of two battery configurations. The entry-level variant features an 8.5kWh battery that supports up to 55km of electric-only driving under the Chinese CLTC testing standard.

A larger 12.02kWh battery increases the electric range to 120km. With the 1.5-litre engine and a 51-litre fuel tank in play, the total driving range is quoted at 1,420km, with a fuel consumption rate of just 3.75 litres per 100km.

With the 'e.MAS 7 PHEV' name already trademarked by Proton, the unveiling of the Galaxy Starship 7 adds further weight to expectations that the hybrid SUV could soon be offered in Malaysia as a range-extending alternative to the battery-electric e.MAS 7.

Porsche secures new Nurburgring record

PORSCHE has set a new benchmark at the Nurburgring Nordschleife, with its latest 911 GT3 becoming the fastest production car fitted with a manual transmission to lap the legendary circuit.

Behind the wheel of the record-setting vehicle was Porsche brand ambassador Jörg Bergmeister, who completed the 20.832km course in a remarkable 6 minutes and 56.294 seconds, eclipsing the previous best by more than nine and a half seconds.

The achievement underscores Porsche's commitment to driver-focused engineering, particularly at a time when fully automated systems and dual-clutch gearboxes dominate the performance car landscape.

This record is especially significant considering the vehicle was equipped with a traditional six-speed manual gearbox rather than the brand's quicker, seven-speed

Porsche Doppelkupplungsgetriebe (PDK) transmission.

The 911 GT3, fitted with the Weissach package, delivered a performance that exceeded its predecessor's PDK-assisted lap by 3.633 seconds, illustrating the substantial improvements made across key performance areas.

Track conditions during the record attempt were ideal, with ambient temperatures at 12°C and the asphalt warmed to 27°C. The vehicle ran on Michelin Pilot Sport Cup 2 R tyres – street-legal yet track-capable – with sizes 255/35 R20 at the front

and 315/30 R21 at the rear, the same configuration used during the official lap of the earlier GT3 model.

This attempt was conducted under notarial supervision to validate the timing, and the focus was clear from the outset: to demonstrate the true potential of the manual transmission variant.

Andreas Preuninger, who leads Porsche's GT model development, explained that customer demand for manual variants has grown significantly. Many owners have expressed curiosity about the capabilities of a manual-equipped GT3 on the Nordschleife. Porsche's decision to pursue this lap time was, in part, a direct response to that enthusiasm.



Your weekend horoscope

**ARIES**

March 21 – April 19

Embracing family traditions, you are finding balance while navigating values with loved ones. Juggling finances with care, you are building stability. A spark is reigniting your love life with exciting choices. Wisdom guides your heart this week.

**TAURUS**

April 20 – May 20

Pausing before a big decision, you are carefully weighing options to gain clarity. Speaking thoughtfully, you are helping others see the truth. There may be a joyful news about a pregnancy that is lifting your spirits. Steady steps are leading you forward, do not be afraid to take a leap.

**GEMINI**

May 21 – June 20

Celebrating with friends, you are enjoying spontaneous gatherings and fresh air. Balancing discipline, you are staying focused on success. Managing work responsibilities with ease, you are thriving under pressure. Fun is fuelling your energy this week.

**CANCER**

June 22 – July 22

Reflecting deeply, you are finding peace in an emotional relationship. Moving towards an agreement, you are fostering lasting bonds. Self-discovery is guiding you to brighter days. Harmony is blossoming as you heal and connect. Open your heart.

**LEO**

July 23 – Aug 22

Cherishing memories, you are revisiting playful times from your youth. Returning home soon, you are ready to reconnect with family. Facing challenges with grace, you are growing stronger. Nostalgia is warming your heart this week. Embrace the familiarity.

**VIRGO**

Aug 23 – Sept 22

Clearing a busy mind, you are choosing honesty and accountability. Temporary setbacks are teaching you resilience. A fresh environment is sparking positive change. Growth is unfolding as you move forward confidently.



Bathroom as wealth's exit point

Managing energy outflow to prevent financial loss

THE bathroom is one of the most overlooked areas in *feng shui*, yet it plays a crucial role in maintaining wealth and energy stability in the home.

Unlike other spaces that gather and distribute *qi* (energy) positively, the bathroom is where water, which symbolises wealth, constantly flows out.

If not properly managed, this outflow of energy can represent financial loss, missed opportunities or even declining health. Although modern homes require bathrooms for hygiene and convenience, their placement and maintenance impact the overall *feng shui* of a home. Ensuring energy does not drain excessively from this space helps maintain prosperity and well-being.

Main exit point for *qi* loss

The toilet is the main exit point for water, making it a significant source of energy loss. Keeping the lavatory lid closed when not in use helps contain the energy, preventing unnecessary wealth outflow.

This simple habit also contributes to hygiene and reduces the spread of bacteria, maintaining a cleaner environment.

Defective pipes and faucets are *feng shui* no-nos

Leaking pipes and dripping faucets are among the biggest *feng shui* concerns in a bathroom.

Water leaks symbolise money slipping away unnoticed. Over time, this can manifest as financial instability or unexpected expenses.

Fixing leaks promptly ensures a stable flow of energy, allowing financial resources to be retained rather than wasted.

Managing bathroom

Since the bathroom carries draining

energy, it is essential to keep its influence minimal in other parts of the home.

Keep the bathroom door closed, especially if it is near the kitchen or bedroom, to prevent *qi* from flowing into essential living spaces.

If the bathroom is directly visible from the main entrance, it may lead to immediate wealth leakage upon entering the home. Placing a divider or keeping the door closed can help control this energy shift.

