



BM increasingly sidelined as spoken language

Use of Bahasa Melayu among youth has diminished, as many feel more comfortable communicating in English, says lecturer.

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Avoid year-end spending spree in civil service: Chief sec

'Poor expenditure management not only undermines efficient use of resources but also risks creating negative perceptions about government's integrity.'

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Hubby among those probed in Pamela's abduction: IGP

Police also investigating claims abductors are actual police officers, and looking into CCTV footage acquired and witness statements recorded, says top cop.

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Bukit Bendera MP Syerleena Abdul Rashid said Nga Kor Ming's type of leadership, which she described as calm, focused and clear, is crucial in rebuilding public trust and addressing the real needs of the people, and should be actively encouraged. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Nga gets thumbs up

MP praises housing and local government minister for his steadfast commitment to addressing real, cross-cutting issues, such as housing, public safety and urban liveability amidst discussions on proposed Urban Renewal Act.

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Bahasa Melayu at risk of losing its national, cultural identity

➤ Despite constitutional status, the language is being sidelined among youth and elite in favour of English and foreign influences, says academic

KUALA LUMPUR: The well-known Malay proverb *bahasa jiwa bangsa* (language is the soul of a nation) is often quoted to reflect the intimate link between language and national identity. But how well do Malaysians today truly understand its meaning, both at face value and in deeper cultural terms?

The Federal Constitution, under Article 152, clearly designates Bahasa Melayu as Malaysia's national language. Implicit in this is the expectation that all Malaysians, regardless of race or background, should prioritise its use in both formal and informal communication. Yet, growing trends suggest otherwise.

Despite constitutional recognition, there appears to be a steady erosion in the daily use and appreciation of Bahasa Melayu, particularly among younger Malaysians. The preference for foreign languages, especially English, is becoming more pronounced.

The shift has not escaped the attention of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who has publicly criticised certain segments of society for overvaluing English at the expense of the national language. He has since directed that all official communication within

government departments and agencies be conducted entirely in Bahasa Melayu.

Senior lecturer at the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, Universiti Malaya Dr Norfaizal Jamain observes that many Malaysian youths, especially those in urban or bilingual households, do not regularly speak Bahasa Melayu in daily life.

"The younger generation often feels more comfortable using English, especially in urban areas or in families where English is also spoken at home. But this doesn't mean they are not exposed to it at all, as Bahasa Melayu remains the official language and medium of instruction in most public schools.

"It's just that, in terms of daily spoken language, it is becoming increasingly sidelined."

Citing the prime minister's concerns, Norfaizal notes that many among Malaysia's elite and professional classes perceive Bahasa Melayu as lacking in prestige. For such groups – corporate leaders, professionals and affluent families – English has become a symbol of social status, reported Bernama.

"Some are even proficient in more than two

languages, yet they still marginalise Bahasa Melayu. In many private and international schools, English or other foreign languages dominate, and children from these environments often do not use Malay as their first language."

Anwar had also said undermining Bahasa Melayu by assuming that success can only be achieved through the use of English is misguided.

Additionally, Norfaizal said social media and technological advancements have contributed to the further marginalisation of Bahasa Melayu among the younger generation. He said social media platforms and messaging apps have accelerated the rise of *bahasa rojak*, a mixed form of speech that blends Malay with English and slang.

"The influence of YouTube, TikTok, Instagram and WhatsApp has compromised the beauty and structure of proper Malay."

Norfaizal said many digital systems and applications lack Malay language support, nudging users, especially the young, towards English by default. He also said there is a significant lack of Malay-language content in academic and scientific fields. Textbooks, journals, software, and digital tools in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are overwhelmingly English-based.

He added that the dominance of English in technology makes it difficult to elevate Bahasa Melayu as a language of knowledge and innovation.

'Malaysian peacekeepers on high alert'

JOHOR BAHRU: The security situation involving the Malaysian Battalion (Malbatt) 850-12, currently serving under the United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian mission in Lebanon, remains stable and under control, despite the presence of potential threats in the region.

Army chief Gen Tan Sri Muhammad Hafizuddeain Jantan said the battalion has taken various contingency measures and remains on high alert at all times.

"In terms of security, the situation has been reported as stable. However, we constantly remind our personnel not to become complacent," he told reporters at a reception for the families of Malbatt 850-12 personnel, held at Ulu Tiram Camp on Sunday.

Also in attendance was Puan Sri Hartiah Hamzah, chairperson of the Army Family Welfare Board (Bakat), Bernama reported.

Muhammad Hafizuddeain said defensive precautions such as bunker construction were put in place from the beginning of the deployment to ensure the safety of the personnel.

"Our main concern is the possibility of unpredictable actions by warring parties, including stray fire entering our area of operation. Thankfully, there have been no such high-risk incidents so far."

He also noted that members of Malbatt 850-12 are granted a month's leave on rotational basis throughout their deployment period.

The battalion, which was deployed to Lebanon in November last year, is expected to return in phases by November this year, making way for the arrival of a new contingent – Malbatt 850-13.

"The new team will also consist of 850 personnel, including a platoon from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces," he said.

The unit will be led by the Second Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment based in Sungai Ara, with selection for commanders and staff officers currently underway. The team is expected to begin Force Integration Training in Port Dickson by June.

Earlier during the event, Muhammad Hafizuddeain and wife Hartiah presented welfare contributions to the families of Malbatt 850-12 members, including relatives of army personnel dealing with health issues.

The event also featured a live video call that allowed family members to connect with their loved ones currently serving in Lebanon.

PR Excellence Award to be held in July

KUALA LUMPUR: The Institute of Public Relations Malaysia (IPRM) and Jakarta-based Asean Public Relations Network (APRN) will jointly organise the Asean PR Excellence Award to be held in Kuala Lumpur on July 7.

In a statement yesterday, IPRM said the award is strategically aligned with the annual Kuala Lumpur International PR Conference (KLIP 7), themed 'Impactful AI, Social Media Communication and Online Education for Asean and the Global Community'.

Since 2019, KLIP has brought together PR professionals, leaders, and academics to share insights and strategies.

This year's focus, which includes online safety, responsible digital citizenship, and ethical communication, is especially timely as Malaysia prepares to assume the Asean chairmanship.

The conference will feature presentations and discussions aimed at cultivating collaborative strategies to enhance online safety awareness and education across Asean.

IPRM president Jaffri Amin Osman noted that the dual event is a platform to celebrate achievements and address pressing issues in AI, ethics and crisis management. – Bernama



Siti Sainira and team members, Nurfirdaus (left) and Mohd Azizul, provided emergency medical care at the Al-Shifaa Hospital, Al-Nasser Hospital and Kuwait Specialty Hospital during their 30-day humanitarian mission. – BERNAMAPIC

Female volunteer doctor braves bombs to serve in Gaza

KUALA LUMPUR: The ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people became the driving force behind anaesthesiologist Dr Siti Sainira Saidin's decision to spend 30 days in Gaza, volunteering as part of Mercy Malaysia's Special Care Team 5 (SCT 5), despite the constant threat of bombings.

As the only female volunteer on the team, Siti Sainira remained undeterred by the nightly sounds of explosions and said the thought of death never crossed her mind.

"We were stationed in Gaza City, Khan Younis and northern Gaza. Almost every night, we heard bombs going off, but *Alhamdulillah*, we managed to carry out our duties in accordance with Mercy Malaysia's standard operating procedures.

"Not once did I think of dying while I was there, because life and death are in *Allah's* hands. As his servant, I focused on completing the 30-day mission," she told reporters at Mercy Malaysia's headquarters on Monday.

Also present were Mercy Malaysia president Datuk Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus, Global Operations chief and team leader Shah Fiesal Hussain, and volunteers Mohd Azizul Hakim Danial and Nurfirdaus Ibrahim.

Siti Sainira and three other team members were assigned to provide emergency medical care at several key hospitals during the mission, including the Al-Shifaa Hospital, Al-Nasser Hospital and Kuwait Specialty Hospital. The humanitarian operation ran from March 27 to April 26.

She shared that her desire to help had been growing for years, fuelled by watching the escalating crisis unfold in the media. Joining the SCT 5 team finally allowed her to fulfil that long-standing aspiration.

"As a woman, I was deeply affected, knowing that the majority of victims are women and children. *Alhamdulillah*, my wish to help them was fulfilled," said Siti Sainira, who has been in the medical field for 17 years.

Despite the emotional and logistical challenges of the mission, including time away from her family, Siti Sainira credited the simulation training with police and the General Operations Force for preparing her mentally and ensuring she was ready to face the dangers on the ground. – Bernama

Haj pilgrims urged to report lost Nusuk cards swiftly

MECCA: Prospective Malaysian haj pilgrims for the 1446H/2025M season have been urged to notify Lembaga Tabung Haji staff in the event of a lost Nusuk card to enable swift action.

Malaysian Haj Delegation head Mohd Hisham Harun said Lembaga Tabung Haji would provide temporary identification cards and copies of haj visas as a support measure to ease the movement and worship of affected pilgrims in the Holy Land.

"Temporary identification will be provided for pilgrims to use when going to the mosque or leaving their hotel or accommodation area."

He stressed that only pilgrims with valid haj visas are permitted to enter Mecca and the Masjidil Haram, with inspections to be conducted by Saudi authorities at designated checkpoints.

"Pilgrims are reminded to always carry the Nusuk card with them, especially when leaving the accommodation area or heading to the Masjidil Haram to avoid any inconvenience."

Mohd Hisham said Malaysia made history by becoming the first country to successfully distribute Nusuk cards to its pilgrims as early as at the KL International Airport, thanks to a collaboration between Lembaga Tabung Haji, the Saudi Arabian Haj and Umrah Ministry, and operating company Mashariq Holdings.

He said the initiative enables Malaysian pilgrims to begin their haj journey in a more organised and seamless manner.

"For pilgrims who have not yet received their Nusuk cards, there is no need to worry as the cards will be distributed in Mecca once the printing process is completed. Lembaga Tabung Haji and Mashariq are identifying the pilgrims who have yet to receive them."

He reminded Malaysian pilgrims to comply with regulations and instructions set by the Saudi Arabian government for the smooth running of the entire haj operation this season. — Bernama

Govt eyes regional rice sources

PARIT BUNTAR: The government has not ruled out the possibility of increasing rice imports from several regional countries following the ongoing conflict involving India and Pakistan.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu said the turmoil in both countries is expected to affect Malaysia's rice import supply.

"I hope and am confident that both sides do not want war. However, we will cooperate with countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia to ensure sufficient rice supply."

International news outlets reported that the conflict between India and Pakistan erupted following a bloody attack in Kashmir, India on April 22, which claimed 26 lives.

In another development, Mohamad expressed confidence that there would be no panic buying of chicken eggs, citing sufficient supply through ongoing government initiatives, such as the Jualan Rahmah and Jualan Agro programmes.

On predictions that egg prices may rise by up to three sen per egg following the full removal of government subsidies on Aug 1, he called them speculative. — Bernama

'Avoid year-end spending sprees in civil service'

PUTRAJAYA: The practice of hasty end-of-year spending in the civil service, which often leads to a waste of resources, must be avoided, said Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

He said poor expenditure management not only undermines efficient use of resources but also risks creating negative perceptions about the government's integrity and governance.

He added that although the Auditor-General's Report continues to raise issues on government financial management, misappropriation and wastage of public funds still occur.

"If left unaddressed, this issue could become increasingly complex and, without firm solutions, it would affect the credibility and public perception of civil servants in general," he said in his speech at the opening of the Management Accounting Seminar organised by the Accountant-General's Department here yesterday.

The text of his speech was read out by Auditor-General Datuk Seri Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi.

➤ Practice undermines efficient use of resources, creates negative views about federal integrity: Govt chief secretary

Shamsul Azri stressed that civil servants must ensure transparency, integrity and accountability remain central to the principles of governance and ethics.

He said the Madani government is focused on optimising public spending by reviewing expenditure policies and the allocation of limited resources to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and value for money.

"Continuing to implement policies geared towards targeted subsidies allows the government to reduce wastage and leakage while creating fiscal space to improve assistance for vulnerable groups," he said.

He added that the government has taken a positive step forward by amending the Audit Act 1957, which would enhance audit

scope in relation to public fund management.

This effort also ensures audit recommendations are taken seriously and acted upon appropriately by all parties, including ministries, departments, agencies and any entities or companies receiving public funds.

Shamsul Azri said the Accountant-General's Department, as the lead agency for management accounting across ministries, has introduced the Treasury Circular PS 1.3 Implementation of Management Accounting.

He said the circular outlines the policy and implementation of management accounting via the introduction of Strategic Management Accounting and Reporting (SMARt), Bernama reported.

"This initiative directly enhances the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of ministries in managing finances, risks, resources and performance by ensuring optimal resource utilisation," he added.

He urged ministry secretaries-general, who also serve as controlling officers, to ensure the effective implementation of management accounting and SMARt to improve transparency and accountability in financial decisions.

"Civil servants must proactively acquire increasingly complex technical competencies in finance and accounting while also equipping themselves with non-financial intelligence to improve the effectiveness of management accounting practices in the public sector."

"The adoption of technologies based on big data analytics, artificial intelligence and smart automation could assist government agencies in collecting, analysing and interpreting financial information in real time," he said.

Doctors oppose use of non-health related law on sector

PETALING JAYA: Hundreds of doctors from across the country gathered yesterday to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to show their opposition to the enforcement of the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011 on the medical sector, which requires the display of medicine prices at private healthcare premises.

It was reported that the doctors gathered at 9am at Laman Perdana near the Perdana Putra Building and were holding placards that read "We will not be silenced", "Healthcare workers are undervalued" and "Unfair fees and policies keep current and future doctors away".

The group comprised doctors,

private general practitioners and representatives of several NGOs related to medical practitioners.

The gathering was organised by the Malaysian Medical Association's (MMA) private general medical practitioners section.

MMA said it is not against price transparency for medicines but its implementation under a non-health related law.

On Sunday, MMA issued a statement explaining that its memorandum aims to highlight the concerns and challenges faced by private clinics in response to the government's recent decision.

It argued that applying the Act to the medical profession is inappropriate as the Act is not

designed for healthcare, warning that doing so could negatively affect the delivery of primary healthcare services.

Previously, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali announced that mandatory price labelling would take effect on May 1.

In a joint statement, they said the move aims to ensure the public can make informed choices by knowing, comparing and selecting the best prices when managing their medication expenses.

"It will be enforced under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering (Price Marking for Medicines) Order 2025, pursuant to the Act."

The government's implementation of the Medicine Price Display Order has been hailed as a crucial step towards increasing transparency and strengthening consumer rights, enabling Malaysians to make more informed decisions on medications based on their financial means.

Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) president Prof Amrhi Buang said the policy reflects the government's commitment to public wellbeing by promoting greater transparency within the national healthcare system.

"MPS views this policy as part of the government's initiative to educate and empower consumers, particularly regarding their right to know medicine prices and choose where to obtain their medications, whether from clinics or pharmacies."

"This is a positive step as it empowers consumers to make smarter, more affordable choices, which would ultimately benefit society as a whole."

"This policy would help raise public awareness and improve health literacy related to medication pricing," he told Bernama.

