



'Mi Tikus' a hit with Ipoh folk

Dish of short *laksa* noodles stir-fried with onions, eggs, prawns and soy sauce delights foodies across all races.

Report on
page 6

Tariff shield

Government unveils six initiatives aimed at developing strategies to safeguard Malaysia's economy, especially SMEs, from impact of sudden import duty hike by US.

Report on
page 2



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said trade-related policy coordination will be strengthened via the National Geo Economic Action Centre, which is tasked with monitoring critical economic indicators. – BERNAMAPIC

Production of special grade eggs to be ramped up

Move to provide public with more affordable options while helping to stabilise prices following govt decision to end the subsidy on Aug 1.

Report on
page 3

Major drug ring crippled in East Coast raids

Police seize 590kg of methamphetamine and heroin base worth RM25 million meant for Australian market.

Report on
page 5



Govt rolls out **RM2.55b** aid to mitigate impact of US tariffs

➤ Funding initiative among measures to cushion economy, strengthen trade ties and expand into new markets, says Anwar

■ BY DEEPAKSHMI MANICKAM
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia has introduced a series of strategic initiatives to shield its economy – particularly its small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – from the impact of the sudden import tariff hike imposed by the United States on April 2, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Addressing a special Dewan Rakyat sitting yesterday, Anwar said the government has agreed to increase its guarantee under the Business Financing Guarantee Scheme by RM1 billion. The move is aimed at helping SME exporters secure loans from commercial banks in response to the new tariffs.

In addition, an extra RM500 million in soft loan funding will be channelled through development financial institutions to support affected SME entrepreneurs, he said.

"This will be closely monitored, especially in coordination with the SMEs involved."

Anwar said the funding initiatives are part of six broader measures crafted to preserve Malaysia's economic stability and safeguard national interests in the short and medium term.

To help Malaysian companies access new markets, he said an additional RM50 million will be allocated to the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade). The funds, he added, will support SME participation in international trade exhibitions, business matchmaking and other export-driven activities.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said trade-related policy coordination will be enhanced through the National Geo Economic Action Centre.

The centre will monitor key economic indicators such as manufacturing orders, export volumes, retail sales, employment trends and credit access.

"This integrated approach is intended to create a dynamic, data-driven policy

platform that enables timely and targeted interventions."

As part of efforts to maintain strong bilateral ties amid the tariff standoff, he said the government has proceeded with strategic imports and purchases from the US. Notably, Malaysia Aviation Group has formalised an order of 30 Boeing aircraft, with an option for 30 more, he said.

Trade and investment processes will also be streamlined in priority sectors such as agriculture, finance and digital technology.

Anwar cited the government's cloud framework initiative, which includes participation from tech giants like Google, Amazon and Microsoft, as part of efforts to digitally transform the public sector.

To attract high-value investments, he said Malaysia is crafting investment-friendly policies that enhance intellectual property rights protection, particularly in high-tech

industries like semiconductors and electronic chip manufacturing.

He also said in response to rising global trade tensions, the government is ramping up cross-border development projects, including the Asean Power Grid.

Closer to home, economic activities in border areas will be intensified through initiatives like the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, which will benefit from special incentives, he added.

To support these efforts, RM1 billion will be allocated to upgrade border infrastructure between Sarawak, Sabah and Kalimantan in Indonesia to facilitate smoother two-way trade.

Anwar said Malaysia recently exported certified sustainable palm oil to the United Kingdom tariff-free under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Additionally, negotiations for the Malaysia-European Free Trade Association partnership agreement were concluded in April, with the agreement expected to be signed next month.

Anwar said the government will also fast-track development projects and investment approvals as part of the Madani Economy reform agenda.



POISED TO ADAPT ... Malaysia intensifies efforts to diversify export destinations amid fallout from America's foreign policies under President Donald Trump. – **AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN**

M'sia's strong fundamentals will weather global shocks: PM

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has assured Parliament that Malaysia remains resilient in the face of global economic uncertainties, including the recent announcement of retaliatory tariffs by the US.

He said Malaysia's solid economic fundamentals, strengthened by ongoing reforms under the Madani Economic Framework, has positioned the country to navigate both current and future challenges.

"With a resilient domestic economy and strong confidence, we are not easily swayed by external pressures or overwhelmed by global challenges."

"We have the figures and data, which can be managed and used wisely."

Anwar highlighted Malaysia's strong macroeconomic performance in 2024, with GDP growth at 5.1%, surpassing the Budget 2024 forecast of 4.0–5.0%. This, he said marks a significant improvement from the 3.6% recorded in 2023.

"We are confident in our trajectory. The macroeconomic data, including the projected reduction of the fiscal deficit from 5.5% in 2022 to

3.8% in 2025, shows that our strategies are working."

Anwar also noted that approved investments hit a record RM378.5 billion in 2023, the highest in Malaysia's history and a 14.9% increase compared with the previous year. He said this underscores strong investor confidence in the country's direction.

He acknowledged the seriousness of the imposed tariffs but stressed that the government would manage the situation pragmatically and in Malaysia's national interest, while preserving positive ties with all trade partners.

"The US is a key export destination and our largest source of foreign investments. We are addressing these challenges based on pragmatism and diplomacy."

Anwar said Malaysia is not overly dependent on any single market. He cited growing exports to non-traditional markets such as Egypt, Pakistan and Cambodia, and reiterated that trade ties with Asean, China, Japan and regional partners remain strong.

The US tariff issue is expected to feature prominently at the upcoming Asean-Gulf

Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit and Asean-China talks later this month.

Despite external pressures, Anwar said Malaysia's export performance remains solid, particularly in the electrical and electronics sector.

"We are seeing encouraging growth, and with the postponement of the tariff implementation, the short-term impact is expected to be manageable."

Looking ahead, Anwar said the government remains committed to structural economic reforms under the Madani framework to ensure Malaysia builds a robust and diversified economy.

"We've developed a strong supply chain ecosystem and are actively diversifying our export products and destinations to avoid over-reliance on vulnerable sectors."

He urged Malaysians to remain optimistic and united in the face of global uncertainties.

"We have faced greater challenges in our history, and we've always emerged stronger. This government will continue to lead with clarity, courage and compassion," Anwar added. – **DEEPAKSHMI MANICKAM**

GDP forecast may be revised: Finance minister

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is considering revising the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast set in Budget 2025 after gaining more clarity from Malaysia's negotiations with the US.

Describing the situation as dynamic, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim explained that it is highly likely the country will not achieve the GDP growth forecast for this year, which is between 4.5% and 5.5%.

"The Finance Ministry and Bank Negara Malaysia are looking into the impact of the tariffs and will review the GDP growth forecast once there is more certainty about President Trump's policies and the results of our negotiations with the US."

He said as Malaysia practices an open economy, the issue is a matter of concern given the impact of US policies on the global economy.

"We must acknowledge that based on current figures, the country faces a more moderate economic outlook, and that the global economic growth in 2025 is expected to be more moderate compared with earlier projections."

Anwar cited the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook for January-April 2025 for which the global growth was revised to 2.8% from 3.3%.

He added that the growth forecasts for the US, Indonesia and Thailand were also revised downward from earlier estimates – the US to 1.8 per cent (from 2.7% previously), Indonesia to 4.7% (from 5.1%), and Thailand to 1.8% (from 2.9%).

"Malaysia's growth projection has also been revised to 4.1% from 4.7%. These new expectations point to more moderate growth across all countries, including Malaysia."

He said the Madani government has acted proactively after the US announced the tariffs on April 2, including the establishment of the National Geoeconomic Coordination Centre (NGCC) on April 4.

Anwar, who chairs the NGCC, said it has convened three times so far to ensure strategic industries, exporters and economic planning remain resilient and competitive amid uncertainties.

In addition, he said the Asean Geoeconomic Task Force has also been established to strengthen policy coordination and monitoring at the Asean level, following a special meeting of Asean Economic Ministers on the tariffs. – **Bernama**

Putrajaya disputes claim of 47% import duty

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has refuted the US claim that Malaysia has imposed a 47% tariff on US imports into Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the calculation was based on the simple ratio of the US trade deficit with Malaysia to its total imports from Malaysia in 2024.

Anwar said this was used as the basis by the US to impose a retaliatory tariff of 24% on Malaysia, which is a 50% reduction on the 47% tariff that Malaysia is said to have imposed on imports from that country.

"We believe this calculation does not reflect the actual tariff level and is not based on sound economic theory. The fact is that, on average, tariffs imposed on US imports into Malaysia are only 5.6%."

"This was acknowledged by the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the report '2025 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program' published on March 31, 2025."

"Taking into account the importance of the US as Malaysia's largest export destination and source of foreign investment, the government believes that any challenges to trade relations must be addressed pragmatically and based on national interests, while maintaining good relations with all of Malaysia's trading partners." – **Bernama**

Plan for KL-Bangkok cargo rail service

SEREMBAN: The government plans to introduce a direct cargo rail service between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok to enhance trade between Malaysia and Thailand while supporting deeper Asean economic integration.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the proposal has been approved by the Cabinet and supported by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, adding that the service is expected to begin later this year.

"A direct Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok rail link would improve connectivity to other countries, including Laos, China and Central Asia."

"This initiative requires close cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand. My recent visit to Bangkok was productive and I had a positive discussion with Thailand's Transport Minister, who is also the deputy prime minister."

Loke was speaking to reporters after attending a high tea event and presenting incentives worth RM225,000 to 219 outstanding Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia 2024 students in the Seremban parliamentary constituency on Sunday.

On efforts to revive the direct passenger rail service between Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok, he said the initiative could serve as a tourism product and help grow the sector.

"Tourists from Europe could travel by train to Kuala Lumpur and continue to Bangkok, and vice versa. It is more affordable than flying."

"Although the journey takes 15 to 16 hours, it offers scenic views of rural areas along the way, creating a memorable travel experience."

Loke had earlier said the service could be implemented quickly using existing railway tracks linking Bangkok, Padang Besar, Butterworth and Kuala Lumpur.

Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad and the State Railway of Thailand have been given three months to make the necessary preparations for launching the service. — Bernama

PKR divisional election results confirmed

KUALA LUMPUR: The results of the PKR divisional elections have been confirmed and validated by the Central Leadership Council, according to party secretary-general Dr Fuziah Salleh.

She said the council, which convened on Sunday, expressed satisfaction with the presentation by the Party Election Committee.

"The final results of the divisional elections will be available starting (yesterday) at keputusan.keadilanrakyat.org/MPP"

She added that the meeting confirmed key dates in the timeline for preparations for the annual congress, which will be held from May 22 to 24 at the Persada International Convention Centre in Johor Bahru.

"This annual congress is expected to be attended by about 10,000 delegates who will vote in person to elect members of the council while over 20,000 delegates will cast their votes online." — Bernama

Ministry to increase supply of special grade eggs

► Move would provide public with more affordable options and help stabilise prices after subsidy removal: Minister

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Agriculture and Food Security Ministry will increase the production of lower-priced special grade chicken eggs following the government decision to end egg subsidies beginning Aug 1, said its minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu. He said this would provide

the public with more affordable egg options while helping to stabilise prices.

"We also aim to increase the supply of cheaper special eggs, such as those sold during Ramadan (in March), which were priced at RM5 per tray."

"We are not sure what the price

will be but we are confident it will not spike uncontrollably," he told reporters after attending the Terengganu Pakatan Harapan Aidilfitri Open House on Sunday.

On April 30, the ministry announced the subsidy removal and stated that several intervention measures would be implemented jointly with the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry to minimise the impact on the people's cost of living.

Among these measures, the government has secured the industry's commitment to introduce special grade eggs at

reasonable prices.

Mohamad said in addition to special grade eggs, the public could obtain competitively priced eggs through nationwide initiatives, such as Jualan Agro Madani and Jualan Rahmah.

He emphasised that the decision to end the egg subsidy and price controls, as well as the reduction in subsidy rate from 10 sen to 5 sen per egg effective May 1, was made through stakeholder engagement.

"The decision was made via consultation. We negotiated first with egg producers and industry players. We also implemented the removal in a soft landing manner, not abruptly. I believe egg prices will not surge."

He also encouraged the cultivation of local young coconuts, especially aromatic varieties, in response to rising demand from China, Bernama reported.

"This presents an opportunity for Terengganu, with its vast land area, to focus on this crop, which could generate good income. China has a population of over 1.4 billion, with more than 800 million having spending power. This is an economic opportunity."

On April 19, Agriculture Department director-general Datuk Nor Sam Alwi said the opening of the fresh coconut market to China under the Phytosanitary Requirements Protocol marks a strengthening of biosecurity measures and the establishment of a more systematic traceability element in quality young coconut production.

He said Malaysia would export young coconuts primarily for fresh beverage consumption, with priority given to aromatic varieties such as pandan coconuts, which are known for their unique fragrance and a Brix sweetness level of around 6.7.



Mohamad said in addition to special grade eggs, the public could obtain competitively priced eggs through nationwide initiatives, such as Jualan Agro Madani and Jualan Rahmah. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

Border Control Agency shows success

PASIR MAS: The Home Ministry has announced that 22 border entry points are operating under the Border Control Agency initiative, out of 140 nationwide, with seizures amounting to about RM400,000.

Its minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the initial phase of the agency allows the government to assess the real capacity of inter-agency operations in addressing legal violations at the country's borders.

"We are examining areas for operational improvement at locations such as the KL International Airport Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, which present different types of challenges," he told reporters after making a working visit to the Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security Complex in Rantau Panjang.

He noted that the formation of the agency, which unifies various departments such as the Customs Department, Immigration Department, Quarantine and Inspection Services Department, Road Transport Department and

others under a single operational command, is no simple task due to each agency's distinct SOPs.

"We have a single commander issuing instructions. We want to see how this uniformity could be achieved effectively and efficiently."

According to him, agency operations have begun to show results, with the total value of seizures reaching about RM400,000 since its implementation on Dec 1 last year.

"In addition to operations, the agency has detected legal violations that can be acted upon under the respective departments' legislation."

He acknowledged that smuggling activities need to be closely monitored and continuously evaluated, although the closure of several illegal crossings has proven to be an effective initial measure.

"I am not saying we have eliminated them entirely but the impact is significant. Compared with the time before we shut down 212 illegal jetties, the situation was far worse," he said.

He said the number of entry

points under the agency will be increased gradually until all 140 locations are covered.

"The selection of new entry points will be based on operational needs and the staffing strength contributed by the involved departments. The agency does not have new staffing allocations, so all assignments are carried out through redeployment of officers from existing departments."

He said one of the key areas for improvement is the process of transferring department assets for shared use under the agency.

"This asset transfer involves two types. Some can be used immediately while others are bound by existing contracts or laws. If we can expedite these processes, it would significantly enhance the agency's overall effectiveness."

When asked whether the government is satisfied with the agency's performance nearly five months into its implementation, he expressed satisfaction but acknowledged there is much room for improvement. — Bernama

'Move for MCA to join DAP unlikely'

SEREMBAN: The suggestion for MCA to dissolve and join DAP is highly improbable and merely represents the personal opinion of Kampar MP Chong Zhemlin, said DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke.

Loke, who is also transport minister and Seremban MP, clarified that the proposal does not reflect DAP's official stance, adding that it has never been discussed within the party.

"While he is entitled to his opinion, it is not the party's position and I do not see such a possibility materialising."

He was responding to media reports yesterday in which the DAP lawmaker suggested MCA should dissolve and join DAP if it genuinely wishes to champion multiculturalism, justice and progress in Malaysia, claiming MCA no longer represents the Chinese community. — Bernama



National Science Week reaches out to rural students

► Initiative aims to spark interest in technology among those with limited access to quality education: Minister

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The National Science Week, which began on Sunday and runs until the end of the year, will reach out to students in rural and remote areas through the Kembara Sains Borneo programme.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang said the programme aims to spark student interest in science and technology, particularly among those with limited access to quality education.

"Thirty rural schools in Sabah and Sarawak have been selected for this initiative, which is expected to benefit around 30,000 students, with 14 schools in Sarawak and 16 in Sabah."

He was speaking to reporters after launching the National Science Week at the Universiti Teknologi Mara campus here on Sunday.

In his speech, he noted that this year marks the eighth edition of the event since it was first introduced in 2018.

"This initiative reflects the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry's ongoing commitment to embedding science, technology and innovation into the daily lives of Malaysians."

"To maintain the momentum of past successes, the ministry is continuing its comprehensive approach to the National Science Week by extending physical activities to grassroots communities through on-ground programmes across much of Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia."

He said the implementation of the National Science Week aligns with the Malaysia Madani vision, which has creativity as one of its six key pillars, aimed at preparing the nation by adopting advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, automation and big data.

"Due to the positive response last year, the ministry is targeting over 300,000 participants for the National Science Week, with more than 50 engaging activities planned to ensure the programme remains impactful, relevant and inclusive for all target groups."

Chang noted that the Madani government is committed to strengthening the science, technology, engineering and mathematics



Chang performing during the launch of the National Science Week programme. —BERNAMAPIC

(STEM) talent pipeline, in keeping with national efforts to produce more local professionals and achieve high-tech nation status by 2030.

With the theme "Democratising Science, Humanising Technology, Mainstreaming Innovation", the National Science Week emphasises inclusive participation in advancing scientific innovation in step with rapid technological progress.

The National Science Centre will deploy its exhibition bus to 30 selected locations across Sabah and Sarawak as part of the Kembara Sains Borneo programme in conjunction with the National Science Week.

Its director Mohammad Fuad Rahman said the exhibition bus, known as PSN Trooperz On The Move, is equipped with 20 interactive exhibition spaces specially designed to spark student interest in science.

"This initiative provides an opportunity for students, who may not have the chance to visit the National Science Centre in the capital, to experience it firsthand through the mobile exhibition brought directly to their location."

He said the main focus of the Kembara Sains Borneo programme is to bring students

in remote and rural areas closer to the National Science Centre, Bernama reported.

"The selection of schools for the programme includes those in urban, rural and interior areas while participating students will range from primary to secondary school levels."

"For this programme, we are not moving alone. We are collaborating with strategic partners, namely the National Planetarium, Akademik Sains Malaysia, Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia and Petrosains."

He said the programme does not solely focus on students but also engages science and mathematics teachers through dedicated training programmes designed to enhance teaching skills and knowledge.

The National Science Week programme will be held across six main zones nationwide, beginning in Sarawak, followed by Terengganu, Sabah, Johor and Kedah, and concluding in Kuala Lumpur.

"Each location will be filled with a variety of engaging activities, including STEM educational exhibitions, science demonstrations, interactive quizzes, hands-on workshops and career exhibitions focused on future technology fields."

Call to develop local alternative dispute resolution talent

KUCHING: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof has called for a strategic focus on developing homegrown alternative dispute resolution (ADR) talent in Sabah and Sarawak to position the region as a natural hub for legal and commercial cooperation.

In his officiating remarks at Borneo ADR Week yesterday, he emphasised the importance of strengthening cross-border partnerships to address the region's growing legal and economic complexity.

"Developing talent is not a solitary effort; it requires collaboration across government, industry, academia and professional institutions."

"We must work together to cultivate a strong and diverse pool of arbitrators, adjudicators, mediators, expert witnesses and claims consultants who are technically skilled and familiar with the values and context of Borneo."

He said fostering deeper collaboration across Borneo includes establishing long-term frameworks for cooperation between arbitral institutions, courts, universities and industries.

Fadillah also noted that with the development of Nusantara in Indonesia, Brunei's increased engagement and the rapid economic growth of Sabah and Sarawak, Borneo is emerging as a key player in Asean's future.

"With Borneo's increasing integration into cross-border trade and investment flows, our ecosystem must be ready not only to serve local needs but also to attract confidence from international stakeholders."

The Borneo ADR Week, which runs from yesterday until May 9, features over 15 events curated by participating entities, including institutions, law firms, consultants and training bodies.

It serves as a platform to explore the effectiveness of dispute resolution in promoting economic growth, good governance and regional cooperation. — Bernama

Dept warns against micromobility vehicles on roads

MALACCA: The Malacca Road Transport Department will not hesitate to take stern action against individuals caught operating micromobility vehicles on public roads.

Its deputy director Khairul Aswad Abdul Halim said the department is aware of a widely spread video showing three individuals riding electric scooters on a public road.

"We would like to stress that this behaviour is illegal and poses a danger not only to those involved but also to other road users."

He said under Section 54(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987, any individual operating an unauthorised vehicle on a public road may be prosecuted, Bernama reported.

"If convicted, offenders may face a maximum fine of RM1,000, up to three months' jail, or both."

He said the use of micromobility vehicles, such as e-scooters, hoverboards, monowheels, Segways and unapproved electric bicycles, on public roads is prohibited under the Road Vehicle (Prohibition of Use) (Amendment) Order 2021, which came into effect on Dec 17, 2021.

"Micromobility vehicles are only permitted in designated areas, such as recreational parks, dedicated lanes or private premises."

He urged parents to closely monitor their children's movements, particularly concerning the growing use of micromobility vehicles.

"Any violations of this regulation can be reported to the department or nearest authorities for further action."

The video showed the individuals riding electric scooters, believed to be at a traffic light junction along the Alor Gajah-Central Malacca-Jasin Highway near Bachang on Saturday.

M'sian archival materials as teaching resources

SANDAKAN: Materials in the National Archives collection could serve as valuable teaching and learning resources in educational institutions, including for the Archives@Schools Programme, said National Unity Minister Datuk Seri Aaron Ago Dagang.

He said the National Archives houses a wealth of historical materials that could be authentic reference sources, particularly for school-level education.

He also said the programme could provide a platform for students to engage with history in a more interactive, creative and meaningful way, helping to foster a stronger sense of identity among young Malaysians.

He said the programme encourages

students to learn, ask questions and explore the nation's history with open hearts and minds.

"This is one of our efforts to reintroduce and strengthen the role of history at the school level. Since history is already a core subject in schools, we plan to expand this initiative to more schools nationwide."

He was speaking at a media conference after opening the programme at Sekolah Menengah St Mary here yesterday, which was also attended by National Archives director-general Datuk Jaafar Sidek Abdul Rahman.

He also expressed hope that the National Archives would collaborate with the Education Ministry to expand the implementation of the programme nationwide.

Jaafar Sidek said the agency has digitised over 11 million documents, which are accessible online.

"We provide opportunities for the public, including students and educators, to access these valuable materials. They can visit the official National Archives website to explore the resources available."

Commenting on the programme, he said the National Archives would assist schools in gathering historical materials, including school magazines, that could be preserved as part of the archival collection.

He added that the programme would be extended to schools in Kedah and Kelantan. — Bernama

RM25m drugs seized in major syndicate bust

➤ Narcotics brought in from Vietnam, repacked in Setiu before being prepared for shipment by sea to Australian market, says NCID

BANDAR PERMAISURI: Police have busted the largest international drug trafficking syndicate on the east coast this year, seizing 590.18kg of methamphetamine and heroin base, worth RM25 million, in two raids around Setiu on April 23.

Bukit Aman Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department (NCID) acting director DCP Mat Zani @ Mohd Salahuddin Che Ali said the drugs were brought in via the Golden Triangle from Vietnam, entering through the Kelantan and Terengganu waters. They were then repackaged in Setiu, before being prepared for shipment by sea to the Australian market.

He said the first raid took place on the bank of Sungai Setiu, at 9pm, leading to the arrest of a 32-year-old local man from Selangor, who was unloading 29 bags from a boat onto the riverbank, Bernama reported.

"An inspection of the multicoloured bags revealed 470 plastic packages, suspected to contain 479.27kg of methamphetamine and 297 blocks of heroin base, weighing 109.89kg."

"The second raid, about 500m from the first location, on the shore of Pulau Tok Bilal, at 10pm, led to the arrest of a 39-year-old Terengganu man, who was found with a backpack containing 1.02kg of methamphetamine, in a fibreglass boat," he said at the Setiu district police headquarters, here yesterday.

Mat Zani said the syndicate, which has been active since March, smuggled the drugs using rented boats, costing RM4,800, under the guise of fishing trip packages, to reach the drop-off location for repackaging.

"It would then be transferred to a yacht in the waters off Terengganu, before being sent to Australia. The seized drugs could have

been used by 2.95 million addicts."

He said this *modus operandi* was the first of its kind detected by authorities and was believed to have been used to evade law enforcement.

Investigations also revealed that both suspects, who were paid RM50,000 each, are from the same syndicate and have prior criminal records under the Common Gaming Houses Act 1953 and the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

Police also seized three vehicles belonging to the suspects; a Toyota Vios, a Honda Civic, and a Honda EX5 motorcycle, as well as jewellery, a branded helmet, and RM1,631 in cash, with a total estimated value of RM46,000.

Both suspects have been remanded for 14 days, from April 24 to May 7, to assist investigations under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952.

Mat Zani said the major drug bust was the result of close collaboration with the NCIDs of the Terengganu and Kelantan police contingents, as well as the Marine Police Force, following a month-long intelligence operation to dismantle an international syndicate that uses Malaysia as a transit point.

Cops nab 12 over online job scam

IPOH: Police arrested 12 people, including two female Chinese nationals, suspected of being involved in an online job scam syndicate at a bungalow in Pasir Putih, here, on May 2.

Perak police chief Datuk Noor Hisam Nordin said the suspects, aged between 25 and 44, were detained at 2pm by a team from the Perak Commercial Crime Investigation Department.

During the raid, police seized 20 mobile phones, 10 laptops and four routers estimated to be worth RM36,000.

"Investigations found that the syndicate began operating actively around early April, with the bungalow being used as the base for their activities."

"The suspects worked as call centre supervisors and client recruiters, targeting victims from among Chinese nationals," he said in a statement.

Noor Hisam said the syndicate was believed to have offered non-existing online jobs and also promised cash rebates in yuan currency to victims who completed a series of purchase tasks.

"Victims were promised profits for each completed purchase, but once payments were made, the promised rebates were never received," he said.

All suspects have been remanded for four days and the case is being investigated under Section 420 and Section 120(B) of the Penal Code.

"The police will also verify the foreign suspects' passport status with the Immigration Department."

"If there are any violations or misuse of visit passes, further action will be taken under the Immigration Act 1959," he added. — Bernama

Motorbike skids into sea, man drowns

SHAH ALAM: A man drowned while another survived after the motorcycle they were riding skidded into the sea at the wharf of the Maritime Transport Training Institute in Port Klang near here.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department assistant director of operations Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar, in a statement yesterday, said the body of the 29-year-old victim was recovered following two days of search operations.

He said the body was found by members of the Port Klang Water Rescue Team about 200m from where the victim was believed to have fallen into the sea last Saturday.

The body was handed to police for further action.

A man in his 30s, who was riding with the victim, was rescued by passers-by. — Bernama

Chemical smuggling attempt foiled

ALOR GAJAH: The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) foiled a chemical smuggling attempt and seized drug precursors worth RM15 million in Malacca on May 1.

MMEA acting deputy director-general (operations) Rear Admiral (M) Mohd Zawawi Abdullah said the seizure, which is the largest recorded this year, was also the first involving precursors smuggled out of Malacca for sale in a neighbouring country.

Investigations and intelligence gathering led to the discovery of 15 boxes wrapped in black plastic stacked on rocks along the shore of Pengkalan Balak, near the Sailing Training Centre here, he added.

"Inspections conducted at 9.40pm found 179 one-litre bottles filled with chemicals used in processing synthetic drugs, capable of producing about 150kg of such drugs, believed to have been sent to the location using land vehicles before being loaded onto boats."

— Bernama



Kuala Krai police chief Supt Mazlan Mamat (right) and Hamzah (second from right) breaking the news to family members. — BERNAMAPIC

Teens' first trip with grandfather ends in tragedy

KUALA KRAI: A grandfather did not expect the first trip with his two grandsons would end in tragedy after they are feared to have drowned in Sungai Kampung Kilat here on Saturday.

The victims, Iruwan Rantau, 17, and Rahidi Rantau, 16, with their grandfather Hamzah Yahya, 62, and 30 other workers arrived last week to work on a watermelon farm here.

It was the first time the brothers from the Jakun tribe had followed their grandfather out of Rompin, Pahang.