Maintaining cleanliness and ventilation

A clean and well-ventilated bathroom ensures energy remains fresh and not stagnant. Regular cleaning prevents the accumulation of negative *qi*, which can affect health and financial stability.

If possible, open windows or use an exhaust fan to allow fresh air to circulate, keeping the space from feeling heavy or damp.

Taking care of drainage

Drainage plays a critical role in how energy exits the home. Slow or clogged drains indicate blocked financial flow, creating unnecessary difficulties in income generation.

Regular maintenance ensures a smooth transition of energy without causing problems.

Avoid leaving water to pool in sinks or bathtubs for long periods, as still water can lead to stagnation in finances and opportunities.

Achieving balance of energy

While water is essential, excessive moisture can create an imbalance in energy. Mould, excessive humidity or damp walls represent decay and can contribute to financial instability or health issues.

Using dehumidifiers or keeping the bathroom dry helps regulate *qi*, ensuring a balanced energy flow.

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

**LIBRA**

Sept 23 – Oct 22

Standing tall, you are confidently asserting your worth against a tough authority figure. Celebrating small victories, you are shining brightly. Taking calculated risks, you are keeping peace in chaos. Strength is guiding your bold moves.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Building dreams step by step, you are seizing opportunities with focus. Overcoming brief pauses, you are rethinking plans with clarity. Letting go of perfection, you are pushing forward. Progress is steady as you trust your vision.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov 22 – Dec 21

Breaking routine, you are adding spontaneity with fun outings or surprise dinners. Cherishing time with loved ones, you are finding joy. Moments with family or partners are recharging your spirit. Excitement is filling your days this week.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Trusting intuition, you are uncovering truths that clear doubts and lift your mood. Rising above setbacks, you are embracing patience. Time is revealing answers in your favour. Confidence is growing as you stay steady.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 20 – Feb 18

Leading with passion, you are finding direction and inspiring others around you. Joining a like-minded community, you are feeling welcomed. Questioning the world, you are growing wiser. Acceptance is boosting your confidence this week.

**PISCES**

Feb 19 – March 20

Healing from family challenges, you are learning to let go and rise stronger. Picking yourself up, you are rediscovering your spark. Rejoining the world, you are embracing a fresh start. Resilience is shaping you into a new person.

This is contributed by Mystic Kali Tarot



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Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND
IN THE MATTER OF
KGL REALTY SDN BHD
COMPANY NO. 361990-H

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
Mr. Wong Soon Fong of 221B,
Jalan Mahkota, Taman Maluri,
55100 Kuala Lumpur has been
appointed as the Interim Liquidator
of the Company by its directors on
30.04.2025 pursuant to Section
440(1) of the Companies Act, 2016.

Dated this 04.05.2025

SECTION 440 (1) OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF
INABILITY OF COMPANY TO
CONTINUE BUSINESS, AND THAT
MEETINGS OF THE COMPANY AND
ITS CREDITORS HAVE BEEN
SUMMONED

KGL REALTY SDN BHD
COMPANY NO. 361990-H

I, HOW AH BOY UC No. 331212075140 of KGL REALTY SDN BHD do solemnly and sincerely declare that the company cannot by reason of its liabilities continue its business, and that meetings of members of the company and of its creditors have been summoned for a date within thirty (30) days of the date of this declaration.

The meetings of the Company and of its creditors will be held on 26.05.2025 at 221B, Jalan Mahkota, Taman Maluri, 55100 Kuala Lumpur at 10.00am and 11.00am respectively.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1960.

Subscribed and solemnly declared by the abovesigned
How Ah Boy, Director,
Mid Hamdan Bin Kamarudin
this 30.04.2025.

AN eagle before the turn buoyed Haeran Ryu's second round as the South Korea native increased her lead to two strokes at the Black Desert Championship yesterday in Ivins, Utah.

Ryu fired a 63 on Friday to kick off the inaugural LPGA event at Black Desert Resort. She doubled her lead with yesterday's round of 67 that brought her to 14-under 130, ahead of countrywoman Somi Lee, who posted a second straight 66.

Ryu, ranked 12th in the world, was clinical yesterday, finding 13 of 14 fairways in regulation and 16 of 18 greens

Ryu stays top at Black Desert

in regulation.

Her only bogey came at the third hole, and she responded from that with back-to-back birdies at Nos. 5 and 6, then the eagle at the par-5 ninth.

"I hit driver and yesterday I make (a) par there because my driver going to right and then inside the bunker," Ryu said.

But today afternoon playing was the distance so far, and I just want to hit it

straight at the fairway, and then I think I make some on the green on my second shot.

"So yeah, I did it, so that second shot distance was 210 meters, then little help wind there. My hybrid is a little shorter than that distance, but it's little helping and maybe in desert make some more distance, so I just trust that and make some incredible shot on there. Yeah, make some eagle there."

Ryu added birdies at Nos. 13 and 14 to get her to 14 under.

Tied for third at 11-under are South Korea's Soo Bin Joo (68) and Germany's Esther Henseleit, who worked around a bogey and a double bogey to shoot 68 thanks to seven birdies.

Ariya Jutanugam of Thailand and Wei-Ling Hsu of Taiwan both posted 70 and are tied for fifth at 10-under. — Field Level Media

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Scheffler stands tall

World No. 1 leads Byron Nelson as lightning interrupts play



SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER (pic) shot an 8-under-par 63 and extended his lead at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson to six shots before the second round was suspended yesterday at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, Texas.