He said the operations of community pharmacies are outlined under the Community Pharmacy Benchmarking Guidelines and the practice of price display has long been in place for many products listed under the new order.

He added that while pharmacy chains may not face significant challenges, smaller independent community pharmacies may encounter some initial difficulties.

"With clear briefings through engagement sessions and a comprehensive FAQ document, the implementation of this order could proceed smoothly," — Bernama



MMA argued that applying the Act to the medical profession could negatively affect the delivery of primary healthcare services. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN



Housing minister **praised** for focus on real issues

BY T. C. KHOR
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

GEORGE TOWN: Bukit Bendera MP Syerleena Abdul Rashid has lauded Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming for his steadfast commitment to addressing real, cross-cutting issues, such as housing, public safety and urban livability, amidst discussions around the Urban Renewal Act.

She said Nga's leadership marks a shift away from divisive racial narratives and towards practical solutions that benefit all Malaysians.

"I believe that things such as livability and safety matter to everyone, no matter who you are or where you come from."

"When leaders such as Nga focus on real issues that people face every day, it is a good sign. It shows a shift towards solutions that actually make a difference on the ground."

"People just want to live in safe, clean and decent environments."

She said Nga's type of leadership, which she described as calm, focused and clear, is crucial in rebuilding public trust and addressing the needs of the people,

➤ **Leadership of Nga marks shift away from divisive racial narratives and towards practical solutions: Bukit Bendera MP**

and should be encouraged.

She added that what matters most are actions that reflect fairness.

"The focus should remain on policy delivery and measurable improvements to people's lives, which speak louder than rhetoric and help ground the conversation in facts."

"Less talk, more action. Results always speak louder than slogans."

"Urban renewal is not easy. It involves many layers of government and a lot of coordination but what really matters is follow-through."

"Promises are a start but people want to see real progress, not just headlines," she said.

Syerleena said in Penang, for example, the half-a-century-old Rifle Range has been stuck in limbo due to long-standing delays and bureaucratic red tape.

"It is always encouraging when

leaders are willing to revisit issues that have been stuck for far too long," she said.

When asked about the expected timeline for the regeneration of Rifle Range, she acknowledged that large-scale urban renewal projects do not happen overnight.

She said there is a lot that needs to be done, such as planning, community consultations, technical studies and coordination across agencies.

"If we are being realistic, the full transformation might only be completed when I am well into my 70s."

"But that is okay. What matters is that we start now and do it right. The benefits down the line will be worth the effort, even if we do not see all the results immediately," she said.

On whether Penang would need to enact further legislation to streamline with the Act, Syerleena

said the matter would be subject to legal and procedural reviews by state authorities.

"At this point, the broader framework is being discussed and any legal enablers would likely be addressed as implementation planning evolves."

She also stressed the importance of securing bipartisan support for the Act as improving housing and quality of life should transcend political lines and benefit the people as a whole.

"When people are living in rundown conditions, politics should not get in the way of doing what is right."

The Act proposed in Malaysia requires 80% approval from residents for urban renewal projects, involving buildings less than 30 years old.

This threshold is lower than the current 100% required for *en bloc* sales under the Strata Titles Act 1985.

The Urban Renewal Act also proposes a 75% threshold for buildings over 30 years old and a 51% threshold for buildings deemed unsafe or abandoned.

The Bill is expected to be debated in Parliament during the session starting at the end of June.

Airbus, S'wak to collaborate on aerospace roadmap

KUCHING: The Sarawak government and leading global aerospace company Airbus have agreed to establish a joint task force to develop a roadmap for the state's aerospace industry.

State Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said establishing the Sarawak-Airbus Joint Task Force aims to combine expertise within the industry through comprehensive collaboration and discussions with specialists to draft the roadmap.

"This initiative is expected to serve as a growth catalyst for the aviation industry, opening up new opportunities for the sector's advancement on an international scale," he said in a statement posted on Facebook by the Sarawak Public Communications Unit.

He added that establishing the joint task force is one of six key areas of strategic cooperation agreed upon by the Sarawak government and Airbus during his official visit to the Airbus Campus and the headquarters of turboprop aircraft manufacturer ATR in Toulouse, France on Monday.

Abang Johari said Airbus will also partner with the state government to develop a 40.5ha site in the state as an aerotropolis, which will serve as an integrated hub to support the aviation industry ecosystem.

Both parties have agreed to explore the use of sustainable aviation fuel, which is being actively developed in Sarawak.

He said Airbus has agreed to collaborate with local institutions in the state, such as ICATS University College, to develop aerospace-related training programmes and curricula aiming to nurture skilled human capital for the aerospace industry.

He added that in building the aerospace support industry ecosystem, Airbus would assist Sarawak in exploring the potential for manufacturing composite materials and gas-based synthetic leather, as well as avionics and instrumentation technologies based on artificial intelligence.

The agreed collaboration would include developing digital journey systems and flight services designed to integrate travel arrangements into a single digital package. — Bernama

Langkawi airspace to be closed for airshow

ALOR SETAR: The Civil Aviation Authority has announced a temporary closure of the Langkawi airspace in conjunction with the upcoming Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) Exhibition.

It said the closure would occur in stages, beginning with airshow exercises from May 6 to 14, conducted for 45 minutes at times deemed suitable by its Langkawi management.

From May 15 to 19, exercises will take place from 8.30am to 9.15am and 12pm to 2.30pm.

The actual airshows will be held from May 20 to 24 with this schedule:

- ➡ **May 20:** 8.30am–9.15am and 12pm–2.30pm
- ➡ **May 21–22:** 12.30pm–2.30pm
- ➡ **May 23–24:** 10am–12pm and 2.30pm–4.30pm

Earlier, the Air Force in a statement said its aircraft would conduct flight



Lima features one of the largest exhibitions in the maritime and aerospace industry in Southeast Asia. — **BERNAMAPIC**

trainings in conjunction with the exhibition starting yesterday.

It said the flight exercise would involve fighter jets, carriers and helicopters over two phases, namely Phase One from yesterday to May 13 in the airspace of Alor Setar in Kedah and Butterworth in Penang while

Phase Two begins from May 14 to 19 in the airspace of Langkawi in Kedah.

"The implementation of this exercise aims to strengthen the readiness and efficiency of the Air Force crew in providing the best performance for the opening and air show for the exhibition scheduled

from May 20 to 24," it said.

Themed "Today's Progress, Future Achievements", the exhibition in Langkawi remains one of the largest exhibitions in the maritime and aerospace industry in Southeast Asia since it was first organised in 1991. — Bernama

17 urgent projects to overcome flash floods in Klang

KLANG: The Selangor government has identified 17 urgent projects that need to be implemented in the administrative area of the Royal Klang City Council in an effort to overcome the problem of continuous flooding in the area.

State Infrastructure and Agriculture exco Datuk Izhah Hashim said the projects would be implemented in 13 hotspots.

He said the projects to be

implemented include drain widening works, installation of culverts for waterways, upgrading bridges involving village areas and pocket development.

"Some of these projects will be started as early as this week and are expected to be completed by October, with an estimated RM3 million allocated for the implementation of the projects."

"The implementation will be

brought to the Selangor Economic Action Meeting within two weeks from now. There are several projects involving the implementation of state government policies."

He was speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting to discuss infrastructure progress for the city council's supervised areas at its headquarters on Monday.

Izhah said the projects would be coordinated by the Selangor Drainage

and Irrigation Department in collaboration with several other agencies, including the city council and the Public Works Department.

He said the projects are an effort by the state government to reduce flood incidents while waiting for the Flood Mitigation Plan in the Klang area to be completed.

He added that 15 medium and long-term flood mitigation projects involving the federal

government were also implemented, with funds of nearly RM45 million, Bernama reported.

He also said the Drainage and Irrigation Department identified more than 300 unmanned catchment ponds, which were factors that caused floods to occur due to improper maintenance.

Izhah said the department is in the process of taking over the ponds and about 55 have been taken over.



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Husband among persons probed in Datin Seri abduction

► Investigation still ongoing including on claims actual police officers involved, motive yet to be established, says IGP

■ BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The husband of Datin Seri Pamela Ling (*pic*) is one of the individuals being investigated in her kidnapping, said Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain.

The nation's top cop, however, said investigations are still ongoing and several other individuals are still being considered as suspects.

"Following the victim's disappearance, I ordered the formation of a special task force involving elements from the Bukit Aman Criminal Investigation Department and the Kuala Lumpur police," Razarudin said at Bukit Aman yesterday.

He added that the case is being investigated under Section 363 of the Penal Code for kidnapping.

He said police are also investigating claims that Ling's abductors are actual police officers.

"The probe is looking into the CCTV footage acquired and witness statements recorded," he said, adding that to date, at least 16 individuals have had their statements recorded.

Razarudin said this includes a statement that was initially recorded from the victim's husband.

"Our investigators will also record statements from the victim's children," he said, adding that the motive behind the kidnapping has yet to be established.

When asked about the CCTV footage, he said he would be chairing a meeting with the special task force to receive the latest updates on the case.

"If any of those involved are found to be errant personnel, we will not tolerate it," he said.



On whether the victim was still believed to be in the country, nearly a month after her disappearance, Razarudin said they did not want to jump to conclusions given the current circumstances.

"We believe the victim's husband is still in Malaysia," he said.

Ling's lawyer Datuk N. Sivananthan told *theSun* that Ling was only in the country to get her statement recorded by the Malaysian

Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in an Anti-Money Laundering Act probe allegedly involving her husband, who is said to be a Sarawakian businessman.

"Based on the IGP's statement it appears that they (the police) perhaps realised that in the absence of a ransom demand, he (the victim's husband) would be the one to benefit from her disappearance in view of the ongoing and lengthy court battles in Singapore and Malaysia involving substantial assets," he said.

Sivananthan, who was scheduled to meet her at the MACC headquarters and lodged the initial police report on her disappearance, said the Grab driver ferrying Ling reported that the vehicle was stopped by three cars, from which a man wearing a police vest and a woman dressed as a police officer emerged.

Ling went missing at 3.02pm on April 9.

Three vehicles reportedly blocked the car she was in, forcing her to step out. She was then seen getting into one of the three cars.

Ling has not been seen or heard from since.

Alor Setar airport runway closed after RMAF aircraft incident

ALOR SETAR: The Sultan Abdul Halim Airport runway was closed yesterday evening due to an aircraft-related incident at 5 pm.

In a statement, Malaysia Airports said the closure of the runway was to facilitate the removal of a Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) aircraft and the subsequent runway clearing works.

As at press time, a Notice to Airmen was issued and the runway closure was expected to continue until 10.30pm, reported Bernama.

There was also no elaboration or details on the incident.

"During the closure, all flight operations at AOR will be affected," said the statement.

"Passengers including those travelling (to KLIA) for Hajj are advised to check with their respective airlines or Lembaga Tabung Haji for the latest flight information," it added.

The authorities were waiting for the runway to be declared safe and open for flight operations by the Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia before the airport would provide further updates.

AGC yet to decide on Najib's SRC representation

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here was told yesterday that the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) has yet to decide on Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's representation to drop three additional money laundering charges involving RM27 million from SRC International Sdn Bhd funds.

During case management proceedings, deputy public prosecutor Mohd Ashrof Adrin Kamarul informed Judge K. Muniandy that the representation is still pending and requested a one-month extension to update the court on its outcome.

Meanwhile, Najib's lead counsel, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, asked the judge to grant a discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA) for his client, noting that the representation had been filed nearly two years ago.

Shafee said the former 72-year-old Pekan MP's representation has not changed in terms of facts and they have yet to receive any reply from the AGC since 2023.

"May I ask formally, *Yang Arif*, because I think it would probably assist the AGC to decide one way or the other. If *Yang Arif* were to grant a DNAA on this matter, because it has been two years and it is sitting in *Yang Arif*'s docket for too long.

"I think this is the best way to deal with the matter (DNAA). It takes pressure from everyone, and a decision can be made at their own comfort.

"We are only asking for a DNAA because if they want to reignite the case, they can always do that and there is no pressure on them to

decide," he said.

"The representation was filed in July 2023, but we have yet to receive any response from AGC. We are requesting the court to make a decision, as this matter has been delayed for two years.

"We are requesting that the case be dropped. If the prosecution wishes to recharge it at a later date, that is their right."

Shafee said it is not in the best interest of justice for Najib's case to remain unresolved for an extended period.

Najib was absent from court yesterday as his presence was exempted.

Mohd Ashrof told the court that he had no further directions pertaining to Shafee's DNAA application and thus left the decision to the court.

After considering the arguments from both sides, Muniandy told Shafee that the AGC should be granted one final opportunity to assess Najib's representation.

He approved Mohd Ashrof's request for a one-month extension and scheduled June 11 for the AGC to announce its decision regarding the representation.

He also ordered Mohd Ashrof to be prepared with his submissions concerning Shafee's DNAA application.

On Feb 3, 2019, Najib claimed trial to three charges of money laundering involving RM27 million in illegal proceeds, allegedly received through his three AmPrivate Banking accounts at AmIslamic Bank Berhad at the AmBank Group Building in Jalan Raja Chulan. — Bernama



Immigration personnel with foreigners rounded up during a raid at a massage parlour in Jalan Bukit Bintang yesterday.
— BERNAMAPIC

Prostitution ring involving foreign women busted

PUTRAJAYA: The Immigration Department detained 16 people, including two local men, in a special operation at two separate locations, as part of a crackdown on prostitution involving foreign women.

Immigration deputy director-general (management) Ismail Mokhtar said all the individuals, aged between 19 and 61, were detained around Pandan Perdana in Kuala Lumpur and Seri Kembangan in Selangor.

"The *modus operandi* used involved offering prostitution services by foreign women by advertising their services on social media to attract customers.

"Customers pay between RM250 and RM1,200 per session, with payment transactions conducted either in cash or online," he said in a statement.

He added that the operation began at 7.15pm on Sunday, involving a team of personnel from the intelligence and special operations division of the Immigration Department headquarters in Putrajaya.

Acting on public information and intelligence gathered over two weeks, the team was deployed to stake out business and residential premises and successfully apprehended two Malaysian men believed to be caretakers of

the premises.

"Also detained were two Vietnamese men, seven Vietnamese women, four Indonesian women and one Laotian woman," he said.

Ismail said initial checks found that one Vietnamese woman and one Laotian woman possessed valid social visit passes; two Vietnamese men had overstayed, while the other foreign nationals did not possess any valid travel documents or passes for staying in the country.

He added that the team also seized 19 mobile phones, five Vietnamese passports, one Laotian passport, a work record book and a business transaction ledger.
— Bernama

UN Security Council urges Kashmir talks

► Pakistan warns of Indian military action

NEW DELHI: The UN Security Council has urged India and Pakistan to ease tensions and avoid military conflict, Pakistan said yesterday, as hostilities between the neighbours surge after a deadly attack on tourists in disputed Kashmir.

Council members were briefed on the situation in the region and told of intelligence indicating an "imminent threat" of action by India, the South Asian nation's Foreign Ministry said, referring to the council's meeting on Monday in New York.

"They called for dialogue and diplomacy to diffuse tension and avoid military confrontation ... and to peacefully resolve issues," the ministry said in a statement.