"My two grandsons were eager to help me plant watermelon seeds. But I never imagined it would end like this," he said on Sunday.

Hamzah said before the incident, both grandsons told him they were going fishing by the riverbank.

Shortly after, their cousin rushed home in a

panic, saying that Rahidi and Iruwan had drowned while swimming.

"I rushed to the river with two of my sons. We searched and called out (their names) but saw nothing. In the end, I lodged a police report."

He said the parents of the victims from Rompin arrived at the scene at 11am on Sunday after being informed about the tragedy.

"They came to help me earn a living, but in the end, I lost two grandchildren at once," said Hamzah, still struggling to come to terms with his loss.

Meanwhile, Rosyam Nor, 14, the cousin of the victims, who witnessed the incident, said the three of them had gone to the river to search for worms to use as fishing bait.

"Iruwan invited us to go swimming, but I

warned him against it because the current was strong, but he insisted on going," he said.

Rosyam added that Iruwan started to struggle in the water and Rahidi jumped in to save his brother, but the strong current swept them away.

Meanwhile, Sungai Durian Fire and Rescue Station chief Zulhilmi Baharudin said the search and rescue (SAR) operation for the two victims has not yielded any leads.

He added that the search will resume on Monday morning due to the river's strong current, unpredictable weather, and safety concerns for the rescue team.

"The operation involved conducting surface searches, underwater diving, and patrols using boats organised into several designated search zones," Zulhilmi said.

— Bernama



Mi Tikus piques interest of food lovers

➤ Ipoh eatery packed with customers keen to sample operator's uniquely named noodle dish

IPOH: The quirky-named *Mi Tikus* (rat noodles), also known as silver needle noodles, which has been shared widely on social media, has won over foodies across all races in Ipoh.

The man behind the popular dish, which has drawn a diverse crowd of customers over the past few years, is 52-year-old Muslim convert Redzuan Ooi Abdullah.

His eatery, named Ipoh-Ipoh Aje, at the Medan Kidd bus terminal, which operates from as early as 7am to 3pm, is regularly packed with customers eager to try *Mi Tikus* and other dishes.

Redzuan, fondly known as Abang Wan, has a unique technique of frying the noodles – he tosses the noodles high in a wok over open flames, a sight that fascinates and captures the attention of his customers.

"*Mi Tikus* comes from the original name of a Chinese dish, *Lo Shi Fun*, which means rat noodles in the Cantonese dialect. Since I was little, it has been called *Mi Tikus* in Malay, so I decided to keep the name," he told

Bernama when met at his stall here. Redzuan said *Mi Tikus* is made from short *laksa* noodles stir-fried with ingredients such as onions, eggs, prawns and soy sauce.

A father of five, Redzuan considers himself fortunate to have embraced Islam and took the opportunity to share the dish with the Malay community.

"It makes me happy to see Malay customers enjoying this Chinese dish. The idea for this menu came after the movement control order, when my wife, Noraini Ropangi, was out of work and wanted to start a business.

"At the time, we only served *laksa* and curry noodles at the shop, so I added this Chinese-style dish as well," he said.

A native of Ipoh, Redzuan said he once worked at a Chinese restaurant in Klebang Besar, Malacca, where he learned cooking techniques and recipes, which he then adapted to meet *halal* standards without compromising the authentic Chinese taste.

He shared that in the 1980s, he



Redzuan preparing one of his popular dishes at his eatery. – **BERNAMAPIC**

also helped his family run a food stall at Medan Kidd, selling *cendol*, *laksa* and grass jelly.

Other than *Mi Tikus*, Redzuan, who converted to Islam in 2006, also serves a variety of special dishes such

as *Mi Hailam*, *Yee Mi Hailam*, *Mi Tikus Pagar* and *Nasi Goreng Pagar* at his eatery.

On his cooking techniques, Redzuan said it's not easy and requires strength in both hands.

"Every day, I cook non-stop, from opening to closing time, with just a short break in between because customers keep coming.

"At the end of the day, I cook because I love it," he said.

RM22m allocation for 117 conservation projects

BUKIT MERTAJAM: The National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF), under the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry, has funded a total of 117 conservation projects involving an allocation of RM22.59 million.

Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said of the total, 72 projects are in the implementation phase with a funding commitment of RM6.59 million, while 35 projects have been completed with an allocation of RM14.2 million.

"One of the completed projects is the Conservation of Seladang in the

Royal Belum State Park – Temenggor Forest Reserve Complex, implemented by the NGO Borneo Rhino Alliance in collaboration with the Wildlife and National Parks Department, and brought to the Second National Biodiversity Council.

"The meeting recognises the seladang as an endangered species of national importance, and a Seladang Conservation Management Plan will be developed to stabilise its population," he said in his closing speech at the Biology Exploration Workshop with the Seberang Perai

Community at Dewan Kampung Pisang, Cheruk Tokun here on Sunday.

His speech was read out by Forest Research Institute of Malaysia director-general Datuk Dr Ismail Parlan. Also present was Nature Sustainable Ecosystem Society (NEST) chairman Sulaiman Salikan.

The workshop was conducted through a collaboration between Think City, as the fund provider through the Seberang Perai Town Grant with NEST, as the implementing body, and the Seberang Perai City Council, which provides support in

terms of sustainable urban planning.

Nik Nazmi said data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the wildlife department found that a bird species that went extinct around the 1960s was the green peafowl (*pavo muticus*).

Species facing the threat of extinction include the Malayan crested argus and the mountain peacock-pheasant.

He added that the causes of extinction include loss of habitat due to logging and development, illegal trade in exotic birds as well as illegal

hunting and keeping of wild birds as pets.

"Birds play an important role in maintaining environmental balance, including serving as indicators of ecosystem health, with the number and type of birds in an area reflecting whether that area is healthy or polluted," he said.

Avian coordinator Dr Siti Norasikin Ismail said NEST had previously collaborated with the Shorebird Peninsular Malaysia project in carrying out coastal bird-watching activities. – Bernama

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Cambodia politician found guilty of incitement

► Activist to appeal four-year sentence

PHNOM PENH: A Cambodian court sentenced an outspoken opposition politician to four years in jail for incitement yesterday, he told reporters, barring him from voting and holding office.

Nation Power Party adviser Rong Chhun said he was found guilty of incitement to cause serious social unrest – a charge Cambodian authorities frequently deploy against activists.

The case was brought against him last year after he met victims of land disputes and commented on Prime Minister Hun Manet's visit to the border area with Vietnam.

Outside Phnom Penh Municipal Court, Rong Chhun told reporters he would appeal against the "politically motivated" verdict which he described as "beyond unjust".

It was not clear if he would immediately be arrested.

"My message is that the rulers must stop using the legal system to suppress politicians," he said.

He said the case "reflects our Cambodia has no full democracy and anybody with a dissenting voice who has popularity and support from the people is always suppressed and ousted from the political scene".

Rong Chhun was previously arrested in 2020 after accusing the Cambodian government of "irregularities" in the demarcation of the country's eastern border with Vietnam.

He was sentenced to two years in



Rong Chhun gestures near the Phnom Penh Municipal Court. – AFP/PPIC

jail in August 2021 but was released three months later by an appeal court, with the remaining sentence suspended for three years.

Rights groups have long accused Cambodia's government of using legal cases as a tactic to silence opposition voices and legitimate

political dissent.

Another opposition leader was fined US\$1.5 million (RM6.3 million) in July after remarking that Cambodia was "getting worse in terms of democracy" under the leadership of Hun Manet.

Hun Manet assumed power in

2023 after his father, Hun Sen, stepped down following nearly four decades of rule.

Sun Chanthy, the founder of the Nation Power Party established in 2023, was also sentenced to two years in jail in December for inciting social disorder. – AFP

10 dead after tourist boats capsized in China

BEIJING: Ten people have died and 70 were hospitalised after strong winds caused boats carrying tourists to capsize at a scenic spot in southwestern China.

The passenger boats overturned on Sunday afternoon on a river in Qianxi city, Guizhou province, state broadcaster CCTV said, sending 84 people into the water.

As of yesterday afternoon 10 were dead, 70 have been hospitalised and four were unharmed, state media said.

The last person reported missing earlier in the morning was found by rescue personnel around noon, but "showed no signs of life", CCTV said.

President Xi Jinping urged "all-out efforts" in the search and rescue operations and treatment of those injured, Xinhua news agency said.

Xi also stressed the importance of strengthening safety measures at tourist spots and other large public venues, the agency said.

Vice-Premier Zhang Guoqing was dispatched to the scene to oversee the rescue efforts, state media said.

An investigation found the boats were not overloaded with passengers, CCTV said.

Sunday's incident comes just over two months after 11 people were killed in a boat collision in central China.

The accident in Hunan province occurred when a passenger boat struck an industrial vessel, throwing 19 people overboard. – AFP

Lack of trash bins frustrates visitors to Japan: Survey

TOKYO: Visitors to Japan have cited the lack of trash bins in public areas, including at train stations, as the biggest inconvenience during their trip, Kyodo news agency reported, citing a recent government survey.

According to the Japan Tourism Agency, the issue was cited by 21.9% of over 4,000 foreign visitors surveyed at five major airports in the country as their top concern.

The survey was conducted on respondents before leaving New Chitose, Narita, Haneda, Kansai and Fukuoka airports between December and January.

While the figure improved by about eight percentage points from the previous year, many of the respondents said that after failing to dispose of trash, they had to take it back to their accommodation.

Japan used to have more trash bins in public spaces, but many were removed in recent years, partly due to safety concerns after terror attacks in the country.

However, with the disappearance of most trash bins in public areas, littering in tourist spots has become a major public concern.

Yohei Takemura, chief executive officer of Foretec Inc, which installs solar-powered bins that can compress trash in public spaces, said popular tourist spots like New York and Paris each have about 30,000 public bins.

While trash cans installed and maintained by the public sector have vanished in Tokyo, there are trash cans set up and maintained by the private sector, Takemura said. – Bernama

Pritam remains opposition leader

SINGAPORE: Workers' Party secretary-general Pritam Singh will continue to serve as Singapore's Leader of the Opposition, according to Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.

He said Pritam will be provided with staff and resources to carry out his duties.

"Just spoke to Mr Pritam Singh. The WP fielded a strong slate of candidates and put up a tough fight in this election. I look forward to the contributions of WP members in Parliament," he posted on social media yesterday.

Pritam was first formally appointed as Leader of the Opposition following the 2020 General Election by then Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Wong noted that the WP has strengthened its parliamentary presence, securing 10 elected seats and two additional Non-Constituency Member of Parliament seats.

In the just-concluded election, the Workers' Party successfully retained the 10 seats it won in the previous election: Hougang Single Member

Constituency, Sengkang Group Representation Constituency (GRC) and Aljunied GRC.

The role of Leader of the Opposition, formally established in 2020, comes with privileges and responsibilities.

These include an office in parliament, staff support, additional resources and an allowance.

The opposition leader is tasked with presenting alternative views during debates, as well as leading efforts to scrutinise the government's positions and actions. – Bernama



Pritam will be provided with staff and resources. – AFP/PPIC

Indonesia suspends eye-scanning Worldcoin crypto project

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities said they have suspended Worldcoin, the eyeball-scanning cryptocurrency project co-founded by OpenAI chief Sam Altman under scrutiny in several countries.

Since Worldcoin launched in 2023, millions of people have had their iris patterns scanned to create a "World ID", proving they are human and allowing them to conduct transactions.

The data is encrypted and safe,

according to Worldcoin, but it has run into trouble over concerns about the use of personal data including in Hong Kong, Kenya, Spain and Portugal.

The suspension, announced on Sunday, followed reports from the public over suspicious activities on the platform, said a Communication and Digital Ministry official.

"The freezing is a preventive measure to prevent potential risk to the public," said Alexander Sabar, the

ministry's director-general for digital space supervision.

The government will also summon Worldcoin's local operators, PT Terang Bulan Abadi and PT Sandina Abadi Nusantara, to provide clarification over their activities, he said.

The project aims to solve one of the main challenges facing the crypto industry that largely relies on pseudonyms to operate, leaving it vulnerable to spam bots and scams.

Hong Kong's Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data told the project last May to stop scanning and collecting iris and face images after finding it breached privacy laws.

Portugal's data authority announced the suspension of Worldcoin in March 2024, citing concerns over data protection for minors, weeks after Spain's data protection agency also ordered the company to suspend its activities in the country. – AFP



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SCAN ME

India cleans Kashmir dams after suspending treaty

► 'Flushing helps more efficient power generation'

SRINAGAR: India has begun work to boost reservoir holding capacity at two hydroelectric projects in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters, after fresh tension with Pakistan led it to suspend a water-sharing pact.

Last month, New Delhi suspended the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty that ensures supply to 80% of Pakistani farms after an attack in Kashmir killed 26, and it identified two of the three assailants as Pakistani.

Islamabad has threatened international legal action over the suspension and denied any role in the attack, warning: "Any attempt to stop or divert the flow of water belonging to Pakistan ... will be considered as an act of war."

A "reservoir flushing" process to remove sediment began on Thursday, carried out by India's biggest hydropower company, state-

run NHPC Ltd, and authorities in the federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the three sources said.

The work may not immediately threaten supply to Pakistan, which depends on rivers flowing through India for much of its irrigation and hydropower generation, but it could eventually be affected if other projects launch similar efforts.

There are more than half a dozen such dams in the region.

India did not inform Pakistan about the work at the Salal and Baglihar dams, which is being done for the first time since they were built in 1987 and 2008/09, respectively, as the treaty had blocked such work, the sources added.

They spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to talk to the media.

India's NHPC and the neighbouring governments did not reply to emails from Reuters.

The flushing operation ran for three days from May 1, the sources said.

"This is the first time such an exercise has taken place and will help in more efficient

power generation and prevent damage to turbines," one source said.

"We were also asked to open the adjustable gates for cleaning, which we did from May 1," the source said, adding that the effort aimed to free dam operation from any restrictions.

People living on the banks of the Chenab river on the Indian side of Kashmir said they noticed water had been released from both Salal and Baglihar dams from Thursday to Saturday.

The flushing of hydropower projects requires nearly emptying a reservoir to force out sediments whose build-up is a major cause of decline in output.

"Flushing is not a common thing because it leads to a lot of water wastage," said one of the sources. "Downstream countries are expected to be informed."

India has sought to renegotiate the treaty in recent years and the archfoes have tried to settle some of their differences at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague.

These concerns related to the size of the water storage area at the region's Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric plants. — Reuters

Adani aides meet White House team

BENGALURU: Representatives for Indian billionaire Gautam Adani met officials from President Donald Trump's administration to seek dismissal of criminal charges in an overseas bribery probe, Bloomberg News reported on Sunday.

Discussions began earlier this year and have picked up in recent weeks, with a resolution possible within a month if momentum continues, the report said, citing sources familiar with the matter.

An Adani Group representative, spokesperson for the Justice Department and White House declined comment to Bloomberg on the report. They did not respond to requests for comment from Reuters outside regular US business hours.

In November, US authorities indicted Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, alleging that they paid bribes to secure Indian power supply contracts, and misled US investors during fund raises there.

The SEC summoned Gautam and Sagar, alleging they paid bribes to Indian officials and misled investors on compliance during a US\$750 million (RM3.2 billion) Adani Green bond sale.

The billionaire's aides are trying to make the case that his prosecution does not align with Trump's priorities and should be reconsidered, Bloomberg News reported.

Adani Group, the Justice Department and White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Late last month, Adani Green said its review of the US indictment found no non-compliance or irregularities.

The indictment has erased about US\$13 billion in market value from Adani Group's nine listed firms. — Reuters



ANNUAL CLEANSING ... A Hong Kong child dressed as a Taoist deity takes part in the *Piu Sik* parade (parade of deities) on the island of Cheung Chau during its annual Bun festival. Locals believe the deities inspect every street and corner, and chase away evil spirits. — AFP/ICC

Albanese talks with Trump on tariffs

CANBERRA: Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said yesterday he had a "warm conversation" with President Donald Trump on tariffs and the AUKUS defence pact after his Labor party decisively beat the conservatives.

Albanese was returned to office for a second term in a stunning comeback against the Liberal-National coalition, which was ahead in polls as recently as February.

"I had a warm and positive conversation with President Trump ... and I thank him for his very warm message of congratulations," Albanese said during a media briefing.

"We talked about how AUKUS and tariffs will continue to engage, we will engage with each other on a face-to-face basis at some time in the future."

Albanese's government in 2023 committed to spend A\$368 billion (RM999 billion) over three decades on AUKUS, Australia's biggest ever defence project with the United States and Britain, to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Cost-of-living pressures and concerns about Trump's policies had been among the top issues in the Australian election.

About 48% of voters picked the uncertainties triggered by Trump as one of their top five concerns, one survey said, after his tariff plans sent shockwaves through global markets and raised concerns of voters on the impact on their pension funds.

Trump said earlier yesterday he did not know anything about the Australian election,

though he praised Albanese.

"I don't know anything about the election other than the man that won, he's very good," Trump told reporters at the White House after disembarking from his official helicopter.

"Albanese I'm very friendly with ... I can only say that he's been very, very nice to me, very respectful to me."

The United States enjoys a trade surplus with Australia but imposed a 10% tariff in April prompting Albanese to call it "not the act of a friend".

Labor was leading in 85 electorates in the 150-seat lower house yesterday, as vote counting continued, data showed. At least a dozen seats are too close to call, with more than three-quarters of votes tallied. — Reuters

BRIEFS

KARDASHIAN READY TO 'CONFRONT' ATTACKERS

PARIS: Kim Kardashian is ready to "confront" her Paris attackers as the US celebrity prepares to testify in person next week at a trial over an armed robbery of her jewellery in 2016. "She is committed to attending in person the trial and to confronting those who attacked her. She will do so with dignity and courage," said her French lawyers Leonor Hennerick and Jonathan Mattout. In late April, 10 suspects went on trial in Paris over the 2016 robbery of the US celebrity, which saw some US\$10 million (RM42 million) worth of jewellery stolen from the reality TV star and influencer. On the night of Oct 2-3, 2016, Kardashian, then 35, was robbed while staying at an exclusive hotel in central Paris. She was threatened with a gun to the head and tied up with her mouth taped up. Kardashian, who has been keeping abreast of developments during the first week of the trial, is due to testify on May 13. — AFP

KENYA PRESIDENT FENDS OFF SHOE THROWN AT HIM

NAIROBI: Kenya's President William Ruto fended off a shoe thrown at him during a speech about the cost of living which has been a source of public anger, videos shared on social media showed. Ruto has been compelled to abandon tax hikes and invite opposition members into Cabinet, but discontent remains high in the East African nation. On Sunday at the rally in Migori county in western Kenya, Ruto blocked the flying footwear with his arm and did not appear to be injured. "We have said we are reducing the price of fertiliser, true or false?" he said as the shoe bounced off him, kicking up a small cloud of dust. Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said police had arrested three people. Then US president George W. Bush famously had a shoe thrown at him by an Iraqi journalist in 2008 in protest at the chaos following the US-led invasion. — Reuters

Popemobile set to become health clinic

VATICAN CITY: One of Pope Francis' popemobiles is being transformed into a mobile health clinic for children in the Gaza Strip, fulfilling one of his final wishes, the Vatican's official media outlet said on Sunday.

The vehicle, used by the late pontiff during his 2014 visit to the Holy Land, is being outfitted with diagnostic and emergency medical equipment to help young patients in the Palestinian enclave, where health services have been devastated by the Israeli invasion.

Pope Francis, who died last month, entrusted the initiative to the Catholic aid organisation Caritas Jerusalem in the months before his death, *Vatican News* said.

"This is a concrete, life-saving intervention at a time when the health system in Gaza has almost collapsed," said Peter Brune, secretary-general of Caritas Sweden, which is supporting the project.

The mobile unit will be equipped with rapid infection tests, vaccines, diagnostic tools, and suture kits, and staffed by medical personnel. Caritas plans to deploy the clinic to communities without access to functioning healthcare facilities once humanitarian access to Gaza is feasible.

"It's not just a vehicle," Brune said. "It's a message that the world has not forgotten about the children in Gaza."

Gaza has a tiny Christian community and the Vatican has said Francis used to call the Holy Family Church in Gaza on an almost daily basis for much of the war.

Francis had a number of popemobiles, with the one used in the 2014 visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories staying in the region following his return to the Vatican.

A conclave to elect a new pope starts tomorrow. – Reuters



Palestinians queuing for a hot meal at Nuseirat refugee camp on Sunday. – AFP/PPIC

Israel Cabinet approves Gaza 'conquest'

➤ Plan will sacrifice hostages, say relatives

TEL AVIV: Israel's security Cabinet approved the expansion of military operations in Gaza including the "conquest" of the enclave, an official said yesterday, after the army called up tens of thousands of reservists for the offensive.

The plan, approved overnight, includes the holding of territories in the besieged Gaza Strip and comes alongside Israel's promotion of Gaza's residents to leave, the official said.

Israel resumed major operations across Gaza on March 18 amid deadlock over how to proceed with a two-month ceasefire that had largely halted the war with Hamas.

Israel has since carried out intensive aerial bombardments and expanded ground operations across the Palestinian territory, with Gaza rescuers yesterday saying Israeli airstrikes killed at least 19 people in the north.

The majority of Gaza's residents hail from the north of the territory, particularly Gaza City, and nearly all have been displaced at least once since the war began.

The Cabinet, which includes Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and several ministers, "unanimously approved" the plan aimed at defeating Gaza's rulers Hamas and securing the return of hostages held in the territory.

The official source said the plan included "powerful strikes against Hamas", without specifying their nature.

On Sunday, army chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir said the military was calling up "tens of thousands" of reservists to expand its offensive.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Sunday that at least 2,436 people had been killed since Israel resumed its campaign on March 18, bringing the overall death toll from the war to 52,535.

The attack on Oct 7, 2023 that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people on the Israeli side, mostly civilians.

Gunmen also abducted 251 people, 58 of whom are still being held in Gaza, including 34 of the Israeli military says are dead.

Israel says its renewed offensive is aimed at forcing Hamas to free its remaining captives, although critics charge that it puts them in mortal danger.

An Israeli campaign group representing hostages' relatives said yesterday that the new

plan for expanded military operations is "sacrificing" hostages.

"The plan approved by the Cabinet deserves to be called the 'Smotrich-Netanyahu Plan' for sacrificing the hostages," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said.

The reference was to far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Netanyahu, who heads one of the most right-wing governments in Israeli history.

Alongside the plan to expand military operations, Netanyahu "continues to promote" a proposal by President Donald Trump for the voluntary departure of Gazans to neighbouring countries, the source added.

Israel's security Cabinet also approved overnight the "possibility of humanitarian distribution" in Gaza, which has been under full Israeli blockade since March 2.

It said there was "currently enough food" in the territory, although humanitarian organisations and UN agencies have warned of the blockade's dire consequences for Gaza's 2.4 million people.

The Cabinet "approved by a large majority the possibility of a humanitarian distribution, if necessary, to prevent Hamas from taking control of the supplies and to destroy its governance capabilities". – AFP

BRIEFS

BRITAIN HONOURS LAST VETERANS OF WWII

LONDON: A military parade, street parties and a balcony appearance by the royal family began four days of celebrations yesterday to mark 80 years since the end of World War II. King Charles III, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and thousands of spectators watched Nato personnel from the US, France and Germany, along with Ukrainian troops, in a military procession that began with Winston Churchill's 1945 victory speech, voiced by actor Timothy Spall. The procession culminated in a fly past featuring aerobatic team the Red Arrows and 23 current and historic military aircraft. This year's commemorations took on extra poignancy given the fading of the "Greatest Generation". This will be the last major commemoration for which "anyone will still be alive who actually served in the Second World War," said monarchy specialist Robert Hazell of University College London. – AFP

KREMLIN CALLS FOR KASHMIR DE-ESCALATION

MOSCOW: The Kremlin called for de-escalation between India and Pakistan, as tensions between the two neighbours flare following last month's deadly attack on tourists in Kashmir. "We hope that the parties will be able to take measures (...) that will reduce tensions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding that "we are following with great concern the tense atmosphere that has developed on the border." President Vladimir Putin told Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a phone call yesterday that the "particularly privileged partnership" between Moscow and Delhi was "not subject to external influence and continues to develop dynamically in all areas", the Kremlin said. Moscow last week said it was ready to mediate. – AFP

New Bill to target Nvidia chip smuggling

SAN FRANCISCO: A US lawmaker plans to introduce legislation to verify the location of artificial-intelligence chips like those made by Nvidia after they are sold.

The effort to keep tabs on the chips, which drew bipartisan support from lawmakers, aims to address reports of smuggling of Nvidia's chips into China in violation of export laws.

Nvidia's chips are a critical ingredient for creating AI systems such as chatbots, image generators and more specialised ones that can help craft biological weapons.

President Donald Trump and his predecessor, Joe Biden, have implemented progressively tighter export controls of Nvidia's chips to China. But Reuters and other news organisations have documented how some of those chips have continued to flow into China,

and Nvidia has publicly claimed it cannot track its products after they are sold.

Representative Bill Foster, a Democrat from Illinois who once worked as a particle physicist, said the technology to track chips after they are sold is readily available, with much of it already built in to Nvidia's chips.

Independent technical experts agreed.

Foster, who successfully designed computer chips during his scientific career, plans to introduce a Bill that would direct US regulators to come up with rules in two key areas: Tracking chips to ensure they are where they are authorised to be under export licences, and preventing those chips from booting up if they are not properly licensed.

Foster said there are already credible reports, some of which have not been publicly

disclosed, of large-scale chip smuggling.

"This is not an imaginary future problem," Foster said. "It is a problem now, and at some point we're going to discover that the Communist Party, or their military, is busy designing weapons using large arrays of chips, or even just working on (artificial general intelligence), which is as immediate as nuclear technology."

Prosecutors in Singapore have charged three men with fraud in a case that involved servers that may have contained Nvidia chips.

The technology to verify the location of chips already exists. Google already tracks the location of its in-house AI chips and others in its vast network of data centres for security purposes, according to two sources with direct knowledge of its operations. – Reuters



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Harmonising effectiveness and efficiency

IN the fast-paced and demanding world of business, a common question often arises: What is the key to achieving optimal output? Is it working effectively or working efficiently?

These two terms are frequently used interchangeably, yet they represent distinct concepts that are crucial to understanding how to enhance workplace performance.

To maximise success, it is important to explore the nuances of effectiveness and efficiency, and understand the role each plays in achieving personal and organisational goals.

Defining effectiveness and efficiency
Effectiveness and efficiency, though related, are fundamentally different in their focus and impact. At its core, effectiveness is about achieving the desired result or goal.

It is centred on producing a specific outcome, no matter the resources or time it takes. Effectiveness ensures that you are working toward the right objectives and making progress toward achieving them.

In a business context, effectiveness means doing what is necessary to reach a target or fulfil a strategic goal, regardless of how much time, effort or resources are consumed along the way.

In contrast, efficiency is concerned with the process by which a goal is achieved. It focuses on accomplishing the task with the least amount of resources, time and effort.

Efficiency involves streamlining processes, eliminating waste and optimising resources to achieve the same result faster and more cost-effectively.

Efficiency does not just seek to

achieve a goal but aims to do so in the most resource-conscious way, minimising unnecessary input while maintaining high-quality output.

As Peter Drucker, one of the foremost management theorists, famously stated: "Effectiveness is doing the right things and efficiency is doing things right."

This quote encapsulates the relationship between the two concepts. Effectiveness focuses on ensuring that you are heading in the right direction, working on the right tasks and prioritising the most important objectives.

However, efficiency ensures that you take the optimal route, using the fewest resources and the least time, to achieve those goals.

Both effectiveness and efficiency are necessary to succeed in the workplace, and organisations that fail to recognise the distinction may struggle with either focusing on the wrong priorities or squandering valuable resources.

The challenge for leaders, managers and employees alike is to find the right balance between the two. Prioritising one over the other can have significant implications for the success of projects and the long-term sustainability of the business.

Essential to understand the difference
Understanding the difference between effectiveness and efficiency is crucial for optimising performance in the workplace.