Lightning in the area interrupted the round for 6 hours, 15 minutes before play finally resumed in the mid-afternoon. As a result, some players did not begin their second rounds at all, and scores more only finished a few holes.

The tournament will resume overnight, and the third round will follow a cut to the top 65 and ties.

Scheffler is at 18-under 124, his personal-best 36-hole score on the PGA Tour and one shy of Justin Thomas' tour record of 19-under (2017 Sony Open in Hawaii).

After a 10-under 61 on Friday, the World No. 1 started his second round on the back nine and opened with eight straight pars before eagling the par-5 18th with a 9 1/2-foot putt.

That's when the lightning delay began; when he got back out on the course, Scheffler proceeded to make six birdies on the front nine to run away from the pack.

"I feel like my game's in a good spot," Scheffler said. "I had two really solid days

of golf, and looking forward to getting out tomorrow and trying to execute some more shots.

"I had some good starts recently. I had a good start at the Masters, solid start, and then I had a chance here in Houston. Overall, I had a decent week in Hilton Head.

"I didn't have a great Sunday, but overall I played some pretty solid golf. So I definitely feel like my game is trending in the right direction."

Sam Stevens shot his second straight 65 to get to 12-under. Just behind him in third place is Ricky Castillo (66), followed by Venezuela's Jhonattan Vegas (69).

Jordan Spieth, a Dallas native like Scheffler, is in line to make the cut after his second round of 67 boosted him to 6-under.

Stevens completed his bogey-free round with back-to-back birdies.

"It was good," Stevens said of his effort. "This course, there's a lot of birdie opportunities, and I've done a good job of not making any mistakes, no bogeys through 36 holes.

"Just take advantage of the gettable holes and kind of stay clean with the card, and you can have some good rounds out here." — Field Level Media

DeChambeau, Gooch knotted at LIV Golf Korea

TALOR GOOCH and Bryson DeChambeau share the lead at 7-under at LIV Golf South Korea after the opening round at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Club in Incheon, South Korea.

DeChambeau was bogey-free, dropping a birdie putt on the final hole to complete the first round atop the leaderboard alongside Gooch, the 2023 individual champion on the circuit who has been rounding into form of late.

Gooch rode separate streaks of three consecutive birdies over an eight-hole stretch and helped Smash GC grab the team lead. The Brooks Koepka-led crew posted a cumulative score of 10-under to lead DeChambeau and Crushers GC by one shot.

"Yeah, it was a tough start to the year," said Gooch. "The game was pretty rusty. It's

been nice these past couple events to show some life and get some good golf going again.

"Hopefully this round kind of kick-starts a good rest of the season and we can kind of channel some of that 2023 season again."

DeChambeau described his round as "grueling" but wielded a hot putter to make up for what he felt was shaky iron play.

"I'm excited for the weekend," DeChambeau said after watching his 65th shot of the first round, a 10-foot putt, find the bottom of the cup. "It's going to be a fun battle."

South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen is tied for third place. He shot 66 and his Stinger GC is fourth in team scoring behind Rangeboats GC.

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Notices

NOTIS MENCARI IBU DAN BAPA KANDUNG

KEPADA SESIAPA YANG BERKENAAN

Sila ambil perhatian bahawa satu permohonan untuk perintah pengangkatan seorang kanak-kanak lelaki yang dilahirkan pada 25 Mei 2011, jam 12:57 tengah hari di Poliklinik Indra dan Pusat Bersalin Klang telah difailkan melalui Saman Pemula Pengangkatan No: BI-58-3-03/2025.

Pemohonan tersebut telah ditetapkan untuk pendengaran pada 30 Mei 2025, jam 9:00 pagi di Mahkamah Sesyen Dan Majistret Bandar Baru Bangi, Lot 3, Jalan 15/1, Off Jalan Pekeliling, Seksyen 15, 43650 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, di mana kehadiran ibu dan bapa kandung kanak-kanak tersebut adalah diwajibkan.

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SHORTS

McLaren leave tools in Norris' car
FORMULA ONE drivers are always asking teams to give them the tools for success but champions McLaren went a step too far when they left two torches in Lando Norris' car at the Miami Grand Prix yesterday.

"You've left so many tools in the cockpit. Everything is just falling apart," the Briton exclaimed over the team radio as he went out for the sole practice session before sprint qualifying.

Last year's race winner Norris pitted, tossing the offending items out of the cockpit.

"Just a little mistake there, a little silly, a little embarrassing but all good," McLaren boss Zak Brown told *Sky Sports* television.

Stewards issued a warning to McLaren after summoning a team representative after the session.

"The team admitted in the hearing that they made a genuine mistake by leaving two torches/flashlights in the cockpit when releasing Car 4 from the garage," the officials said in a statement.

"However, the driver realised directly after entering the track that some equipment was in the car and was able to secure both parts shortly after leaving the pit exit before returning slowly to the pits."

Stewards determined the car was released in an unsafe condition but Norris's quick reactions were taken into account in mitigation.

Wolff backs Hamilton to come good

MERCEDES chief Toto Wolff believes his former star driver Lewis Hamilton will be back to his best despite a difficult start to life with Ferrari.

The seven-time world champion left Mercedes after 12 years to join Ferrari this season but the 40-year-old has been well behind teammate Charles Leclerc so far.

The Briton's only success this year came in the sprint race in Shanghai and Wolff said that the win was enough to show that Hamilton still has what it takes.

"We have seen that magic in the sprint race in Shanghai. He dominated that race, and it is not like you have that magic in one race, and then suddenly you lose it in the following one," said the Mercedes team CEO.