India's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the meeting, which had been sought by Islamabad.

The two sides have shored up defences as ties plummeted after the

April 22 attack that targeted Hindu tourists, killing 26. India accused Pakistan of involvement, saying two of the three suspected attackers were Pakistani nationals.

Islamabad has denied the accusation but says it is fully prepared to defend itself in case of attack, prompting world powers to call for a calming of tension.

Pakistan has held two missile tests in three days and India unveiled plans for civil defence drills in several states yesterday, from sounding air raid sirens to evacuation plans.

Pakistan is a non-permanent member of the Security Council. India is not, but New Delhi has been in talks with council members ahead of Monday's meeting.

An Indian source familiar with the discussion said many members expressed concern that Pakistan's missile tests and nuclear rhetoric were "escalatory" factors.

"Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation also failed," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They were advised to sort out the issues bilaterally with India."

On Monday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres emphasised the need to avoid a military confrontation that could "easily spin out of control," adding, "Now is the time for maximum restraint, and stepping back from the brink."

The rivals announced a slew of measures against each other after the violence, from suspending trade and a key water treaty to closing their airspace and reducing embassy staff.

Rating agency Moody's has warned the standoff could weigh on Pakistan's US\$350 billion (RM1.48 trillion) economy, which is still recovering from an economic crisis that pushed it to the brink of default on external debt obligations in 2023.

Higher defence spending could also weigh on India's fiscal strength and slow its fiscal consolidation, it added.

Kashmir has been at the heart of the hostility between India and Pakistan for decades, and India has previously also accused Pakistan of aiding separatists battling security forces. Islamabad denies the accusation. — Reuters



An Indian paramilitary personnel keeps guard at a marketplace in Srinagar. — AFP/ICC

China slams CIA recruitment ads

BEIJING: China yesterday condemned recruitment adverts by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) asking disillusioned Chinese officials to share state secrets as a "naked political provocation".

"The United States not only maliciously smears and attacks China, but also openly deceives and lures Chinese personnel to surrender, even directly targeting Chinese government officials," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said.

The US intelligence agency last week released a number of videos it said were aimed at "recruiting Chinese officials to help the US".

CIA director John Ratcliffe said the

cinematic videos were "just one of many ways that we're adjusting our tradecraft at the CIA".

Beijing said the United States used "various despicable methods to steal secrets of other countries, interfere in other countries' internal affairs and undermine other countries' political power".

"The videos released by the US Central Intelligence Agency on social media are another self-confession with solid evidence of this," Lin said.

"China strongly condemns this."

The United States and China have long traded accusations of espionage. Last month, security officials said

they had implicated three US "secret agents" in cyberattacks during February's Asian Winter Games in the northeastern city of Harbin.

And in March, China's State Security Ministry said it had sentenced to death a former engineer for leaking state secrets to an unnamed foreign power.

Beijing yesterday vowed to take "necessary measures to resolutely crack down on the infiltration and sabotage activities of foreign anti-China forces".

China will "firmly safeguard national sovereignty, development and security interests", Lin said. — AFP

Adopt proactive role, Hun Sen urges Asean

JAKARTA: Former Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has called on Asean to move from a reactive to a proactive role in shaping global governance, aiming to build a more equitable international system.

Speaking at the Asean headquarters in Jakarta on Monday, he highlighted the shift towards a multipolar world, with more countries gaining influence over global affairs.

"In this context, Asean has a vital role to play in shaping a world order grounded in legal frameworks and a stronger foundation of democracy and justice," he said in his policy address, which is part of a ceremony to commemorate the 26th anniversary of Cambodia's membership in Asean.

He noted that some major powers are retreating from the global systems they helped establish, which are now being undermined by a retreat from multilateralism and the rule of law.

At the same time, emerging powers are calling for governance that reflect the new global power

dynamics, he said.

Hun Sen emphasised that Asean is emerging as a key global player, evolving beyond its traditional role as a regional institution.

Now serving as president of the Cambodian Senate, he described the bloc as a dynamic global actor, increasingly recognised by international powers.

"With a population of more than 670 million, the third-largest in the world, and as the fifth-largest economy, Asean's role in shaping global governance frameworks is critical and cannot be ignored," he added.

Cambodia joined Asean on April 30, 1999, and has chaired the bloc three times — in 2002, 2012, and 2022. The country has worked alongside other member states to build a community grounded in shared responsibility and people-centred development.

Hun Sen is visiting Indonesia from May 5 to 7 at the invitation of the Asean Secretariat and the Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia to speak on conflict resolution. — Bernama

American climber dies on Nepal peak

KATHMANDU: An American mountaineer died on Mount Makalu in eastern Nepal during a climb to raise funds for a children's cancer programme, officials said yesterday, the second death in the Himalayan nation's climbing season that began in March.

The world's fifth-highest mountain, Makalu's peak is 8,463m high, compared with Mount Everest, the tallest peak, at a height of 8,849m.

Alexander Pancoe, 39, died on Sunday while settling into his sleeping bag at the mountain's second high camp, after returning from an acclimatisation trip at the higher camp three, expedition organiser Madison Mountaineering said.

"Alex suddenly became unresponsive," the company said on its website. "Despite hours of resuscitation efforts ... they were unable to revive him."

Nepal's tourism department said it was arranging to bring the body to Kathmandu, the capital.

Pancoe, who survived a brain tumor when younger, had completed the Explorer's Grand Slam — climbing the highest peaks on each of the seven continents and then skiing to both the North and South Poles.

He had been battling chronic myeloid leukemia and was attempting to climb Makalu to raise funds for the paediatric blood cancer programme of the Chicago-based Lurie Children's Hospital, said expedition leader Garrett Madison.

He had already raised US\$1 million (RM4.23 million) to help fund clinical trials and other programmes there, Madison added.

In April, a Nepali sherpa died on Mount Annapurna, the world's 10th highest mountain.

Wedged between India and China, landlocked Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks, including Mount Everest, and its economy is heavily reliant on climbing, trekking, and tourism for foreign exchange. — Reuters

Storms lash Gujarat, 14 dead

AHMEDABAD: At least 14 people died and 16 others were injured in the past two days as heavy pre-monsoon showers lashed India's western state of Gujarat, state officials said on yesterday.

Television visuals showed fallen trees and damaged crops as heavy lightning and thunderstorms impacted several districts.

The unseasonal rain across most of the state was driven by a cyclonic circulation in the neighbouring parts of Pakistan and India's Rajasthan state, according to India's Meteorological Department.

The weather forecaster has forecast more rain, thunderstorms,

lightning and gusty winds across Gujarat until tomorrow.

Local officials told Reuters that 14 people were killed and 16 injured so far.

"We are awaiting reports on crop damage," said Anju Sharma, secretary of the state's agriculture department. Gujarat is a major producer of cotton, cumin and rice.

"District administrations will assess the losses and send us their reports today."

Last month, unseasonable heavy rain across eastern and central India and parts of Nepal killed more than 100 people. — Reuters



New Zealand proposes under-16 social media ban

► Govt seeks to keep children safe online

SYDNEY: New Zealand's prime minister yesterday proposed banning children under 16 from social media, stressing the need to shield them from the perils of big tech platforms.

Regulators the world over are wrestling with how to keep children safe online, as social media is increasingly flooded with violent and disturbing content.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon unveiled draft laws that would force social media companies to verify users were at least 16 years old, or face fines of up to NZ\$2 million (RM5.05 million).

The proposed ban was modelled on strict laws recently passed by Australia, which sits at the forefront of global efforts to regulate social media.

"It's time that New Zealand acknowledged

that, for all the good things that come from social media, it's not always a safe place for our young people to be," Luxon told reporters.

"It's time we put the onus on these platforms to protect vulnerable children from harmful content, cyberbullying, and exploitation."

It was not clear when the legislation would be introduced to parliament, but Luxon said he was hopeful of garnering support across the chamber.

The laws were drafted by Luxon's centre-right National Party, the biggest member in New Zealand's three-way governing coalition.

To be passed they would need the support of Luxon's two other coalition partners.

"Parents are constantly telling us that they are really worried about the impact that social media is having on their children," Luxon said.

"And they say they are really struggling to manage access to social media."

National Party lawmaker Catherine Wedd, who drafted the Bill, said it would hold social media companies to account.

"As a mother of four children I feel very

strongly that families and parents should be better supported when it comes to overseeing their children's online exposure," she said.

The proposed laws do not specify which social media companies would be covered.

Last year, New Zealand banned children from using mobile phones while at school – a policy designed to turn around the country's plummeting literacy rates.

Australia passed landmark laws in November restricting under-16s from social media – one of the toughest crackdowns on sites such as Facebook, Instagram and X.

But video-sharing website YouTube will likely be exempt from Australia's ban so children can use it for their school work.

Officials are yet to solve basic questions surrounding the laws, such as how the ban will be policed.

The move sparked a fierce backlash from big tech companies who variously described the laws as "rushed", "vague", and "problematic".

Australia's ban is set to come into effect by December. – AFP

Cardinals assemble to elect pope

VATICAN CITY: All 133 Catholic cardinals who will vote for a new pope have arrived in Rome, the Vatican said on Monday, two days before they gather in a conclave to elect the next head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

Hailing from 70 countries across five continents, the group – summoned following the death of Pope Francis on April 21 – is the largest and the most international ever.

At stake is the direction of the Catholic Church, a 2,000-year-old institution with huge global influence but which is struggling to adapt to the modern world and recover its reputation after the scandal of widespread child sex abuse by priests.

The 133 cardinals who will vote will gather today in the Sistine Chapel.

They are sworn to secrecy, risking excommunication if they reveal what happens, as are their support staff, from medics to lift operators, canteen and cleaning staff, who took their oath on Monday.

The Vatican announced it would also cut the phone signals within the tiny city state for the duration of the conclave, although this will not cover St Peter's Square, where thousands of pilgrims are expected to gather.

Cardinals of all ages had met earlier for the latest in a series of closed-door preparatory meetings.

Discussions so far have covered everything from the Vatican's finances to the abuse scandal and Church unity.

"The focus was on the missionary nature of the Church: a Church that must not withdraw into herself," the Vatican said.

Cardinals discussed the profile of the next pope – "a figure who must be present, close, capable of being a bridge and a guide, of favouring access to communion for a disoriented humanity marked by the crisis of the world order".

He should be "a shepherd close to the real life of the people," the Vatican added.

Francis was an energetic reformer from Buenos Aires who helped open up the Church during his 12-year-long papacy but was accused by critics of failing to defend key Catholic doctrine.

The question is whether his successor will follow a similar progressive line, or take the Church on a more conservative path.



Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez greeting a child near St Peter's Square on Monday. – REUTERS/PIC

Francis appointed 80% of the cardinal electors but experts caution that they may not choose someone in his mould, with many warning that there could be surprises.

Vatican affairs specialist Marco Politi said that, given the unknowns, the conclave could be "the most spectacular in 50 years".

The conclave begins today and could continue for days, weeks or even months although both Francis and his predecessor were elected within two days.

The cardinals will vote once the first day and four times a day thereafter until one of them has the two-thirds majority.

They will stay at the nearby Santa Marta guesthouse and are forbidden from contacting the outside world.

Italy's Pietro Parolin, who was secretary of state under Francis, is one of the favourites, as

is Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Among the so-called "papabili" are also Luis Antonio Tagle from the Philippines and Hungarian conservative Peter Erdo.

But many names have been discussed and a surprise candidate could emerge.

Among the pilgrims and sightseers in St Peter's Square on Monday, opinions varied widely about who could or should take over.

"Maybe more of Pope Francis than Pope Benedict," said German visitor Aurelius Lie, 36.

"As long as he's not too conservative (and) influenced by modern political leaders – (Giorgia) Meloni, (Donald) Trump," he said.

"Maybe the Church will be thinking: 'We need a tough pope now to deal with these people.' But their terms will end in a couple of years." – AFP

'Aussiewood' courts Hollywood

SYDNEY: Australia still wants to make "great films" with the United States, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said yesterday, as new tariffs threaten the home of Hollywood hits such as *The Matrix*, *Elvis* and *Crocodile Dundee*.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday announced 100% tariffs for all films produced in "foreign lands", saying struggling Tinseltown would be better served by "movies made in America".

So-called "Aussiewood" has for years used generous tax breaks and other cash incentives to lure foreign filmmakers Down Under, producing a string of hits for major Hollywood studios.

Although little is known about how the tariffs might work, Australia's top diplomat Wong said they risk ultimately proving a flop with filmmakers.

"Our message is we make great films together," she told national broadcaster ABC.

"We have films, American films, which are filmed here in Australia. The collaboration is a good thing. So, let's not get in the way of that."

Crocodile Dundee, a 1986 comedy about an Australian bushman transplanted to New York City, helped put Australia's fledgling film industry on the map in America.

Since then, some of Hollywood's hottest directors have used Australia to film Marvel blockbusters, *Mission Impossible* instalments, and box office winners like *Elvis*.

The tariffs could also trouble neighbouring New Zealand, which famously lent its spectacular scenery to the beloved *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

New Zealand Film Commission boss Annie Murray said they were still trying to untangle how the tariffs might work.

"We're mindful, however, this is an evolving situation and it's too early to speculate on what this could mean," she said.

The tariffs appear to target a business model favoured by American studios who obtain tax breaks to film in countries such as Britain, Canada, Ireland and Australia. – AFP

'Mushroom murder' suspect rejected help

SYDNEY: An Australian woman accused of murdering three people with a toxic mushroom-laced lunch rejected offers of help before serving the dish, the sole guest to survive the deadly meal told a court yesterday.

Erin Patterson, 50, is charged with murdering the parents and aunt of her estranged husband with a poisonous beef Wellington in 2023.

She is also charged with the attempted murder of Baptist pastor Ian Wilkinson, who recovered after a lengthy stay in hospital.

Patterson has pleaded not guilty to all counts. Wilkinson was questioned as Patterson's headline-grabbing trial entered its second week yesterday.

Patterson seemed "reluctant" for her guests to rummage around in the pantry before eating, Wilkinson said, and rejected offers to help plating up the dish.

"We said grace, we began eating," Wilkinson told the jury at the Latrobe Valley Law Courts in Morwell, southeast of Melbourne.

Patterson allegedly laced the beef-and-pastry dish with poisonous mushrooms.

Wilkinson said that hours after eating he and wife Heather began vomiting, but initially dismissed it as a "case of gastro".

They eventually went to hospital.

Heather, the aunt of Patterson's estranged husband Simon, died in the days following the lunch.

Patterson's parents-in-law Don and Gail Patterson also died after eating the meal.

Wilkinson said he had little memory of what happened after falling ill, and spent two months recovering in hospital.

The trial is expected to last about six weeks. – AFP

Chinese fighter jets soar over Egypt

BEIJING: The sound of Chinese fighter jets roared over the Egyptian pyramids and could echo across the Middle East, as Beijing wrapped up military drills with Cairo aimed at chipping away at US strategic influence.

China's military on Monday released videos of its fast jets, helicopters and transport planes flying high above the Sahara and hailing inaugural joint air force exercises with Egypt as "a signal of deepening military ties and shifting alliances".