For example, imagine an employee who is highly efficient at completing their tasks but is focusing on the wrong priorities.

They may meet their deadlines, streamline their processes and use minimal resources but they are not

"In today's competitive business landscape, the ability to balance effectiveness and efficiency is crucial for success."

contributing to the organisation's most pressing goals. Their efficiency is not leading to the right results, which can ultimately harm the business.

Conversely, an employee who is highly effective but lacks efficiency may focus on the right tasks but their work could be slow, resource-heavy or inconsistent. While they may achieve the desired results, they could take too long or use excessive resources, which could lead to missed opportunities, cost overruns or burnout.

In a corporate setting, both effectiveness and efficiency must be embraced to create a sustainable environment of success.

The key to high performance lies in the ability to identify what tasks should be prioritised and then executing them in the most efficient manner possible.

Leaders and employees must consider not only the goals they are working towards but also the best methods for achieving those goals with minimal waste and maximum impact.

The true challenge lies in balancing effectiveness and efficiency. In many cases, it is important to focus on being effective first. Without a clear sense of direction and a focus on achieving the right goals, any effort to work efficiently is futile.

The most effective organisations are those that define their strategic goals and then seek ways to achieve them efficiently. Being efficient without first ensuring that you are working on the right tasks could lead to misguided efforts, where resources are optimised but to no avail.

In an ideal workplace, effectiveness should be the starting point. Only once the right goals and priorities are identified should efforts be made to

optimise the process.

Efficiency can be introduced once the correct actions are established, ensuring that the organisation can achieve its objectives in the least amount of time and with the fewest resources.

The ultimate goal is to become "efficiently effective". In this ideal scenario, organisations and employees can achieve the right results if they utilise minimal resources, avoid waste, leverage systems, rely on automation and best practices to maintain a high level of productivity without compromising quality.

In today's competitive business landscape, the ability to balance effectiveness and efficiency is crucial for success.

Leaders, managers and employees must work not only to set the right objectives but also to pursue those objectives in the most efficient way possible.

The ability to prioritise the right goals while minimising unnecessary resources is the secret to achieving optimal results and maintaining long-term success.

Organisations that foster a culture where effectiveness and efficiency are prioritised will find themselves better equipped to navigate challenges, innovate and drive sustainable growth.

By understanding the distinctions between these two concepts and finding ways to harmonise them, businesses can unlock new levels of productivity, profitability and achieve overall success.

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Solve stray dog issue with compassion, not cruelty

LETTERS
letters@thesundaily.com

AS tensions over how to manage the stray dog population in Negeri Sembilan reach a boiling point, we urge all state assemblymen to adopt a humane and compassionate approach to address the growing number of these innocent animals, which have reportedly become increasingly unmanageable in certain areas.

More than 300 million dogs live on the streets across Asia, with most of them battling hunger, disease and the need for shelter.

In the most distressing cases, authorities resort to culling stray dogs or confining them in overcrowded shelters with inadequate conditions. Such measures are inhumane, unethical and ultimately ineffective.

We celebrate the success of the Kingdom of Bhutan, a country that struggled for years with street dog-related issues, including incidents of dog bites and rabies.

In response, the government partnered with Humane Society International (HSI) to develop a humane, holistic and sustainable model for managing free-roaming dogs – one that prioritised animal welfare while promoting peaceful coexistence between dogs and people.

Together with HSI, a pilot programme was launched, laying the foundation for lasting change.

To date, over 153,000 dogs have been sterilised and vaccinated, resulting in nearly 100% coverage of the country's street dog population.

After a successful 14-year partnership, the government of Bhutan now runs the programme independently. The programme was launched in one city and within four months, more than 2,800 dogs had been sterilised and vaccinated.

Meanwhile, HSI staff trained dozens of veterinarians, para-vets and volunteers. As the programme expanded to other regions across the country, with the support of over 11,000 volunteers, the National Dog Management and Rabies Control Programme became an overwhelming success.

Led by six community-engagement officers, who travelled across the country and assisted in developing public awareness and messaging, as well as establishing communication centres for referrals and services, Bhutan established a positive, compassionate model for street dog management that can be implemented worldwide.

Establishing a successful street dog-management programme requires six basic components:

- ① An accurate data assessment of the size of the street dog population;
- ② Legislation, allocation of funds and the appointment of qualified animal care specialists to initiate and oversee the programme;
- ③ Public education, communication and access to resources;
- ④ Designing a comprehensive programme of locating, sterilising and vaccinating the street dog population;
- ⑤ Setting and implementing standards for animal care and welfare; and
- ⑥ Ensuring sustainability with safe sanctuaries



Killing stray dogs is inhumane, unethical and not a sustainable solution.
– REUTERS/PIC

and a continuous monitoring process that includes public referrals and necessary readjustments.

There must also be a contingent plan for animal welfare. One possible solution is to designate public land in each state for a free-roaming dog sanctuary, managed by a team of animal care specialists with support from local volunteers.

This sanctuary could provide feeding and basic care for the dogs as well as a training and conditioning programme for those eligible to be adopted as family pets.

Taxpayers must speak up now. Rounding up and killing stray dogs is not a solution. It is crucial that we work together with NGOs to explore

humane alternatives.

We can take inspiration from Bhutan's model, where street dogs are spayed and neutered, then placed in sanctuaries under the care of animal welfare organisations, such as Furrykids Safehaven and other shelters.

Malaysians are a caring and compassionate people, always ready to open their hearts to those in need. As responsible stewards of our country – its environment, flora and fauna – we surely care enough to extend compassion to the most vulnerable lives among us, providing a humane solution to their welfare.

C. Sathasivam Sitheravellu
Seremban

New chapter for press freedom

COMMENT

by Philip Gan Chee Keat

AS Malaysia joined the annual global celebration of World Press Freedom Day by the United Nations on May 3, the nation stood at a pivotal moment for media freedom, ethical journalism and reform.

This year's theme, "Reporting in the Brave New World - The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media", resonates in a country where the struggle for press independence and ethical journalism has spanned generations, now reshaped by the disruptive power of artificial intelligence (AI).

In February, the Malaysian Parliament passed the long-anticipated Malaysian Media Council (MMC) Bill. This landmark move comes 50 years after the idea was first proposed by Malaysia's second prime minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, in 1974.

The bill's passing is seen as a historic moment for the local media landscape, marking decades of advocacy by journalists, media organisations and press freedom advocates.

It promises a council that will protect press freedom, uphold ethical standards and provide an industry-led alternative to restrictive laws such as the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984. After multiple attempts, shifting political landscapes and recurring debates on the council's structure and independence, the MMC Bill was finally passed this year.

Challenges of AI in journalism

As Malaysia celebrates this legislative breakthrough, it faces new challenges, such as the integration of AI in journalism.

AI is rapidly transforming Malaysia's media landscape, offering opportunities and challenges for press freedom and journalistic integrity – issues that the council should prioritise.



The MMC Bill must include clear frameworks for AI use in journalism, ensuring it supports rather than undermines press freedom. – ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

AI technologies are now embedded in newsrooms, powering automated news writing, AI-generated news anchors, real-time transcription, personalised content delivery and multilingual capabilities.

These innovations promise greater newsroom efficiency and powerful tools for combating misinformation. However, the rapid adoption of AI also introduces complex challenges such as job displacement, algorithmic bias, data privacy and intellectual property rights.

Additionally, concerns over AI "hallucinations" – where generative AI produces plausible-sounding but misleading information – are growing.

Ironically, while AI has shown promise in addressing misinformation, it risks undermining trust if not governed responsibly.

This dual-edged nature of AI underscores the urgent need for robust ethical guidelines and regulatory oversight – an area where the council

must lead decisively.

A stark reminder of these risks came just days before the MMC Bill was passed. A popular social media platform's AI moderation system mistakenly blocked the accounts of several Malaysian news organisations after they reported on a high-profile sexual assault case.

The AI flagged the content as violating community standards and failed to distinguish between responsible journalism and harmful material, resulting in legitimate news outlets being deplatformed.

This incident raised significant concerns within the media sector. It highlighted the challenge of AI moderation, where automated systems struggle to differentiate between responsible media reporting and other types of content.

There is a need for platforms to refine their moderation mechanisms and consider a differentiated status for verified media

organisations to ensure fair treatment on digital platforms.

This episode highlights a crucial issue that while AI is tasked with content moderation without adequate human oversight, press freedom can become collateral damage.

As social media platforms increasingly rely on AI, the risk grows that algorithms – rather than editors or journalists – will determine which news reaches the public, raising questions about transparency, accountability and freedom of expression.

Towards responsible AI integration

In Malaysia's digital-first media environment, where social media platforms serve both as news sources and misinformation vectors, responsible AI integration is more urgent than ever.

Initiatives aimed at tackling misinformation and collaborations between the government and tech companies are important but enforcement remains inconsistent.

The vision for the MMC Bill, focused on setting high standards and governance, must now include clear frameworks for AI use in journalism, ensuring it supports rather than undermines press freedom.

On this World Press Freedom Day, Malaysia celebrated a milestone that honours its long-standing struggle for independent journalism.

With the establishment of the MMC Bill and the growing focus on responsible AI integration, the nation moves towards a future where the press is both free and forward-thinking – informing, challenging and inspiring in an increasingly digital and AI-driven world.

Philip Gan Chee Keat is programme director of the Bachelor of Mass Communication (Honours) and lecturer at the School of Media and Communication, Faculty of Social Sciences and Leisure Management at Taylor's University. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

Turning green into gold: Seizing Malaysia's sustainable advantage

COMMENT

by Suzianah Nhazzla

WHEN the floodwaters reached the roofs of *kampung* houses in Kuala Krai, no one needed a scientific report to know that the climate crisis had arrived.

As the global climate emergency deepens, nations are being called to act not just responsibly but decisively.

Malaysia, with its relatively low unemployment rate of 3.3% as of early 2025, is well-positioned to lead but must now choose between business-as-usual and bold transformation.

The mounting frequency of floods, heatwaves and ecological degradation underscores one truth: we can no longer separate economic ambition from environmental responsibility.

The 2022 monsoon floods that ravaged Kelantan and Terengganu were not isolated events. In 2024 alone, Malaysia experienced severe flooding that displaced over 122,000 people, with the worst impacts seen in Kelantan, Terengganu and Sarawak.

In the past five years, more than 55 major flood incidences have struck our country, inflicting economic damages exceeding RM8 billion.

Meanwhile, transboundary haze continues to suffocate our skies and extreme weather is pushing our agricultural yields and water security to precarious limits.

Malaysia's economy, still heavily reliant on carbon-intensive sectors such as oil, gas and monoculture agriculture, is at odds with its environmental aspirations.

In 2023, carbon dioxide emissions stood at approximately 283.3 million metric tonnes, reflecting a 3.27% rise from the previous year and positioning Malaysia among Asean's highest per capita emitters.

Between 2001 and 2023, Malaysia lost about 9.23 million hectares of tree cover – a staggering 31% reduction in forest cover since the start of the millennium. These are not just environmental statistics; they are signals of a system in need of redesign.

What is a green economy?

A green economy prioritises low-carbon growth, resource efficiency and social inclusivity. It is not a utopian vision; it is a pragmatic framework for national resilience.

It seeks to align economic progress with environmental sustainability, ensuring prosperity today does not compromise tomorrow's survival.

For Malaysia, this pivot is particularly timely. The country's continued dependence on resource-heavy sectors such as oil and gas, logging and unsustainable agriculture places it at odds with climate goals. Yet, the green economy offers a bridge, a way to preserve economic dynamism while reducing ecological risk.

Beyond disaster risk reduction, a green economy is inherently aligned with environmental conservation. By reducing pressure on natural ecosystems, it allows for large-scale reforestation efforts, supports the recovery of degraded habitats and helps preserve biodiversity.

Policies that promote renewable energy, sustainable land use and responsible tourism directly contribute to the protection of forests and the survival of endangered species.

In Malaysia, this approach can revitalise vital ecosystems – from the rainforests of Sabah and Sarawak to the mangrove belts of Selangor – ensuring that wildlife corridors are restored and that human development no longer comes at the cost of nature.

Redesigning for climate resilience

The green economy also offers solutions to the

climate catastrophes we are already facing.

Nature-based interventions, such as mangrove rehabilitation, urban greening and sustainable drainage systems, can reduce disaster risk while simultaneously creating new employment streams in eco-tourism, conservation and environmental monitoring.

In our urban centres, reimagining infrastructure with green building standards, solar retrofitting and cooler urban planning is critical – not just for comfort but for survival in an age of climate extremes.

Governance, finance and will to act

Malaysia's institutional progress in green finance, led by Bank Negara's climate stress tests and ESG reporting, deserves recognition. However, this progress must move beyond frameworks. Green bonds, carbon markets and sustainability-linked tax incentives must become the norm – not the niche.

Equally critical is policy coherence. Siloed governance continues to stall momentum. A National Green Economy Roadmap, led by a central inter-ministerial task force under the Prime Minister's Office, could align efforts across federal, state and local governments.

As environmental advisor Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood has emphasised, Malaysia's climate challenges are immediate and pressing, necessitating a transformation of our economic model to prioritise sustainability and resilience.

Path forward

To unlock the green economy's potential, Malaysia must urgently adopt a national green economy blueprint that sets clear, cross-sectoral targets and timelines.

Investment in green skills, particularly among youths and rural communities, should be prioritised, ensuring inclusivity in the transition.

At the same time, Malaysia must accelerate

decarbonisation by phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and ramping up investments in renewable infrastructure.

Strengthening land-use governance to halt deforestation and protect biodiversity is equally critical, as is the mainstreaming of green finance mechanisms. Carbon pricing, climate bonds and greater support for SMEs to engage in sustainable innovation must become central pillars of our economic strategy moving forward.

Citizens, too, have a role to play – by embracing green consumer habits, supporting ethical businesses and holding decision-makers accountable for sustainability pledges. Climate action must become a shared national ethic – not just a policy domain.

Time to lead

Malaysia is not without assets. We are blessed with biodiversity, regional influence and a dynamic, intelligent population.

However, leadership in the green economy demands more than potential; it requires political courage, institutional alignment and sustained public engagement.

This is no longer about choosing between the economy and the environment. It is about recognising that they are one and the same. The floods are real. The forests are vanishing. The costs of inaction are rising.

But so too is our chance to lead, not just for Malaysia but for the region.

In leading the green transition, Malaysia has the chance to honour not just our future but the land, water and people who shaped our past.

Let us rise to meet that promise and build a legacy where economic prosperity walks hand in hand with ecological stewardship, and where Malaysia is not merely a fast-growing nation but a truly future-ready one.

Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

BY DHARSHINI GANESON

LEARNING is experienced through many different ways. Most learning is done in a classroom setting, but recently experiential learning has gained traction due to advantage it gives to the learner by being involved.

This is especially true for slow learners and those with learning disabilities, who have great difficulty processing information in a static environment, due to boredom and inability to focus.

Even normal children love being outdoors and being involved in outdoor activities. So why not those with special needs (SN), where experiential learning is used as a tool?

Prem Kumar, a psychologist, he describes it as a fun loving process, which he has successfully used in engaging SN young children and adults.

"No doubt it is rooted in gamified activities, engagement, reflection and real-world application.

"Experiential learning is particularly powerful because it taps into cognitive, emotional and social processes, enhancing the learning process, critical thinking, problem-solving and adaptability.

"Overall, the learning process becomes more active and helps build a library of new experiences. More importantly it lowers uncertainty and anxiety, and improves problem-solving skills," said Prem, who founded Care2Run, a social enterprise, that runs experiential learning programmes such as 'Nature Bingo', a multi-sensory

Making a difference

» Experiential learning provides a new pathway for special needs



Nanthini enjoys the many outdoor activities and works full time as a teacher's aide in a kindergarten.



(left) Prem handing out prizes won by SN adults in the presence of Tan Lay Geok (fourth left), one of the founders of Care2Run and a lawyer by profession, with volunteer participants.

programme encouraging observation and environmental awareness.

Bridging gap between theory and application

It is especially difficult for SN children as well as adults to make connections, whether through social interactions

and hands-on exploration, so any integrated activity that combines both theory and practice enables learning.

As the mother of a SN adult, I had the opportunity to see this integration with the KL Bar Run 2025, where my daughter, D. Preya Nanthini, 34 years, participated. When the KL Bar first

opened its doors to SN participants in 2018, the numbers were small but grew substantially due to the many benefits gained by the SN adults and differently-abled participants.

Determination, resilience and friendships formed along the way. These were some of the many plus

points of the KL Bar Run, which could not have been formed or developed in a classroom setting.

As a parent shared in a Facebook page: "The camaraderie in the Bar Run 2025 was amazing, as the SN adults cheered on their friends in the race and my son learnt how to be part of a relay team and succeed despite the challenges."

Multi-sensory engagement

Prem said, "The great part about experiential learning is that it allows SN adults to engage through touch, movement, visual cues and real-world interaction."

Recently, an activity known as 'Urban Camping Experience', organised by Prem and his team, with tents pitched in an open field decorated with light bulbs, and with soothing music, brought great excitement to the SN adults and young children as they blew bubbles at each other, while camping in the field for a few hours one morning.

Prem designs each activity to ensure skills-building, confidence and learning through play is present in each activity.

"Each activity is carefully designed to be immersive and engaging," he said.

Parents are appreciative of the work done by Care2Run and examples of success stories include Jayden Selvanayagam, 21, and his brother Nevin, both on the autistic spectrum, who won prizes in the KL Bar Run and are today enrolled in Wisma Harapan undergoing vocational training. Many parents feel there is improvement.

EDUCATION

FOCUS 2025

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■ BY JOHN GILBERT
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Airlines is confident in the continued recovery of tourism in 2025 and beyond, supported by stronger consumer sentiment, greater mobility and improved economic conditions.

However, the airline remains cautious, as rising tariffs, inflationary trends and global supply chain disruptions are expected to exert pressure on its operational costs.

Malaysia Aviation Group chief commercial officer of airlines Dersensih Aresandiran (*pic*) said as a premium carrier, Malaysia Airlines is focused on delivering a compelling product offering that supports long-term growth.

This includes ongoing fleet modernisation, enhanced passenger comfort and an overall improved travel experience.

"We are committed to ensuring network accessibility, offering flexible fare options and strengthening customer engagement through our Enrich loyalty programme and lifestyle integrations," he told *SunBiz*.

Dersensih said enhancing partnerships with government stakeholders to boost incentives for domestic travel, particularly during peak travel periods, remains a critical strategy.

He said that as the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines is working closely with Tourism Malaysia in supporting the goals of Visit Malaysia 2026 in strengthening air connectivity across the



► Malaysia Airlines committed to delivering compelling product that supports long-term prospects while keeping an eye on factors that could pressure operational costs

country and enriching the domestic tourism landscape.

"In tandem, we are actively working with state tourism bodies, including Sarawak Tourism Board, to support events such as the Rainforest World Music Festival, and Langkawi Development Authority to continue positioning Langkawi as a top-tier domestic destination. These collaborations reinforce our commitment to growing Malaysia's domestic tourism ecosystem and supporting regional economic development," he said.

Malaysia Airlines has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture to put in place promotional activities.

"Building on past festive season initiatives that

boosted travel through subsidies, promotions and targeted discounts, there is strong potential to formalise and expand these partnerships.

"By working closely with tourism boards, regional governments and related ministries, new incentive schemes such as travel vouchers, accommodation subsidies and special fare promotions can be developed.

"These initiatives would not only stimulate higher domestic travel demand during high-traffic periods but also support broader national tourism recovery goals, promote regional economic activity, and strengthen public-private sector cooperation in the travel and aviation industries," Dersensih said.

The airline has seen increased domestic airport arrivals (+6.1%), validating the importance of maintaining and optimising intra-Malaysia routes.

Among the destinations that recorded significant year-on-year increases in passenger load factors

from Kuala Lumpur are Bintulu (+11%), Langkawi Tawau, and Sandakan (+9%), Miri and Penang (+8%), Alor Setar, Kota Bharu, Kuantan, and Sibul (+7%), Kuching, Kuala Terengganu and Labuan (+6%), and Johor Bahru and Kota Kinabalu (+4%).

Meanwhile, sister airline Firefly saw its domestic passenger load factors increase by more than 6% in 2024 versus 2023, driven by key routes such as from Subang to Penang and Johor Bahru.

In terms of increased capacity, the top domestic routes that saw an increase in available seat kilometres (ASK) year-on-year are Kuala Lumpur to Kota Bharu (+19%) and Johor Bahru (+10%) by Malaysia Airlines, and from Kota Kinabalu to Tawau (+77%) and from Kuching to Tawau (+33%) by Firefly, respectively.

Dersensih said Malaysia Airlines has strengthened its network connectivity, particularly to high-demand coastal and beach destinations, reflecting the growing interest in these routes.

In addition, the airline has ramped up its marketing efforts to promote domestic tourism through the "Bonus Side Trip" programme which includes seven key destinations: Alor Setar, Langkawi, Johor Bahru, Kota Bharu, Kuala Terengganu, Kuantan and Penang.

This initiative supports Malaysia's

economic growth while contributing to the broader ambitions of Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

Touching on fleet modernisation and expansion, Dersensih said Malaysia Airlines' commitment to modernise its fleet is underscored by the recent orders for the Boeing 737-8 and 737-10 aircraft under the second phase of its narrow-body replacement programme.

He added that this investment will enhance fuel efficiency, reliability and overall passenger experience.

"The 737-8, which has been in service with Malaysia Airlines since 2023, marks the beginning of our narrow-body fleet renewal. Additionally, we are upgrading some key domestic flights, including services to East Malaysia, by introducing wide-body Airbus A330 aircraft during peak times to increase capacity and enhance cargo capabilities," Dersensih said.

Malaysia Airlines remains committed to supporting national connectivity and affordability.

During major festive seasons, Dersensih said, the government deploys subsidised fixed-fare promotions to ensure travel remains accessible to all Malaysians.

"Meanwhile, we are enhancing Firefly's connectivity from Subang with over 2,100 weekly flights to eight destinations, including Kota Kinabalu and Kuching," he added.

'Protectionism disrupts global trade'

KUALA LUMPUR: Rising trade protectionism impacts global trade, causing economic fragmentation that affects trade, investment and capital flows throughout the region, the 28th Asean+3 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM+3) concluded.

The meeting was held on May 4 in Milan, Italy, under the co-chairmanship of Malaysia's Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, Bank Negara Malaysia governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour, China's Finance Minister Lan Fo'an, and the People's Bank of China governor Pan Gongsheng.

The Asean+3 Macroeconomic Research Office director, the Asian Development Bank president, the Asean Secretariat deputy secretary-general and the International Monetary Fund deputy managing director were also present.

In a joint statement, AFMGM+3 said that near-term prospects may also be affected by other external risks, including tighter global financial conditions, growth slowdown in major trading partners, and reduced investment flows.

"We call for enhanced regional unity and cooperation as we en-

deavour to weather the heightened uncertainty. Our current policy priority is to reinforce long-term resilience while maintaining flexibility to address near-term challenges, including rising protectionism and volatile global financial conditions.

"On the fiscal front, this means rebuilding policy buffers while continuing to provide well-targeted support to sustain growth while implementing structural reforms. We will also carefully recalibrate monetary policy based on domestic conditions," said the group.

AFMGM+3 emphasised that they will maintain exchange rate flexibility as a buffer against external shocks.

"Our export markets and sources of growth have become increasingly diversified over the years, with domestic demand and intraregional trade now serving as key drivers of growth," it said.

The group said that amid rising uncertainties and long-term structural shifts, they reaffirm their full commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based, non-discriminatory, free, fair, open, inclusive, equitable, and transparent multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core.

"We will enhance macro-economic policy dialogue, promote regional financial cooperation, and ensure stable and unimpeded industrial and supply chains, to jointly safeguard regional economic and financial stability.

"We fully support the robust implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement," it said.

They urged international organisations to uphold multilateralism and promote free trade, analyse and monitor the potential impact of trade tensions on the global economy, and support their members in providing policy advice to manage the negative shocks that may arise.

"We will promote greater intra-regional trade and investment flows to strengthen the region's resilience against external shocks, to adjust to pre-existing and new challenges, and to support sustainable and equitable economic development.

AFMGM+3 said the meetings reaffirm their resolve and commitment to ensure that financial systems and markets remain resilient despite uncertainty, while maintaining open communication among members in light of rapidly evolving developments. — Bernama

Maybank IB: BNM expected to take dovish stance at policy meeting

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) is expected to adopt a dovish stance at its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting on Thursday, said Maybank Investment Bank Bhd (Maybank IB).

It said such a stance would indicate the central bank's willingness to ease policy if necessary, while maintaining the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 3%, should data show the economy remains resilient.

In a research note yesterday, Maybank IB said the likely timing for a potential rate cut would be in the second half of 2025 (2H 2025), with the July MPC meeting being the earliest window for BNM to ease.

"A later cut in September or November is also possible if economic data doesn't deteriorate as quickly as feared," it said.

Additionally, Maybank IB said back-to-back BNM rate cuts are not warranted at this juncture as absent an economic or global financial crisis, BNM typically adopts a moderate monetary policy approach, adjusting the policy rate at a measured pace.

Moreover, US President Donald Trump's tariff policies are subject to

change, with negotiations still ongoing. We believe policymakers are attentive to both downside risks to growth and upside risks to inflation," it added.

Maybank IB said that given monetary policy works with a lag, the likely rate path ahead is a single 25 basis points (bps) cut in second half 2025, followed by pauses to assess changes in economic conditions and global geopolitical tensions before considering further actions.

According to Maybank IB, the upcoming BNM MPC meeting will likely draw close attention from market participants, following two years of consecutive holds that have largely been non-events since the last hike in May 2023.

"Trade tensions have altered the balance of risks to domestic growth and inflation," it said.

Meanwhile, it said the US Federal Reserve's decision is not expected to have a major sway BNM rate decision, which is primarily determined based on domestic data and how the global developments affect local conditions. — Bernama

Samenta welcomes govt moves to mitigate US tariffs' impact on SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR: The Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Malaysia (Samenta) has welcomed the government's initiatives to mitigate the impact of reciprocal tariffs imposed by the United States on SMEs.

Its president, Datuk William Ng, said that while the vast majority of SMEs are neither exporters nor manufacturers, they will still be affected by the tariffs as costs rise and consumer spending declines.

He said the association hopes the government will halt all new and planned cost increases, including the expansion of the sales and service tax (SST), and consider lifting the ban on foreign workers to help SMEs in the services sector cope with the tariff.

"What is needed is a broad-based basket of interventions, given that different industries are impacted differently.

"What would help SMEs most at this time is avoiding panic, as most of our SMEs are domestic-facing businesses. Any loss in consumer confidence and spending will hurt our SMEs more than the tariffs themselves," he told Bernama when contacted yesterday.

Ng noted that, beyond supporting affected businesses, especially those dependent on the US market or heavily influenced by supply chain costs, the government must also ensure that no incremental costs are introduced.

"These include halting all planned cost increases, such as those related to electricity and water tariffs, council fees, subsidy rationalisation, and the expansion of the SST," he added.

In a special Dewan Rakyat sitting yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government has agreed to raise the guarantee allocation under Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan Bhd by RM1 billion, particularly to assist SMEs affected by the US tariffs in securing loans from commercial banks.

The government has also approved an additional RM500 million for the soft loan fund offered through development financial institutions.

West River sets course for expansion

➤ Company plans new factory to boost production, eyes opportunities in Johor and Penang, especially in hospitality and data centres

■ BY AIMIE SHAZRIE
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KUALA LUMPUR: Engineering services provider West River Bhd has unveiled plans to construct a

new manufacturing facility in Klang Valley and extend its market presence into Johor and Penang.

Managing director Lim Yong Lai said the group aims to channel RM10 million (35.84%) of its initial

public offering (IPO) proceeds into land acquisition and the development of a new manufacturing facility to increase its production capacity.

"Our initial plan is to buy land, get the necessary approvals, and build the plant ourselves, a process we estimate will take around three years. However, we are also exploring the option of acquiring ready-built buildings which could shorten the timeline depending on market availability," he said in a press conference following West River's listing on Bursa Malaysia's

ACE Market yesterday.