"I very much believe it is still there. If he aligns his performance contributors, is in the right space, and the car is to his liking, he will be stellar, and I have no doubt about that."

Wolff said it was not a shock that Hamilton would need time to adjust to a new car and new team after so long at Mercedes.

"I am not surprised he has hit those road bumps because he was with us for 12 years and he has been put in a Ferrari where his teammate has been for a long time, and his teammate is clearly one of the very good ones," he said.

"So, if I look from the outside and speaking to him, too, it is a trajectory that any new driver needs to go through at a top team."

Draper ousts Musetti to book Ruud date

BRITAIN'S Jack Draper ousted Italian Lorenzo Musetti yesterday to set up a Madrid Open title showdown with Norwegian Casper Ruud who overcame a rib issue to book his final ticket.

Ruud squeezed into the 25th tour-level final of his career with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Argentine Francisco Cerundolo after a medical timeout because of chest and back discomfort.

Ruud was followed into the final by Draper who battled to a 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Monte Carlo runner-up Musetti.

"To be back in a Masters 1000 final feels great," said Ruud. "It's not every day you get to play for these titles. I've been in two finals before and lost both, so hopefully it'll be

third time is a charm."

The Norwegian lost both of his two previous Masters 1000 finals – in 2024 Monte Carlo and 2022 Miami – and will be gunning for his first title at this level today.

"Casper is such an experienced player, someone who has made finals of two Grand Slams, is just a complete pro, and someone who always gives his best and is so tough to beat," said Draper.

"He's in the final, he's playing well, and I'm going to have to bring my A-game for sure."

Ruud saved a whopping 15 of 18 break points during the one-hour 54-minute clash.

Overcoming early chest discomfort and in the face of a rowdy pro-Argentinian crowd, Ruud was proud of how he handled

the adversity.

"Another good win for me against a tough player that I lost to earlier this year, so nice to get the revenge," said the 26-year-old Ruud.

After dropping to 15 in the world, Ruud is projected to return to the top 10 by virtue of reaching the final.

"I wasn't sure I was going to be able to finish the match, honestly," said the Norwegian.

"My physio took a look at it after and cracked my back up, which felt like a relief. Hopefully it's nothing too serious."

"I'll do everything we can, and I can, to feel better for tomorrow. Based on the way it felt, it shouldn't be too much to worry about for Sunday." – AFP

Antonelli shocker in Miami

... as Mercedes rookie becomes youngest pole-sitter in F1 history

MERCEDES teenager Kimi Antonelli powered to a shock pole position in yesterday's qualifying for the Miami Grand Prix sprint race, delivering a sizzling final lap to become the youngest-ever driver to take pole in Formula One.

The 18-year-old Antonelli stormed to the front of the grid for today's race with a fastest lap of 1:26.482 to leave the McLaren pair of Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris in second and third.

"It was a very intense qualifying. I felt really good since this morning and I felt good going into qualifying. I put everything together, so really happy to get the first pole," said the teenager.

"Tomorrow will be nice to start on the front row, will be a bit of a different feeling."

The rookie, who only passed his driving test in January, entered F1's record books last month when he became the youngest driver to lead a race, breaking a record held by Max Verstappen from 2016 in Japan.

Having added another record, he said he felt the weekend off after the Saudi Grand Prix had been important to him in his rookie season.

"Every weekend I learn massively. Last week, having

a break really helped me to gather information and process it all and recharging the batteries, it was really good," he said.

"The whole qualifying I felt I was able to make a step lap by lap. I'm much more aware of how to do a consistent warm up and extract more out of the tyres but there's a lot to improve."

"Every weekend I get more confident with the car, can play with it more and explore the limits. At the same time, I can understand more from the set-up and give much better feedback which allows the team to improve the car."

Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff was

purring in the paddock after the stunning display from the Bologna born driver.

"He's a young man... Hopefully we make a lot of fun in the future, a lot of happiness," he said.

"It's about the trajectory. It's not whether it's a pole in the sprint, or tomorrow, he has done it and he's quickest."

Antonelli's British teammate George Russell had to settle for fifth place on the grid.

"I've been struggling a little bit today, a little bit off the pace, not been so comfortable," he said.

"We just wanted to go on the early side

because ultimately I didn't quite have that confidence, and we thought maybe if there's a yellow or a red at the end of the session, it will come our way."

"P5 today, not great, more to improve, but amazing for Kimi and the team. Massive congrats to Kimi. Really pleased to see. He did an amazing job. He has been really quick all day. Really impressive."

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who announced the birth of a daughter on Friday, finished in fourth place.

There was more frustration for Ferrari with Charles Leclerc finishing sixth, a place ahead of teammate Lewis Hamilton.

"Bad. The lap was good. But the pace is just not at all there for now, so it's a bit annoying but it's the way it is for now," said the Monte-Carlo racer.

"I'll try my best tomorrow to try to do something special with the start, but to be honest, there's not much room for improvement today. It was just... that's the pace of the car."

Hamilton said he didn't see much chance to move up in Saturday's sprint.

"Not really. I think all the cars ahead are faster. I don't know what else to say," he admitted. – AFP



Andrea Kimi Antonelli. – AFP/PIC

Red-hot Sudharsan's stock soars in IPL and beyond

GUJARAT TITANS opener B Sai Sudharsan continued his red-hot form in the Indian Premier League to lead the Orange Cap race for IPL's top scorer and stake his claim for a Test debut in India's tour of England later this year.