The joint exercises with one of the United States' biggest security partners come as Washington increasingly turns inward under President Donald Trump, allowing China to deepen ties across North Africa and invest billions in security projects.

"As Egypt looks beyond its traditional US partnership, a new era of cooperation is taking flight over Cairo's skies," said a video released by CCTV.

Global Times, a tabloid owned by *People's Daily*, said the "Eagles of Civilisation 2025" drills had established a foundation for various potential cooperation between the two countries' militaries at a time when Egypt is trying to upgrade its combat equipment.

Analysts say the 18-day drills also help Egypt assert itself as a major regional power among the Arab nations and North Africa amid growing regional turbulence.

"It's great public diplomacy for (China), particularly in the Middle East," said Eric Orlander, co-founder of the China-Global South Project.

"It's what brings people in the door for them to sell drones, SAMs, light arms, transports, et cetera."

"A major regional power needs an Air Force, right?" he added.

Orlander cautioned that switching jet fighter systems is very expensive, and Washington could choose to withhold financial military support from Cairo if it upped its purchases of Chinese technologies. — Reuters



An Israeli army excavator demolishes a building in a refugee camp east of Tulkarem, West Bank, on Monday. — AFP/IC

No point in further ceasefire talks: Hamas

► 'End the crimes of hunger, thirst and killings'

GAZA CITY: A senior Hamas official said yesterday the group was no longer interested in truce talks with Israel and urged the international community to halt Israel's "hunger war" against Gaza.

"There is no sense in engaging in talks or considering new ceasefire proposals as long as the hunger war and extermination war continue in the Gaza Strip," Basem Naim said.

He said the world must pressure the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to end the "crimes of hunger, thirst and killings" in Gaza.

The comments by Naim, a Hamas political bureau member and former Gaza health minister, came a day after Israel's military said expanded operations in Gaza would include displacing "most" of its population.

They come a day after Israel said its security

Cabinet approved the military's plan for expanded operations, which an Israeli official said would entail "the conquest of the Gaza Strip and the holding of the territories".

Nearly all of the territory's inhabitants have been displaced, often multiple times, since Oct 7, 2023.

Gaza has been under total Israeli blockade since March 2 and faces a humanitarian crisis.

Israel's military resumed its offensive on March 18, ending a two-month truce.

The spokesperson for Gaza's civil defence agency, Mahmud Bassal, said yesterday that three Palestinians including a little girl were killed in Israeli dawn attacks on different areas of Gaza.

A UN spokesman said on Monday Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "alarmed" by the Israeli plan that "will inevitably lead to countless more civilians killed and the further destruction of Gaza".

"Gaza is, and must remain, an integral part of a future Palestinian state," Farhan Haq said.

The Israeli decision comes as the UN and aid organisations have repeatedly warned of

the humanitarian catastrophe on the ground, with famine again looming.

On Monday, a senior Israeli security official said that "a central component of the plan is a large-scale evacuation of the entire Gazan population from the fighting zones ... to areas in southern Gaza".

Military spokesman Effie Defrin said the planned offensive will include "moving most of the population of the Gaza Strip ... to protect them".

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in a radio interview yesterday called Israel's plan for a Gaza offensive "unacceptable", and said its government was "in violation of humanitarian law".

For Palestinians, any forced displacement evokes memories of the "Nakba", or catastrophe – the mass displacement in the war that led to Israel's creation in 1948.

On Monday, the Health Ministry in Gaza said at least 2,459 people had been killed since Israel resumed its campaign on March 18, bringing the overall death toll from the war to 52,567. — AFP

BRIEFS

NEW YORK MOVES TO KEEP CONGESTION FREE

NEW YORK: The city of New York and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority asked a judge on Monday to block the Trump administration from killing Manhattan's congestion pricing programme. Lawyers for the city's transport department and the MTA sought an order to block Transport Secretary Sean Duffy's effort to kill the programme and his threat to withhold federal government approvals for other projects and potentially billions in funding. New York State also sought a preliminary injunction to block the federal government from blocking the programme. New York launched its first-in-the-nation programme in January, charging most passenger vehicles a toll of US\$9 (RM38) during peak periods to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street, in a bid to cut congestion and raise funds to improve mass transit. — Reuters

COLOMBIA ARRESTS 217 DRUG CARTEL SUSPECTS

BOGOTA: Colombian authorities said on Monday they had captured more than 200 members of the country's biggest drug cartel, which is accused of murdering two dozen security force members in the past month. The Gulf Clan was born out of the right-wing paramilitary groups that fought leftist guerrillas in the 1990s before turning their attention to the cocaine trade. Armed forces chief Francisco Cubides told a news conference security forces had arrested 217 members of the clan since April 15. He said 15 other suspects had been shot dead in raids that had netted 6.8 tonnes of drugs, 123 firearms and more than 15,000 rounds of ammunition. — AFP

Norway fund urged to divest from firms aiding Israel

OSLO: Norway's US\$1.8 trillion (RM7.6 trillion) wealth fund should divest from all companies that aid Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories, a leader at Norway's powerful LO trade union told Reuters, intensifying a divestment campaign.

LO, the biggest confederation of trade unions in Norway, is aligned with the governing Labour Party and often exerts influence on policy beyond traditional workers' rights issues.

"We want the fund to pull out of the companies that have activities in the occupied Palestinian territories," said Steinar Krogstad, deputy leader at LO.

LO's general policy is that Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, should not invest in companies that breach international law, Krogstad said.

"This question is more on the agenda now ... because of Israel's policy, attacks and war in Gaza and in the West Bank," he said, speaking

on the margins of the union's congress, where the Palestinian flag flew alongside those of the United Nations and Norway.

The UN's highest court last year said Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and settlements there were illegal and should be withdrawn as soon as possible, in a ruling that Tel Aviv rejected as "fundamentally wrong" and one-sided.

LO and 47 other civil society organisations sent Finance Minister Jens Stoltenberg a letter dated April 10 to push for such a move.

The letter asks Stoltenberg, an LO member, to instruct the central bank, which operates the fund, to divest from companies "where there is an unacceptable risk of complicity in violating international law in the occupied Palestinian territories".

It also asks Stoltenberg take the initiative to give more precise guidelines for the observation and exclusion of companies from

the oil fund "in such a way that they are in accordance with international law".

Krogstad said LO would also request a meeting with Stoltenberg to discuss the issue. No date had yet been set, he said.

The Finance Ministry said the fund operates under ethical guidelines agreed by parliament, with recommendations for divestments made by an ethical watchdog that is "professionally independent".

The fund has faced pressure to divest from companies active in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since October 2023.

Since then, it has divested from telecoms company Bezeq, and another unnamed company is under consideration for exclusion by the central bank's board.

Most other companies active in the occupied Palestinian territories have been cleared in a review by the fund's ethical watchdog. — Reuters

Losers in Trump's tariff war

“MAYBE, the children will have two dolls instead of 30 dolls, you know,” he said, “and maybe the two dolls will cost a couple of bucks more than they would normally.” Jane Mayer, a reporter with *The New Yorker*, called it “Trump’s Marie Antoinette moment.”

With US President Donald Trump and his team of economic and trade advisers hogging the news daily with twists and turns on the implementation of the “most beautiful word” in Trump’s vocabulary, pundits around the world have begun to assess the impact and the likely future consequences and repercussions.

Leading financial and economic institutions in the US and elsewhere unanimously agree that the tariff policies, even if moderated, pose a major threat to global economic growth and stability.

The IMF (International Monetary Fund) – citing trade disruptions, policy uncertainty, and retaliatory measures – has revised its global growth projection for 2025 to 2.8%, down from 3.3% in 2024. For 2026, it expects global growth to remain subdued at 3%, with risks tilted downward due to the prolonged trade tensions.

What is significant too is that it has increased the probability of a recession in the US to nearly 40%, higher than its forecast of 25% in October. J.P. Morgan Research estimates that Trump’s tariffs (10% universal tariff and 145% on China) could reduce global gross domestic product by 1% in 2025. This includes direct impacts and spillovers from financial market volatility and weakened business sentiment.

In a scenario with a reduced 60% China tariff, the drag could still reach 0.7 to 1%. Away from the calculus of pundits, Trump’s tariff war has real-life effects and begun to impact large groups in the US and China, with some sectors and population groups already significantly bearing the brunt.

A breakdown of the most adversely affected groups includes:

Groups in the US most adversely affected

Low-income and budget-conscious families

The elimination of the *de minimis* exemption (which allowed tariff-free imports under US\$800 (RM3,376) disproportionately affects lower-income households and budget-conscious consumers who rely on goods from China and other developing countries for their household



BY LIM TECK GHEE

ANOTHER TAKE

essentials, clothing, electronics and a wide range of products that are not available from US producers or are too expensive.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

SME dependent on imports, for example, toys, apparel, machinery and other manufacturers and retailers, face supply chain disruptions and skyrocketing costs. Many may go out of business as they lack the inventory buffers or pricing power of larger enterprises.

Agricultural exporters and the rural economy

The loss of Chinese markets for US farmers arising from China’s retaliatory tariffs targeting agricultural exports such as soybeans, pork and dairy is a big hit on the farming community and rural economies. During the first Trump administration, the two-year trade war between the US and China reduced American agricultural exports to China by an estimated US\$25.7 billion. This time it could be even worse.

Automotive and manufacturing workers

Despite concessions made to US car manufacturers, the automotive industry and its associated products and services are still being hard hit since a significant portion of auto parts that are imported are subject to a 25% tariff. Meanwhile, General Motors has cut its profit forecast for 2025 by more than 20% and said the Trump administration’s tariffs would increase its costs by US\$4 billion to US\$5 billion this year. Motorists can also expect to pay more for repairs, insurance and practically every aspect of their future vehicle bill.

Port and logistics workers

Major ports (Los Angeles, Long Beach and Seattle) are reporting a 35% drop in cargo arrivals, leading to reduced hours and layoffs for dockworkers and truckers. United Parcel Service (UPS), one of the world’s largest shipping and logistics companies, has now announced that it will cut about 20,000 jobs in 2025 to reduce costs, citing changes in global trade “and new or increased tariffs.”

Groups in China most adversely affected

Export-dependent manufacturers

Industries such as home products, electronics, toys and furniture facing prohibitive tariffs (up to 145%), have begun factory closures. The Port of Los Angeles has reported a near-halt in shipments from China, signaling collapsing demand.



SME dependent on imports, for example, toys, apparel, machinery and other manufacturers and retailers, face supply chain disruptions and skyrocketing costs.
– AFPPIC

Workers in trade-dependent regions

Industrial hubs (for example, Guangdong and Zhejiang) face layoffs as US orders decline. Goldman Sachs estimates that up to 20 million Chinese workers – roughly 3% of China’s labour force – are exposed to US-bound exports if Trump’s 145% tariff on Chinese goods holds firm.

Small online sellers

The end of the *de minimis* provision will slash profitability for direct-to-consumer Chinese e-commerce platforms (for example, Shein, Temu and others) which have relied on tariff-free small packages for their sales.

Casualty count in Asean

Apart from China, other countries specially targeted by Trump’s tariff war include Asean member countries that have been beneficiaries of China’s investment diversification away from China as well as have been able to capture a share of the US market on their own strength.

Below is a breakdown of some key impacts of Trump’s tariff war in Asean:

Economic growth and export disruptions

Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand face steep tariffs, threatening their export-driven growth models. Vietnam, for instance, exports goods worth 30% of its GDP to the US, primarily electronics and garment sectors.

GDP contraction risk

Analysts estimate Trump’s tariffs could cut regional growth by 0.5 percentage points in 2025, with Vietnam and Cambodia at risk of losing 5.5% and 3% of GDP, respectively.

Supply chain disruptions

Asean nations serving as hubs for Chinese firms rerouting goods to avoid US tariffs, for example, solar panels manufactured in Malaysia and

Vietnam, will see their exports disrupted and reduced.

Social and labour market consequences

Job losses in industries such as textiles (Indonesia), electronics (Malaysia) and steel (Thailand) could shed many thousands of jobs. The ripple effects of reduced export earnings will bring higher inflation levels and worsen living standards.

Although less developed countries of the region will be hit the hardest, for now, it is telling that no Asean member nation has yet to bend its knee, clearly showing that the American bully and scare tactics do not have the hyped-up and oversized effect that the Trump administration has been expecting.

Main casualty

Much more significant than the economic losses and casualty count are not only the lost jobs and reduced incomes, including those lost in the US itself, it is the damage to US credibility and leadership in the global economic and geopolitical arenas.

This impact highlights the cascading effects of Trump’s tariffs, which extend beyond economic metrics to key aspects of the international order, such as geopolitical alliances, soft power standing, popular opinion, mindsets and a host of interrelated aspects crucial to the US standing in the Asian region and elsewhere in the world. Even if Trump backpedals on his tariffs, the US has already lost so much international goodwill and respect that it will take many years to repair the damage.

*Lim Teck Ghee’s Another Take is aimed at demystifying social orthodoxy.
Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

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COMMENT by Tsubasa Nakazawa

Driving growth through digitalisation

SMALL and medium enterprises (SME) in Malaysia comprise approximately 97% of the economy, contributing nearly 40% to the nation's total GDP.

As such, empowering SME with digital capabilities is not just a "nice to have"; it is essential for economic sustainability and growth.

Malaysian businesses today have an opportunity to adopt emerging technologies that can streamline their operations and enhance productivity.

Initiatives such as MyDigital, the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint and the SME Digitalisation Grant as well as digital innovation initiatives for SME announced in Budget 2025 aim to make digital solutions accessible to small local businesses, the backbone of Malaysia's economy.

These initiatives illustrate an attempt to bridge the gap between traditional local practices and global modern expectations, facilitating greater market access and operational efficiency for businesses.

By strategically investing in digital infrastructure and promoting robust policy initiatives, the government continues to lay the groundwork needed for widespread innovation.

Greater digitalisation opportunities Malaysia's economy has traditionally been anchored in three core sectors, with agriculture, manufacturing and services serving as three core pillars of economic prosperity.

These industries, while navigating the complexities of digitalisation, possess opportunities for innovation and growth. They are strategically implementing digital solutions to overcome legacy systems and skills gaps for greater operational success.

The agriculture sector, historically vital to Malaysia as a leading producer of palm oil, rubber and

other commodities, is a keen example. Farmers and agricultural businesses are in a prime position to transform their operations.

By exploring modern record-keeping and data management, they can move away from traditional silos and achieve significant growth in operational transparency.

Digital tools such as cloud-based inventory systems, logistics tracking applications and remote sensing technologies for crop monitoring can provide significant opportunities to improve these practices.

For example, the cooperative can automate inventory tracking, enhance transparency across its supply chain, and enable data-driven decision-making.

However, it is important to note that beyond acquiring technology, successful integration relies on empowering people through cultural adaptation and aligning these technologies with daily operational processes.

Malaysia has been making actionable progress through the widespread adoption of digital agriculture technologies to boost its agricultural efficiency and resilience against climate change.

As a result, the economic benefits from adopting technologies like GPS, drones and sensors align with the sector's recent recovery, evidenced by its notable 7.2% growth in Q2 2024.

The window of opportunity for meaningful change lies in the cultural and mindset adjustments needed to embrace advanced tools within an industry that has grown with generations.