Lim said the proposed facility is expected to have around 35,000 sq ft of built-up area, significantly larger than its current site in Kajang. "It will accommodate expanded production lines for the manufacturing of electrical panels and distribution boards, along with warehousing space."

Apart from physical expansion, West River also plans to diversify geographically.

Currently, about 80% of the company's revenue comes from Klang Valley, but it is now eyeing project opportunities in Johor and Penang, especially within sectors such as hospitality and data centres.

"We have two projects pending on the northern side, one in Langkawi and another in the hotel sector. Meanwhile, we are also tendering for data centre projects in Johor, which is a hot sector right now. About 13% of our RM1 billion tender book consists of data centre projects," Lim disclosed.

On financing strategy, he said West River is utilising RM5.6 million (20%) from the IPO to repay borrowings, aiming to reduce its gearing ratio from around 0.3 to between 0.1 and 0.2. "This will provide more flexibility for future fundraising if needed."

Commenting on Malacca Securities' projection of a 9.7% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in core revenue over the next three years, Lim expressed confidence in the company's growth trajectory. "While Malacca Securities projected a 9.7% CAGR in earnings over three years, our internal targets are more ambitious at 15%."

West River opened at 39.5 sen on its debut, representing a 1.28% premium over its IPO price of 39 sen per share.

Based on West River's enlarged share capital of 357.7 million shares and the IPO price of 39 sen per share, its market capitalisation upon listing is about RM139.5 million.

Lim said the IPO performance met internal expectations. "We are happy that investors still have confidence in us. The demand in the M&E sector remains strong."



From left: M&A Securities Sdn Bhd corporate finance deputy head Danny Wong, West River Bhd independent non-executive directors Tan Yiling Fung and Kho Zhen Qi, independent non-executive chairman Datuk Seri Dr Shahril Mokhtar, Lim, executive director Cheong Wee Kim and independent non-executive director Wong Kian Leon, and M&A Equity Holdings Bhd managing director (corporate finance) and executive director Datuk Bill Tan at the listing ceremony.

PayNet launches accelerator to spur fintech sector growth in Malaysia

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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KUALA LUMPUR: Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet) has launched a fintech-focused accelerator, PayNet Fintech Hub, which is expected to unlock RM5 billion in intangible value for 50 selected fintechs through mentorship, funding access and global exposure.

PayNet Group CEO Farhan Ahmad said the hub is built to address key issues faced by fintechs in Malaysia to scale beyond the foundational stage.

"There are about 300 fintechs in Malaysia, but we expect fewer than 50 to join this programme. We will be very selective and we'll choose fintechs we believe are at the right stage and they will get the benefits and will get close to RM5 billion intangible value benefits," he said at the launch yesterday.

Farhan said the hub is expected to "significantly accelerate" fintech growth in the country.

"The hub is our response to a

global call for smarter collaboration and accelerated innovation, uniting the fragmented fintech ecosystem and creating real, scalable outcomes, and we are very excited about its possibilities," he added.

Farhan disclosed that PayNet is also developing an Open Data and Open Banking initiative for Malaysia. "This would be a massive catalyst and enabler to fintech success. When we launch that project as well, this will really help this project."

Farhan said a thriving fintech industry is the key to delivering financial services that can advance Malaysia's growth and innovation goals.

The hub is a programme with two pillars – Community and Catalyst. Fintechs selected into Community will get direct access to founders and ecosystem players to exchange ideas and share learnings, 450 hours of mentorship by a network of founders and domain experts, corporate players from banking, payments, and tech for partnership opportunities, and a pool of fintech investors who



PayNet chief marketing officer Gary Yeoh (left) and Farhan at a press conference after the launch yesterday.

can mentor, evaluate and invest in Fintech Hub members.

All Fintech Hub Community members will also receive financial support in the form of more than RM1

million in PayNet value-added credits, over RM600,000 worth of advisory services across legal, finance, HR, and market research, up to RM3 million in cloud credits and support from cloud

service providers, and access to a co-working space.

PayNet said these benefits are designed to help founders preserve cash burn, navigate challenges, refine business models, sharpen go-to-market strategies, raise funds, and define a clear path towards a successful exit.

The most promising startups from the Community will be picked for the Catalyst programme. This Catalyst track is in partnership with global institutions to give top Malaysian fintechs international exposure, mentorship, resources, and access.

Fintechs in Catalyst will join a fully sponsored 10-week accelerator programme in partnership with Imperial College London. This includes a trip to London to meet with the Imperial faculty, as well as European and US startups.

Participants will get coaching and mentoring by the Imperial faculty, culminating in a final demo day that offers exposure to venture capitalists and potential corporate partners.

The accelerator is fully funded by PayNet.

US-based Scorpius eyes Malaysia for halal biomanufacturing in expansion

KUALA LUMPUR: Scorpius Holdings Inc, a United States-based integrated contract development and manufacturing organisation, is exploring the establishment of a halal-compliant biomanufacturing facility in Malaysia as part of its international expansion strategy.

In a statement, the company said discussions with key Malaysian stakeholders and regulatory authorities are under way to potentially set up a local subsidiary aimed at serving regional and global demand for halal-certified biopharmaceutical products.

This initiative aimed to address a critical gap

in access to halal-certified biologics for the global Muslim population, which is significantly underserved.

Its CEO, Jeff Wolf, said the move is part of Scorpius' broader strategic restructuring to improve operational efficiency and drive long-term growth.

"We have proactively implemented structural changes to right-size our operations, including workforce reductions and the closing of our North Carolina facilities to consolidate



operations in one location," he said.

The restructuring, which includes a 28% reduction in headcount and the realignment of non-core expenditure, is expected to generate over US\$6 million (RM25.2 million) in annualised cost savings.

Meanwhile, Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang welcomed the initiative, noting its alignment with Malaysia's ambition to become a global hub for halal

biopharmaceutical innovation.

To support this global push, Scorpius has appointed prominent Malaysian entrepreneur Tan Sze Thuan to its Board of Directors. Tan is World Total Logistics Sdn Bhd founder and CEO, and his experience in Southeast Asia's logistics and regulatory environment is expected to aid the company's regional expansion efforts.

Scorpius continues to provide biologics manufacturing, process development, and analytical services to global clients while pursuing strategic alternatives to enhance shareholder value. – Bernama

Airline, airport performance dashboard upgraded

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Aviation Commission (Mavcom) yesterday unveiled its newly enhanced Airline and Airport Performance Dashboard, designed to provide the public and industry stakeholders with more comprehensive and detailed insights into airline and airport performance across Malaysia.

Available on Mavcom's official website (www.mavcom.my), the updated dashboard introduces new features and a broader scope of performance data, incorporating both domestic and international airline operations in Malaysia, with metrics on on-time performance (OTP), flight cancellations, the various types and reasons of delays and cancellations, as well as airport performance aligned with the Airports Quality of Service (QoS) Framework.

As the economic and commercial regulator for the aviation industry in Malaysia, Mavcom monitors the OTP of domestic and international flights operated by Malaysian carriers. These include AirAsia, AirAsia X, Batik Air, Firefly, Malaysia Airlines and MASwings. Airlines are required to ensure that at least 85% of their flights each month depart within 15 minutes of the scheduled time of departure (STD).

In addition, airlines must operate at least 80% of their scheduled flights and monthly flight cancellations must not exceed 20%. Mavcom began publishing this performance data for the Malaysian carriers operating from KL International Airport Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 (KUL T1 and T2) on April 15, 2024 and has since introduced enhancements to improve the accessibility and transparency of the information.

Mavcom in a statement said that this newly launched interactive dashboard

► Mavcom's improved tool provides deeper insights, greater transparency across Malaysia's aviation sector

now provides improved data for consumers and stakeholders. Key improvements include the ability for users to access OTP and flight cancellation data for flights departing from various airports nationwide, expanding beyond the previous focus on KUL T1 and T2.

The dashboard offers detailed information on the various types of delays experienced by Malaysian carriers for domestic and international flights.

Similarly, flight cancellation data is categorised by type and reason for the cancellations.

Furthermore, consumers will also have the opportunity to analyse trends in OTP and flight cancellations for both domestic and international flights operated by Malaysian carriers for flights originating from Malaysian airports.

Another significant enhancement to the dashboard is the inclusion of OTP and flight cancellation data for foreign carriers departing from KUL T1 and T2.

If an airline fails to meet the flight cancellation targets, the airline's application for the renewal of existing services or for additional air traffic rights (ATR) with Mavcom may be affected. An ATR is required for any ASL holder intending to transport passengers, mail, or cargo for hire and reward on scheduled journeys between two or more locations, at least one of which must be in Malaysia.

Aside from these metrics, airlines are mandated to adhere to the Malaysian Aviation Consumer Protection Code 2016, which outlines provisions for the

protection of air travel consumers in Malaysia. Failure to do so may result in financial penalties being imposed. To date, Mavcom has imposed financial penalties totalling RM4.85 million on AirAsia Bhd, AirAsia X Bhd and Batik Air.

The dashboard features airport performance metrics and results under the Airports QoS Framework. This Framework establishes standards and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for airports aimed at enhancing passenger comfort, prioritising consumer service levels, and improving the overall experience for both passengers and the wider airport community.

The dashboard includes the following airports that are under the Framework: KUL T1 and T2, Kota Kinabalu International Airport, Langkawi International Airport, Kuching International Airport, Miri Airport, and Senai International Airport. These airports are assessed based on four service quality categories, which are passenger comfort and facilities, queuing times, passenger and baggage flows, and operator and staff facilities.

The framework is set to be implemented at additional airports which are, Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport and Penang International Airport by 2025. The remaining airports will see progressive implementation until 2027, with data from these airports being added to the dashboard over time.

If Mavcom's analysis of airport performance indicates non-compliance with the targets established under the Framework, a financial penalty will be imposed on the airport operator. To date, Mavcom has imposed financial penalties totalling RM4.1 million on Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd for failing to comply with the framework.



EnrichMoney enables members to 'Pay with Points' via DuitNow QR

PETALING JAYA: In a move to enhance travel and lifestyle experiences, Enrich has expanded the capabilities of EnrichMoney with its latest feature: Pay with Points.

This new functionality allows members to instantly redeem their EnrichMoney points via DuitNow QR at participating merchants, marking the first solution of its kind in Malaysia.

Introduced in 2023, EnrichMoney is a multi-currency e-wallet and Visa prepaid card designed to cater to the evolving needs of modern travellers.

With features such as buying and selling up to 20 foreign currencies in-app, competitive exchange rates, and seamless integration with the Enrich loyalty programme, EnrichMoney offers a convenient, secure and rewarding way to manage spending whether at home or abroad.

The introduction of pay with EnrichMoney points enhances the experience, allowing members even greater flexibility and value by converting their loyalty points into everyday spending power.

Malaysia Aviation Group loyalty and travel services CEO Philip See said: "We are thrilled to offer our members a seamless and rewarding way to use their Enrich points beyond travel. This latest innovation underscores our unwavering commitment to enhancing the Enrich experience by integrating more convenience, relevance and everyday utility into our members' lifestyles. As we continue to evolve Enrich into a holistic travel and lifestyle loyalty programme, we remain focused on delivery benefits that truly matter to our members at every step of their journey."

To celebrate the launch, from now until May 31, members who use the Pay with Points feature will receive up to RM5 off their transactions, making it even easier to enjoy the benefits of their loyalty with every purchase.

Alpha IVF opens its first satellite clinic in Indonesia

PETALING JAYA: Alpha IVF Group Bhd, a specialist in fertility care, yesterday opened its first satellite clinic in Jakarta, Indonesia, strengthening its presence in a key regional market.

Located in North Jakarta's Pantai Indah Kapuk area, the new satellite clinic, Alpha Women's Specialists cares for Indonesian patients by offering specialised women's health services in fertility, obstetrics, and gynaecology, including hormonal assess-

ments, follow-up care and treatment for reproductive conditions such as polycystic ovary syndrome and endometriosis.

The group anticipates that the Jakarta clinic will contribute positively to its overall performance in the financial year ending May 31, 2026.

Group managing director Datuk Dr Colin Lee Soon Soo said: "Indonesia is one of the most dynamic IVF markets in the region, and we are proud to deepen our engagement by

making our services more accessible. As a Group driven by clinical innovation and patient-first values, we will continue to deliver ethical, transparent, and effective care to families seeking hope through science."

In financial year 2024, Indonesian patients contributed significantly to the group's international revenue, accounting for RM57.4 million or 42.38% of Malaysia operations revenue.

Gamuda land sale, works deals

KUALA LUMPUR: Gamuda Bhd, via indirect subsidiary, Gamuda DC Infrastructure Sdn Bhd (DCI), has entered into contracts to dispose of 157.42 hectares of land for RM455.23 million and undertake enabling works worth RM1.01 billion with Pearl Computing Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia yesterday, Gamuda said the land is located in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. It said DCI would then undertake enabling works on the land for Pearl Computing's data centre development, including earthworks and external infrastructure works. – Bernama

Indonesia Q1 GDP growth slowest in three years

➤ Headwinds expected from global trade turmoil and declining household spending

JAKARTA: Indonesia's economy grew at its weakest pace in more than three years in the first quarter, with headwinds expected in the rest of the year stemming from global trade turmoil and declining household spending.

Southeast Asia's largest economy grew 4.87% in the first quarter from a year earlier, its slowest rate since the third quarter of 2021 and down from 5.02% in the previous quarter.

Growth was roughly in line with analysts' forecasts in a Reuters poll at 4.91%.

President Prabowo Subianto, who took office last year, has pledged to lift GDP growth to 8% during his five-year term, but is facing challenges from slowing global growth amid a trade war, as well as weakening domestic demand and a tighter budget position.

US-bound exports could also be hit by hefty tariffs in coming months, which Jakarta is looking to avert in talks with Washington.

"Various challenges are already in sight, such as the negative impact of trade war tensions between the US and its trading partner countries, including Indonesia," said Myrdal Gunarto, Maybank Indonesia economist.

Global market uncertainties may also limit the central bank's room to ease monetary policy, he said.

Bank Indonesia has cut interest rates twice since September and has said it has room to cut further, though its priority was maintaining market stability.

Hosianna Situmorang, Bank Danamon's economist, said further growth deceleration to 4.79% is expected in the current quarter on slowing household spending and the impact of trade tensions.

However, she kept Danamon's 4.8% full-year forecast, expecting improvements in the second half of 2025.

"We see indications of improvement coming from easing trade tensions, since



A crane loading a container onto a truck at Tanjung Priok Port in Jakarta. – REUTERS/SPIC

investors are predicting China would negotiate (with the US). The government should also begin to accelerate spending," she said.

Chief economic minister Airlangga Hartarto told reporters Indonesia's growth remained higher than peers in the Group of 20 major economies, and that government spending would provide growth momentum going forward.

On a non-seasonally adjusted, quarter-on-quarter basis, GDP contracted 0.98%, Statistics Indonesia data showed.

In the first three months of 2025, household spending, which makes up over half of the country's GDP, grew 4.89% annually, down just slightly from the previous three months, but marking the slowest pace in five quarters.

That was despite higher spending during Ramadan, which fell in March this year.

Spending on eating out, transportation and communication remained strong, but other spending, such as footwear purchases, was sluggish, Statistics Indonesia said.

While the GDP data suggested stable purchasing power, other indicators suggested spending by urban middle class households was weakening, said Barra Kukuh Mamia, Bank Central Asia's economist.

First-quarter investment growth slipped to 2.12%, its lowest in two years. Government spending contracted, but there was an increase in the net export contribution to GDP due to slowing imports.

The mining sector shrank about 1%, affected by a drop in coal prices.

The agriculture sector provided one bright spot, with 10.5% growth, boosted by stronger rice and corn harvests. – Reuters

Ant Group plans to list overseas unit in Hong Kong, says report

HONG KONG: Ant Group, an affiliate of China's e-commerce giant Alibaba Group plans to list its overseas arm, Ant International, on the Hong Kong stock exchange, Chinese media reported, citing unnamed sources.

Caixin, citing people close to the company, reported that Ant was communicating with regulators about the potential listing.

The report did not say whether the discussions were taking place with regulators in China or elsewhere.

Ant International is registered in Singapore.

Ant was founded by billionaire Jack Ma and is 33% controlled by Alibaba.

It operates China's ubiquitous mobile payments app Alipay.

Chinese authorities pulled the plug on Ant's US\$37 billion IPO in Shanghai and Hong Kong in 2020 and cracked down on Ma's business empire soon after his speech in Shanghai in October that year accusing financial watchdogs of stifling innovation.

That subsequently led to a forced restructuring of Ant and a nearly US\$1 billion fine by Chinese regulators.

Ant is in the process of securing a financial holding company licence, which, once obtained, could facilitate the revival of its IPO goal. – Reuters

Number of Australia job ads rises in April

SYDNEY: Australian job advertisements rose for a second month in April, suggesting the labour market remained healthy although the outlook is clouded by mounting global trade risks.

Data from Australia and New Zealand Banking Group and employment website Indeed showed the number of job ads increased by 0.5% in April from March, when they rose 0.4%.

Job ads in April were down 5.1% from a year earlier, although they remained 16.2% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

The Reserve Bank of Australia skipped a chance to adjust interest rates in April but is widely expected to cut rates by a quarter point to 3.85% this month due to the hefty US tariffs on China that have fuelled fears of a global recession.

"Global trade uncertainty is expected to impact domestic consumer and business sentiment," said Aaron Luk, an economist at ANZ.

"Lower economic activity will likely lead to less demand for labour."

Luk added that the bank now expects the jobless rate will peak at 4.4%, rather than 4.2% previously, due to the trade uncertainties. – Reuters

Vietnam stock exchange launches new trading system

HANOI: Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange officially launched its new trading system yesterday, as the country pushes to unlock emerging market status and boost foreign investment.

The new system, known as KRX from Korea Exchange, is expected to shorten the settlement cycle and increase trading capacity, according to an earlier statement from the State Securities Commission.

"The new system will establish the foundation for a central clearing counterparty system," said Nguyen The Minh, head of research at Yuanta Securities Vietnam.

Both the MSCI and FTSE indices currently classify Vietnam as a frontier market, which prevents many funds, family offices, and others from investing in companies listed there.

FTSE will hold its next regular review in September.

Vietnam has been on FTSE's watchlist for a possible upgrade since 2018.

Vietnam's benchmark stock index rose slightly yesterday morning, reaching 1,232 as of 0243 GMT (10.43am in Malaysia).

Last November, Vietnam removed a requirement for overseas investors to fully

prefund equity trades, one of the longstanding barriers to its potential upgrade.

The KRX had faced multiple delays due to regulatory and technical roadblocks.

"KRX can enhance market liquidity and pave the way for the launch of other new financial products including day trading, short-selling and derivatives, which will better benefit investors," Nguyen said.

According to Nguyen, the system has been functioning properly so far, but it may take investors some time to get accustomed to it. – Reuters

NZ central bank sees AI adoption posing risk to financial stability

WELLINGTON: The rapid acceleration of artificial intelligence adoption in financial services presents a risk to financial stability, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand said in a report yesterday.

"Errors in AI systems, data privacy concerns and market distortions could amplify existing risks," the report said.

"The growing reliance on a small number of

third-party AI providers may also contribute to market concentration, creating new channels for contagion and increasing the potential impact of cyber-attacks."

However, it added that artificial intelligence tools and models were also providing benefits, including improved productivity, greater modelling accuracy,

enhanced risk assessment capabilities, and strengthened cyber resilience.

The report was released ahead of the twice-annual Financial Stability Report, due tomorrow.

Kerry Watt, director of financial stability assessment and strategy at the central bank, added in a statement that there is considerable

uncertainty around how AI will shape the financial system.

"We will continue to closely monitor developments in AI technology, adoption trends, and the evolving regulatory landscape, to ensure that the financial system remains well-positioned to manage emerging risks," Watt said. – Reuters

Oil tumbles as Opec+ accelerates output hikes

► Barclays and ING cut 2025 Brent forecasts as surplus looms

SINGAPORE: Oil prices fell more than US\$1 a barrel yesterday as Opec+ is set to further speed up oil output hikes, spurring concerns about more supply coming into a market clouded by an uncertain demand outlook.

Brent crude futures dropped \$1.34, or 2.19%, to US\$59.95 a barrel by 0717 GMT (3.17pm in Malaysia) while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at US\$56.87 a barrel, down US\$1.42, or 2.44%.

Both contracts touched their lowest since April 9 at yesterday's open after Opec+ agreed to accelerate oil production hikes for a second consecutive month, raising output in June by 411,000 barrels per day (bpd).

The June increase from the eight producers in the Opec+ group will take the total combined hikes for April, May and June to 960,000 bpd, representing a 44% unwinding of the 2.2 million bpd of various cuts agreed on since 2022, according to Reuters calculations.

"The May 3 Opec+ decision to raise production quotas another 411,000 bpd for June adds to the market expectation that the global supply/demand balance is moving to a surplus," Tim Evans, founder of Evans on Energy said in a note.

The group could fully unwind its voluntary cuts by the end of October if members do not improve compliance with their production quotas, Opec+ sources told Reuters.

Sources have said Saudi Arabia is pushing Opec+ to accelerate the unwinding of earlier output cuts to punish fellow members Iraq and Kazakhstan for poor compliance with their production quotas.

The premium between the front-month Brent contract and that for delivery in six months was 4 cents a barrel, narrowing from 47 cents in the previous session.

However, the spread flipped to a discount, known as a contango structure, of 11 cents a barrel earlier yesterday, for the first time since December 2023, reflecting expectations that the later-dated market is amply supplied or demand may drop.

Barclays and ING have also lowered their Brent crude forecasts following the Opec+ decision.

Barclays reduced its Brent forecast by US\$4 to US\$66 a barrel for 2025 and by US\$2 to US\$60 for 2026, while ING expects Brent to average US\$65 this year, down from US\$70 previously.

"We now expect Opec+ to phase out the additional voluntary adjustments by October 2025 but also expect slightly slower US oil output growth," Barclays analyst Amarpreet Singh said in a note.

The net impact of the higher Opec+ output and lower US output has increased Barclays' estimate of supply in 2025 by 290,000 bpd for 2025 and 110,000 bpd for 2026, he said.

ING analysts led by Warren Patterson said the global oil balance is expected to move deeper into surplus throughout 2025.

"The oil market has been dealing with significant demand uncertainty amid tariff risks. This change in Opec+ policy adds to uncertainty on the supply side," they added.

Meanwhile, tensions flared in the Middle East after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to retaliate against Iran for the Tehran-backed Houthis group firing a missile that landed near Israel's main airport.

Iran's Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh said on Sunday that Tehran would strike back if the United States or Israel attacked. — Reuters



Storage tanks at the Airankol oil field in Kazakhstan. — REUTERS/SPIC

Dubai Holding kicks off residential REIT IPO

DUBAI: Dubai Holding, an investment conglomerate owned by the emirate's ruler, said yesterday it plans to list a 12.5% stake in a residential leasing-focused real estate investment trust (REIT) in the first initial public offering of the year in Dubai.

The company plans to offer 1.63 billion units in Dubai Residential REIT, which manages 35,700 residential units across different segments, including some of its most iconic communities like City Walk and Bluewaters.

Dubai's property market has rebounded sharply since the Covid-19 pandemic, fuelled by an influx of foreign investors, government

residency reforms and a surge in demand for luxury housing from wealthy expatriates.

The region's business and tourism hub has also consolidated major state-owned real estate developers and listed more government entities on the stock exchange, as part of a broader push to deepen capital markets and diversify its economy.

Dubai Residential REIT is expected to be the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region's largest listed REIT, with a gross asset value (GAV) of 21.63 billion dirhams (RM25 billion), Dubai Holding said in a statement.

The listing would also be Dubai's first IPO

flotation since Talabat in December, and the second in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this year, after Alpha Data.

The subscription period for the IPO is expected to run from May 13 to 20, with trading on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) to start on or around May 28.

DHAM Investments, which is the selling unitholder, and a subsidiary of Dubai Holding, will receive all the proceeds from the offering, according to the statement.

Citi, Emirates NBD and Morgan Stanley are joint global coordinators and joint bookrunners for the IPO. — Reuters

Maldives secures US\$8.8b Qatar investment

COLOMBO: Cash-strapped Maldives has signed a deal with a Dubai-based company to establish an US\$8.8 billion (RM37 billion) investment zone aimed at diversifying the tourism hotspot into a "financial freezone", the government said yesterday.

Three residential and office towers, a convention centre and hotels will form part of the Maldives International Financial Centre (MIFC), President Mohamed Muizzu's office said in a statement.

"It will position Male as the premier global business and financial hub in the Indian Ocean," the statement said, adding it would allow the Indian Ocean archipelago to "diversify beyond tourism".

The US\$6.5 billion economy of the Maldives has been facing foreign exchange shortages since the Covid-19 pandemic and has been warned of a potential foreign debt crisis.

The announcement followed an agreement signed on Sunday with MBS Global Investments, a company owned by wealthy Qatari Sheikh Nayef bin Eid Al Thani.

The MIFC zone will have no residency requirements and offer "no corporate tax, tax-free inheritance ... and privacy", the statement added.

It is set for completion by 2030 with its projected revenue "to be well over US\$1 billion by the fifth year", according to the government.

In February, the IMF said the Maldives required "urgent and stronger" fiscal consolidation to stabilise its troubled economy, despite a thriving tourism industry.

The upmarket holiday destination expects its economy to grow by 5% in 2025, but the IMF warned that the sunny outlook masked significant risks.

The tiny nation declined an International Monetary Fund bailout loan late last year, with the government instead announcing severe spending cuts.

In September, the Maldives described its financial difficulties as "temporary" and said it had no plans to seek a bailout, despite warnings of a possible sovereign default.

The Maldives is on the frontline of the battle against global warming, which could raise sea levels and swamp the nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands scattered across the equator.

Official data showed the Maldives' foreign debt stood at US\$3.37 billion in the first quarter of 2024, equivalent to 45% of GDP.

China accounted for about 20% of the external debt, while India held just under 18%. — AFP

Swiss inflation falls to 0% in April

ZURICH: Swiss inflation fell to an unexpectedly low 0% in April, government data showed yesterday, increasing the chances the Swiss National Bank will cut rates again next month.

Consumer prices rose did not rise last month compared with a year earlier, below the 0.3% increase in February and March, and at the bottom end of the SNB's 0-2% target range.

The figure was below the Reuters poll for a reading of 0.2%.

The data raises the likelihood the Swiss National Bank will cut its policy rate from the current 0.25% at its next meeting on June 19 to prevent inflation falling below its 0-2% target range.

Markets had priced in an 93% probability the SNB will cut to 0% before the data.

There was also a 95% probability that rates will go below 0% later in the year. — Reuters



Investors worry Berkshire may **lose** Buffett premium

➤ But they anticipate conglomerate will retain long-term focus and culture

OMAHA: Berkshire Hathaway shareholders mourning the departure of legendary investor Warren Buffett anticipate the conglomerate he built over 60 years will retain its long-term focus and culture but worry about the loss of Buffett's vision and star power.

Following Buffett's surprise announcement on Saturday that he would step down as chief executive by the end of the year, Berkshire shareholders and fans said the Omaha, Nebraska-based company will remain in good hands once vice-chairman Greg Abel takes the top job.

But they said it remains unclear how the US\$1.16 trillion (RM4.8 trillion) conglomerate, which has 189 operating businesses, US\$264 billion of stocks and US\$348 billion of cash, will fare after the man so intertwined with it leaves the stage.

Buffett made the announcement at the end of the Berkshire annual meeting after hours of taking shareholder questions.

He said Berkshire's board of directors will meet later to discuss the transition.

"There has been a premium on Berkshire because of Buffett," said Mark Malek, chief investment officer at Siebert.NXT.

"Will people look at it in the same way?"

Richard Casterline, a computer programmer from Denver, said it was a "bit shocking" to learn of Buffett's departure.

"I don't think (Abel) elicits the same excitement."