The left-handed batter smashed 48 off 23 balls and forged an 87-run opening stand with skipper Shubman Gill (76) to set up Gujarat's 38-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad yesterday.

Gujarat rose to No. 2 in the points table while ninth-placed Hyderabad are now tottering on the brink of elimination in the 10-team league.

Jos Buttler, batting at No. 3, struck 64 to

make sure Gujarat's top three remain among the season's four leading run scorers.

"Sudharsan has a great head on his shoulders," former England captain Buttler gushed about his Gujarat teammate, whose 504 runs from 10 matches is the highest this season.

"Blown away by how good he is. He puts in the work, understands his game well. He's shown great consistency and is getting the rewards he deserves."

Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins said he was impressed by how Shubman and Sudharsan accumulated quick runs playing traditional cricket shots.

"They're class batters in GT," Cummins

said. "They don't do anything outlandish."

Sudharsan played for Surrey in the County Championship in 2023 and 2024 and former India coach Ravi Shastri would like to see the 23-year-old in the five-test series in England beginning in Headingley on June 20.

"I see this young man for all formats of the game," Shastri told the International Cricket Council. "He seems like a class player and my eyes would be on him certainly."

"Being a left-hander in England, knowing English conditions, and just his technique – I think he'll be top of the list for me from the outsiders wanting to get into this side." – Reuters

Slot exceeds expectations

Transitional season turns triumphant under Dutchman's deft approach and Liverpool players' willingness to adjust to new era

BY RICHARD JOLLY

AFTER Jurgen Klopp had dropped his bombshell, when Liverpool were assessing the contenders to replace him, several aspects of Arne Slot's record counted in his favour.

There was the reputation for over-performing, for exceeding his targets. The Feyenoord head coach had won a historic club just their second league title of the 21st century.

Slot was not initially the favourite – externally, anyway – for the Liverpool job. Nor were Liverpool the favourites to become champions after his appointment.

Just their second League title of the 21st century has followed after he overperformed again; the club set him the objective of qualifying for the Champions League.

History has repeated itself. For Slot and, in a way, for Liverpool. The coach plucked from the Netherlands becomes their third manager to win the League in his debut campaign, after Joe Fagan and Kenny Dalglish.

Two men promoted from within in the 1980s were internal appointments. Slot was both the outsider and the continuity candidate, new to the club, League and country but selected in part because they felt he would suit Klopp's players. He proved a seamless fit.

A triumph of planning has also been a case of exceeding expectations. Liverpool came third last season but both Slot and his captain, Virgil van Dijk, have said that no one expected them to challenge for the title this year. The backdrop of the uncertainty caused by Klopp's departure was one reason.

Another was that, for the Liverpool players who were at Euro 2024 or the Copa America, their first experience of Slot was delayed until a few training sessions before the two friendlies against Las Palmas and Sevilla, a week before the season started.

Yet excitement had been building among those on the pre-season tour of the United States.

Curtis Jones and Mohamed Salah were impressed and enthused by the new man, the midfielder's bullishness when he said he was "probably the happiest I've been" meant he later had to clarify he was not criticising Klopp.

The Egyptian has produced what is arguably a career-best campaign for Slot: 33 goals, 23 assists and counting, aided by being spared some defensive duties.

When they did their due diligence, Liverpool had noted how Slot could conjure more from

players with his coaching. At Anfield, he had an idea of what to change while giving the impression little had changed.

Yet the alterations were not radical, drastic or needless. Van Dijk appreciated the tactical shift to give him a midfielder dropping deeper, allowing him to play different passes.

Luis Diaz was initially a revelation when switched to become a striker, even if his form tailed off when used in the middle. Cody Gakpo benefited from playing purely on the left.

The flagship success was Ryan Gravenberch, reinvented as the holding midfielder after the main transfer target, Martin Zubimendi, opted to stay at Real Sociedad.

It underlined a difference between Slot and Klopp, who preferred Wataru Endo as a defensive midfielder whereas the Dutchman, appreciating the Japanese's character but wanting a midfielder with greater passing ability, used him as a closer, to see out games.

If Slot adapted to the circumstances at Anfield, he did again when Zubimendi opted out.

It brought another parallel with Liverpool's past: in 2019-20, when Klopp won the Premier League, the only senior signing was a back-up goalkeeper, Adrian.

Now Liverpool bought a goalkeeper, in Giorgi Mamardashvili, but sent him back to Valencia on loan so the only arrival in the squad was Federico Chiesa, who has not started a League game.

Slot instead worked with those he inherited. Gravenberch apart, perhaps the biggest beneficiary of regime change was Ibrahima Konate, the man brought on in his first, and perhaps most significant substitution.

At half-time in his competitive bow, at Ipswich, Slot decided Jarell Quansah was winning too few duels and replaced him with Konate. A 0-0 draw became a 2-0 win and Konate



way of implying that some arrivals from the Eredivisie were good enough.

And yet a valuable lesson was soon dispensed. Liverpool lost their fourth game, at home to Nottingham Forest.

The setback to Forest was followed by a 26-game unbeaten run in the top flight. Some, those at Anfield believe, were crucial in showing Liverpool had the mettle required.

The spell that helped persuade everyone what was possible came after the international break. Liverpool were conscious of the criticism they benefited from an easy start.

Yet then they had a 10-game spell of Chelsea, RB Leipzig, Arsenal, Brighton, Brighton again, Bayer Leverkusen, Aston Villa, Southampton, Real Madrid and Manchester City. They won nine and drew the other one, increasing belief within the club.