People and process

Implementing digital upskilling programmes across Malaysian businesses is now more critical than ever. As of 2024, studies indicate that



Malaysian businesses today have an opportunity to adopt emerging technologies that streamline their operations and enhance productivity.
— BERNAMAPIC

four out of 10 Malaysian businesses experience difficulties due to the calibre of digital skills among employees.

This presents an opportunity for businesses to prioritise ongoing training and continuous learning, thereby future-proofing their operations and enhancing industry-wide competitiveness.

SME especially stand to gain from digital training programmes tailored to their specific needs and capacities.

Financial budgets also pose another significant barrier, especially for SME located away from major city hubs.

This causes infrastructure costs, internet connectivity, hardware requirements and software subscriptions to be seen as prohibitively expensive.

Some business owners may find these investments unsustainable burdens rather than opportunities for growth.

Thankfully, the advancing technology landscape offers affordable, scalable digital solutions such as cloud computing services, mobile business management apps and flexible cybersecurity tools.

Even no-code platforms now allow users with limited IT backgrounds to develop customised applications suited to their unique business requirements. This evolution in technology accessibility enables SME to digitalise operations with minimal initial investment.

The success of digital transformation depends on effectively empowering the workforce. Businesses must partner with technology providers who offer comprehensive, ongoing training, dedicated customer support and scalable solutions that evolve alongside their needs. These elements will ensure smoother adoption, greater staff engagement and sustainable operational growth.

For Malaysia, whether in agriculture, manufacturing or consumer services, the digital transformation journey must be gradual and carefully managed.

Businesses must align digital initiatives closely with existing infrastructure and practical capabilities.

Adopting tailored digital solutions combined with robust training and strategic support will enable businesses to confidently embark on their digital transformation journey.

This will foster a culture of continuous innovation, stimulate economic growth in an interconnected global market and solidify Malaysia's position as a digital-first, highly competitive nation on the international stage.

Tsubasa Nakazawa is the managing director of Kintone Southeast Asia, a leading cloud system for teams. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

COMMENT by Dr Nahrizul Adib Kadri

Savour the moment and enjoy the beauty of being still

LAST week, I found myself stuck in traffic on the way back to Universiti Malaya after grabbing lunch with a long-lost friend at a banana leaf restaurant in Section 17, Petaling Jaya.

It was one of those moments where every traffic light seems to conspire against you, and the clock is merciless.

My next class was set to start at 2pm, and it was already 1.45pm. My instinct was to fidget – check my phone for a quicker route, mentally rehearse my lecture or curse the slow crawl of cars. But then, for reasons I can't quite pin down, I did something unusual: I turned off the radio, set my phone face-down and just sat there.

I looked out the window. The late midday sun was casting shadows across the road, glinting off a row of motorcycles. A group of students walked by, laughing over something. And in that moment, I felt something I hadn't in a while: stillness.

In a world that glorifies hustle – where every minute must be productive, every task optimised – it

is easy to forget how to be still.

We are conditioned to fill every gap with noise, whether it is scrolling through WhatsApp (both for new messages and statuses), replying to emails (work and personal) or playing out the script for your next appointment (meetings and meet-ups). But what happens when we pause? What do we discover in the quiet spaces we so rarely allow ourselves to be in?

I am reminded of a line from J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*, where Gandalf tells Frodo, "Not all those who wander are lost".

We often equate stillness with stagnation as if pausing means falling behind. But sometimes, it is in the wandering – in the quiet, unhurried moments – that we find clarity; that we find ourselves.

As a biomedical engineering professor, I have spent years teaching students to tackle complex problems and to design systems that save lives. But I have also learned that the best solutions often come not from

relentless grinding but from stepping back – from letting the mind breathe.

And this is not just about work or teaching; it is about life too. How often do we rush through our days, checking off to-do lists, only to realise we have missed the moments that matter?

The way a student's face lights up when they finally grasp a concept that you were explaining in class. The warmth of a quick *terima kasih* from a stranger for holding the door open. The simple joy of *belanja* (treating) your friends or colleagues for lunch on *hari gaji* (pay day).

These moments are the colourful threads that weave the fabric of our lives but they are so easy to overlook when we are always racing against the clock.

The Stoic philosopher Seneca once wrote: "You must linger where you are to know where you are going." In our race to the next milestone, whether it is a research grant, a promotion or just making it to class on time after lunch hour, we forget to linger – to ask

ourselves: Why am I doing this? Does this path still feel like mine?

Being still is not easy. Our brains are wired for motion and distraction. That day in traffic, my fingers twitched to grab my phone, to fill the silence with something, anything, but the more I leaned into the discomfort, the more I realised how much I would be missing.

So, here's the challenge: carve out a moment this week to be still. It does not have to be long – just five minutes. Turn off your devices, step away from your tasks and just be.

Notice the world around you – the hum of the air-con, the weight of your mug, the rhythm of your breath. Write down what you feel and what you see. You may be surprised at how much clarity a single pause can bring.

And as it turned out, I did not make it to my 2pm class on time that day. I walked into the lecture hall a few minutes late, my students already flipping (nowadays more like scrolling) through their notes. But something had changed. My mind

was clearer, my thoughts more focused. Instead of rushing through the material, I taught with a calm I hadn't felt in weeks. The discussion that followed was one of the liveliest of the semester – at least, as I remember it.

That brief moment of stillness in the traffic jam did not just get me through the delay; it made me better for it. Because in the end, life isn't about how fast we move or how much we achieve. It is about the moments we choose to linger in, the spaces where we allow ourselves to simply be.

So, the next time you're stuck in traffic – literal or metaphorical – don't reach for the noise. Embrace the stillness. You may just find it is where the magic happens.

Dr Nahrizul Adib Kadri is a professor of biomedical engineering and the principal of Ibnu Sina Residential College, Universiti Malaya. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

Family offices worldwide are betting on real estate

► Strong demand for industrial, logistics and luxury residential assets

KUALA LUMPUR: Family offices worldwide are increasing their exposure to real estate, recognising its potential for long-term growth and wealth preservation, according to *The Wealth Report*, Knight Frank's flagship publication.

Between November and December 2024, Knight Frank conducted in-depth interviews with 150 single and multi-family offices globally. The survey panel included 121 single-family and 18 multi-family offices, alongside 11 heads of more diverse structures. Representing 29 cities across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas, participants were drawn from key financial hubs such as London, Singapore, New York, Geneva, Sydney, and Hong Kong SAR.

The surveyed family offices (FOs) collectively managed over US\$84 billion in assets, with an average US\$560 million in assets under management (AUM). Approximately 40% of these FOs had operating businesses with a specific focus on real estate.

Real estate allocations have increased in the past 18 months, with 28% of family offices expanding their portfolios, compared to only 17% reducing their exposure. The most prominent sectors in current portfolios include offices (20%); luxury residential (17%); industrial (14%) and hotels (12%).

Knight Frank global head of research Liam Bailey said: "Despite ongoing macroeconomic challenges, real estate remains a key pillar of investment strategies for family offices. Our survey shows that 44% plan to increase their exposure to real estate in the next 18 months, while only 10% expect to scale back. The living sectors (14%), industrial/logistics (13%), and luxury residential (12%) are the top three areas of focus for future investments."

Malaysia is actively positioning itself as a leading regional hub for family offices, leveraging its strategic location, robust financial infrastructure, and evolving regulatory framework. The Malaysian government is offering incentives to attract ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) and family offices.

According to the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida), Malaysia's growing reputation as a wealth management hub is reinforced by tax-friendly policies and diversified investment opportunities. The government has streamlined regulatory processes and introduced tax incentives to encourage family office participation, particularly in real estate and private equity. These efforts aim to increase foreign direct investment and strengthen Malaysia's position as a financial hub.

Malaysia stands to benefit from the findings of *The Knight Frank 150*, a special family office survey conducted for *The Wealth Report 2025*. The survey, which included 150 global family offices managing over US\$84 billion in assets, revealed that 44% of family offices plan to increase their real estate allocations over the next 18 months, with strong interest in commercial, industrial, and luxury residential properties.

Knight Frank Malaysia Group managing director Keith Ooi said: "Malaysia's vision of



becoming a family office hub is supported by its strong real estate fundamentals and competitive investment landscape. Kuala Lumpur continues to attract wealth management firms, while Johor is gaining traction among investors seeking strategic opportunities in luxury residential and industrial assets."

Johor is emerging as a key destination for real estate investment, driven by its strategic location near Singapore and its growing industrial and logistics sectors. The rapid expansion of e-commerce and regional trade has fuelled strong investor interest. With increasing cross-border capital flows, Johor is strengthening its position alongside Kuala Lumpur as a prime hub for family office investments.

Malaysia remains an attractive destination for family offices and high-net-worth individuals seeking diversification in real estate. The country's strong infrastructure, expanding economy, and stable property market make it a strategic choice for long-term investments.

Knight Frank Malaysia Land & industrial solutions executive director Allan Sim (pic) remarked: "Industrial and logistics real estate emerges as one of the top sectors for family offices seeking strong and sustainable investments with a long-term redevelopment angle. Malaysia's geographical advantages and proliferating infrastructure continue to drive stable demand for high-specification and sustainable industrial facilities, particularly in

Greater KL, Johor and Penang. As global supply chain continues to refine due to geopolitical uncertainty coupled with the government's effort in attracting FDI into the country, industrial and logistics real estate should remain resilient."

Ooi added: "Beyond industrial assets, Malaysia continues to see strong demand for premium office spaces and luxury residences, particularly in key urban centers. Investors are drawn to well-located, high-quality developments that offer stable returns and long-term value."

Among family offices actively involving the next generation, 47% have observed some strategic shifts, while 18% report significant changes. A clear trend is emerging where 63% of millennials have already allocated capital toward sustainable investments while only 35% of baby boomers have done the same.

These findings highlight the evolving investment landscape, with younger generations shaping new strategies, particularly in ESG-focused real estate and impact investing.

Malaysia's efforts to establish itself as a family office hub align with global trends in wealth management and real estate investment.

With strong regulatory support, financial incentives, and a maturing investment landscape, the country is well-positioned to attract more family offices seeking stability, diversification, and long-term growth opportunities.

Naza Enviro and Grandblue to modernise solid waste management

KUALA LUMPUR: Naza Enviro Holdings Sdn Bhd has signed a landmark memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China-based Grandblue Environment Co Ltd, marking a strategic collaboration to jointly implement large-scale solid waste management, waste recovery & recycling and renewable energy projects in Malaysia.

This initiative represents a significant step forward in advancing the nation's environmental sustainability goals and accelerating its journey toward a circular economy and carbon neutrality.

Under the MoU, both parties plan to establish a joint venture in the near future to undertake the development and operation of solid waste management related projects, including the generation of renewable energy from solid waste, and the future development of Hydrogen fuel production from solid waste.

This partnership brings together Naza Enviro's proven leadership in solid waste transformation into renewable energy & green products, and Grandblue's extensive technological expertise and global track record.



The MoU was signed by Naza Enviro Group managing director Tan Sri Ismei Ismail and Grandblue president Jin Duo. Witnessing the signing were SM Nasarudin and Naza Corporation deputy group executive chairman SM Faliq SM Nasimuddin.

As one of Malaysia's pioneers in renewable energy generation from solid waste, Naza Enviro has, since 2005, developed and managed the Bukit Tagar Enviro Park (BTEP) — the nation's largest solid waste renewable energy facility. To date, BTEP has generated over 440 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity and achieved 2.7 million tonnes of carbon credit through its 12MW renewable energy plant.

With the government's growing emphasis on clean energy and sustainable waste management, Naza Enviro is poised to scale up its operations through implementation of large-scale sustainable solid waste management projects equipped with AI-enabled management & monitoring system and digitalisation of carbon emission data.

The partnership with Grandblue will also pave the way for the production of hydrogen fuel and other green products using cutting-edge technologies that align with future market demands.

Grandblue is a listed company focusing on the environmental service industry. Its business scope includes solid waste treatment, energy, water supply, and wastewater treatment.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony recently, Naza Group executive chairman, SM Nasarudin SM Nasimuddin said: "This partnership reflects Naza Enviro's commitment to building a cleaner, greener Malaysia through innovation, technology and strategic international collaboration. Together, we are not just transforming waste into energy — we are turning challenges into opportunities for national progress."



Our rubber glove market share in US expected to rise to 55%: Tengku Zafrul

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's rubber glove market share in the United States is expected to increase to 55%, despite facing a 10% tariff hike and reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US on Malaysia.

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said glove producers from competing countries such as China are subject to higher tariffs, which gives Malaysia an advantage in expanding its rubber glove exports to the US.

"As for rubber glove exports, Malaysia is well-positioned to expand its market in the United States. We have about 47% of the market share in the US rubber glove market. And it's expected to rise to 55% based on the feedback the industry has given us," he said during the Investment, Trade and Industry's first-quarter 2025 performance briefing yesterday.

The report showed that the US rubber glove market is projected to reach US\$4.17 billion (RM17.64 billion) by 2030, with the potential of a 55% market share for Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Tengku Zafrul said his ministry is still studying the impact of export tariffs on Malaysia's furniture exports to the US. So far, the country's furniture exports to the US have not been significantly affected by the tariffs.

"Although the tariff on Malaysian furniture is lower compared to our main competitors from Asean, namely Cambodia and Vietnam, we need to consider the US market share for Malaysian furniture. Will it be impacted or not? For now, we haven't seen any significant effects," he noted. — Bernama

Plaudits for Malaysia's calm, strategic response to US tariffs

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's calm and strategic response to the US tariffs situation is a model for Asean, said Asean Business Advisory Council (Asean-BAC) Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Nazir Razak (pic).

He said the way the government handled the situation is "absolutely the right way" in contrast with the responses of several other countries, which he said "reacted too quickly or were too aggressive".

"Those of you who have covered me for a long time know that I don't compliment easily, but I really think that our government has been very astute in its handling of the US tariff situation," he said in a media briefing on updates on Asean-BAC's 12 economic initiatives, new corporate partnerships announcement and progress on Asean Business and Investment Summit yesterday.

Breaking it down, Nazir said first, Malaysia remained calm; secondly, it engaged with the United States to figure out what is

► It is 'absolutely the right way', says Asean-BAC Malaysia chairman Nazir Razak

rhetoric and what is reality on the US side. "Thirdly, Malaysia has then gone back to strategise, which we're doing now. And then fourthly, Malaysia will go back and negotiate."

At the same time, Nazir acknowledged that non-tariff barriers (NTB) are an Asean-wide problem, with the latest count showing 9,642 NTB across the region. "Someone showed a chart where there's a strong correlation between the reduction in tariffs and the rise of non-tariff barriers."

He said one of the difficulties Asean always faces is the lack of a clear enforcement mechanism to bring down non-tariff barriers.

"There's a lot of this kind of non-tariff barrier. From the private sector, I can say there's a lot of frustration," Nazir said, citing how even halal-certified food from Malaysia requires additional approvals to enter

Indonesia or Brunei.

He said that as Malaysia negotiates with the US, it may be a good time to review some of these non-tariff barriers.