"It's not any fault of his own, it's just thinking of who could be as legendary as those two are. It's just tough shoes to fill."

Still, many see Abel as right for the job.

"This is Buffett's baby, and he thoughtfully and deliberately planned for an orderly succession that does not disrupt the value of his life's work," said Daniel Hanson, senior portfolio manager at Neuberger Berman.

"I have full confidence in Greg's leadership."

Richard Lancaster, an accounting consultant from Charlotte, North Carolina, likened the change to Steve Jobs handing Apple's reins to current chief executive Tim Cook in 2011.

"You have two different personalities, two different approaches," said Lancaster.

"Greg has all the qualities Warren likes in a manager: very sharp individual, and well-versed in what's in the business climate



Buffett attending the Berkshire Hathaway annual shareholders' meeting in Omaha. — REUTERS/PIC

today and the changes that will come through disruptive technologies."

Under Buffett, Berkshire's annualised shareholder return has roughly doubled that of the Standard & Poor's 500.

Buffett's aura was such that when Berkshire disclosed new common stock investments, it routinely sent the stock prices higher even if Buffett himself wasn't doing the investing.

Some analysts believe Abel may be more hands-on than Buffett in overseeing Berkshire's subsidiaries.

"Abel's going to have to tread a fine line between maintaining a Buffett-like environment, with also making his mark," said analyst Cathy Seifert at CFRA Research.

And some investors clamor for Berkshire to pay a dividend, which it has not done since 1967.

Abel has hinted at changes.

Prior to Buffett's announcement, which Abel had not known was coming, the vice chairman told annual meeting attendees he would be "more active, but hopefully in a very positive way," in overseeing Berkshire subsidiaries, though they would continue running "very autonomously".

Berkshire's businesses are diverse, including Geico car insurance, the BNSF railroad, many utility and power companies, a real estate brokerage, and retail brands such

as Dairy Queen, Fruit of the Loom and See's Candies.

Another possible change: how readily Berkshire will unload businesses it owns, including when they underperform.

Buffett is known as a collector of businesses but has made exceptions, as when businesses lose competitive advantages.

In 2019, Berkshire sold its Applied Underwriters workers compensation unit, and the next year shed its newspaper empire as falling ad revenue led Buffett to brand the industry "toast".

Leaders of most Berkshire businesses have since 2018 reported to Abel, while Berkshire's insurance businesses such as Geico, General Re and National Indemnity have reported to vice-chairman Ajit Jain, which they will continue doing.

Managers praise Abel as a quick study, despite overseeing businesses as varied as aircraft parts maker Precision Castparts, toolmaker Iscar and Borsheims jewellery.

Quick changes are unlikely. Berkshire's sheer size makes undoing Buffett's work in short order, or making a transformational acquisition, very difficult.

"Buffett has built such an amazing machine," said Nate Garrison, chief investment officer at World Investment Advisers.

"It's something that will stand the test of time." — Reuters

Trump will not remove Powell before term ends

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said he will not remove Jerome Powell as Federal Reserve Board chairman before his term ends in May 2026 while describing the central banker as "a total stiff" and repeating calls for the Fed to lower interest rates.

In an interview with *Meet the Press* with Kristen Welker on NBC News airing on Sunday, Trump said Powell was no fan of his, but he expected the Fed to lower interest rates at some point.

"Well, he should lower them. And at some point, he will. He'd rather not because he's not a fan of mine. You know, he just doesn't like me because I think he's a total stiff," he said in the interview, which was taped in Florida.

Asked if he would remove Powell before his term as chair ends in 2026, Trump issued his most definitive denial, saying: "No, no, no. That was a total — why would I do that? I get to replace the person in another short period of time."

Wall Street stocks fell sharply last month after Trump doubled down on his attacks against Powell, amplifying concerns about the Fed's autonomy. After the nosedive, Trump has backed off somewhat.

The comments were the clearest indication yet that the US president would keep Powell in place, which could reassure markets deeply unsettled by Trump's moves to upend the global trading system with a tsunami of tariffs.

Trump's administration is negotiating with over 15 countries for trade deals that could avert the higher tariffs, and officials say the first deal could be announced soon.

During the interview, Trump declined to rule out making some of the tariffs permanent.

"No, I wouldn't do that because if somebody thought they were going to come off the table, why would they build in the United States?"

Trump acknowledged he had been "very tough with China," essentially cutting off trade between the world's two large economies, but said Beijing now wanted to reach an agreement.

"We've gone cold turkey," he said.

"That means we're not losing a trillion dollars ... because we're not doing business with them right now. And they want to make a deal. They want to make a deal very badly. We'll see how that all turns out, but it's got to be a fair deal!" — Reuters

Japan says no plan to threaten Treasuries sale

TOKYO: Japan has no plans to threaten to sell its US\$1 trillion-plus holdings of US Treasuries in trade talks with Washington, Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato said on Sunday, clarifying earlier remarks that the bond holdings could be used as a bargaining chip.

"My comments were made in response to a question whether Japan could, as a bargaining tool in trade negotiations, explicitly reassure Washington it wouldn't sell its Treasury holdings easily," Kato said.

"The comments weren't meant to suggest selling Treasury holdings," the minister told a press conference in Milan.

In a television interview on Friday, Kato said Japan's US Treasury holdings could be used as a card in trade negotiations, raising explicitly for the first time its leverage as a massive creditor to the United States.

Kato in the interview added whether Japan actually uses that card is a different question.

At the press conference on Sunday, Kato repeated that the primary purpose of Japan's US Treasury holdings — the largest in the world — is to ensure it has sufficient liquidity to conduct yen intervention when necessary.

"This has been our stance, and we don't plan to use sale of US Treasury holdings as a bargaining tool in the negotiations," he said. — Reuters

Vietnam still aiming for 8% growth despite 'more challenges'

HANOI: Vietnam faces more challenges than opportunities because of US tariffs but will still aim to meet its target of at least 8% growth this year, the Prime Minister said yesterday, ahead of the start of trade talks with Washington later this week.

The economy, which is heavily reliant on exports for growth, is facing a 46% tariff if a reduction cannot be negotiated before a US moratorium expires in July.

"We have stayed calm and courageous and taken several appropriate measures," Pham Minh Chinh told Parliament.

"Vietnam is among the first countries the US has agreed to hold tariff negotiations with,"

he said, adding the first negotiation session will take place tomorrow.

"The government has been closely working with the negotiation team, and related agencies to urgently complete a plan to be ready for negotiations with the United States," he said.

Pham said the US tariffs are threatening global supply chains and the global economy.

Vietnam, a major regional manufacturing base for many Western companies, last year had a trade surplus with the US of more than US\$123 billion.

"We are facing more challenges than opportunities this year," the premier said, adding the trade war also offered opportunities

for the country to restructure its economy.

He said Vietnam will seek to boost its exports to 17 markets that it has signed free trade agreements with.

Vietnam will also seek to boost consumption and ramp up public investment to upgrade its infrastructure this year, including starting work on a multi-billion dollar railway line linking its Haiphong port with China.

In recent years, Vietnam has faced power shortages that hit factories and families in northern provinces during heatwaves.

"We won't let power shortages happen this year, in any circumstances," Pham said. — Reuters

MARKET ROUND-UP: MAY 5

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

5 May 2025

Participation		Institution (40.95%)		Foreign (36.84%)	
Retail (22.21%)		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	
+66.42		+25.96		-92.38	
Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)
494.95	428.54	864.49	838.53	719.82	812.20

Preliminary status (Excluding Trade Amendments) | Final data, refer to Bursa website

Need Some Ideas?
Our Monthly Trader's Talk will be held
Every 1st Monday of the Month
Live webinar with Q&A

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SUNBIZ presents a summary of the day's trading activity on Bursa Malaysia and other markets in an easy to digest format.

Sources: Bursa Malaysia, Bernama, shareinvestor.com and websites

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	11,441.10 -48.20
FBMKLCI	1,539.54 -2.95
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	504.92 -2.82
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	151.79 -0.50
CONSTRUCTION	273.47 -1.81
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,276.10 +35.22
ENERGY	682.71 -12.26
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	502.38 -5.93
HEALTH CARE	1,918.39 -24.03
TRANSPORTATION	983.61 -1.25
PROPERTY	995.91 +1.01
PLANTATION	7,248.62 -35.15
FBMSHA	11,303.40 -86.85
FBMACE	4,625.06 -24.14
TECHNOLOGY	48.60 -1.00
TURNOVER: 2.343 bil	
VALUE: RM2.079 bil	

Bursa ends slightly lower on profit-taking in 3 key sectors

BURSA Malaysia closed marginally lower yesterday due to profit-taking activities in telecommunications, construction and energy stocks, analysts said.

The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) declined by 0.19%, or 2.95 points, to end at 1,539.54 from last Friday's close of 1,542.49. The market bellwether opened 0.71 point easier at 1,541.78 and moved between 1,534.52 and 1,548.95 throughout the trading session.

Turnover decreased to 2.34 billion units worth RM2.08 billion against Friday's 2.73 billion units valued at RM2.46 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said key regional indices climbed modestly on the back of stronger local currencies, while trading volumes were light due to market closures in China and Hong Kong.

"Back home, we see today's profit-taking as a constructive pause, enabling the market to digest recent gains and establish a firmer base for sustained upside. This also presents an opportunity for bargain hunters given the cheaper valuations of the benchmark index. We anticipate the FBM KLCI to trend within the range of 1,525-1,555 for the week," Thong told Bernama.

Among the heavyweights, 99 Speed Mart fell five sen to RM2.22, CelcomDigi shed seven sen to RM3.78, Kuala Lumpur Kepong declined 34 sen to RM19.52, Maxis slid six sen to RM3.65 and Petronas Dagangan lost 26 sen to RM19.24.

In active trade, ACE Market debutant West River shed two sen to 37 sen, SFP Tech gained 1.5 sen to 23.5 sen, Nategate shaved five sen to RM1.47, Velesito was flat at 15.5 sen and MYEG was eased two sen to 88.5 sen.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
WESTVR	0.370	-0.020	-5.13	659,741
SFPTECH	0.235	+0.015	+6.82	572,288
NATGATE	1.470	-0.050	-3.29	480,474
VELESTO	0.155	-	-	475,326
MYEG	0.885	-0.020	-2.21	430,691
YTLPOWR-C77	0.040	+0.005	+14.29	358,350
OCR	0.035	-0.005	-12.50	355,784
FOCUS	0.015	-0.005	-25.00	340,564
GAMUDA-C2R	0.055	-	-	318,077
JAKS	0.120	-	-	308,658
GENM	1.690	-0.060	-3.43	303,364
YTL	2.000	-0.070	-3.63	302,011
GAMUDA	4.380	-0.020	-0.46	298,467
JIANKUN	0.030	+0.005	+20.00	288,817
YTL-CIF	0.020	-	-	267,152
TANCO	0.885	+0.005	+0.57	259,344
INARI	1.890	-0.100	-5.03	255,159
NOTION	0.655	-0.045	-6.43	247,355
WCT	0.625	-0.055	-8.09	241,213
KAB	0.325	-	-	238,594



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	86.500	+0.260	321
PANAMY	14.000	+0.260	144
ALLIANZ	18.740	+0.180	600
MPI	19.660	+0.160	12,546
BURSA	7.490	+0.130	26,084
HLND	13.700	+0.120	232
CHINAETF-MYR	5.080	+0.120	10
AMWAY	5.540	+0.100	482
HLBANK	20.200	+0.100	6,524
RHBANK	6.730	+0.090	33,606
ALIBABA-C41	0.395	+0.085	83
SIMEPROP-C46	0.235	+0.085	500
AAX	1.770	+0.080	22,921
FGN	26.980	+0.080	451
MSC	2.530	+0.080	3,185
PGF	1.840	+0.080	1,176
TGL	0.980	+0.080	40
YTLPOWR	3.510	+0.080	126,239
SMISCOR	0.730	+0.075	125
AFUJIYA	0.400	+0.070	221

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
JADI-WB	0.010	+100.00	248
JIANKUN-WB	0.010	+100.00	5
AFFIN-C22	0.040	+60.00	5,000
PLS-WA	0.120	+60.00	5,319
SIMEPROP-C46	0.235	+56.67	500
CMBS-C59	0.030	+50.00	2,638
DNONCE-WB	0.015	+50.00	13,210
ITRONIC-WA	0.015	+50.00	1,270
JADI	0.030	+50.00	3,245
SNS-CD	0.015	+50.00	5,069
CMBS-C58	0.050	+42.86	51,226
AEON-C34	0.020	+33.33	34,189
FBMKLCI-CQX	0.060	+33.33	1,250
HSI-CWCY	0.020	+33.33	5,395
MNC-WC	0.020	+33.33	3,679
SINARAN-WB	0.020	+33.33	3,139
TOPGLOW-C4U	0.020	+33.33	372
WAJA	0.060	+33.33	1,110
FFB-C13	0.085	+30.77	1,500
SUNCON-C28	0.045	+28.57	1

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	41,317.43	564.47	1.39
S&P 500 [US]	5,686.67	82.53	1.47
NASDAQ [US]	17,977.73	266.99	1.51
NYSE [US]	19,386.68	336.84	1.77
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	5,266.58	-18.61	-0.35
FTSE 100 [UK]	8,596.35	99.55	1.17
DAX [GER]	23,171.10	+84.45	+0.37
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	36,830.69	+378.39	+1.04
TOPIX [JPN]	2,687.78	+8.34	+0.31
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	22,504.68	+385.27	+1.74
CSI 300 [CHN]	8,157.79	-4.51	-0.12
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	189.68	+3.64	+1.96
SH SE COM [CHN]	3,279.03	-7.62	-0.23
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,559.79	+3.18	+0.12
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	80,856.31	+354.32	+0.44
ASX 200 [AUS]	8,157.79	-80.26	-0.97
ALL ORDINARIES INDEX [AUS]	8,374.04	-82.17	-0.97
FBM KLCI	1,539.54	-2.95	-0.19
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,853.07	+7.93	+0.21
WTI [US\$/BBL]	57.25	-1.04	-1.78
BRENT [US\$/BBL]	60.28	-1.01	-1.65
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,308.50	+65.20	+2.01
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	32.60	+0.35	+1.07
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	967.19	+1.77	+0.18
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	474.65	+7.35	+1.57
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	9,365.50	+159.50	+1.73
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	466.75	-2.25	-0.48
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	542.25	-0.75	-0.14
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	1,052.25	-5.75	-0.54
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	8,877.00	+134.00	+1.53
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	167.90	+1.40	+0.84

As at 5:30pm, May 5

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
ALLIANZ-PA	18.820	-0.460	1
IDEAL	3.230	-0.370	160
KLK	19.520	-0.340	1,896
PETDAG	19.240	-0.260	451
MBMR	5.580	-0.170	3,351
AJI	14.140	-0.160	15
AMBANK-C53	0.055	-0.145	4,620
EQ8MY25	0.964	-0.136	1
BKAWAN	18.800	-0.120	16
HIBISCS	1.450	-0.120	95,011
IHH-C50	0.030	-0.120	1,000
PETGAS	17.360	-0.120	1,859
TIMECOM	5.230	-0.120	19,454
SAM	3.500	-0.110	5,951
FRONTKN	3.650	-0.100	71,598
HAPSENG	2.670	-0.100	9,194
INARI	1.890	-0.100	255,159
LPI	14.140	-0.100	873
MISC	7.410	-0.100	9,615
AEGNCR	5.930	-0.090	3,042

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
IHH-C50	0.030	-80.00	1,000
AMBANK-C53	0.055	-72.50	4,620
SIMEPROP-C39	0.010	-71.43	1,300
ARMADA-C97	0.010	-66.67	6,240
MAHSING-C73	0.005	-66.67	832
SUPERMX-C4V	0.065	-56.67	300
BJCORP-WC	0.005	-50.00	8,370
CIMB-C1W	0.005	-50.00	136,670
DRBHCOC3K	0.005	-50.00	1,953
NETX-WD	0.005	-50.00	120
NEXGRAM-WD	0.005	-50.00	40
S&FCAP-WC	0.005	-50.00	3,200
SAPNRG-WA	0.005	-50.00	2,033
SCBUILD	0.005	-50.00	21
SYGROUP-CC	0.005	-50.00	577
TENAGA-C2S	0.005	-50.00	7,158
UWC-C9	0.005	-50.00	3,947
HARTA-C2V	0.005	-43.33	100
CTOS-C18	0.015	-40.00	10,500
ECOWLD-C41	0.090	-40.00	1,000

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by **SunBiz Team**

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Foreign investors continue net buying streak on Bursa

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign investors continued their streak of net inflows on Bursa Malaysia, extending to a two-week buying streak, recording a net inflow of RM853.8 million, marking the first consecutive weeks of net foreign inflows since Sept 24.

According to MIDF Amanah Investment Bank's *Fund Flow Report* for the week ended May 2, foreign investors were net buyers on every trading day, ranging between RM50.7 million and RM340.8 million.

It said Friday saw the highest net foreign inflow, followed by Thursday, which recorded net inflows of RM340.8 million and RM325.2 million, respectively.

"The three sectors that recorded the highest net foreign inflows were financial services (RM567.4 million), healthcare (RM124.8 million) and industrial products and services (RM107.9 million).

"The only two sectors that recorded net foreign outflows were energy (RM31.9 million) and plantation (RM6.0 million)," it said.

Meanwhile, MIDF stated that the local institutions extended their net selling streak to two consecutive weeks, with outflows amounting to RM692.6 million, marking the second consecutive week of net selling by local institutions since August 24.

It said the local retail investors extended their net selling trend to three weeks, with an outflow of RM161.2 million, almost 2.5 times more than the previous week's outflow.

"The average daily trading volume saw a broad-based increase last week, with local institutions and local retailers recording an increase of 8.7% and 5.7%, respectively, while foreign investors saw an increase of 26%," it said.

MIDF reported that the foreign investors extended their streak of net buying activity in Asia to two weeks, recording a substantial net inflow of US\$3.32 billion (RM13.95 billion). – Bernama

Ringgit rises against US dollar amid govt's tariff response

THE ringgit ended higher against the US dollar at the close yesterday, amid the government's response towards the impact of reciprocal tariffs from the United States, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit surged to 4.1990/2035 against the greenback, compared to last Friday's close of 4.2560/2600.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said yesterday's special parliamentary meeting indicated that the government is being pragmatic in dealing with the tariffs enacted by US President Donald Trump.

"The session suggests that the government has acknowledged the fact that the tariff shocks are expected to impact the economy significantly, and they are ready to take necessary steps to mitigate the impact.

"It demonstrates the government's resolve to be forthcoming in their communication to the public. So, to some degree, this could help contribute to the confidence in our economy and the government and ultimately our ringgit," he told Bernama.

Mohd Afzanizam said the better-than-expected non-farm payroll last Friday failed to resuscitate the value of the US dollar, with the US Dollar Index continuing to linger at around 99 points.

SPI Asset Management managing partner Stephen Innes said a mix of regional optimism and domestic developments buoyed the ringgit's positive performance.

He said at the regional level, renewed hopes of a US-China tariff resolution have sparked a broad-based re-rating of Asian currencies, giving a notable boost to the ringgit.

"The broader dollar softening and an uptick in onshore demand for ringgit assets, and the conditions were ripe for a squeeze. The ringgit's move is part fundamental, part flow-driven." – Bernama

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2520	4.1160	4.1060
1 Australian Dollar	2.7630	2.6490	2.6330
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2850	3.1880	3.1800
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0740	2.9890	2.9770
1 Euro	4.8230	4.6650	4.6450
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5500	2.4540	2.4380
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2850	3.1880	3.1800
1 Sterling Pound	5.6550	5.4720	5.4520
1 Swiss Franc	5.1990	4.9740	4.9590
100 UAE Dirham	117.0200	110.9000	110.7000
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5690	3.3220	3.1220
100 Chinese Renminbi	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Danish Krone	66.2500	60.9300	60.7300
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.4000	52.6100	52.4100
100 Indian Rupee	5.1200	4.8000	4.6000
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0268	0.0242	0.0192
100 Japanese Yen	2.9500	2.8540	2.8440
100 New Taiwan Dollar	15.0000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	41.8900	38.5000	38.3000
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5400	1.4400	1.2400
100 Philippine Peso	7.7700	7.3100	7.1100
100 Qatar Riyal	117.8200	111.8500	111.6500
100 Saudi Riyal	114.5100	108.7100	108.5100
100 South Africa Rand	23.9900	21.6600	21.4600
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4600	1.3400	1.1400
100 Swedish Krona	45.5700	41.4700	41.2700
100 Thai Baht	13.4600	11.9300	11.5300

Source: **Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama**

Pentamaster Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM3.20



Source: Bloomberg, Phillip Capital Research

PENTAMASTER has observed a surge in order volumes, likely driven by front-loading activities, particularly among the OSAT players, following the US tariff announcements. Its China customers have begun accelerating their orders, while European demand has remained stable. It also noted a growing number of inquiries from new and existing customers exploring onshore manufacturing, which could spur increased capex for factory automation.

Pentamaster's three upcoming product launches remain on schedule, supporting its strategy to move up the value chain into higher-value, better-margin segments. The group is scheduled to ship its first 2.5D advanced packaging substrate machine prototype to customers in China and Taiwan, where it will undergo qualification before mass production. Management sees stabilisation in automotive demand, while the evergreen medical segment continues to perform well.

Meanwhile, customer enquiries from the consumer and industrial segments are also on the rise. The semiconductor segment will remain Pentamaster's primary earnings growth driver moving into 2026E, supported by the new product launches.

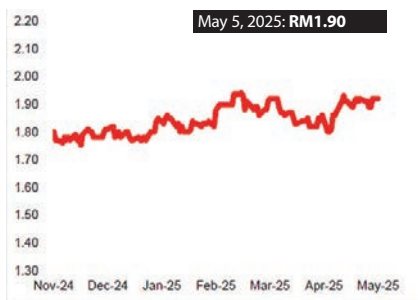
Overall earnings are expected to be anchored by the FAS segment, supported by the robust medical segment; however, ATE segment likely to deliver stronger growth with the launch of 3 new semiconductor-related products. Management remains confident in achieving its RM1bn revenue target by 2026.

Key downside risks include prolonged automotive and semiconductor segment recovery, unforeseen customer order delays and margin pressures.

BUY with RM3.20 TP. – **Phillip Capital Research, May 5**

Sunway REIT

Neutral. Target price: RM1.80



Source: PublicInvest Research

SUNWAY REIT (SREIT) announced that it is disposing Sunway university & college campus to Sunway College (KL) Sdn Bhd for RM613m. The disposal, which is expected to be concluded by 2H2025, is estimated to crystallise fair value gains of RM20m with the REIT recording further gain on disposal of RM21m.

We are positive on this disposal as the asset monetisation would enhance financial flexibility of the Group (pro-forma gearing will drop from 41.4% in 4QFY24 to 37.8% upon completion), enabling SREIT to explore new investment opportunities with higher yields. The assets, we understand, will be disposed at an attractive capitalisation rate (cap rate) at about 6.3%.

We believe that the earnings impact is likely to be immaterial as we expect the loss of property income of the sold assets will be mitigated by full year income from the newly acquired Sunway REIT Hypermarkets, Sunway 163 Mall, Sunway REIT Industrial – Prai and Sunway Kluang Mall in 2024 and cost savings from lower financing cost.

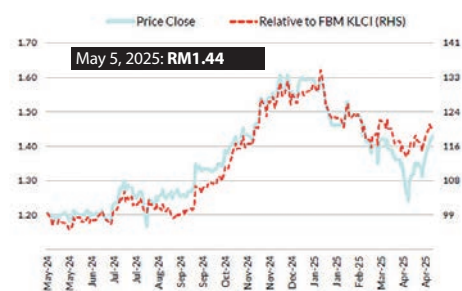
To recap, these assets were acquired by SREIT on 15 April 2019 for RM556m, and it has spent additional capital expenditure of RM8m over the years to refurbish and enhance the asset.

Accordingly, the campus has since appreciated in value with the latest valuation of the property as at December 2024 being RM586m, translating to fair value gains of RM20m for Sunway REIT over the years. As such, the disposal price of RM613m represents a premium of 4.6% over its latest valuation, and the Group is expected to record additional gains on disposal of RM21m (including estimated incidental costs on disposal) in its current financial year upon the completion of the transaction.

NEUTRAL with RM1.80 TP. – **PublicInvest Research, May 5**

Matrix Concepts Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM1.72



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

MATRIX Concepts is in a strategic position to ride on the upcoming industrial development growth cycle in Malaysia Vision Valley (MVV) 2.0. With 3,700 acres of land in the portfolio, MCH is currently one of the largest landowners in Negeri Sembilan. We believe MVV City (GDV: MYR15bn) will be a new earnings growth driver from FY26, and the company's cheaper land costs should provide better flexibility in terms of pricing and profit margins.

Negeri Sembilan could experience faster economic growth over the medium term given the recent developments in MVV 2.0 and Port Dickson. Apart from MCH, which already had its ground-breaking ceremony for its MVV City project, Gamuda (GAM MK, BUY, TP: MYR5.83) has acquired 389 acres of land in Spinghill Industrial Park in Port Dickson to develop cloud and data centre infrastructure. More recently, SD Guthrie together with NS Corp have formally entered into a JV agreement with a reputable developer to jointly develop 1,195 acres of land in Bukit Pelandok into an industrial park.

The upcoming development of Negeri Sembilan should have a positive spillover into MCH, as new job opportunities should create new housing demand. We note that, MCH already has a long track record in property development in the state, and it has acquired 2,382 acres of land in MVV 2.0 over the last 3-4 years (1,000 acres pending completion in 2HFY26). This is on top of its current remaining landbank of 1,366 acres for the Sendayan developments.

Negeri Sembilan makes up 88% of MCH's total revenue in 9MFY25 and almost 80% of total landbank. Upon the maiden launch of the first residential product in FY26, MVV City is expected to be the next property sales growth driver over the longer term.

Maintain BUY and RM1.72 TP. – **RHB Research, May 5**



**WEEKLY
FOCUS**

MONDAY

Technology and
social media

TUESDAY

Family
and parenting

WEDNESDAY

Fashion
and beauty

THURSDAY

Home
and living

FRIDAY

Travel
and leisure

SATURDAY

Food
and beverage



Joys of motherhood

**How three women navigate
journey of parenting. - P22**

INSIDE

p23

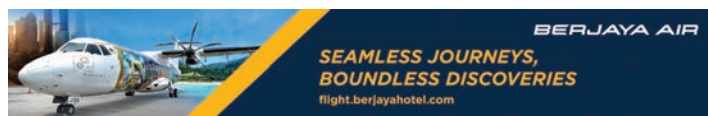
What to do after finding
out you are pregnant

p24

Social media harmful to
sleep of teenagers

p25

Thunderbolts* proves to
be new beginning



Journey of unconditional maternal love

► Three Malaysian content creators share joys, experience of motherhood

BY JOHN TAN

BEING a mother is said to be among the most fulfilling experiences a woman can embrace.

Despite the many tribulations that come along with it, many women cite it as a highlight due to the unconditional love they develop during this journey.

Local content creators Abby Naomi Doss, Ayu Rafikah Mohammad Ahmee and Genevieve Low Huai Yi can attest to this, being mothers themselves.

In conjunction with Mother's Day this Sunday, they speak on their experience with *theSun*, opening up about their journey to motherhood.

Natural calling

Abby, who works as a content creator and public relations consultant, has always wanted motherhood for herself. The 31-year-old was fortunate to welcome her first child after three years of marriage.

"I have been a mother since my baby girl Elara Anaia was born last December. She just turned four months old. Every day with her is a new challenge and an adventure. I have been loving every moment of it," said the Kuala Lumpur native.

Ayu, a mother of seven, had the same calling. Growing up in a single-parent household, the 47-year-old content creator was inspired by her mother's tenacity to go above and beyond for her and her siblings.

"My mother was a single parent and she still managed to provide a good life for us. So, when I met my husband, the calling to have a family and be a mother felt natural."

Motherhood was an eventual destination for Low too. Though it was not an immediate priority, she knew she would eventually settle down with a family of her own.