The back-to-back victories over Real and City rendered them the best team in Europe at that point.

Slot did not make too much of winning the Champions League's inaugural 36-team group stage, and Liverpool exited the competition in the last 16, but it was a sign of consistency.

There has been a consistency to Slot, too. Behind the scenes, he shows the calmness he usually demonstrates in public.

His unworried temperament and low-key approach was an asset during the saga of the three contracts.

It was ultimately a vote of confidence in him from Salah and Van Dijk that they re-signed for a further two years each.

Slot got the end result he wanted, but he had never seemed distracted by the backdrop, or by much else.

Compared to Klopp, there were fewer complaints about the calendar, none about 12.30pm kickoffs. He rarely moaned about injuries, perhaps leading fans of some other clubs to think Liverpool never had any.

It was what made Slot's loss of temper at the end of the 2-2 draw at Goodison Park out of character. And yet, despite the tempestuous end, that Merseyside derby may have worked in Liverpool's favour.

It was rearranged from December because of Storm Darragh; it was due to be played three days after they conceded an injury-time equaliser at Newcastle, when they were short of defenders and without the banned Mac Allister.

If Slot's Liverpool won the League the way Klopp's team did five years earlier, by setting a fearsome pace, piling up the points early in the season and distancing their challengers, they profited from City's struggles.

They also caused some of them, a shift in the balance of power showed by two 2-0 wins.

By the time Liverpool lost form and momentum themselves, it may have cost them the Carabao Cup – Slot felt they did much right in the Champions League defeat to Paris Saint-Germain – but not the Premier League.

There was some irritation within the club at some of the reaction when, within a week, a potential treble was reduced to a lone trophy.

The fact is that it is only Liverpool's second League title in 35 years; and yet they had led for so long, that it had seemed such a formality, that some appeared to take it for granted.

Liverpool did not. Salah had said the title was his top priority. Others were of a similar mind. They got their wish.

A transitional season became a triumphant one, a smooth succession underlining how well they had chosen but also Slot's deft approach and his players' willingness to adjust to the new era.

Slot had not fallen into the trap of trying to be his idiosyncratic predecessor. Before his first game at Anfield, he said he would not copy Klopp's trademark, crowd-pleasing fist pumps.

But without the German's huge charisma or innate quotability, what he instead delivered was a feat of quiet competence.

Like Liverpool when they needed to replace the seemingly irreplaceable manager, Slot got his decisions right. – The Independent

De Bruyne makes his point

Match winning display by unwanted star sinks Wolves

PEP GUARDIOLA insisted Kevin De Bruyne has nothing to prove to anyone as the outgoing Manchester City star continued his fine run of form with the only goal in a 1-0 win over Wolves.

De Bruyne is due to leave the Etihad this

summer following a decade at the club after City bosses decided not to offer the 33-year-old a new contract.

Since the news was announced De Bruyne has put in some eye-catching performances, and did so again to settle a tight contest against in-form Wolves, who hit the post through both Matheus Cunha and Rayan Ait-Nouri.

After the game De Bruyne told *Sky Sports* his performances over the past month have "shown I can still play", but it will be for somebody else next season.

This was De Bruyne's penultimate home game for City, only the fixture against Bournemouth on May 20 remains, but he was able to celebrate with fans at the end.

"(It's) really good," Guardiola said. "Against Crystal Palace at 2-0 down his goal gave us the momentum to come back. I'm sure it's not easy for him but his contribution has been massive, important."

Asked if De Bruyne is irreplaceable, the City boss added: "There are players like Sergio (Aguero), like Kevin, like Vinny (Vincent Kompany) who are in the heart of the people."

"Not just

titles and numbers, contributions in terms of affection and love and passion for all of us one decade here, helping us to win absolutely everything. And still is here.

"He doesn't have to prove anything, I know his quality and his level. That's all."

Victory was City's fifth in a row in all competitions - fourth in the League - and moves them up to third, four points clear of Nottingham Forest in the battle for a top-five slot.

They are only three points behind second-placed Arsenal, who have a game in hand but must yet travel to Anfield.

However, Guardiola insisted the Gunners are not in his sights.

"That is not the target," he said. "(The target) is to qualify for the Champions League, and the FA Cup final."

Wolves saw a six-game winning run in the League come to an end, but they were still enthusiastically applauded by the travelling fans after a battling performance.

Boss Vitor Pereira said: "It was a very good game, tactically, technically. I saw in my team the spirit that I want to see, the mentality to compete and

until the last minute we tried to score.

"Of course there are some moments where we need to defend because we faced a very strong team but in the end I'm very happy, I'm very proud of my team, very proud of my players and very proud of the supporters."

"It's just the result that was not what we want."

"Next time I will ask before the game to move the post out, and then we will score at least two goals." - The Independent

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3305 4773	4773 3305
3305 6486	6486 3305
4773 6486	6486 4773

Jackpot 2 **RM 468,136.56**
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	3305	+	
2nd Prize	4773	+	
3rd Prize	6486	+	GOAT
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	+	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D
1ST 5 8 2 1 5
2ND 8 2 4 9 7
3RD 0 2 3 5 7
4TH 8 2 1 5
5TH 2 1 5
6TH 1 5

6D
1ST 9 4 9 6 0 2
2ND 9 4 9 6 0
3RD 9 4 9 6
4TH 9 4 9
5TH 9 4

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SUPREME 7
2 12 32 37 40 53
Jackpot **RM 37,659,151.45**

POWER 6
1 2 9 19 21 54
Jackpot **RM 12,465,797.16**

STAR 6
4 24 29 31 32 40 + 15
Jackpot 1 **RM 5,393,043.34**
Jackpot 2 **RM 100,000.00**

Toto 4D Jackpot 1 (i-System)
RM 3,930,362
won on 30/04/2025!
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Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne celebrates after the match. - REUTERS/SPIC

Pep to take a break after City

PEP GUARDIOLA has said he will take a break from football when he leaves Manchester City - but he is yet to decide when that might be.