"Sometimes, if you don't look closely, you don't even know why they're there. So it's an opportunity for us to review non-tariff barriers that are highlighted by the business sector."

Asean-BAC also shared updates on its 12 flagship initiatives as Malaysia reaches the halfway mark of its Asean chairmanship. The council, led by Asean-BAC Malaysia in 2025, meanwhile, introduced its strategic sponsors for the upcoming Asean Business and Investment Summit 2025 and Asean Business Awards 2025. These developments showcase growing momentum in Asean-BAC Malaysia's efforts to make progress in its chairmanship year, across Southeast Asia.

Among the initiatives advocated is the flagship Asean Business Entity framework which calls for the creation of a regional business category to allow companies greater operational flexibilities across

Asean markets.

Meanwhile, the Asean Common Carbon Market initiative aims to address the lack of a unified carbon market in Asean. Through methodologies across countries and increased market efficiency, this initiative will support a well-functioning and liquid carbon credit market.

As part of its efforts, Asean-BAC Malaysia has set up the Malaysia Carbon Market Association to collaborate with similar platforms in other Asean member states.

The Asean IPO Prospectus initiative advocates the harmonisation of cross-border initial capital-raising to facilitate a wider pool of capital for regional enterprises.

Also among the diverse range of initiatives is the proposal to rebrand the SEA Games as "Asean Games".

"Since their launch in January, our 12 flagship initiatives have been progressing steadily through ongoing formal consultations with Asean bodies. These consultations occurred at the 31st AEM Retreat and most recently at the 12th Asean Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting.

"Asean-BAC will also be having a formal dialogue with Asean leaders at the 46th Asean Summit later this month," said Nazir.



Embrace digital transformation or risk falling behind, Gobind tells SMEs

■ BY AIMIE SHAZRIE
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Small and medium enterprises in Malaysia must actively embrace digital transformation or risk falling behind in an increasingly competitive business environment, said Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo.

He underscored the urgent need for SMEs to not only understand the value of digitalisation but also to act on it.

"In terms of knowledge about digitalisation, most of it is there. If we have the knowledge but we do not use it to strengthen our business, then that becomes a problem," he told reporters at the launch of CTOS SME Biz Day 2025 yesterday.

Gobind noted that with SMEs comprising nearly 97% of the country's business population, their digital readiness is critical to Malaysia's broader economic resilience and recovery.

"While digital technologies offer the promise of efficiency and scalability, many SMEs are still hindered by limited access to resources, awareness, or financial support," he said.

To address this, the Digital Ministry

and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) launched the Business Digitalisation Initiative (BDI) in March, Gobind said.

"The initiative consolidates existing digital assistance programmes from across various agencies into one centralised platform. The goal is to eliminate fragmentation and make it easier for businesses to discover and apply for relevant support.

"There are many initiatives out there, but they are scattered across different platforms and agencies. With BDI, we have brought them together so SMEs can more easily understand what's available, whether they qualify, and how to access that support."

The BDI platform provides information on funding, training, advisory services and digital solutions that SMEs can tap into, Gobind said, adding, "MDEC will continue to enhance the initiative based on user feedback, especially from underserved regions where awareness of government programmes remains low."

Furthermore, Gobind reaffirmed the Digital Ministry's support for new SME-focused initiatives unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in Parliament.

"These include expanded finan-

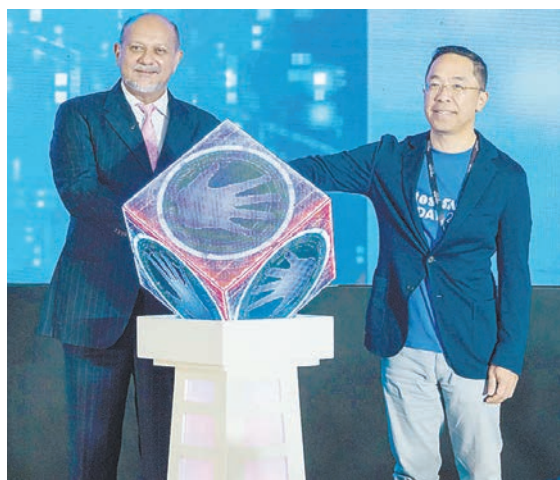
cing options and policy incentives tailored to the micro, small and medium enterprise segment. We, at the Digital Ministry, are deeply moved and fully support these initiatives. MDEC will look into how we can help ensure the prime minister's announcements reach the intended sectors quickly and effectively," Gobind said.

Addressing SME digital adoption rates, the minister said that while comprehensive national data is currently unavailable, MDEC is developing a Digital Maturity Index to close the gap.

"The index will collect and analyse data on the digital readiness of businesses across sectors and geographies. We hope to use this tool to provide accurate insights, identify weaknesses, and monitor progress. It will help us determine what kind of support businesses need, and how best to provide it."

To further scale outreach efforts, Gobind said, the Digital Ministry will collaborate with chambers of commerce, industry councils, and labour unions.

"We are working with these partners as a key to understanding ground-level challenges and refining



Gobind (left) and CTOS Digital Bhd Group interim CEO Kevin Loh at the launch of CTOS SME Biz Day 2025.

our strategies."

Gobind acknowledged that financial barriers remain a concern for many SMEs, particularly when it

comes to adopting costly new technologies. "We need to make sure the support is not just available, but also affordable and accessible."

Berjaya Sampo Insurance triple winner at 2025 Global Banking and Finance Awards

PETALING JAYA: Berjaya Sampo Insurance Bhd has been recognised for its excellence in the insurance industry, securing three prestigious accolades at the 2025 Global Banking and Finance Awards.

Berjaya Sampo Insurance was awarded the Insurance Brand of the Year Awards Malaysia 2025, Best Auto Insurance Company Malaysia 2025 and Best Travel Insurance Company Malaysia 2025.

These awards underscore Berjaya Sampo Insurance's commitment to deliver superior insurance solutions and customer service, reinforcing its position as a trusted insurer in Malaysia.

Berjaya Sampo Insurance CEO

Tan Sek Kee (*pic*) said, "We are truly honoured to receive these recognitions. These awards serve as a testament to our team's hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to continuous improvement. The insurance industry in Malaysia is highly competitive, with evolving customer needs and increasing digitalisation reshaping the landscape.

"Despite these challenges, we have remained steadfast in our mission to provide innovative, customer-centric solutions that truly make a difference. This achievement reaffirms our efforts and motivates us to continue setting new benchmarks in the industry."



ECERDC: RM1b committed investments for Terengganu

► Boost for state's position as strategic hub for high-value tourism initiatives

PETALING JAYA: The East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) has facilitated RM1 billion in committed investments in Terengganu in the first quarter of 2025, achieving 43% of the RM2.4 billion investment target set for the state this year.

These investments are driven largely by the tourism sector and will reinforce Terengganu's position as a strategic hub for high-value tourism initiatives. In addition to tourism, the investments span key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and services, reflecting strong investor confidence in Terengganu's dynamic and diversified economy.

These committed investments represent a significant step forward in the East Coast Economic Region's (ECER) tourism and agricultural transformation, the council said in a statement.

Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar said that realised investments stood at RM729.7 million as of March, creating over 1,000 new jobs in the state.

The manufacturing sector remained the key driver, followed by tourism, agriculture, and services.

"Terengganu continues to position itself as a strategic destination for investors, supported by strong collaboration between the state government, ECERDC and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority.

"We are committed to advancing

innovation and sustainable growth across key sectors, from agriculture to high-tech manufacturing, to create quality employment, spur long-term economic progress and strengthen the state's economic foundation," he said.

Among the commitments are a 60MW photovoltaic solar farm integrated into an agricultural project, an ammonium paratungstate processing facility and a waste collection and treatment centre. Others include a dairy farm supported by a Napier grass plantation and biogas system, and a calcined kaolin production facility.

A key development highlighted at an ECER Terengganu Implementation Coordination Committee meeting held in Kuala Terengganu recently was the completion of infrastructure expansion works at the Kerteh Biopolymer Park (KBP).

Delivered under Phase 4A, the upgrade strengthens KBP's role as a national platform for advanced materials, clean technologies, and biopolymer production.

Since KBP commenced operations in June 2015, the industrial park has recorded RM5.1 billion in realised investments, with demand for industrial space continuing to grow. To support this demand, the KBP SME Complex Phase 1B is under construction and is scheduled for completion next month. Once operational, the facility will offer purpose-built units tailored for SMEs in the energy sector and support services, helping nurture a resilient and innovation-led industrial ecosystem in Terengganu.

ECERDC CEO Datuk Baidzawi Che Mat said the delivery of strategic infrastructure such as KBP and the successful attraction of quality investments speak to the ECERDC's long-term commitment to build a high-performing, sustainable economy.

"These achievements are more than physical developments; they represent an enabling ecosystem for innovation, inclusive growth, and global investor confidence," he added.

In tandem with investment growth, ECERDC is progressing several key infrastructure projects.

The Kuala Terengganu airport road upgrade is on track for completion and will significantly enhance connectivity between Sultan Mahmud Airport and the city centre.

The project includes an "Executive Drive" route to facilitate logistics and improve investor access.

The KTCC Promenade Phase 1 is 56% complete. The project is designed to boost tourism and urban vibrancy.

In addition to industrial projects, the council highlighted the ongoing rollout of the *Inisiatif Pendapatan Rakyat - Program Usahawan Tani*, which is equipping B40 communities with modern and sustainable farming practices.

The fertigation chilli project in Bukit Bidong is poised to become the largest in Malaysia by the end of 2025, driven by precision farming systems and community-led management.

Complementary initiatives include sweet potato cultivation in Kampung Banggol and Kampung Saujana, as well as an integrated agriculture project in Taman Rahmat, Marang.

To scale up the programme, ECERDC is facilitating up to 400 acres across nine Terengganu locations for agro-based projects, benefiting over 400 participants. These efforts will further embed Terengganu's reputation as an inclusive and sustainable agriculture pioneer.

Malaysia-Arm tie-up steers local firms towards high-end IC design

PUCHONG: The Malaysia Semiconductor IC Design Park, in collaboration with the semiconductor company Arm, yesterday kicked off its engagement session with over 20 local companies in its effort to shift Malaysia towards front-end integrated circuit (IC) microchip design.

Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation CEO Yong Kai Ping (*pic*) said the engagement forms part of Malaysia's national strategy under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030, which identifies the electrical and electronics sector as a critical engine of future economic growth.



"The Malaysia-Arm partnership is a catalyst for developing a vibrant semiconductor ecosystem where local innovators can thrive.

"Through access to world-class technology platforms and global best practices, we are empowering Malaysian companies to take ownership of their future in the global semiconductor industry," said Yong at the Malaysia-Arm Partnership: Industry Briefing and Engagement Session here yesterday.

The event is an important milestone following the landmark partnership between Malaysia and Arm, as announced on March 5. It brought together policymakers, global industry leaders, and local semiconductor stakeholders for a day of strategic discussions, knowledge sharing, and ecosystem-building.

Yong said the engagement session will also take place in Penang and other states at least every month.

Economy Ministry special officer (policy) James Chai said Malaysian companies have a better chance at qualifying for the AFA programme as it is aimed at companies that want to explore or prototype using Arm's intellectual property before committing to full licensing costs.

He said the programme typically operates on a subscription-based model with lower up-front costs and royalties only when one goes into production.

While CSS solutions come with higher up-front licensing fees because companies get a near turn-key system with higher engineering and support investment from Arm, he added.

The Malaysia Semiconductor IC Design Park is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, designed to drive national growth in semiconductor innovation. Located in Selangor, the park brings together anchor companies, startups, research institutions, and talent development programmes under one roof to accelerate Malaysia's leadership in IC design and advanced packaging. — Bernama

UOB Malaysia posts record high RM2.2b pre-tax profit in 2024

PETALING JAYA: UOB Malaysia reported a record net profit before tax (pre-tax profit) of RM2.2 billion and total operating income of RM4.7 billion for the financial year ended 2024.

Pre-tax profit increased by 15.9% (2023: RM1.9 billion), while operating income grew by 2.3% (2023: RM4.6 billion), the bank said in its 2024 annual report published yesterday.

The increase in operating income was backed by steady growth across all income streams, including net interest income, Islamic banking, net foreign exchange gains and fees

and commissions.

Total expenses fell by RM22 million due to disciplined cost management, while total allowances for expected credit losses declined significantly by 52.1% to RM159 million with improved asset quality and lower provisions for both impaired and non-impaired assets.

In 2024, UOB Malaysia's gross loans, advances and financing grew by 2.1% to RM109.5 billion (2023: RM107.2 billion), supported by steady growth across both its wholesale and retail segments. As the bank continued to strengthen

its balance sheet, it remained focus on growing and maintaining quality deposits, resulting in higher current account-savings account ratio of more than 44%.

CEO Ng Wei Wei said, "We are pleased to report another year of strong financial performance, with record net profit before tax of RM2.2 billion. This achievement reflects the strength of our diversified business model, supported by prudent risk management, disciplined cost control and solid performance across our core businesses."

Kelantan Menteri Besar Mohd Nassuruddin Daud (far right) with ECER Implementation Coordination Committee (ICC) members at the ICC Kelantan meeting held recently.



Kelantan nets RM1.21b in manufacturing deals

► State's economy set for boost with hydro plant and 3S centre driving jobs and inclusive growth

KOTA BHARU: Kelantan's transformation into an emerging industrial hub continues to gain momentum as the East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) secures RM1.21 billion in realised investments, driven primarily by the manufacturing sector.

This milestone underscores Kelantan's increasing attractiveness as a viable hub for investment within the East Coast Economic Region (ECER).

Key contributors to this milestone include the 84MW mini hydro power plant project in Kuala Krai which has begun groundwork, and the development of an automotive 3S (sales, service and spare parts) centre at the Halal Park in Pasir Mas, which is expected to commence operations in the fourth quarter of 2025.

ECERDC noted that these catalytic projects are projected to generate quality employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, in line with the bloc's inclusive growth agenda.

Kelantan chief minister Datuk Mohd Nasrudin Daud said the progress the state is

witnessing today, having surpassed its annual investment target, reflects the strong commitment of the state government and close collaboration with the federal government through ECERDC.

"The RM1.21 billion in realised investments, driven largely by the renewable energy sector, signals Kelantan's readiness for high-impact development.

"With an additional RM290 million in committed investments projected to create over 650 new jobs, investor confidence in Kelantan's long-term potential continues to grow," he said after chairing the first 2025 ECER Implementation and Coordination Committee Kelantan meeting recently.

Meanwhile, major progress has been recorded in the construction of the Palekbang-Kota Bharu bridge.

Works on the cable-stayed section across Sungai Kelantan began in April 2025 and the overall project remains on track for completion.

The bridge will serve as a vital connection between Kota Bharu and the future township of Palekbang, helping to reduce traffic congestion in the city centre, especially around Jambatan Sultan Yahya Petra, while improving mobility across economic zones in the state.

The new bridge is also expected to catalyse development in the Tumpat and Kota Bharu districts and encourage the growth of tourism activity around the Kota Bharu city centre.

ECERDC CEO Datuk Baidzawi Che Mat

said the progress of the Palekbang-Kota Bharu bridge is a key enabler of Kelantan's infrastructure transformation.