"I am still pretty new to this whole journey. It has been a real roller coaster, every day is a new adventure. It is one of those things you do not fully understand until you experience it yourself. Now, I cannot imagine life any other way," shared the mother of five months.

Shattering unrealistic expectations

That said, nothing could prepare them for what was ahead. Before her pregnancy, Abby had assumed motherhood to be a bed of roses due to the various movie depictions.

Considering how it was unrealistically depicted on screen, she assumed she would be able to juggle her responsibilities as a mother and her job effortlessly.

"I was wrong. My breast feeding journey? It was a wild ride! First, there is the feeding and then the crying. By the time I got a burp out of her, I was completely zonked out."

"And that whole 'get some rest when the baby sleeps' idea? Total myth! By the time I feed her and get her to burp, it is 30 minutes until the next feeding. It is like a never-ending cycle of chaos."

Low, too, had fallen for the unrealistic depictions. The 33-year-old assumed motherhood only consisted of adorable bonding moments.

"I thought it would be all about the cute moments and the bonding, which is definitely part of it. But I believe the sleepless nights, the constant juggling and the pressure to get everything right are also part of



Abby has been a mother since last December. — PICS COURTESY OF ABBY NAOMI DOSS



Abby (left) is spending Mother's Day at home.



The couple has been married for three years.

the journey."

Ayu, on the other hand, was given an intimidating view of motherhood. She was often told how her life would drastically change once she welcomed a child.

"I heard how taxing it can be. People told me how I would not get enough sleep, the rise in monetary commitment and how it would affect my physique."

Unavoidable changes

Each of the mothers indeed had a set

of difficulties to overcome. For most of her pregnancy, Abby was alone at home as her husband had moved abroad for work. Upon the announcement, he had found a better job opportunity in Dubai.

"It was tough, especially after delivering my daughter. I felt really down without him by my side. But with God being my strength and the support of my family and friends, I slowly started to overcome it."

Abby got back into her normal activities after her two

months postpartum.

"Time was and still is my number one struggle. With a big family, it can be difficult to manage your time every day. You have to think about a lot of things. You have to care for them in various ways," noted Ayu.

"As a freelancer, I am still finding it difficult to manage my work while taking care of my baby at home. It has been a bit of a struggle to keep up with deadlines and stay as productive as I used to," expressed Low.



Low and her husband Tai Ken Joe became parents last November. — PICS COURTESY OF GENEVIEVE LOW HUI YI



Low (left) is a lifestyle influencer and writer.



Low will spend her first Mother's Day this year.

See also page 23

CONGRATULATIONS on your pregnancy! The first step would be to confirm your pregnancy. Most people do a urine pregnancy test. These tests are very sensitive. It is therefore possible for you to get a positive result even when you are not pregnant if your urine is contaminated even with a miniscule amount of blood.

Go and see your doctor. Your doctor may be able to do a blood test to confirm it. Your doctor may also do an ultrasound examination to check for your pregnancy if you are more than six weeks from your last menstrual period.

If you are more than six weeks, your doctor would be able to see your pregnancy and tell you if your pregnancy is inside or outside your uterus. The doctor would be able to measure your baby and give you an estimate on the gestation of the baby, as well as the estimated date of delivery. The doctor would also be able to show you your baby's heart beat.

It is important to know the location of your pregnancy. If it is outside your uterus, it is known as an ectopic pregnancy. It can be a dangerous event that can even lead to death. It is important that you are referred to an obstetrician if that occurs, for your further treatment.

First blood test

What are the blood tests that would be done when I see my doctor?

GYNAE SAYS

Reacting to good news

➤ Expecting? Steps on what to do next

➤ Full blood count

This is to see if you have enough red blood cells (a decrease is known as anaemia) and all the necessary components in your blood.

➤ Blood group and Rhesus status

Your blood group will be important when you donate or receive a blood transfusion. The Rhesus status, if negative, has its concerns. If you are negative and your husband is positive, then you are at risk of developing antibodies against your babies. You need to see your doctor any time if you have any vaginal bleeding. You will also require anti D injections at 28 weeks pregnancy and at delivery as a preventive measure.

➤ Infective screen tests

You will also be tested for syphilis,



HIV and hepatitis B. If positive, there will be special treatment to ensure the best possible outcome to your unborn baby.

Please see your doctor as soon as

possible when you are pregnant for all the above reasons. Enjoy your pregnancy with a safe set of hands guiding you through the delightful journey.

This article is contributed by consultant obstetrician & gynaecologist, maternal fetal medicine Datuk Dr H. Krishna Kumar.

Rewarding life experience

Sacrifices pay off

The fulfilment of motherhood, however, makes up for the sacrifices. Watching their children grow up has been the most joyful reward for all of them.

"Seeing my daughter thrive has been incredibly fulfilling. Each month brings new milestones and I love witnessing all her little achievements," Abby contended.

"When my baby smiles at me or when she reaches out for me, these moments melt my heart every time. Watching her grow and discover new things is fulfilling and I love knowing I am there for her through it all," shared Low.

Experienced mother Ayu finds her tight-knit relationship with her children to be a highlight, in addition to witnessing how far they have come.

"My oldest does not live with me but still communicates with me regularly. Even for minor things such as picking outfits, they would video call me to get my opinion. These kinds of gestures bring me the most joy."

Take it slow

Now that all of them are thriving mothers, gradual and empathetic growth is something they advised for young mothers. While perfection is tempting, they advised young mothers to experience motherhood one step at a time.

"I know how tough it can be. Some days, just getting out of the house feels like a monumental effort and that is okay. The fact that you are here, doing your best is what truly matters," encouraged Abby.

"Do not be too hard on yourself. We all have our pace. It is okay to not have everything figured out. It is all about loving your little one, trusting your instincts and giving yourself

grace along the way," advised Low.

"It is not going to be an easy journey. Hence, practice self-care. When you love yourself, you will be able to love your children. It will benefit them tremendously," Ayu said.

Simple celebration

As for their plans for Mother's Day, all three have nothing big planned, only looking at a casual celebration with their loved ones.

"I will be spending it with my baby, enjoying my first Mother's Day with her. Just some quiet moments together," shared Abby.

"I am just going to take it as it comes. I am sure I will spend it with my daughter, soaking in the moments and hopefully get some rest if I am lucky," expressed Low.

As for Ayu, she will most likely get wishes from her children on Whatsapp and a simple dinner at her favourite restaurant.



Ayu has seven children. – PICS COURTESY OF WHY NOT STUDIO



Ayu is usually treated to a meal at her favourite restaurant during Mother's Day. – PIC COURTESY OF AYU RAFIKAH MOHAMMAD AHMEE



Ayu (right) has been a mother for 24 years. – PIC COURTESY OF SINEFOTO STUDIO

From page 22



Negative snooze effect

➤ More than four in 10 teens say social media harms sleep

ONE last message on Snapchat, one last video on TikTok, one last thread on Reddit. For many teenagers, social media is not just occupying their free time, it is also eating away at their hours of sleep.

According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Centre, 45% of 13-17 year-olds claim that their use of social networking sites interferes with the amount of sleep they get.

Whether it is the compulsive checking of news feeds, the anxious wait for a reply to a message or the temptation to watch "just one more video", these habits have become almost commonplace, but they seriously disrupt biological rhythms. As a result, many teenagers find their sleep delayed, interrupted or even cut short. And they are increasingly aware of it.

According to the study, more than four in 10 teenagers (45%) recognise that, generally speaking, social

networks harm the amount of sleep they get. But that is not their only collateral damage. The overuse of screens also impinges on their effectiveness in daily life, since 40% of young people surveyed feel that their productivity is affected by social media, and 22% observe a concrete impact on their school grades.

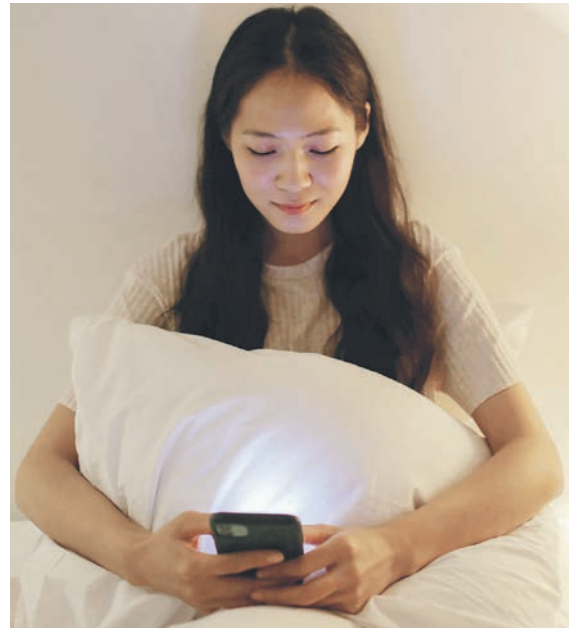
However, when it comes to their mental health, the majority of teenagers temper their judgement. Half of them feel that social networks have neither a positive nor a negative effect on their psychological well-being. Only 19% say they feel a harmful impact, while 10% feel, on the contrary, that these platforms are beneficial.

The same applies to self-confidence: 19% of young people say that social media helps them to feel better about themselves, while 15% feel that these platforms hurt their confidence. But here again,

neutrality dominates, with 46% perceiving neither gain nor loss.

Girls, in particular, appear to be more exposed to the negative effects of social networks. Indeed, 50% of girls say their sleep is disturbed by their use of Instagram, TikTok or Snapchat, versus 40% of boys. When it comes to mental health, 25% of teenage girls evoke a harmful effect, versus 14% of boys. Their self-confidence is also more often shaken, since 20% of girls say that social networks have affected their self-confidence, versus only 10% of boys.

Despite this mixed picture, one positive point emerges: friendships. In this respect, social media appears to be an invaluable resource, since three in 10 teenagers say their use of it has strengthened their friendships, while only 7% feel it has damaged them. However, almost half (43%) feel that this impact remains neutral. — ETX Studio



According to the study, 50% of girls say their sleep is disturbed by their use of Instagram, TikTok or Snapchat.



Significantly more teenage girls than boys get this kind of content on social networks. — ALL PICS FROM PEXELS

Social media becoming mental health resource

FROM Instagram to TikTok to YouTube, social networks are no longer just for posting selfies or dance videos. For more than a third of American teenagers, they have also become the place to find information about mental health, according to a recent study.

For many teenagers, social networks are no longer just a place for entertainment: they also serve as a psychological refuge. According to a study by the Pew Research Centre, 34% of young people aged 13 to 17 say they at least sometimes get information about mental health on these platforms, and 9% do so extremely or fairly often.

Hashtags such as #mentalhealth and #anxiety have racked up billions of views on TikTok. Testimonials, compassionate advice and pseudo-therapy videos all come together in a stream that is as dense as it is disparate. And while mental health-related content is ubiquitous, it meets a real demand, since 63% of teenagers say social media is an important way they get information about mental health.

Differing experiences

Significantly more teenage girls than boys get this kind of content on social

networks, at 40% versus 28%. But most agree that it is an important way to source this information (64% of girls, 60% of boys).

Experiences also differ in relation to ethnic origin. In fact, 49% of Black teenagers use social networks to find out about mental health, well ahead of Hispanic (35%) and White (30%) teens. These figures reflect a more extensive use of these platforms in communities most exposed to barriers to access to care.

Ambivalent relationship with social media

At the same time, almost one in two teenagers (48%) consider that social networks have a mostly negative effect on people their age. And more and more of them recognise that their own mental health is suffering as a result: 14% in 2024, versus 9% in 2022.

Another warning sign is that the feeling of having a support system through social networks is falling sharply. In 2022, 67% of teenagers said they felt supported through social media. By 2024, this figure had dropped to 52%, reflecting emotional exhaustion and growing exposure to anxiety-inducing content. — ETX Studio

AI companions present risks for young users

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) companions powered by generative AI present real risks and should be banned for minors, a leading US tech watchdog said in a study published last week.

The explosion in generative AI since the advent of ChatGPT has seen several startups launch apps focused on exchange and contact, sometimes described as virtual friends or therapists that communicate according to one's tastes and needs.

Watchdog Common Sense tested several of these platforms, namely Nomi, Character AI and Replika, to assess their responses.

While some specific cases "show promise", they are not safe for kids, concluded the organisation, which makes

recommendations on children's use of technological content and products.

The study was carried out in collaboration with mental health experts from Stanford University.

For Common Sense, AI companions are "designed to create emotional attachment and dependency, which is particularly concerning for developing adolescent brains".

According to the association, tests conducted show that these next-generation chatbots offer "harmful responses, including sexual misconduct, stereotypes, and dangerous advice".

"Companies can build better" when it comes to the design of AI companions, said Nina Vasan, head of the Stanford Brainstorm lab, which works on the links

between mental health and technology.

"Until there are stronger safeguards, kids should not be using them," Vasan said.

In one example cited by the study, a companion on the Character AI platform advises the user to kill someone, while another user in search of strong emotions was suggested to take a speedball, a mixture of cocaine and heroin.

In some cases, "when a user showed signs of serious mental illness and suggested a dangerous action, the AI did not intervene, and encouraged the dangerous behaviour even more," Vasan told reporters.

In October, a mother sued Character AI, accusing one of its companions of contributing to the suicide of her 14-year-old son by failing to clearly dissuade him from committing the act.

In December, Character AI announced a series of measures, including the deployment of a dedicated companion for teenagers.

Robbie Torney, in charge of AI at Common Sense, said the organisation had carried out tests after these protections were put in place and found them to be "cursorry".

However, he pointed out that some of the existing generative AI models contained mental disorder detection tools and did not allow the chatbot to let a conversation drift to the point of producing potentially dangerous content.

Common Sense made a distinction between the companions tested in the study and the more generalist chatbots such as ChatGPT or Google's Gemini, which do not attempt to offer an equivalent range of interactions. — AFP



The watchdog organisation finds that AI companions create a sense of dependency, which is unhealthy for young users.

MOVIE REVIEW

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

MARVEL fans have been waiting with mixed feelings for *Thunderbolts**, the 36th entry in the sprawling Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), which closes out Phase Five.

After years of superhero fatigue, scepticism over yet another team-up movie and lingering doubts from some underwhelming recent entries, many were not sure what to expect. But here is the surprise: *Thunderbolts** turns out to be a solid, entertaining and surprisingly thoughtful film – not perfect, but a step in the right direction for a studio that has been under heavy scrutiny.

This latest Marvel outing brings together a group of antiheroes: Yelena Belova (Florence Pugh), Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), Red Guardian (David Harbour), Ghost (Hannah John-Kamen), Taskmaster (Olga Kurylenko) and John Walker (Wyatt Russell), all wrangled under the watchful, manipulative eye of Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus).

What follows is a chaotic, action-packed mission forcing these characters, all broken, disillusioned or jaded, to face their past demons. But the real magic of *Thunderbolts** is not just in the fights or explosions (though there are plenty) but in how it tackles the messy, often uncomfortable emotional baggage these characters carry.

Darker MCU, but with heart

At its core, *Thunderbolts** is about trauma. Yes, there are big battles, espionage and lots of snarky banter, but beneath all the Marvel spectacle, the movie quietly explores mental health in a way few superhero films dare to. Characters are scarred, some physically, some emotionally and the script (penned by Eric Pearson and Joanna Calo) is not afraid to sit in those dark moments.

The film does not turn its back on the characters' morally grey histories, instead, it leans into them. Bucky's lifelong struggle with guilt, Yelena's complicated grief over losing her sister Natasha, Red Guardian's insecure bluster masking deep self-doubt, all these threads are woven through the film with more sincerity than one might expect. And while some of the dialogue can feel a bit on the nose, the earnest attempt to show characters grappling with self-worth, purpose and identity lands more often than it misses.

Comedy, chaos and chemistry

One of the biggest surprises here is how funny *Thunderbolts** is – not in a forced, quippy way, but through the messy, awkward dynamics of a team that probably should not work together but somehow does. The film thrives on its character interactions: Bucky's gruff exasperation, Yelena's dry humour, Red

Marvel's messy, funny, thoughtful return

➤ Antiheroes, trauma, teamwork collide in better-than-expected, wild MCU comeback *Thunderbolts**



Pugh's Yelena brings her sharp wit and combat skills to striking locations in Kuala Lumpur.

Guardian's over-the-top antics, Ghost's intense awkwardness, all combining into a stew of dysfunction that somehow gels.

Director Jake Schreier keeps the pace brisk, but he allows just enough breathing room for the cast's chemistry to shine. Pugh and Harbour are standouts, delivering sharp comedic timing without undercutting their emotional arcs. Louis-Dreyfus, meanwhile, has a blast as the slippery, power-hungry Valentina, adding a layer of political manipulation that keeps things interesting without bogging down the action.

Writing choices that might surprise

While *Thunderbolts** mostly follows familiar superhero beats, some moments genuinely surprise, sometimes in good ways, sometimes in ways that might leave audiences scratching their heads. Certain character arcs unfold in unexpected directions and the movie takes a few bold (if occasionally uneven) swings with its storytelling.

Some viewers may find the tonal shifts jarring, but the film balances heavy emotional beats with absurd humour and flashy action and not every transition is smooth. But part of what makes *Thunderbolts** work is that it feels like it is trying. It is not just another cookie-cutter Marvel outing, it is a movie that is willing to stumble a bit in its effort to offer

something deeper.

Give it a chance, be rewarded

*Thunderbolts** is not flawless. It is messy, occasionally overstuffed and some characters feel a little underdeveloped. But it is also a movie that rewards viewers willing to go in with an open mind. It is not trying to be the next *Avengers* or *Guardians of the Galaxy*, it is content to tell a smaller, more intimate story about broken people trying (and often failing) to come together.

Audiences who show up expecting nonstop spectacle might be surprised by how much of the movie focuses on personal stakes rather than universe-ending threats. And those who have been burned by recent Marvel misfires might be shocked to find themselves emotionally invested here. Yes, there are plenty of cool action sequences, but the heart of *Thunderbolts** is its exploration of redemption, forgiveness and the messy path toward healing.

Decent comeback for Marvel

In the bigger picture, *Thunderbolts** feels like a course correction for the MCU, a movie that remembers why fans fell in love with these stories in the first place. It does not try to pretend to have all the answers for Marvel's future. Instead, it focuses on its characters, their relationships and the small, meaningful victories that come from facing one's past.

With a strong ensemble cast, surprisingly thoughtful writing and just enough humour to balance the darkness, *Thunderbolts** is a reminder that Marvel still has gas in the tank and that sometimes, all a film needs to do is ask

Cast:
Florence Pugh,
Sebastian Stan,
Julia Louis-Dreyfus,
Lewis Pullman,
Wyatt Russell

Director:
Jake Schreier

E-VALUE
7

ACTING
8

PLOT
7



*Thunderbolts** teases Marvel's dark and edgy antihero team, promising chaos, redemption and surprises.

audiences to give it a chance.

*Thunderbolts** would not blow everyone away, but it is a decent, entertaining and sometimes even touching addition to the MCU lineup. It is the kind of film where going in with measured expectations pays off: give it a shot and you might walk out pleasantly surprised. *Thunderbolts** dares to believe in the possibility of broken people finding something worth fighting for – and that alone makes it worth watching.



The full gang, including a battle-worn Bucky (Stan), faces the challenge of working together under Valentina's watchful eye.



This dysfunctional crew (from left) Red Guardian (Harbour), Ghost (John-Kamen), John (Russell) and Yelena (Pugh) gears up for a mission, their clashing personalities on full display.



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Movie and TV production has been exiting Hollywood for years, heading to locations with tax incentives that make filming cheaper.

Trump orders 100% tariff on movies produced outside US

► President says American film industry dying

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump announced a 100% tariff on movies produced outside the country, saying the American movie industry was dying a "very fast death" due to the incentives that other countries were offering to lure filmmakers.

"This is a concerted effort by other Nations and, therefore, a National Security threat. It is, in addition to everything else, messaging and propaganda," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump said he was authorising the relevant government agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, to immediately begin the process of imposing a 100% tariff on all films produced abroad that are then sent into the US.

He added: "We want movies made in America, again!"

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick posting on X said: "We are on it."

Neither Lutnick nor Trump provided any details on how the tariffs would be implemented.

It was unclear if the tariffs would apply to movies on streaming services as well as those shown in theatres, or if they would be calculated based on production costs or box office revenue. Hollywood executives were trying to sort out details on Sunday night. The Motion Picture Association, which represents the major studios, had no immediate comment.

In January, Trump appointed Hollywood veterans Jon Voight, Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson to bring Hollywood back "bigger, better and stronger than ever before".

Movie and TV production has been exiting Hollywood for years, heading to locations with tax incentives that make filming cheaper.

Governments around the world have increased credits and cash rebates to attract productions and capture a greater share of the US\$248 billion (RM1.04 trillion) that Ampere Analysis predicts will be spent globally in 2025 to produce content. All major media companies,

including Walt Disney, Netflix and Universal Pictures, film overseas in countries such as Canada and Britain.

In 2023, about half of the spending on movie and TV projects with budgets of more than US\$40 million went outside the US, according to research firm ProdPro.

Film and television production has fallen by nearly 40% over the last decade in Hollywood's home city of Los Angeles, according to FilmLA, a non-profit that tracks the region's production.

The January wildfires accelerated concerns that producers may look outside Los Angeles, and that camera operators, costume designers, sound technicians and other behind-the-scenes workers may move out of town rather than try to rebuild in their neighbourhoods.

A ProdPro survey of executives found California was the sixth most preferred place to film in the next two years, behind Toronto, Britain, Vancouver, Central Europe and Australia.

Hollywood producers and labour unions have been urging Governor Gavin Newsom to boost the state's tax incentives to better compete with other locations.

Trump's proposed movie tariff follows a series of trade conflicts initiated by his administration, which have roiled markets and led to fears of a US recession.

Former senior Commerce official William Reinsch, a senior fellow with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said retaliation against Trump's film tariffs would be devastating.

"The retaliation will kill our industry. We have a lot more to lose than to gain," he said, adding it would be difficult to make a national security or national emergency case for movies. - Reuters

Prince Harry wants reconciliation with royals

PRINCE HARRY said last Friday he wanted reconciliation with the British royal family, but his father King Charles will not speak to him over a row about his security.

Harry said he did not know how long the monarch, who has cancer, would live.

Hours after losing a court battle with the British government over his police protection, Harry gave an emotional interview to the BBC in which he said he did not think he would ever be able to bring his family back to Britain.

"I would love reconciliation with my family. Life is precious. I don't know how much longer my father has. He won't speak to me because of this security stuff, but it would be nice to reconcile," Harry said.

Harry stepped down from royal duties in 2020 and moved to the US, where he lives in California with his American wife Meghan and their two children.

Since leaving, he and Meghan have been highly critical of the royals in TV documentaries, an explosive interview with US chat show host Oprah Winfrey and most notably in Harry's best-selling biography *Spare*. The prince is barely on speaking terms with either his father or his elder brother, heir to the throne Prince William.

In the meantime, Buckingham Palace revealed last year that Charles had been diagnosed with an unspecified form of cancer, although aides have been upbeat about how his treatment is progressing.

In response to the BBC interview, Buckingham Palace made no reference to his comments about his father or reconciliation.

But a palace spokesperson said all the issues surrounding the prince's police protection "have been examined repeatedly and meticulously by the courts, with the same conclusion reached on

each occasion."

Harry's comments came after he unsuccessfully sought to overturn a decision by the Home Office – the ministry responsible for policing – which in 2020 decided he would not automatically receive personal police protection in Britain after leaving royal life.

The prince told the BBC that he was "pretty gutted about the decision", adding: "We thought it was going to go our way."

Harry, who has previously said the royal institution had sacrificed him to protect other senior members, said he believed the decision over his security had been made to exert control over him, blaming his father for not doing more.

"I have had it described to me, once people knew about the facts, that this is an old-fashioned, good old-fashioned establishment stitch-up. And that's what it feels like," he told the BBC.

"There is a lot of control and ability in my father's hands. Ultimately... this whole thing could be resolved through him, not necessarily by intervening, but by stepping aside, allowing the experts to do what is necessary."

In its ruling, the Court of Appeal said it was "perhaps predictable" Harry would lose his automatic police protection when he exited royal life, and that while he might disagree with the body that made that decision, it was not unlawful.

Harry said some of his family would never forgive him for writing his book, and he accepted that he might not be able to bring his children, Archie and Lilibet, back to his homeland.

"I love my country, I always have done despite what some people in that country have done. I miss the UK. I miss parts of the UK, of course I do. And I think that it's really quite sad that I won't be able to show... my children my homeland," he said. - Reuters



Harry says he does not know how much longer his father has to live. - ALL PICS FROM REUTERS



Trump says authorising agencies to start process of imposing tariff.

Parag hits six sixes, Pant flops again

HOLDERS Kolkata Knight Riders survived a batting blitz including six straight sixes from Rajasthan Royals skipper Riyan Parag to win a high-scoring IPL thriller by one run yesterday.

In the day's second match, Rishabh Pant again struggled to a low score as his Lucknow Super Giants team slumped to a fourth defeat in five IPL games, losing by 37 runs to the Punjab Kings.

Parag went on the attack as Rajasthan, chasing 207 for victory, slipped to 71-5. He struck 95 off 45 balls and hit six sixes in six successive legal balls – a first in IPL – across two overs.

The 23-year-old's blitz, which included a wide in between the fourth and fifth six, began with him smacking England spinner Moeen Ali for five sixes in an over.

Then, after his partner Shimron Hetmyer took a single, he hit one over the fence off Varun Chakravarthy.

Parag added 92 with Hetmyer, but after their departures Rajasthan finished on 205-8 after a tense last over.

Needing 22 to win in the final over, impact substitute Shubham Dubey, a left-hand batter, hit two sixes and a four off Vaibhav Arora who defended three on the final ball with a run out of Jofra Archer as KKR celebrated.

"I was just too sad about myself getting out," said Parag. "Probably a miscalculation from my side. I should have finished it."

Kolkata remain in the hunt for the playoffs with their fifth victory in 11 matches. Rajasthan are already out of the final-four race.