Guardiola signed a new deal at the Etihad Stadium in November, tying himself to the club for two more seasons, which would take his total time at the club to 11 years.

In an interview with *ESPN Brasil*, the 54-year-old appeared to indicate he would leave City at the end of that deal, but later told *Sky Sports* he said he does not yet know when his time in Manchester might end.

But Guardiola, who took a year out after leaving Barcelona and before taking charge of Bayern Munich in 2013, said he was not planning to retire after leaving City.

"I didn't say I'm leaving now, or the end of season or the end of contract, I said when I finish my time here, be it one, two, three, four, five years I will take a break," Guardiola told *Sky Sports* before yesterday's match against Wolves.

"I won't retire but I will take a break. What I am saying is when I am finished here I will take a break."

In the earlier interview with *ESPN*, Guardiola had seemed less certain,

saying: "I don't know if I'm going to retire, but I'm going to take a break."

Contemplating his trophy-laden coaching legacy, which also encompasses spells at the top of Spanish and German football, the Catalanian added that he was confident supporters of the clubs he had managed had enjoyed watching his sides play.

"In the careers of coaches, there are good and bad ones, the important thing is that the good ones are remembered for longer," he added.

"There are new challenges as a coach, I don't know what will happen in the future and in the end that doesn't matter."

City have been off the pace this season, sitting 18 points behind Premier League champions Liverpool and scrambling to stay in the Champions League places, but Guardiola claims he has picked up valuable lessons along the way.

"It has been a year of great learning for me personally," he said. "I knew there would be a moment when we would fall, but we fell a lot."

"Now we have to sit down and learn to try to understand what we need to produce in the future." - The Independent

WINNING NUMBERS
PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL
Draw Date: 03/05/25 (Sat) Draw No: 5908/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER 1+3D

1st Prize	0725
2nd Prize	3666
3rd Prize	0081

Starters
9216 6995
5742 1024
9261 5261
1992 9115
2332 5925

Consolation
1475 3003
3887 4041
6276 3125
4874 8915
9474 8975

1+3D Jackpot
Jackpot 1 **RM35,287,699.60**

0725 + 3666	3666 + 0725
0725 + 0081	0081 + 0725
3666 + 0081	0081 + 3666

Jackpot 2 **RM1,854,083.70**
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
790 725 +	BOAR	RM140,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
113 666 +	BOAR	RM982,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
270 081 +	OX	RM2,051,506.00

Starters
229 216 956 995
465 742 841 024
789 261 735 261
291 992 389 115
462 332 055 925

Consolation
501 475 003 003
233 887 874 041
916 276 983 125
864 874 428 915
919 474 778 975

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
725	666	081

3D Jackpot
Jackpot **RM620,729.30**

725 + 666 + 081	666 + 081 + 725
725 + 081 + 666	081 + 725 + 666
666 + 725 + 081	081 + 666 + 725

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

HSSB 1+3D J1 RM162,923.70 & J2 RM1334,937.30 won on 30/4/25!

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SPORTS

15

THE Malaysian League (M-League), once celebrated as the cornerstone of Southeast Asian football, is now struggling to maintain its relevance as it faces significant challenges, including financial difficulties, waning fan interest, a lack of competitive balance, and the potential withdrawal of clubs.

What is unfolding now serves as a warning – a system once built on hope is collapsing under the weight of unresolved structural cracks.

Club withdrawals are now a clear indicator of a troubling reality in the M-League, which has also been plagued by months of unpaid salaries for players and officials.

Perak FC recently decided to dissolve its team and withdraw from the upcoming season of the Super League season due to financial difficulties, having reportedly spent nearly RM40 million over the past three years.

At least three other teams with significant fan base – Kedah Darul Aman FC, Sri Pahang FC, and Kelantan Darul Naim FC – are also contemplating similar exits due to escalating financial issues.

Each club requires between RM8 million and RM15 million annually to operate their senior team.

However, is it fair to place the entire burden of Malaysia's football crisis on the clubs when the root cause may run much deeper?

Former FAM Executive Committee member Christopher Raj highlighted Perak as a team with a rich history that faces challenges due to the high cost of competing in the Super League, which offers little return on investment (ROI).

"When companies investing in football see no ROI, they are accountable to shareholders and stakeholders and must justify their continued investment in the national

The M-League dilemma

Team withdrawals, waning fan support and single team dominance plague football competition

or state football scene.

"In this case, it affects more than just stakeholders – players, coaches, and other staff are also impacted. But the players suffer the most.

"Secondly, I believe that, above all, we need quality teams. If we focus on quantity, many issues and challenges will arise.

"What's the point of having 20 or even 16 to 18 teams if nine are facing financial crises?" asked Christopher when speaking to *Bernama*.

The M-League is now seen as no longer a competitive battleground but one dominated by a single team that has won nearly all major trophies over the past decade. This predictability has led to declining fan interest.

This differs from leagues in developed countries like Japan, South Korea, and Europe, which strive to maintain competitive parity.

Christopher added that the decline in stadium attendance shouldn't be viewed solely as a result of team dominance but rather through multiple perspectives – particularly economic factors impacting fans.