"It is set to redefine connectivity and serve as a springboard for economic activity across various sectors including tourism, logistics, and commerce.

"Together with the realised investments secured in the first quarter of 2025 across manufacturing and renewable energy, we are seeing Kelantan's economic momentum translate into real benefits for local communities," he said.

In further efforts to improve rural livelihoods, ECERDC has formalised a collaboration agreement with Perbadanan Kemajuan Pertanian Negeri Kelantan and Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan Bukit Awang for the implementation of the Inisiatif Pendapatan Rakyat—Program Usahawan Tani in Machang.

This 58.5-acre smart chili fertigation project is scheduled to begin operations in the third quarter of 2025 and aims to generate sustainable monthly income of up to RM2,000 for 100 participants through modernised farming techniques.

Under the Kelantan Dairy Goat Industry Strengthening Project, ECERDC has successfully completed the Goat Milk Collection Centres in Kereh and Pasir Puteh, supported by dedicated fodder production facilities to enhance feed quality and availability.

Boost Bank hits RM150m milestone in SME financing

KUALA LUMPUR: Boost Bank has achieved a significant milestone in its journey as Malaysia's first homegrown digital bank, having disbursed close to RM150 million mark in SME financing disbursements across hundreds of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

As the first digital bank in Malaysia to roll out financing solutions exclusively for SMEs, the bank in a statement yesterday said that this achievement reaffirms its strong support in driving financial inclusion and empowering underserved small businesses.

With typical loan sizes around RM300,000, this momentum is driven by the bank's core financing solutions: Term Loan and Revolving Credit facilities, which are designed to meet the diverse needs of SMEs with minimal documentation requirements, fast loan processing, and flexible repayment options.

CEO Fozia Amanulla said: "SMEs are at the heart of Malaysia's economy. They create jobs, spark innovation, and keep our communities vibrant. When we started offering SME financing, our mission was clear – to help business owners overcome the financing challenges they often face. Reaching this milestone is not just about hitting a target. It's about showing what's possible when financing is made simple, accessible, and built around the real needs of business owners."

She added that this also reflects how fast digital solutions are reshaping the way businesses operate.

At Boost Bank, she said they are committed to supporting SMEs not just with financing, but also with the right tools and services to help them run and grow their businesses confidently in the digital age.

Digitalisation drives growth for local businesses: MDEC

KUALA LUMPUR: Digitalisation boosts the development of traditional businesses and expands global reach for local entrepreneurs, according to Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC).

MDEC digital services director Mohd Redzuan Affandi said that with the convenience and advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and its new emerging technologies, setting up an online business will be easier than operating traditional businesses.

"With the sophistication and ease of AI technology today, locally made potato chips can reach as far as London.

"For those who are looking to know more, MDEC have more programmes under our recently launched 'business digitalisation initiative'," he said during a panel discussion at the CTOS SME Biz Day 2025 event yesterday.

Additionally, Small and Medium Enterprises Association Malaysia president Datuk William Ng noted that the use of AI among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) abroad has been widely adopted, such as among local entrepreneurs in Taiwan.

"In fact, when we went to a small food stall, the owners were talking about AI.

"So, it seems as if the Taiwanese government has told all businesses to use AI, which (shows) how important AI is as a transformation tool for SMEs moving forward," he said.

Meanwhile, SME Corporation Malaysia CEO Rizal Nainy said SMEs are encouraged to look beyond their current main markets and explore new opportunities through international trade agreements.

"Market diversification is not only relying on your best market, (as) we now have BRICS, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the European Free Trade Association," – Bernama

Masteel partners Kelington, Utar for green steel production

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Bhd (Masteel) signed a MoU with Ace Gases Marketing Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned unit of Kelington Group Bhd and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) to deploy innovative Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) technologies to embed new green innovations into Masteel's ultra-low carbon steel production facility.

The parties will jointly conduct a feasibility study to identify optimal CO2 capture technologies for steel manufacturing, and explore utilisation or storage options for captured CO2. The study will enable Masteel to further minimise its carbon footprint and meet industry demand for sustainable steel.

Masteel is partnering with Kelington and Utar to conduct the study. Masteel will provide

operational insights and plant infrastructure. Kelington, via Ace Gases will provide technical expertise in CO2 capturing and storage solutions. Utar will bring academic research and analytical capabilities on carbon utilisation from the CO2 capture at site.

Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Bhd executive vice-chairman Datuk Seri Tai Hean Leng said: "As we transition into a low carbon economy, Masteel is implementing latest technologies to meet the rising demand for green steel. This collaboration on CCUS technology reflects our proactive approach to addressing the challenges presented by climate change, ensuring long-term sustainability of our operations. We are focused on enhancing operational excellence, driving innovation, and ensuring long-term competitiveness, all while creating greater value

for our clients and industry partners. Masteel is fully committed to progressing towards its goal of being the first Malaysian steel mill to achieve net zero emission before 2050."

Kelington Group Bhd CEO Raymond Gan said the collaboration shows their commitment to sustainability and innovation, while strengthening their role in carbon capture.

By combining Kelington Group's technical expertise with Masteel's operational scale and Utar's research capabilities, he added they aim to develop scalable carbon solutions that can support Malaysia's decarbonisation goals.

"It also allows us to extend our proven capabilities in gas recovery and carbon management into the steel industry, supporting broader efforts to reduce emissions across the nation's manufacturing landscape," said Gan.

Hartalega delivers improved financial results for FY25

KUALA LUMPUR: Hartalega Holdings Bhd, a nitrile gloves manufacturer, delivered an improved performance for its financial year ended March 31, 2025 (FY25), recording a higher profit after tax (PAT) of RM74 million compared with RM20 million in the previous fiscal year.

Profit before tax grew by 25% to RM48 million while revenue jumped by 41% to RM2.6 billion.

This was primarily driven by strong improvement in sales volume and further supported by improved production efficiencies, despite lower other operating income and adverse foreign exchange fluctuations during the year.

For its fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025, the group's revenue increased by 15% to RM612 million on the back of higher sales volume and

stronger average selling prices, which saw operating profit grow to RM9.6 million, compared with an operating loss of RM12.5 million in the previous financial year's corresponding quarter.

However, the group recorded a PAT of RM15 million, slightly lower compared with RM19 million in the same quarter last year.

This was mainly due to higher non-operating expenses recognised during the quarter under review.

"Our full-year performance for FY2025 reflects encouraging signs of recovery for the sector," CEO Kuan Mun Leong said.

"Nevertheless, the operating landscape remains volatile and the global rubber glove market continues to be highly competitive, with continued oversupply and pricing pressure.

"In addition, US demand is expected to remain moderated in the near term following the earlier front-loading activities as well as the ongoing trade uncertainties.

"However, despite the impact of escalating US-China trade tensions on the global trade landscape, this could also serve as a catalyst for Malaysian manufacturers to regain export market share in the United States.

"Taking a long-term view, the rubber glove industry's prospects remain positive.

"Global demand has already recovered beyond pre-pandemic levels and is set to grow further on the back of rising healthcare needs, heightened hygiene awareness and increasing usage across both medical and non-medical sectors.

"Against this backdrop, we will continue to

gradually commission new production lines at our Next Generation Integrated Glove Manufacturing Complex (NGC) 1.5 to capitalise on newer and more advanced technologies that will yield enhanced production efficiencies and quality, which would eventually improve our business competitiveness."

Moving forward, he added they will continue to focus on enhancing overall production efficiencies and driving operational optimisation through continued automation and digitalisation initiatives.

"We will also need to heighten our sales efforts as competition intensifies.

"With a robust ESG framework and clear commitment to social compliance, we are committed to building a more resilient and sustainable future for the group," said Kuan.

Malakoff issues inaugural RM250m Asean green sukuk

➤ First such offering by independent power producer in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: Malakoff Corporation Bhd, through its wholly owned subsidiary Malakoff Power Bhd (MPower) has issued its inaugural RM250 million Asean Sustainability SRI Sukuk Murabahah (Issuance) under its RM1.2 billion Islamic Medium-Term Notes Programme (IMTN).

This is Malakoff's first sustainability offering under its Asean Sustainability SRI Sukuk Murabahah and the first by an independent power producer in Malaysia.

The proceeds from the issuance shall be utilised to finance eligible projects by MPower, Malakoff and its subsidiaries, in accordance with Malakoff's Sustainable Finance Framework, which has been in place since December 2023.

Maybank Investment Bank Bhd (Maybank IB) acted as the sole lead manager and facility agent while Maybank Islamic Bhd was the shariah adviser for the Issuance.

Maybank IB was also the sustainability structuring adviser for Malakoff's Sustainable Finance Framework.

As part of its broader commitment to sustainability and energy transition, Malakoff in a statement yesterday said it has made significant strides over the past year in advancing its sustainability commitment.

The group achieved a 3.7% year-on-year reduction in greenhouse gas emissions intensity moderately contributed as well by a 17.0% reduction in Scope 2 emissions with respect to the Group's electricity consumption.

It also launched its flagship Biomass Co-firing Project at the 2,100 MW Tanjung Bin



Anwar and Oh-Lau.

Power Plant for a trial run under the National Energy Transformation Roadmap.

The project achieved a 2% biomass co-firing ratio.

Malakoff is committed to scale up the biomass co-firing to a higher ratio of 15% by 2027.

This milestone is projected to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by approximately 755,000 tonnes annually, which is equivalent to the carbon offset of 142 million mature trees.

In parallel, the group commenced construction of three run-of-river small hydropower plants along Sungai Galas in Kelantan, expected to offset a further 272,424 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

The group also continued expanding its renewable energy (RE) portfolio, achieving 173 MW in total RE capacity – a 496.6% increase from its 2021 baseline.

This includes 17.4 MWp of completed commercial and industrial solar installations and the acquisition of equity stakes in ZEC Solar Sdn Bhd (51%) and TJZ Suria Sdn Bhd (49%), contributing an additional 29 MW.

Malakoff managing director and group CEO Anwar Syahrin Abdul Ajib said: "This transaction marks a significant milestone for

Malakoff Power, as it represents our first Asean Sustainability SRI Sukuk Murabahah issuance via a book-building exercise under our IMTN Programme.

"Given that MPower's last public sukuk issuance was in December 2013, we are very encouraged by the strong demand from a diverse investor base for this issuance, which has set a new pricing benchmark for MPower.

"Looking ahead, Malakoff will continue to broaden its assets portfolio through strategic partnerships and circular economy initiatives.

"As a trusted partner in Malaysia's green transition, we remain focused on strengthening capabilities, enhancing efficiencies and delivering long-term value in an evolving energy landscape."

On the back of growing demand for sustainability assets and the scarcity value of Sukuk offerings by MPower, the transaction was oversubscribed by 10.34 times.

Supported by the strong orderbook, the price guidance was revised and tightened multiple times.

The issuance was finally priced at MGS +70 basis points across both tenures of 7 and 10 years, which is 30 basis points lower than the upper end of the initial price guidance.

Maybank Investment Bank Bhd CEO Michael Oh-Lau said: "Maybank Investment Bank is proud to have lead-managed and advised Malakoff Power's maiden Asean Sustainability SRI Sukuk Murabahah issuance, underscoring our commitment to be a sustainability leader in the region.

"The strong response from investors is testament of the market's confidence in Malakoff as well as Maybank IB's ability to secure strong participation despite market seasonality.

"The pricing outcome also positions this landmark transaction as one of the lowest spreads for a corporate within the AA-/AA3 rating band in recent times."

Gov't's boost to SJPP guarantee schemes timely: Business federation

KUCHING: The government's decision to raise guarantees under the Business Financing Guarantee Scheme (SJPP) by RM1 billion is a timely move to strengthen business confidence and enhance liquidity among Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Sarawak Business Federation (SBF) secretary-general Datuk Jonathan Chai welcomed the move, noting that it would particularly benefit SMEs engaged in international markets.

"While the measure is commendable, its adequacy will depend on the scale and duration of economic disruptions following the United States' recent tariff action," he told Bernama yesterday.

"For SMEs involved in export manufacturing or embedded within affected supply chains, the ripple effects could be significant.

"A flexible, impact-driven funding approach is needed, one that can be scaled based on real-time needs."

In a special Dewan Rakyat sitting on Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government has agreed to raise the guarantee allocation under SJPP by RM1 billion, mainly to assist SMEs affected by US tariffs.

Anwar said to further support affected SME entrepreneurs, the government has also approved an additional RM500 million for the soft loan fund offered through development financial institutions.

Commenting on the additional RM500 million soft loans, Chai said it is a positive initiative, but emphasised that its success depends on accessibility, processing efficiency, and outreach.

"A major hurdle that remains is the limited awareness and capacity among SMEs, particularly smaller firms, to navigate complex financing systems. Many also lack the collateral or guarantees often required by risk-averse financial institutions," he said.

Without addressing these bottlenecks, the funds risk being underutilised or failing to reach the SMEs most in need.

"SBF recommends more aggressive awareness campaigns through local business networks, simplified documentation processes, including alternative credit assessments for informal businesses and robust monitoring mechanisms to track disbursement and implement real-time improvements," Chai said.

Chai also highlighted the long-term risks of the American reciprocal tariffs on export-dependent SMEs, particularly those in electronics, automotive parts, and textiles, noting these could erode price competitiveness, disrupt supply chains and reduce market access. – Bernama

SMEs in Singapore show strong interest in JS-SEZ: Malaysian envoy

SINGAPORE: There is strong interest among Singaporean small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ), with many exploring relocation opportunities, according to Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore Datuk Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar.

He said this interest has remained robust despite uncertainties arising from recent US tariff actions, and it is expected to drive demand for local talent in Malaysia.

"As we know, the world is in a destructive

mode now, with the US and China in competition. I think many investors are looking for a place to further invest without having any problems.

"I think SMEs in Singapore increasingly realise that the republic has become a more expensive place to operate. So they need to find a place to continue being competitive," he said after flagging off the Asean Unity Drive 2025 at the Malaysian High Commission here yesterday.

Azfar added that Johor's close proximity to Singapore and lower operational costs make it an attractive destination for SMEs looking to

relocate or expand their operations.

He also noted that Malaysia's neutral stance on US-China trade tensions may further encourage businesses to view the JS-SEZ as a viable alternative.

"My officers receive inquiries daily about the JS-SEZ. We at the High Commission in Singapore have been actively providing information to interested parties," he said.

The JS-SEZ Agreement was officially signed by the leaders of Malaysia and Singapore in January. – Bernama

➤ Traders optimistic govts making progress in averting or tempering Trump's levies

HONG KONG: The dollar rose in Asia yesterday fuelled by hopes for trade deals to avert Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs, while equities were mixed as investors await the Federal Reserve's latest policy decision.

Oil also staged a comeback after tanking on news of an output hike by key producers that came despite growing concerns about demand and the outlook for the global economy.

While no agreements have yet been reached with the White House, there is optimism that governments are making progress in averting or tempering the US president's eye-watering levies, which have sent shivers through world markets.

Sentiment was given a lift by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who told CNBC that the administration had been approached by 17 countries and offered "very good" trade proposals.

He also said there could be "substantial progress in the coming weeks" with China, which has been hit with tariffs of 145%.