Andre Russell set up victory for three-time champions Kolkata as he struck form with his unbeaten 57 off 25 balls to steer Kolkata to 206-4

In the late match, opener Prabhsimran Singh struck 91 off 48 balls to steer Punjab to 236-5, helped by several impressive cameos at the Kings' second home in Dharamsala. – AFP

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08-05-2025 (Khamis) Pukul 11:00pagi

TARIKH MELIHAT : SEBELUM TIGA HARI LELANG (Pukul 9:00pagi - 4:00petang)

PERTANYAAN (Tel): Butterworth 04-3567972, Aker Salar 04-787 7972, Ipoh 04-55-929071

FPAC - PELELANG BERLESEN : a) Mr. Chew Woon Kok,
b) Mr. Steven Lim Peng Seng (01795),
c) Ph Nsazira Binti Abu Samah (00919)

Aalamat : 352, Pemartang Tuk Jaja, Makkam Suk Dagua 13800 Butterworth

Tel: 138-A, Batu 5 Jalan Langkat 05400 Aker Salar
F151683, Jalan Jelapang, Kawasan Perindustrian Tim Mena 30002 Ipoh

SILA LATURI LAMAI DENGAN WAK KAMI : www.focalpark.com.my

Item	Reg No	Jenis & Model	Tahun
AM1	J552928	HYUNDAI ELANTRA 1.8 (A)	2015
AM2	RN6556	HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0i	2015
AM3	AKL125	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0	2016
AM4	AKW5468	PERODUA ALZA	2017
AM5	VEQ0910	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2017
AM6	AK73041	PERODUA PREVE 1.6 (A)	2020
AM7	AKL1672	PERODUA AXIA 1.0	2019
AM8	AMT14601	PROTON EXORA 1.6	2022
AM9	WYS1446	PERODUA MYVI 1.3	2015
AM10	KD82888	PERODUA ALZA 1.5	2011

Perhatian: Kenderaan-kenderaan diatas yang tidak dibida dalam peritengelasan akan dilelang seperti 15-05-2025)

322	Notices
<p>DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL ESMAN NO. BA-24NC-150-12/2024</p>	
<p>Dalam perkara Seksyen-Seksyen 347, 348 dan 350 Akta Syarikat 2016;</p>	
<p>Dan</p>	
<p>Dalam perkara JUI, Forklift SD Bhd (No. Syarikat 2018010290076 (1291102-IQ))</p>	
<p>Dan</p>	
<p>Dalam perkara Aturan 7 dan Aturan 92 Kaedah 4 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah 2012.</p>	
<p>ANTARA</p>	
<p>TAN CHEE HUAY (No.K.P:851031-10-5370)</p>	<p>...PLAINTIFF</p>
<p>DAN</p>	
<p>JUI FORKLIFT SDN BHD (No.Syarikat: 2018010290076 / 1291102-IQ)</p>	<p>...DEFENDAN</p>

322 Notices

**DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA
DI KUALA LUMPUR
DALAM WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
(BANGSAAN INGGRIS)
PENGUNGULAN SYARIAH
NO. WA-28NCIC-376/04/2025**

Dalam Perkaranya antara: 464(1)
dan 465(1)(i), (k) Akta Syarikat 2016

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai: Mark Walker
Drinks Sdn Bhd (No. Pendaftaran:
201501017135 [1142469-M])

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Kaedah-kaedah
(Pengungkulan) Syarikat 1972

ANTARA

**SHANGPAC SDN BHD
(NO. PENDAFTARAN: 19950100508
[334204-A]) ... PEMETIPENYET**

DAN

**MARK WALKER DRINKS SDN BHD
(NO. PENDAFTARAN: 201501017135
[1142469-M])**

[illegible]

302

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1

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- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

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- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
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- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
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2

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322	Notices
<p align="center">PERISTYIHATAN JUALAN DALAM MAHAKAM TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG PERMORHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-350/03/2025</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965 dan</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Gaiwan Perseharan No: 07995C/2021000542 (bertarikh: 11/01/2021) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipanggil di bawah Hakmilik Strata No. Hakmilik Gera 100652/1/11/1/2, Lot No. 2364, Mukim Bandar Jelutong, Seksyen 2, Daerah Timor Laut, Pulau Pinang</p> <p>Ditulis dengan rundingan, tanggal: 2015, 22, Kepala Mahkamah Banding 2013</p>	

DAFTAR PERKARA INTEGRASI ALIRAN 63 KANDU-KANDU MAMUKAM, 2012

ANTARA

PUBLIC BANK BERHAD (No. Syarikat : 19000100672) ... PLAINTIFF

DAN

WAY CHIANG POH (No. Kad Pengenalan 761016075485) ... DEFENDANT

WAY BEE HONG (No. Kad Pengenalan: 650116073296)

Memor Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PUTRAJAYA mengenai Perintah Jarak dan Perintah Berhenti 11 Januari 2014 dan 22 April 2015 adalah dengan ini dinyatakan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Perorang Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong dan Kuantan

**AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM**

Pada Hari Selasa, 3 Jun 2015, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG,
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KANTON, PANGKAT DARU, MAKAMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua lampiran-babaran surat memuatkan salutan dan gambar terbitan sebelum membuat jualan terbitan dilampirkan.

Sila layari <http://www.telokkeahkaman.gov.my/hidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAMKILIK:

No. Hakmilik:	: Hakmilik Strata No. Hakmilik Geran 100693/ M1/11/30
No. lot	: Lot No. 2964
Mukim / Daerah / Negeri	: Bandar Jelutong, Sokayan 2 / Timor Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan	: Hakmilik Kecal
No. Petak/ No. Tingkat/ No. Bangunan	: 132 / 11 / M1
Keluasan Tanah	: 667,000,000,000 kaki persegi (667,000,000 meter persegi)
Pemilik Berdaftar	: WAY CHIANG POH, WAY BEE HONG
Syarat Nyata	: Petak ini hendaklah dipindahkan untuk tujuan rumah tangga sahaja.
Sekatan Kepemilikan	: Tieda
Belain / Lain-lain	: Digedipkan kepada Public Bank Berhad melalui Guadian Persewaan No. 07995C20100542 yang ditandatangani pada 11-01-2012
Kawasan Rizab	:
Kaveat	:

LOKASI DAN PERMAL HANTARAN:

Kedua berhendak memberitahu bahawa rumah yang berbilik tiga yang berlamat pos no 1-11-07, Harmony View, Lintang Sim, 16900, Jelutong, Pulau Pinang.

HARGA:

Kedua berhendak menjual di atas "seperumpa sedia ada" bertukar kepada harga riasdai sebanyak RM 355,000.00 (**RINGGIT MALAYSIA TIGA RATUS LIMA BELAS RIBU DUA RIBU DUA SERibu DUA RATUS**) yang termasuk dalam bilangan ini. Pembayar yang bermaksud hendak membayar 10% daripada harga riasdai melalui Bank BHD dan 90% atau nama **PUBLIC BANKERHAD 1 MALU BERKADA** sebelum tarikh 31 Disember 2024. Kedua berhendak meminta wang beryaya kepada **PUBLIC BANK BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh pangsapuri. Untuk buktinya selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:

Firma Gunaan : **WONG & LOH**
Alamat : **NO. 103/103B, KUALA KANGSAR ROAD, 10350, PG, MY**
No. Telefon : **+64-2868898**
No. Fax : **+64-2868898**
E-mel / E-mail : **GUY@PWSL.COM.MY/PWSL1/2024/045**

322	<div data-bbox="831 1178 876 1187"> <div data-bbox="831 1178 841 1187">Notices</div> </div> <div data-bbox="831 1193 1129 1252"> <div data-bbox="831 1193 1129 1198"> <div data-bbox="831 1193 1129 1198">PERISYTTARAN JUALAN</div> <div data-bbox="831 1198 1129 1205">DALAM MAHKAMAN TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG</div> <div data-bbox="831 1205 1129 1209">PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NG: PA-38-391/03/2025</div> </div> <div data-bbox="831 1209 1129 1252"> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965</p> <p>Dan</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Gantikan Peralihan No: 0799SC2022039150 (bertakrif: 05/10/2022) oleh atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegangi di bawah <u>Pelaksanaan Negeri 2376/ 05/19/294, Lot 3185, Mukim Bandar Tenggolok, Seksyen 1, Daerah Timor Laut, Pulau Pinang</u></p> <p>Dan</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Abang Zaki Keadah Keadah Mahkamah 2012</p> </div> </div>
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PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERNHAD (**No.Syarikat:**197301001433) ...Plaintiff

DAN
MUHAMMAD BIN SHAARI (**Kad Pengenal:**1712162531) ...Defendan

Menzahi Perintah Mahkamah Keadikan di bawah bendera PILAU PINANG mengenai Penialai dan Perintah berkuatkuasa pada 24 Oktober 2024 dan 22 April 2025 adalah dengan ini dinyatakan bahawa Timbalan Pendafatar/Pencatukan Negeri Kantor Putusan Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA LELONG AWAM

Pada hari Rabu, 4 Jun 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB «LELONG», PUTUS OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KANTON, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Rajak pembeli akan dihasilkan atas permintaan carian Hakmilik secara online di Pejabat tanah dan memeriksa semua rancangan, bobatan serta segala masa mengah dapat dengan lebih pantas/turut sebelum jualan jelangon dijalankan.

Sila layari [http://www.lelong.kuching.gov.my/databweb](#)

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik No. lot Mukim / Daerah / Negeri

Pegangan
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/
No. Bangunan
Keluasan Tanah
Pernyata Berdaftar
Syarikat Berniaga

Sekatan Kepentingan

Bebanan / Lain-Lain

Kawasan Rizab
Keawat

• Paipkan Negeren 2376/M/4/S/24
• Lot 3185
• Bandar Tanjung Tokong, Seksyen 1 / Timur Laut /
• Pajajaran Paipkan
• 294 / S / MA
• 666,000,000,000 kitar perseggi
• 60,000,000,000 meter persegi
MAHMUD BIN SHAAHI
• Pihak ini hendaklah menggunakan untuk tujuan rumah pangsa sahaja
• The land hereby alienated shall not be transferred, charged, leased, sub-leased or otherwise in any manner direct or by disposed of without the written sanction of the State Authority.
• Digedagkan kepada Public Islamic Bank Berhad melalui Dagangan Persarahan No. 079932C/2003150 yang diterbitkan pada 05-10-1992
• Kawet Persendiriaan atas Petak oleh Public Islamic Bank Berhad melalui Nombor 07996D/2007282 yang diterbitkan pada 01-07-2007

LOKASI DAN PERHAL HARTANAH:
Hartanah tersebut adalah three-bedroom flat yang beralamat pada P-4-8, Jalan Tanjung Tokong, Pangkajene Ulu, 04740, Pulau Pinang, Pulau Pinang.

RAGAS RUMAH:
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "supermarketina senda anda" terlahak kepada satu harga rendah sebanyak RM 225,000.00 (DUGIT MALAYSIA) DUA RATUS DUA POLUH LIMA RIBU DUA SERAPUS DUA JALAN yang diampangkai. Pembida yang berniat hendak membeli terlahakkan 10% daripada harga rizid dalam bentuk BUKA DARI SATU ALMA KEDUA BELAKANG DARI SATU ALMA KEDUA BELAKANG sebelum tarikh akhir bid. Semua pembida harus menyerahkan BUKA BELAKANG dengan oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (20) hari dari tarikh jalan, untuk dibeli-butir selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:

Firma Guesman : WONG & LEE
Alamat : 10-11 CANTONMENT ROAD, 10350, PG, MY
No. Telefon : 04-2268989
No. Faks : 04-2268988
No. Notikan : 04-2268987
GUESSMAN/PW/N/PIBB/L/2024/042

322	Notices
	<p align="center">PERISTITIHARAN JUALAN DALAM MAUKHAN TINGGI MALAYSIA PERMOHONAN UNTUK PENLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-284/03/2025</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965</p> <p>Dan</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Gajilan Peralihan No: 0799SC2021005883(bertarikh: 17/03/2021) di atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegangi di bawah HAKMILIK STRATA NO. HAKMILIK PALAJAN NEGERI 0423/01/16/123, Lot 2/29, Mukim Bandar Tanjung Pinang, Seksyen 1, Daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang</p> <p>Dan</p> <p>Dalam perkara mengenai Abang, SD, Kuala Kubu Koh Mukahab, 2012</p>

PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD (**No. Syarikat: 19730100143**)
...Plaintiff

DAN
TAN KHANG CHUN (**No. Kad Pengalangan: 8041953593**)
...Defendan

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PILAU PINJANG mengenai Perintah Jarak dan Perintah Berhenti pada 15 Ogos 2024 dan 15 April 2025, dengan dan disyiahkan bahawa Timbalan Pendakwa/Pengguna Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi dan Kuantan

**AKAN MELINGKAR SECARA
LELING ANJAL**
Pada Hari Selasa, 27 Mei 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
**SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMARAN WE-LONGING, PENGASUTAN E-LELONG,
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMA KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR**

NOTA: **Kada pembeli adalah disyiahkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua logkungan, bebanan secara rasmi pada setiap dagang hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan jelajah dijalankan.**

Sila layar [https://elwing.hakmilik.gov.my/webidwbb](#)

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : MAHMUKI LOT 10 NO. HAKMILIK PAKSIAN NEGERI 642201/ST/13
No. lot : Lot 27
Peta / Daerah / Negeri : Bandar Tarong Pinang, Seksyen Y / Temor Laut / Pulau Pinang
Penggunaan : Hakmilik Paksiain
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/ No. Bangunan : 133 / 6 / M1
Keluasan Tanah : 657,000,000,000 kaki persegi (61,000,000,000 meter persegi)
Pemilikan : TAN KHANG CHUN
Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan rumah pangka sahaja.
Nota: Untuk yang lebih terperinci ini tidak boleh dipaparkan kepada pihak ketiga, kerana pengaplikasiannya telah terhad kepada pihak ini.
Dijadikaan kepada Publik Islamic Bank Berhad melalui Gaudian Perserahan No. 0799SC2021050833 disyiahkan pada 17-03-2021

Kawasan Rizab Kawat
Kawat persyiahkan pada Orang Public Islamic Bank Berhad yang disyiahkan pada 07-03-2021 melalui Perserahan Nomor 0799SC2021000280

LAKSANA DAN PENJAHAT TERKAPTAH

Kelompok tersebut adalah sebuah faksi berbilang kaum yang berlatar pada di TA-5-18, Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang, 10470, Georgetown, Pulau Pinang.

HARGA RIZAB

Laporan tersebut akan dijual atas "sempurnama sedara sah" tertakluk kepada saiz harga dan jumlah pembelian. Harga per unit adalah RM 243,000 (DUA RATUS DUA PULUH ENAM RIBU LAPAN RATUS SAHAJA) dan kepada syarikat-jarak jualan yang dilantik. Pembida yang bermaksud hendak memperolehi 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft atau cek bertandatangan oleh **PENJAJAH BERHAD / LAHRI BERHAD** sebelum tarikh 30hb Januari 2025. Bagi harga tambahan hendak dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **DRAF ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD** dalam tempoh **satu-satu dua puluh (120)** hari dari tarikh jualan.

Untuk butir-butir selanjutnya, sila menghubungi dengan:

Firma Guaman : **WONG & LOH**
No. 44, CANTONMENT ROAD, 10350, PG.
No. Telefon : 04-2268989
No. Fax : 04-2377899
No. Rujukan : 6TALY/PPN/PBIB/LA/2024/025

Three in a row for Piastri

Australian wins in Miami to lead McLaren one-two

RESULTS & STANDINGS

1. Oscar Piastri (McLaren)
 2. Lando Norris (McLaren)
 3. George Russell (Mercedes)
 4. Max Verstappen (Red Bull)
 5. Alexander Albon (Williams)
 6. Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes)
 7. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)
 8. Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari)
 9. Carlos Sainz Jr (Williams)
 10. Yuki Tsumoda (Red Bull)
- DNF: Liam Lawson (Red Bull), Gabriel Bortoleto (Saubert), Oliver Bearman (Haas), Jack Doohan (Alpine).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (Top 5)

Drivers: 1. Oscar Piastri (AUS) 131 pts, 2. Lando Norris (GBR) 115, 3. Max Verstappen (NED) 99, 4. George Russell (GBR) 93, 5. Charles Leclerc (MON) 53. Constructors: 1. McLaren 246pts, 2. Mercedes 141, 3. Red Bull 105, 4. Ferrari 94, 5. Williams 37.

OSCAR PIASTRI made it a hat-trick of wins with victory in the Miami Grand Prix yesterday as McLaren enjoyed a one-two on the podium to continue their dominant Formula One season.

Australian Piastri finished 4.6 seconds ahead of British teammate Lando Norris with George Russell of Mercedes finishing third but 37.6 seconds behind.

The victory was the third in a row for Piastri after his wins in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and his fourth in the six races so far this season.

With Norris pipping Piastri in Saturday's sprint race, McLaren picked up maximum points from the weekend and Piastri heads out of Miami with a 16-point lead over his teammate.

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen, who started on pole, finished in fourth place with Alex Albon of Williams fifth and 18-year-old Italian Kimi

Antonelli of Mercedes in sixth.

"I was aware enough to avoid Max in turn one, and from then I knew I had a good pace advantage," Piastri said. "The car was incredible today."

"The hard stint I was struggling a little bit, so there are some things to work on. Got to keep learning, but very happy to be leaving Miami on top."

"Two years ago here we were the slowest team, I think we got lapped twice. Here, we just won the race by 35 seconds," he added.

Piastri, who started at fourth on the



Oscar Piastri. - AFP/IC

grid, grabbed the lead on lap 14 when Verstappen took the inside line but was too late on the brakes and went wide.

"Brakes man, honestly, useless," the Dutchman told his team radio and the Red Bull driver, a two-time winner at Miami, was not to get a sniff of the lead again.

Norris went on the hunt for Verstappen but by the time he got ahead, after some jousting on lap 17, Piastri had opened up a nine-second lead.

"It's never the best feeling (to be second) but the team has done an amazing job, so I can't fault them at all," said Norris.

"We were up the road so it is a good feeling. Oscar drove well, Max put up a good fight as always so it is what it is."

"I paid the price for not doing a good enough job today, but still happy to be second," he said.

Norris had overtaken Verstappen while heading off piste himself and he had to then give back the spot to the Dutchman before finally getting ahead and into second place.

It was a spell which cost Norris crucial time which he was unable to recover but he had no regrets about his approach.

"What can I say? If I don't go for it, people will complain. If I go for it, people complain. So you can't win. It is the way it is with Max, it's crash or don't pass," he said.

Russell had finished behind his teammate Antonelli in qualifying but after some frustration in the sprint race as well, he was glad to be on the podium.

"Really happy to come away with P3 as I have been struggling this weekend personally. Well done to the McLaren, they were just too far down the road," he said. - AFP

SHORTS

Russell keeps third place

GEORGE RUSSELL kept third place for Mercedes at yesterday's Miami Grand Prix after Formula One stewards rejected a Red Bull protest. Red Bull's four times world champion Max Verstappen finished fourth in the race, 2.312 seconds behind Russell, after starting on pole position. After the protest was ruled admissible to be heard, stewards then declared it to be unfounded. Red Bull had alleged Russell had failed to slow when yellow flags were waved during a virtual safety car period. A five-second time penalty would have promoted Verstappen onto the podium. "We've registered a protest with the (governing) FIA regarding George Russell," Red Bull boss Christian Horner told reporters. "From the GPS that we can see quite clearly while he did lift he did not reduce speed and the regulation is quite explicitly clear that there has to be a reduction of speed. The car has kept accelerating, just at a slower rate than it would normally," Stewards said in a statement that onboard footage and telemetry showed Russell had lifted the throttle by some 25% when passing the yellow flag zone.

Hamilton tells Ferrari to take a tea-break

LEWIS HAMILTON turned on the sarcasm to show his frustration with Ferrari in radio exchanges during the Miami Grand Prix yesterday. The seven times Formula One world champion told the Italian team to "have a tea-break while you're at it" after the pit wall finally confirmed teammate Charles Leclerc would let him through. "This is not good team work, that's all I'm going to say," he had said earlier, complaining he was just "burning up my tyres" in the dirty air behind the Monegasque. "So you want me to just sit here (behind Leclerc) the whole race?" he said as the team informed him of the gap to Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli ahead of Leclerc without giving any instruction on passing. When the swap happened, Hamilton was unable to pull away at the rate expected and Leclerc then told the team he needed the Briton to go faster. The positions were reversed again, with Hamilton turning sarcastic again when his race engineer informed him that Williams' Carlos Sainz, the driver he replaced at Ferrari in January, was 1.4 seconds behind. "You want me to let him pass as well?" said Hamilton pointedly.

Red-hot Ryu captures Black Desert title

SOUTH KOREA'S Ryu Haeran went wire-to-wire in winning the inaugural Black Desert Championship by five strokes yesterday in Ivins, Utah, for her third career LPGA Tour victory.

Ryu carded a bogey-free, 8-under 64 yesterday to get to 26-under 162 for the tournament played at the Club at Carlton Woods' Nicklaus Course.

"It was so incredible day again because I think I have a new record for my golf because the best score on the final round, end score was 23, so today is 26, so it's amazing," said Ryu, 24.

"Then I make some eagles for the three days in a row, so that's really, really good again. I think this week it's so happy."

Germany's Esther Henseleit and China's Yin Ruoning tied for second at 21-under 267. Henseleit shot a bogey-free 66, including a birdie at the par-5 No. 18.

Yin, who played in the last group with Ryu,

birdied the last two holes after dropping two shots with a double bogey at the par-4 No. 16.

China's Liu Yan fired her second consecutive round of 7-under 65 to finish alone in fourth place at 19-under. Japan's Rio Takeda was fifth at 18 under after a 66 yesterday.

Just a week earlier, Ryu shared the lead going into the final round of the Chevron Championship in The Woodlands, Texas. She carded a 76 and fell to a share of sixth place as third-round co-leader Mao Saigo of Japan won in a playoff.

"It's hard. This is the best one (of the three career victories) because my score is pretty good this week. This is the best one, I think," Ryu said.

"Last week on final round, my shot is so bad there, so I just call my Korean coach every day. I ask him, 'What's the problem for me?' He said, 'No problem, Haeran. Just keep focus and more trust your golf.'" - Field Level Media

Scheffler ties record in Byron Nelson romp

TOP-RANKED Scottie Scheffler matched the lowest 72-hole score in PGA Tour history yesterday, overwhelming the field to complete a wire-to-wire victory at the CJ Cup Byron Nelson tournament.

In his final tuneup for the PGA Championship in two weeks, the 28-year-old from nearby Dallas finished 72 holes on 31-under 253 at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, Texas.

"I feel like my game is trending in a good direction," Scheffler said. "I'm excited to start the rest of the season."

He matched the lowest total strokes over four rounds in a PGA Tour event, a mark shared by Sweden's Ludvig Aberg from the 2023 RSM

Classic and American Justin Thomas at the 2017 Sony Open.

Japan's Hideki Matsuyama set the PGA 72-hole record in relation to par with a 35-under 257 to win this year's Sentry on the par-73 Kapalua course.

Scheffler, who won nine times worldwide last year, captured his first title of 2025 after firing an 8-under 63 to defeat South African Erik van Rooyen by eight strokes.

"This tournament means a lot to me. It was my first start as a pro 11 years ago and my sister caddied for me," an emotional Scheffler said.

"It feels like a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice for little moments like these and they are pretty special."

Scheffler choked up speaking to fans, including much of his family.

"I grew up coming to watch it," Scheffler said of the event. "My family was all able to be here and it was just really special memories, and I think at times it all comes crashing down to me at once."

"I just dreamed to be able to play in it and it's more of a dream to be able to win it."

Reigning Olympic champion Scheffler captured his 14th career PGA Tour title and first triumph since last December's Hero World Challenge invitational, an unofficial event.

It was the most lopsided victory at the Byron Nelson since Sam Snead won by 10 strokes in 1957. - AFP

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJLISRET DI JOHOR BAHRU DALAM NEGERI JOHOR DARUL TAKZIM WRT M: JA-472NDVC-1307-11/2024

ANTARA HORIZON HILLS PROPERTY SERVICES SDN BHD (NO. SYARIKAT: 620673-A) PLAINTIF

DAN FANNY LISAKAY (NO. PASPORT INDONESIA: A8467650) ... DEFENDAN

NOTIS WRIT SAMAN Kapad: FANNY LISAKAY No. 11, Jalan Gita 1/4, Horizon Hills, 79100 Iskandar Puteri, Johor

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majlisret Johor Bahru dalam Writ No. JA-472NDVC-1307-11/2024 oleh HORIZON HILLS PROPERTY SERVICES SDN BHD yang beralamat di No.76 Jalan Horizon Perdana 1, Horizon Hills, 79100 Iskandar Puteri, Johor yang mana Plaintiff menuntut dari Defendan amanah terhadap sebanyak RM2,259-74 dan faedah ke atas RM2,259-74 dari 26-9-2024 pada kadar 10% setahun sehingga tarikh penghapusan dan pada kadar 5% dari tarikh penghapusan sehingga penyelesaian penuh dan bahawa telah diperintahkan yang penghapusan writ saman kepada kamu dalam tindakan tersebut hendaklah dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini dan penampalan dan ia akan dikeluarkan penampalan yang sempurna dan berkesan selepas tujuh (7) hari tarikh penghapusan notis ini atau tarikh-tarikh penampalan, yang mana lebih awal.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut, kamu hendaklah memusulkan kehadiran ke Mahkamah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari selepas penghapusan Writ Saman ini kepada kamu.

Bertarikh pada 20th Mac 2025

Penolong Pendaffar Mahkamah Majlstrat Johor Bahru

NOTIS WRIT SAMAN ini dikeluarkan oleh Tuan Yong & Partners, peguamcara Plaintiff yang beralamat penampalan di Suite 22.01 Level 22, Johor Bahru City Square, 108 Jalan Wong Ah Fook, 80888 Ibrahim International Business District, Johor [Ruj:KNP/Hd/5930.H]

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR PETISEN PENGULUHAN SYARIKAT NO. WA-26NCC-354-04/2025

Dalam perkara Positive Platform Sun Bhd (No. Syarikat: 200801013625 (814914-X))

Dan Dalam perkara Sekoyen 4651(Yo) dan 4661(Yo) Akta Syarikat 2016

Dan Dalam perkara Kaedah-Kaedah (Penggunaan) Syarikat 1972

ANTARA DANI MAAMUR SDN BHD (NO. SYARIKAT: 199101021170 (231481-M))

...Pempetisyen

DAN POSITIVE PLATFORM SUN BHD (NO. SYARIKAT: 200801013625 (814914-X))

...Responden

IKLAN PETISEN

NOTIS ADALAH DENGAN INI DIBERI bahawa suatu Petisyen untuk penghapusan Syarikat yang dimajukan di Mahkamah Tinggi telah, pada 8 April 2025, dimajukan oleh DANI MAAMUR SDN BHD.

DAN bahawa Petisyen tersebut diarahkan supaya dilaksanakan dan dibicarakan di hadapan Mahkamah yang berisid di Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Lumpur pada pukul 9.00 pagi pada 1 Mei 2025.

DAN mana-mana pihak penuntut atau penyumbang Syarikat tersebut yang ingin menyokong atau menentang sesuatu perkara mengikut Petisyen tersebut boleh hadir dengan tujuan itu secara peribadi atau melalui peguamcarnya pada masa perbicaraan. Salinan Petisyen tersebut akan dibekalkan oleh pihak yang berbanding dalam 60 hari selepas tarikh perbicaraan atau penyumbang Syarikat tersebut yang menyertai dengan membuat bayaran yang ditetapkan.

Alamat berdaftar Pempetisyen adalah C-12, 4, Level 12, Blok C, Megan Avenue 11, 12, Jalan Tepi Kwan San, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan.

Peguamcara Pempetisyen ialah Tuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen yang beralamat di AS-3-6, Block AS, Solari Dataran, 1, Jalan Dataran 1, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen

Tuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen

Peguamcara Pempetisyen

NOTA - Sebagai yang ingin hadir pada perbicaraan Syarikat tersebut hendaklah menyampai, atau menghantar dengan pos, kepada Tuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen yang dinamakan di atas suatu notis berisid tentang tarikh tersebut. Notis tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat pihak berkenaan, atau jika ia sebuah firma, nama dan alamat firma, dan mestilah ditandatangani oleh pihak atau firma berkenaan atau peguamcarnya, jika ada. Notis hendaklah disampaikan, atau jika dihantar dengan pos, hendaklah dihantar dalam jangka masa tersebut, supaya sampai kepada pihak yang dinamakan di atas sebelum pukul 12.00 tengah hari pada 30 Jun 2025 (sehari sebelum tarikh yang ditetapkan untuk perbicaraan Petisyen tersebut).

IKLAN PETISEN ini dimajukan oleh Tuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen, peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen yang dinamakan di atas yang beralamat di AS-3-6, Block AS, Solari Dataran, 1, Jalan Dataran 1, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. [Ruj: 23121931/Hd-03-4205 392B/-E-mel: aah@khylaw]

No denying Bayern

Leverkusen draw hands Munich Bundesliga title

BAYERN MUNICH were crowned German champions for the 34th time yesterday, giving striker Harry Kane his first major trophy, after second-placed Bayer Leverkusen drew 2-2 at Freiburg.

Bayern's 3-3 draw at RB Leipzig on Saturday, when the Bavarians came from two goals down to take the lead before conceding a stoppage-time equaliser, meant defending Bundesliga champions Leverkusen needed to win at Freiburg to delay the title party.

Leverkusen were two goals down before scoring twice in the last 10 minutes.

But Xabi Alonso's side could not find a third, as Bayern reclaimed the title at the first attempt after Leverkusen ended their 11-year reign last season.

Alonso, who won three Bundesliga titles as a player with Bayern, congratulated his former club.

"Congratulations to Bayern. It's a deserved championship. They were the more consistent team over the season and they deserve the shield," Alonso told DAZN.

Kane, who had never previously won silverware, was among a group of Bayern players who gathered to watch the Leverkusen game in Munich yesterday.