"The low turnout might be attributed to boredom with local football, predictable outcomes, or declining interest. However, economic constraints cannot be overlooked.

"For example, for someone earning RM4,000 a month, to bringing three family members to a football match might cost around RM200 per game. Multiply that by four games a month, and it's RM800 – a significant burden to watch football.

"As a result, fans are making selective choices. They only attend certain marquee matches – like Selangor vs JDT (Johor Darul Ta'zim) or Terengganu vs JDT. They no longer attend every match," he added.

Football analyst Datuk Dr. Pekan Ramli said the M-League crisis should not be attributed solely to competing teams.

He added that the issue also arises from the need for internal reforms, including strengthening league management and competition regulations, to restore stakeholder confidence.

"We hope the Malaysian Football League (MFL) conducts a thorough review and identifies its weaknesses across multiple aspects. Review competition rules, especially the excessive number of foreign player quotas".

Pekan added that there is also a need to immediately address officiating quality to prevent negative perceptions about referees' credibility.



China's Shi Yuqi celebrates his win against Japan's Kodai Naraoka during their men's singles semifinal match at the Sudirman Cup. – AFP/PPIC

Aira storms into Bermuda Open final

NATIONAL SQUASH player Aira Azman advanced to the final of the Bermuda Open 2025 after defeating her elder sister, Aifa, in the semifinals yesterday.

In the match held in Devonshire, Bermuda, the 20-year-old top seed recovered from a slow start, having lost the opening set 4-11, before rallying to win the following three sets 11-4, 11-8, 11-6.

Aira continued her winning streak against her older sister, following their last meeting on the PSA Tour at the Australian Open last year, which Aira also won in four sets.

The victory sends Aira into her first final of the season. She will face second seed Hana Moataz in the final after the Egyptian edged past compatriot Amina El Rihany.

Hana was pushed to the limit before sealing a 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-7, 11-9 win in a match that lasted nearly an hour.

Meanwhile in New York City, Joachim Chuah and Yee Xin Ying made their way into the men's and women's semifinal at the Hyder Trophy.

World No. 149 Joachim delivered a good performance to take down second seed Cesar Salazar of Mexico 11-8, 11-7, 11-7, and will now meet England's Sam Todd in the semifinal.

In the women's category, fourth seed Xin Ying fought her way back and managed to secure a 9-11, 7-11, 11-3, 11-2 win against Isabelle Tang of the United States.

Xin Ying is now set to meet second seed Chan Sin Yuk of Hong Kong in the semifinal.

The status of teams participation in next season's Super League will only be confirmed after May 10 – the extended deadline for completing the National License application documentation – but without structural reforms and a holistic approach covering governance, financial stability, and competitive balance, Malaysian football risks losing more clubs and the trust of a new generation of fans.

From financial woes and opaque governance to unclear development direction, the M-League is now akin to a building without a solid foundation. – *Bernama*

RESULTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Manchester City 1 (De Bruyne 35) Wolves 0.

LA LIGA: Rayo Vallecano 1 (Lejeune 7) Getafe 0.

SERIE A: Torino 1 (Vlasic 77-pen) Venezia 1 (Kike Perez 36).

BUNDESLIGA: Heidenheim 0 Bochum 0.

LIGUE 1: Nice 1 Reims 0.

SHORTS

China power past Japan to reach Sudirman Cup final

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS China advanced to the final of badminton's Sudirman Cup with a commanding 3-0 victory over Japan yesterday, captivating the home crowd as they close in on a record-extending 14th title.

China's world No. 2 mixed doubles pair Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping set the tone, beating Hiroki Midorikawa and Arisa Igarashi 21-11, 21-17 in the opener.

Top seed Shi Yuqi then crushed eighth-ranked Kodai Naraoka 21-8, 21-16 in the men's singles to hand China a 2-0 lead.

Japan showed resilience in the women's singles, where Akane Yamaguchi, who had won 21 of her previous 33 encounters with Chen Yufei, pushed the Tokyo Games champion to three games but Chen held her nerve to prevail 17-21, 21-9, 21-16.

China, who have won the biennial mixed team championship 13 times, will meet either four-times champions South Korea or 1989 winners Indonesia in the final, with the two teams facing off in the other semifinal clash.

Winning Results

Full payment guaranteed

Draw No: 198/25 Date: 03/05/2025

4D Classic

1st Prize **1958**

2nd Prize **9447**

3rd Prize **0313**

SPECIAL	CONSOLATION
6986 2177	8676 0823
1352 9181	7686 0335
2805 4583	3253 9827
5197 8778	1317 8229
0558 5860	8355 6701

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM11,336,806.99**

1958 + 9447	1958 + 0313
9447 + 1958	9447 + 0313
0313 + 1958	0313 + 9447

Jackpot 2 **RM158,148.49**

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+
1 35

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2nd Prize
RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days

Jackpot Gold

Jackpot 1 **RM11,565,717.68**

Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 **RM113,554.53**

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	5 8 4 7 1 3	
GROUP 2	58471	OR 84713
GROUP 3	5847	OR 4713
GROUP 4	584	OR 713
GROUP 5	58	OR 13
	OR 47	
GOLDEN NUMBER	09	

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit to www.magnum4d.my for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



Against all odds



How Slot's clever tactical tweaks and calm reinvented Liverpool to become champions without a single major signing

Story on **page 13**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Ryan Gravenberch,
manager Arne Slot,
Darwin Nunez, Virgil
van Dijk and Mohamed
Salah. — REUTERS/SPIC