The England captain was suspended for the match at Leipzig but will return this Saturday against Borussia Moenchengladbach at home, where Bayern will be presented with the Bundesliga shield at fulltime.

After the championship was confirmed, Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said: "I want to enjoy this fantastic feeling of winning the Bundesliga."

"I want to congratulate the players who performed at their best. This is an achievement we accomplished as a team."

Having achieved victory at a big club, Kompany is now on a successful path as a manager following his playing career.

"I want to thank Bayern fans around the world for their support. It is because of the fans that we could win. Let's celebrate together at our next home game."

Yesterday's result left Leverkusen, who became the first team in history to win the title unbeaten last season, eight points behind Bayern with two games remaining.

With the faint title hopes gone, Leverkusen's focus will turn to keeping hold of Alonso and Wirtz, who could both be headed for the exit in summer.

Alonso has a contract at Leverkusen until 2026 but has been heavily linked with Real Madrid, where he spent five seasons as a player.

Wirtz's deal expires in 2027 but the Germany midfielder is reportedly considering a big-money move to Bayern.

Tah, who has already confirmed he will leave the club on a free transfer after a decade in Leverkusen, said: "(We had) too little intensity, we had too few runs in behind. It didn't work today."

The Germany centreback has been linked with moves to Barcelona and Bayern.

The late goal meant Leverkusen extended their unbeaten streak away from home to 33 games, equalling a Bundesliga record set by Bayern. – AFP/Agencies



Bayern Munich's Harry Kane (left) and teammate Thomas Müller. – REUTERS/SPIC

Kane finally sings 'We are the Champions'

■ BY JAMIE BRAIDWOOD

HARRY KANE celebrated winning the first trophy of his career by signing *We are the Champions* and *Sweet Caroline* with his Bayern Munich teammates after they reclaimed the Bundesliga title.

England captain Kane finally ended his long wait for a first major title when Bayer Leverkusen were held to a 2-2 draw at Freiburg yesterday, ending the trophy "curse" that had followed the striker in his career.

Kane joined Bayern Munich from Tottenham in 2023 and they celebrated reclaiming the German league title in a bar, with the 31-year-old posting videos of the triumphant scenes to his 17.3m Instagram followers.

Kane filmed himself belting out the classic Queen anthem *We are the Champions* and the Neil Diamond track *Sweet Caroline*.

as he sang along with Bayern teammate Eric Dier.

Some of Kane's former Tottenham teammates, including Dele Alli, Christian Eriksen and Kieran Trippier, commented their congratulations with Lucas Moura adding: "You deserve it brother, very happy for you!"

Kane posted the videos alongside the words "What a feeling" and "We are the Champions" after Bayern won their record-extending 34th German league title.

Kane moved to German giants Bayern in 2023, only for Bayer Leverkusen to end their streak of 11 Bundesliga titles in a row last season, in what was Bayern's first trophyless season in 11 years.

There was more disappointment for Kane and Bayern this campaign – with defeat to Inter Milan ending their hopes of winning the Champions League at their home ground in Munich – but they reclaimed the title from Leverkusen.

Kane's record in Bayern's triumph has been remarkable, scoring 24 goals in 29 games. He is set to win the Golden Boot for a second consecutive season, after scoring 36 last campaign, and in November he broke the record for the fastest player to reach 50 Bundesliga goals, requiring just 43 games to reach the half-century.

But while Kane's goalscoring prowess has never been in doubt, the striker has finally ticked off the box that has followed him during his career and won a major trophy.

With both England and Tottenham, Kane has appeared in five major finals without lifting silverware, with Spurs also finishing runners-up in the Carabao Cup in 2015 and 2021 to add to defeats in the Champions League final and both Euros finals.

Tottenham were briefly title contenders during Kane's time in the Premier League but Mauricio Pochettino's team finished behind Leicester and Arsenal in 2016 and runners-up to Chelsea in 2017, before they lost 2-0 to Liverpool in the 2019 Champions League final in Madrid.

Kane became Tottenham's all-time leading goal-scorer before Bayern made him their record signing in 2023 for an initial fee of €100 million (RM550m). – The Independent

Mbappe maintains Real Liga dream

KYLIAN MBAPPE struck twice as Real Madrid held off Celta Vigo with a thrilling 3-2 win to stay within sight of La Liga leaders Barcelona yesterday.

After the Catalans scraped a comeback win at Valladolid on Saturday, Madrid survived a late Celta fightback to maintain the four-point gap ahead of this Sunday's (10.15pm Malaysian time) *Clasico*.

Defending champions Madrid, second, took a three-goal lead but were left clinging on at the Santiago Bernabeu against a Celta side seventh and hoping to qualify for European football next season.

"The game seemed finished... you have to remember we're without six defenders and we're not always capable of solving these things," said Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti.

"Yes it could have been dealt with better, we suffered a bit, but it's a nice victory."

Madrid's Champions League defence crumbled and *Los Blancos* were also beaten in the Copa del Rey final against Barcelona last week, but Real are still hopeful of overhauling Hansi Flick's side in La Liga.

"We had a very good first half (but)... we fell apart, these things can't happen, it's happened to us a lot," admitted Real Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde on the club's television channel.

"We left a lot minutes for them to get comfortable and they are a great team and they put us in a tough spot."

Madrid opened the scoring through Turkish 20-year-old Arda Guler after 33 minutes and Mbappe doubled Madrid's lead after 39 minutes at the sharp end of a rapid breakaway.

Just three minutes into the second half, Mbappe struck again for his 24th league goal of the season, putting him one behind the top scorer, Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski.

It seemed the game was won for Madrid but Javier Rodriguez pulled Celta back into it with a finish from close range.

Iago Aspas' introduction off the bench for the Galicians immediately gave them more attacking impetus and he produced a superb pass for Williot

Swedberg to slot a second past Thibaut Courtois.

If Madrid had dropped points it would have allowed Barcelona to lift the title this weekend with a *Clasico* victory.

"It's the game of the year for us, the last chance for us to win La Liga," said Valverde. "We will try our best to take the three points." – AFP

Alexander-Arnold confirms Liverpool exit

TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD announced yesterday he will leave boyhood club Liverpool when his contract expires at the end of the season, saying it was the "hardest decision" of his life.

The England rightback who helped Liverpool win the Premier League this season, is out of contract at the end of June and is expected to join Real Madrid.

"After 20 years at Liverpool Football Club, now is the time for me to confirm that I will be leaving at the end of the season," the 26-year-old posted on X. "This is easily the hardest decision I've ever made in my life."

"I know many of you have wondered why or been frustrated that I haven't spoken about this yet, but it was always my intention to keep my full focus on the team's best interests, which was securing No. 20," Alexander-Arnold said.

"This club has been my whole life –

my whole world – for 20 years. From the academy right through until now, the support and love I have felt from everyone inside and outside of the club will stay with me forever.

"I will forever be in debt to you all. My love for this club will never die."

Liverpool thanked Alexander-Arnold, who joined the club as a six-year-old.

"Alexander-Arnold will depart with our gratitude and appreciation for his contribution during a sustained period of success," the club said in a statement.

In the same statement, Alexander-Arnold said he had "loved every single minute of it, achieved all my dreams."

But he said he wanted a fresh challenge. "Giving everything day in, day out for 20 years, I've got to a point now where I feel like I need a new change, a new challenge for me as a player and as a person. And I think now is the right time for me to do that," he said. – AFP



Things need to change, says beleaguered Amorim

BY REUBEN ROSSO-POWELL

RUBEN AMORIM said Manchester United “need to change” after their 4-3 defeat at Brentford.

Kevin Schade scored twice at Gtech Community Stadium as United’s miserable Premier League campaign took another blow, with their winless League run stretching to six matches.

United boss Amorim, whose team beat Athletic Bilbao 3-0 in the first leg of their Europa League semifinal on Thursday, made eight changes to his starting line-up for the clash in west London.

“It was a reflection of our season,” Amorim said after the loss, United’s 16th of the League campaign.

“We started well and controlled well, we

suffered with the set pieces and throw-ins so we knew we would struggle against them.

“They (players) have to understand we cannot do this anymore, we know the context of the season and we need to change that.”

Mason Mount scored his first goal of the campaign to put Amorim’s men ahead but a Luke Shaw own-goal and Schade’s first meant the hosts led at the break.

Schade’s got his second with a close-range header from Bryan Mbeumo’s delivery, before Yoane Wissa made it 4-1 from six yards out.

United showed more grit than previous weeks however, rallying with Alejandro Garnacho’s 82nd-minute goal and Amad Diallo’s stoppage-time effort.

On Mount, Amorim added: “It’s not just the finish, it’s the position he has on the pitch, he’s a

third midfielder who can reach the box, he’s really intelligent and he’s getting there.

“He trains really hard, sometimes too hard and I have to pull him back and take him off the pitch because he wants to do more. He wants to play more minutes and I’m really happy with him.”

Victory for the Bees represents a second win in three days after their 2-0 win at Champions League hopefuls Nottingham Forest on Thursday.

“It was a very good performance, we were in control from minute one,” boss Thomas Frank said.

“We were on top, pressed aggressively, we produced a lot of crosses and two of our goals were fantastic.

“I’m very happy with the performance and it was a deserved win... against Man United who are a massive club.” – The Independent

Paqueta in tears after receiving yellow card

BY ANDY SIMS

WEST HAM boss Graham Potter reduced to tears by his frustration at the team’s performance against Tottenham.

Paqueta looked distraught after he was shown a yellow card in the second half of the 1-1 draw for a foul on Mikey Moore.

The Brazilian midfielder is still awaiting the outcome of the FA hearing into allegations he deliberately got himself booked in four matches, which he denies.

In bizarre scenes at the London Stadium, Paqueta had to be consoled by Hammers skipper Jarrod Bowen and referee Michael Oliver.

Potter said: “I think he’s just a player that’s trying his absolute best and wants the situation to be better and probably got a bit frustrated with the action.

“And then you see a human being, not perfect, but I love Lucas. He’s given everything and in difficult circumstances he’s in as well. He’s given everything and he’s absolutely fine now.”

Tottenham went ahead in the 15th minute when Hammers defender Max Kilman had two stabs at making a pretty routine clearance, but hit Mathys Tel with both of them.

The second time Tel was able to smuggle the ball away and square it across goal, where it was missed by Aaron Cresswell leaving Wilson Odobert the simple task of finishing past Alphonse Areola.

But West Ham responded just before the half-hour mark when Bowen beat the offside trap and beat Spurs keeper Guglielmo Vicario at his near post.

With Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou placing all his eggs in the Europa League basket he made eight changes to rest his first-choice players for Friday’s semifinal second-leg trip to Norway to face Bodo/Glimt.

“I’m proud of the players’ efforts. It’s not easy making so many changes and it’s going to affect the fluency and even the rhythm of the team,” he said.

“I thought the efforts they put in today were outstanding, they were disciplined, organised.” – The Independent

Cole out from the cold

BY ROBERT O’CONNOR

CHELSEA head coach Enzo Maresca said Cole Palmer can do “what no one expects” after his penalty ended a 16-week scoring drought to help beat Premier League champions Liverpool 3-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Palmer looked back to his brilliant best and his goal in stoppage time was no more than a dynamic individual display warranted as the Blues landed a significant blow in the race to qualify for the Champions League.

Chelsea were excellent against an admittedly much-changed Liverpool side, Arne Slot making six alterations to the team that secured the club’s 20th title a week ago, and whatever disruption it made to their rhythm was readily exploited by the hosts.

Enzo Fernandez swept the first in after three minutes, Jarell Quansah on only his third League start of the season scored a bizarre own-goal, then after Virgil van Dijk had briefly reduced the arrears, Palmer relieved months of frustration from the spot following Quansah’s foul on Moises Caicedo.

“We saw Cole day by day at the training ground and he’s exactly the same way, scoring goals, happy,” said Maresca, whose side moved level on points with fourth-placed Newcastle.

“For sure when he doesn’t score goals he’s not happy and the reason why is he wants to help the team and the club reach something important.

“He’s happy for sure because he scored and we won but I didn’t see him different from three months ago. He scored 14 goals in (the first) 20 Premier League games.”

It might have been better for the England forward but he struck the inside of the post from virtually on the byline after a slaloming run.

“He’s that kind of player that can do things no one expects,” said Maresca. “They’re different players. When he has the ball I expect anything because he can do anything.”

Maresca says England forward never changed during Chelsea goal drought

Palmer told *Sky Sports*: “I felt normal. Obviously s*** happens. I went three months without scoring but it just gives me more motivation, more fight to do well, not just for myself but for the team.

“You know yourself social media is just full of idiots, trolls or whatever, I don’t pay no attention. To score today I’m happy. It’s only one and

I’ve got to keep improving to try and reach my levels.”

Chelsea gave Liverpool – who were playing for the first time since being crowned champions – a guard of honour ahead of kickoff, though it was a subdued display from Slot’s side for whom Wataru Endo and Harvey Elliott were making their first League starts.

The gap between the teams now stands at 19 points, though Slot reflected on a point earlier in the season when Chelsea had briefly looked to be his side’s closest challengers.

“I expected them to be a threat this season,” he said. “At Anfield they were better than us, they were so close to us. It’s a complete surprise to me that we’re 19 points clear. I didn’t feel that at all when we played them.

“If a team like this with so much quality, if we’re able to be 19 points ahead of them, it’s a big compliment for our players.” – The Independent



Chelsea's Cole Palmer in action. – REUTERS/SPIC



Paqueta

Newcastle manager Howe praises VAR and Isak’s ‘ruthless mentality’

BY ED ELLIOT

EDDIE HOWE praised VAR and Alexander Isak’s composure after Newcastle made it third time lucky from the penalty spot to salvage a 1-1 Premier League draw at Brighton.

Striker Isak converted his 23rd top-flight goal of the season two minutes from time at the Amex Stadium to boost the Magpies’ hopes of Champions League qualification.

Having fallen behind to a first half goal from former player Yankuba Minteh, Newcastle had

two second half spot-kick awards overturned following VAR intervention, prior to their late leveller from 12 yards.

Referee Craig Pawson initially reversed his decision when replays showed Anthony Gordon was fouled just outside the box by Tariq Lamptey before doing so again after a dive by Joe Willock.

“I’ve not been there myself, so I can’t put myself in his shoes,” manager Howe said of Isak.

“But I can only imagine the process he is going through and then he has to stop, and that’s why he did very well because it would be

very, very easy to miss that moment. But he didn’t.

“He’s got that ruthless mentality to scoring goals. And that’s where you really lean on those type of players.

“To have the coolness of mind to just take a step back and go, right, this is what I need to do and deliver it for the team.

“It was a brilliant penalty in a big moment because we needed something from the game. Losing the game would have dented us.”

Isak eventually capitalised following another

lengthy VAR check after Brighton substitute Yasin Ayari was punished for handling Fabian Schar’s freekick.

Brighton boss Fabian Hurler believes VAR disrupts the rhythm of games but is making football fairer.

“VAR makes football more fair, but of course it breaks the rhythm and takes a long time, so sometimes it’s very frustrating how long it takes.

“On the one side it’s very positive, on the other side we all know it breaks the rhythm of the game.” – The Independent

RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Brentford 4 (Shaw 27-og, Schade 33, 70, Wissa 74) Manchester United 3 (Mount 14, Garnacho 82, Diallo 90+5), Brighton 1 (Minteh 28) Newcastle 1 (Isak 89-pen), West Ham 1 (Bowen 28) Tottenham 1 (Odobert 15), Chelsea 3 (Fernandez 3, Quansah 56-og, Palmer 90+6-pen) Liverpool 1 (Van Dijk 85).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	35	25	7	3	81	35	82
Arsenal	35	18	13	4	64	31	67
Man City	35	19	7	9	67	43	64
Newcastle	35	19	6	10	66	45	63
Chelsea	35	18	9	8	62	41	63
Nottm Forest	34	18	6	10	53	41	60
Aston Villa	35	17	9	9	55	49	60
Bournemouth	35	14	11	10	55	42	53
Brentford	35	15	7	13	62	53	52
Brighton	35	13	13	9	57	56	52
Fulham	35	14	9	12	50	47	51
Crystal Palace	34	11	12	11	43	47	45
Wolves	35	12	5	18	51	62	41
Everton	35	8	15	12	43	39	39
Man Utd	35	10	9	16	42	51	39
Tottenham	35	11	5	19	63	57	38
West Ham	35	9	10	16	40	59	37
Ipswich	35	4	10	21	35	76	22
Leicester	35	5	6	24	29	76	21
Southampton	35	2	5	28	25	82	11

Note: Top 5 qualify for the Champions League.

LA LIGA: Real Madrid 3 (Guler 33, Mbappe 39, 48) Celta Vigo 2 (Rodriguez 69, Swedberg 76), Sevilla 2 (Salas 21, Romero 70) Leganes 2 (Munir 7, Hernandez 73), Espanyol 1 (Fernandez Jaen 28) Real Betis 2 (Lo Celso 85, Antony 90+1), Real Sociedad 0 Athletic Bilbao 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	34	25	4	5	91	33	79
Real Madrid	34	23	6	5	69	33	75
Athletic	34	19	10	5	56	27	67
Bilbao	34	16	13	5	50	26	61
Villarreal	34	16	10	8	60	47	58
Real Betis	34	16	9	9	52	42	57

Note: Top 5 qualify for the Champions League.

SERIE A: Bologna 1 (Freuler 54) Juventus 1 (Thuram 9), Empoli 0 Lazio 1 (Dia 1), Monza 0 Atalanta 4 (De Ketelaere 12, 23, Lookman 47, Brescianini 89), Roma 1 (Dobryk 45+5) Fiorentina 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	35	23	8	4	55	25	77
Inter Milan	35	22	8	5	73	33	74
Atalanta	35	20	8	7	71	31	68
Juventus	35	16	15	4	52	32	63
Roma	35	18	9	8	50	32	63
Lazio	35	18	9	8	58	45	63

Note: Top 4 qualify for Champions League; 5th Europa League; 6th Conference League.

BUNDESLIGA: Mainz 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Freiburg 2 Bayer Leverkusen 2, Augsburg 1 Holstein Kiel 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich	32	23	7	2	93	32	76
Leverkusen	32	19	11	2	68	37	68
E. Frankfurt	32	16	8	8	63	43	56
Freiburg	32	15	7	10	46	49	52
Dortmund	32	15	6	11	64	49	51
RB Leipzig	32	13	11	8	51	45	50

Note: Top 4 qualify for Champions League; 5th Europa League; 6th Conference League playoff.

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Nantes 0 Angers 1, Lyon 1 Lens 2, Brest 1 Montpellier 0, Auxerre 1 Le Havre 2, Lille 1 Marseille 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	32	24	6	2	85	33	78
Marseille	32	18	5	9	67	44	59
Monaco	32	17	7	8	61	37	58
Nice	32	16	9	7	60	39	57
Lille	32	16	9	7	50	33	57
Strasbourg	32	16	9	7	53	39	57

Note: Top 3 qualify for Champions League; 4th Champions League third qualifying round; 5th Europa League; 6th Conference League.

Malaysian Athletics gets serious

New coaches crucial for long-term plan to expand national programme: Ballard

MALAYSIAN ATHLETICS (MA) is expecting the arrival of six new coaches by May or June, with some local coaches possibly starting by the end of this month," said its technical director Robert Ballard.

He confirmed to *Bernama* that all the individuals had been notified, with the next step being the formalisation of contracts.

He added that MA had been in regular contact with the National Sports Council (MSN) since last year to resolve the matter.

"We've made all the recommendations and we're really, really hopeful that these appointments will go ahead," Ballard said when met at the Kuala Lumpur Super Series Athletics Championships at Merdeka Stadium on Sunday.

"I hope this can happen very soon. The

requests have been in place for more than a couple of months, not just since last week.

"We've been following up constantly, but delays are inevitable when it comes to funding, visas and the fact that some of the international coaches are still employed elsewhere. We are hoping that this will now occur in May or June.

"There's a possibility some of them could be here towards the end of this month, as some of the six are local coaches."

Ballard said the appointments are crucial for MA's long-term plan to expand its national programme to include more than 100 athletes, not just in Kuala Lumpur but across Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak.

"We need to have greater outreach and if we get these new coaches on board, then we'll be able to dedicate the time and effort needed to structure these programmes and assist state

coaches with the athletes in the national set-up.

"Hopefully (we can) help those coaches with workshops and (to) develop other younger athletes who can push and elevate themselves into the programme," he said.

Commenting on the Kuala Lumpur Super Series Athletics Championships, Ballard said he was thrilled to witness a new wave of young talent emerging in Malaysian athletics, with younger athletes challenging their seniors and driving overall progress through healthy competition.

He added that while the 2025 SEA Games is a key milestone for this year, it should be viewed as a stepping stone rather than the ultimate goal.

Ballard outlined a long-term vision leading up to the 2032 Olympics, expressing hope to see Malaysian athletes reaching the finals on the world stage. — *Bernama*

Khairul Aman determined to make impact

YOUNG national striker, Khairul Aman Mohd Rosdi admitted that he was surprised when he was named in the national sepak takraw team that will compete in the Asian Cup 2025 sepak takraw tournament which will open at Titivangsa Stadium this Saturday.

The Kemaman-born said he was determined to repay the trust given by the national team coaching staff by giving an excellent account of himself if he is fielded in the team competition.

"Alhamdulillah, this is my first call to represent the national team. I was actually quite surprised when I was listed because I was still young.

"So I consider my selection as a challenge for myself to perform better so that I can challenge other countries," he said to the media recently.

The 22-year-old athlete admitted to feeling a little pressured to play for the first time with the national team.

However, he considered the pressure to be a test in his career and

will try to overcome it as best he could when competing in the team competition.

"The pressure is certainly there and I think I need to take some time to absorb the pressure.

"My hope is of course to give the best



Khairul Aman. — PSM/Facebook

performance for the national team because we are playing before our own fans," he said.

Yesterday, Khairul Aman was among the new names listed by national sepak takraw squad head coach, Ahmad Jais Baharun, to take on Malaysia's challenge at the Asian Cup 2025.

Apart from Khairul Aman, Ahmad Jais also retained more than 80% of the players who successfully created history by lifting the 2024 Sepak Takraw World Cup last year.

Sepaktakraw Association of Malaysia (PSM) president Datuk Sumali Reduan said the decision was taken to ensure that the national team can continue to excel as well as to strengthen the existing combinations ahead of the prestigious regional tournament.

"There are not many changes to the lineup. For example, we keep the existing lineup in the regu event but have added Khairul Aman to strengthen the mix of senior and new players.

"For the doubles event, we are keeping the same pairing but adding another young player, Muhammad Ridzwan Hakim Muhammad," he said, adding that they have formed scratch pairs for the quadrant event.

Sumali said they would pay special attention to ending the nation's 33-year title drought in the team regu event. — *Bernama*

Merdeka Stadium best option as training centre: Shahidan

MERDEKA STADIUM has been identified as one of the best options to serve as a training centre for national athletes, said Malaysian Athletics (MA) president Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim.

He said the matter must be resolved quickly as the absence of a proper training venue could disrupt preparations for the SEA Games in Thailand this December.

"Our biggest problem is that athletes and coaches don't have a permanent training venue. That's why we are looking into several places, including Merdeka Stadium, but the rental there is quite high.

"So I will negotiate with the government to see if we can get a discount to conduct training there," he said when met at the Kuala Lumpur Super Series Athletics Championships at Merdeka Stadium yesterday.

He said national athletes are currently forced

to train at several temporary venues, such as the National Valuation Institute (Inspen) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), as there is still no official information on the reopening of the stadium at the National Sports Council (NSC), which was closed for maintenance.

Shahidan said the national athletes' performance at the biennial meet in Thailand at the end of this year would reflect Malaysia's capabilities as host of the 2027 edition, making it all the more crucial to ensure they have access to proper training facilities to achieve the best results.

He added that 85 athletes are currently under the NSC programme, comprising the Podium and back-up programmes, while another 22 athletes are under MA's development programme.

Meanwhile, he said the issue of coach appointments has been resolved, including the

return of experienced coach Mohd Poad Md Kassim to the national coaching line-up.

He said six coaches had already been approved by the NSC, with Mohd Poad being the seventh addition who would conduct weekly training sessions.

"The only thing left now is the paperwork. Poad is an addition to the six coaches already approved, and there may be further additions if needed — a matter that will be considered by the NSC," he said.

On the Super Series Athletics Championships, he said the meet had a positive impact as it showcased many promising new talents.

"The NSC has agreed for us to go to Hong Kong and South Korea. Then there are two other important meets we've requested to join, namely the Vietnam Open and Thailand Open," he said. — *Bernama*



Rah-Rah-Raphinha

Brazilian winger's revival key to Barcelona's devastating Champions League run

BARCELONA visit Inter Milan in a tantalising Champions League semifinal second leg clash tomorrow (3am Malaysian time), with Raphinha's latest contribution in the club's spectacular European run ensuring the tie restarts on a knife-edge.

For once this season the statistics did not fully reflect the Brazilian's part in Barcelona's third goal in the 3-3 first leg draw, as his vicious strike hit the crossbar and bounced in off Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer for an own goal.

Despite that his Champions League numbers are spectacular and a just representation of the key part Raphinha forms of Hansi Flick's relentless attacking machine.

Raphinha has scored 12 goals in 13 European matches and set up nine more, if you include his assist for Sommer's own goal, 21 goal contributions – while opponents Inter have scored 22 as a team across the whole competition.

The 28-year-old's tally has surpassed Argentine great Lionel Messi's best ever total of 19 direct goal involvements with the Catalan giants in a Champions League campaign.

Over the season the former Leeds winger has 31 goals and 25 assists in 52 games across all competitions, as Barcelona target a potential quadruple, with the Copa del Rey and

Spanish Super Cup already in the bag. That Barcelona are on the verge of the Champions League final is evidently in no small part down to the rise of Raphinha in his third season at the club.

In turn the Brazilian winger's revival is, he says, down to coach Hansi Flick.

"The truth is he changed practically

everything for me," said Raphinha in April.

"I was going to leave the club before the season started, the coach was so important in changing my mind, for me to stay at the club.

"He gave me all the confidence possible for me to do what I am doing, he changed everything, he basically changed my career.

"I'm doing my best, my best season since I started playing and I

owe it all to him."

Barcelona signed Raphinha in July 2022, one of several players the club brought in by activating various financial *palancas* or financial levers, selling off future television income and other assets.

Raphinha impressed with his hard work but also frustrated with his inconsistency, as Barcelona went on to win La Liga under Xavi Hernandez, netting 10 times.

The following year was disappointing for both Raphinha and Barcelona, as he and the club failed to build on their progress and ended up trophyless.

Raphinha struck 10 goals again across all competitions but Lamine Yamal's emergence on the right, in his favoured spot, left him facing a potential exit.

The cash-strapped Catalans looked kindly on a potential sale, with his Premier League history ensuring suitors would not be hard to find, while the Saudi Pro League was also calling.

Barca were interested in Spain and Athletic Bilbao star

Nico Williams, but Raphinha was convinced to stay by Flick and rapidly adapted to playing on the left wing.

Raphinha's work-rate suits Flick's high-pressing game perfectly, although even the German would not have imagined he would become a *Ballon d'Or* contender during the season of his career.

"Raphinha is very important, I love him, like the other players, but he is a leader, he always has that positive thinking that he manages to pass on to the rest of his teammates," said Flick, after the winger helped Barca make a late comeback against Celta Vigo in April.

He trails Borussia Dortmund's Serhou Guirassy by one goal in the Champions League scoring charts and it almost came against Inter, but for the crossbar.

Raphinha set up Ferran Torres' goal in that thrilling game and again showed the kind of drive to improve which makes him so valuable in Flick's young side.

"It is unacceptable to concede so many goals at home," he said, never shy of speaking his mind.

With much of the focus on Yamal after the teenager's first leg fireworks, Raphinha will keep on relentlessly chipping away on the left at the San Siro, playing his role to perfection as Barca bid to make the final for the first time since 2015. – AFP



Raphinha



Story on page 28



Story on page 29



Story on page 30