Trump has imposed lower duties of 10% on goods from most other countries, along with 25% levies on specific items like steel, automobiles and aluminium.

Hopes for deals have seen Asian currencies rally against the dollar, with Taiwan's unit up around 7% this month, while South Korea's won, the ringgit, Indian rupee and Thai baht have also seen healthy gains.

The greenback was barely moved against the yen, euro and pound.

The gains have led some to speculate governments are allowing for an appreciation of their currencies as part of negotiations with Washington.

"The factor many talk about is whether these countries with historically 'weak' and heavily managed currencies are now appealing to Trump through the currency channels and are now allowing for an appreciation of the currency as part of the trade negotiations," said Pepperstone head of research Chris Weston.

"If these Asian nations are indeed opting

Dollar recovers some ground, stocks mixed in Asia



US dollar, euro, Chinese yuan, Canadian dollar, Turkish lira and pound banknotes are seen in this illustration. — REUTERS/SPIC

for a currency revaluation, it could be a significant development not just in driving the dollar lower, but also in the trade negotiation process and accelerate the idea of trade deals."

Equities were mixed, with Hong Kong and

Shanghai advancing as investors returned from a long weekend.

Singapore, Manila and Jakarta also rose along with London.

But Sydney, Taipei, Mumbai, Bangkok, Paris and Frankfurt slipped.

Wellington was flat.

Traders brushed off losses on Wall Street, with the S&P 500 snapping a nine-day winning streak and film studios hit by Trump's warning of new tariffs on all films made outside the United States. — AFP

Chinese holiday spending inches up

BEIJING: Chinese travellers' spending rose 8% year-on-year during the May Day holiday to 180.27 billion yuan (RM105 billion), but was still off pre-pandemic levels, while the country's services activity expanded at the slowest pace in seven months in April.

The May Day holiday, one of the country's longest, is closely watched as a barometer of Chinese consumer confidence.

Consumption in the world's second-largest economy has suffered amid a sputtering economy and prolonged property crisis, while the fallout from the US-China trade war is set to deepen the pain.

China's Tourism Ministry recorded 314 million domestic trips during the holiday, an increase of 6.5%, while the number of transactions using Weixin Pay, a popular payments app, rose by

more than 10% year on year, with a notable increase in restaurant spending.

But total spending per head over the five-day May holiday period, a typically busy time for family travel, rose just 1.5% to 574.1 yuan, Reuters calculations based on official data showed.

It remains below 2019 levels when per capita spending was 603.4 yuan.

Cinemas suffered a significant drop in ticket sales, with the box office haul over the five-day holiday at 747 million yuan, only about half of the same period in 2024.

Meanwhile, China's services sector saw new order growth slacken from March, weighed by uncertainty caused by US tariffs.

The Caixin/S&P Global services purchasing managers' index (PMI), fell to 50.7 from 51.9 in March, its lowest reading since September. — Reuters

Philips turns in profit but China, tariffs weigh

THE HAGUE: Dutch medical device maker Philips reported a net profit for the first time in three quarters yesterday despite weak sales in China but warned of "intensified" uncertainties due to tariffs.

Net profits came in at €72 million (RM347 million), compared to a net loss of €998 million in the same quarter last year and €333 million in the fourth quarter of 2024.

"It's an encouraging start to the year," the firm's chief executive Roy Jakobs told reporters.

Jakobs predicted that the second half of the year would be stronger for the firm than the first half.

"In an uncertain macro environment that has intensified due to the potential impact of tariffs, we are focused on what we can control," he added.

The company estimated a hit of between €250 and €300 million from tariffs over the year.

Philips maintained its forecast for between one and three percent growth in sales for 2025, but slightly cut its projection for earnings before special items (EBITA).

The firm pointed to a 2% growth in orders globally, with China again proving a drag.

Without China, the order growth would have been 4%, Philips said. — AFP

India's IPO market loses steam on uncertain outlook

MUMBAI: At least two initial public offerings worth US\$759 million (RM3.2 billion) are expected to be delayed, adding to a growing list of Indian companies deciding to postpone plans for initial public listings due to weak investor sentiment, investment bankers say.

Education loan provider Avanse Financial Services and contract drug maker Anthem Biosciences are among companies that will join notable names such as South Korean conglomerate LG Electronics' India unit, to put IPO plans on hold for now, the bankers said.

"There are only select institutional investors coming in at this point given the global uncertainty," said Suraj Krishnaswamy, the managing director of investment banking at Axis Capital.

"And India-Pakistan tensions have not helped."

The trend is an indication that the global trade war and geopolitical tensions have clouded the economic outlook and caused companies to delay their capital raising and investment plans.

The debut of electric scooter maker Ather Energy, seen as a barometer of investor appetite for the primary market, did not alleviate the market's concerns.

The stock fell around 3% in early trade, reversing gains after listing at a premium of 2% to its issue price of 321 rupees.

The muted listing for a high-profile EV name, which broke a two-month lull in mainboard

IPOs, highlights the broader weakness in India's primary market and caution surrounding intense competition in the EV space and elusive profitability, said Vinit Bolinjar, head of research at Ventura Securities.

As many as 58 companies with Indian regulatory clearance have not launched their IPOs due to global market disruptions caused by US President Donald Trump's tariffs, which have negatively affected business sentiment and fuelled recession fears.

Avanse Financial Services received approval for its US\$356 million IPO in October 2024, while Anthem Biosciences was cleared to raise US\$403 million on April 3.

The regulatory clearances of some firms will expire over the next few months, PRIME Database Group MD Pranav Haldea said, forcing them to either restart the entire IPO process or seek an extension from India's market regulator.

India, which was the world's second-largest IPO market last year, has seen a 58% slump in IPOs listed on the main stock exchanges so far this year, according to PRIME Database.

The total fundraising on all the listing platforms has seen an 18% drop, LSEG data showed.

Retail investors, having suffered significant losses due to market volatility, are being more cautious with new investments, resulting in a lukewarm reception for this year's IPOs. — Reuters

OpenAI ditches plan to become for-profit firm

➤ Concerns remain over balancing making money with AI mission

SAN FRANCISCO: OpenAI has dialed back a significant restructuring plan, with its nonprofit parent retaining control in a move that is likely to limit CEO Sam Altman's power over the pioneering maker of ChatGPT.

The announcement follows a storm of criticism and legal challenges, including a high-profile lawsuit filed by rival and co-founder Elon Musk, who has accused OpenAI of straying from its founding mission to develop artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity.

"OpenAI was founded as a non-profit, is today a non-profit that oversees and controls the for-profit, and going forward will remain a non-profit that oversees and controls the for-profit. That will not change," Altman said in a blog post on Monday.

OpenAI had outlined plans in December to convert its for-profit arm into a public benefit corporation, a structure designed to balance shareholder returns with social goals, unlike nonprofits, which are solely focused on public good.

Under that proposal, the nonprofit parent would have been a big shareholder in the PBC but would cede control over the startup.

On Monday, OpenAI said the nonprofit parent would continue to control the PBC and become a big shareholder in it.

The company will push ahead with plans to change the structure of its for-profit arm to

allow more capital-raising to keep pace in the AI race.

The move to an outright for-profit was intended to help OpenAI raise more capital and ease restrictions tied to its nonprofit parent.

But it sparked concerns over whether the company would fairly allocate assets to the nonprofit and how it would balance profit-making with its mission to develop AI for the public good.

"We made the decision for the nonprofit to stay in control after hearing from civic leaders and having discussions with the offices of the Attorneys General of California and Delaware," Bret Taylor, chairman of OpenAI's board, said in a blog post, adding that the new announcement meant the startup would continue to have a structure "extremely close" to the current one.

Altman called the move a compromise "that (works) well enough for investors that they're happy to continue to fund us to a degree we think we will need."

He said OpenAI would work with major backer Microsoft, regulators and newly appointed nonprofit commissioners to finalise the updated plan, and decide how much equity stake in the for-profit business each party would receive.

"We believe this is well over the bar of what we need to be able to fundraise," Altman said, adding there were "no changes to any existing investor relationships" and that the company would proceed with the earlier plan to remove caps on the profit that investors can earn.

But questions remain over what exactly was changing, and what level of control the non-profit will have under the newly proposed plan, which lacks details.

Currently, OpenAI's nonprofit fully owns the for-profit entity, and the nonprofit board's mission is ensuring that "artificial general intelligence benefits all of humanity", instead of providing value for shareholders.

"We're glad that OpenAI is listening to concerns from civil society leaders ... but crucial questions remain," said Page Hedley, OpenAI's former policy and ethics adviser, and lead organiser of the group Not For Private Gain.

"Will OpenAI's commercial goals continue to be legally subordinate to its charitable mission? Who will own the technology that OpenAI develops?"

"The 2019 restructuring announcement made the primacy of the mission very clear, but so far, these statements have not."

As the expensive pursuit of artificial general intelligence, or AI that surpasses human intelligence, heats up, OpenAI has been looking to make changes to attract further investment.

It announced in March it would raise up to US\$40 billion (RM169 billion) in a new funding round led by SoftBank Group, at a US\$300 billion valuation.

The round was contingent on the AI firm transitioning to for-profit status by the end of the year, a structure that drew attention in November 2023 during one of the biggest boardroom dramas in Silicon Valley, where members of the nonprofit board ousted Altman over a breakdown in communication and loss of trust.

He was reinstated after five days, following an outpouring of support from employees and investors.

Altman said OpenAI would still be able to receive funding from the Japanese tech investor after Monday's move. – Reuters

US seeks breakup of Google's ad-tech products

WASHINGTON: The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has proposed that Alphabet's Google divest its AdX advertising marketplace and ad server DFP, a court filing showed on Monday, after a federal judge found the company illegally dominated two online ad-tech markets.

The judge set a September trial date on Friday, after hearing from Google and the DOJ on potential remedies for the company's dominance in ad tools used by online publishers.

The Justice Department said the proposed remedies, including divestitures, are necessary to end Google's monopolies and restore competition in the ad-exchange and publisher ad-server markets.

Google has said the company supported behavioural remedies such as making real-time bids available to competitors, but that prosecutors cannot legally pursue a bid to force it to sell parts of its business.

"The DOJ's additional proposals to force a divestiture of our ad tech tools go well beyond the Court's findings, have no basis in law, and would harm publishers and advertisers," Google's vice-president of regulatory affairs Lee-Anne Mulholland said in a statement.

AdX, or Ad Exchange, is a marketplace where publishers can make their unsold ad space available to advertisers for purchase on a real-time basis.

Publisher ad servers are platforms used by websites to store and manage their digital ad inventory.

Along with ad exchanges, the technology lets news publishers and other online content providers make money by selling ads.

Last year, Google took a major step to end an EU antitrust investigation with an offer to sell AdX but European publishers rejected the proposal as insufficient. – Reuters



A window display is seen at a Hugo Boss store in London. – REUTERS/PIC

Hugo Boss reports better-than-expected Q1 revenue

BERLIN: German fashion group Hugo Boss reported a better-than-expected quarterly revenue yesterday and maintained its full-year forecast amid increased macroeconomic uncertainties.

The firm posted first-quarter revenue of €999 million (RM4.8 billion), slightly below the €1.01 billion a year earlier, but above analysts' forecast of €974 million, a company-provided poll showed.

It also expects 2025 group sales to remain broadly in line with the prior year, ranging between €4.2 billion and €4.4 billion.

Hugo Boss' shares rose 4.5% in early Frankfurt trade.

The premium fashion retailer said subdued global consumer sentiment continues to weigh on the sector due to uncertainty over US tariffs.

"Benefiting from a well-diversified sourcing structure, the company is carefully evaluating potential measures based on currently available information and remains prepared to respond with agility to any potential further changes in trade policy."

US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs and uncertainty over his trade policies

have sent global markets into a tailspin and significantly dampened investor optimism.

"Following a strong finish to 2024, our performance in the first quarter was affected by the rising macroeconomic uncertainty, which impacted global consumer sentiment and our industry. Against this backdrop, we continued to place strong emphasis on what we have in our control," CEO Daniel Grieder said.

Luxury groups have struggled with tighter consumer spending due to slowing demand for fashion and accessories, particularly in the US and China. – Reuters

DoorDash agrees to £2.9 billion takeover of Deliveroo

LONDON: US delivery service DoorDash has agreed to take over UK peer Deliveroo in a deal worth £2.9 billion (RM16.5 billion), according to a joint statement yesterday.

DoorDash said it would pay £1.80 per share for Deliveroo, which has exited several markets in recent years due to increased competition.

The combined group "will bring together DoorDash's strong operating playbook with Deliveroo's local expertise to invest in innovation and execution at an even higher level", DoorDash chief executive Tony Xu said in a statement.

The deal will give the combined food delivery service a presence in over 40 countries, serving around 50 million monthly active users.

London-listed Deliveroo only posted its first annual profit in March following sizeable full-year losses owing to high investment costs since American Will Shu founded the company in 2013.

It experienced a surge in demand during the Covid-19 pandemic from lockdown-hit customers but increased competition has since led it to scale back global operations.

Most recently, Deliveroo exited Hong Kong amid growing competition in the Chinese city, following its exit from Australia and the Netherlands.

The deal is expected to be completed in the last three months of 2025, subject to regulatory approval and approval of Deliveroo shareholders.

It marks the latest deal in the food delivery market, after Dutch investment group Prosus announced plans in February to buy Just Eat Takeaway.com for €4.1 billion (RM19.6 billion). – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: MAY 6

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

6 May 2025

Participation

Retail (19.47%)		Institution (43.54%)		Foreign (36.99%)	
Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	
+16.25		-74.74		+58.48	
Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)
373.43	357.17	779.57	854.30	723.18	664.70

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	11,413.40	-27.71
FBMKLCI	1,536.80	-2.74
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	507.65	+2.73
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	150.48	-1.31
CONSTRUCTION	271.91	-1.56
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,129.10	-146.90
ENERGY	678.62	-4.09
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	499.82	-2.56
HEALTH CARE	1,900.45	-17.94
TRANSPORTATION	978.74	-4.87
PROPERTY	993.97	-1.94
PLANTATION	7,284.96	+36.34
FBMSHA	11,311.20	+7.72
FBMACE	4,638.77	+13.71
TECHNOLOGY	48.23	-0.37
TURNOVER: 2.793 bil		VALUE: RM1.876 bil

Bursa ends lower on continued profit-taking

BURSA Malaysia reversed early gains to close marginally lower yesterday, dragged down by profit-taking in financial services as well as industrial products and services counters, an analyst said.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI declined by 0.18%, or 2.74 points, to 1,536.80 from yesterday's close of 1,539.54.

CIMB and Petronas Chemicals were the top two contributors to the benchmark index's decline, falling 18 sen to RM6.90 and 15 sen to RM3.30, respectively, with a combined negative contribution of 5.36 points.

The market bellwether opened 1.10 points better at 1,540.64 and moved between 1,533.15 and 1,544.98 throughout the trading session.

In the broader market, losers trounced gainers 540 to 367, while 492 counters were unchanged, 936 untraded, and 17 suspended.

Turnover increased to 2.79 billion units worth RM1.88 billion against Monday's 2.34 billion units valued at RM2.08 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said key regional markets advanced further, led by China and Hong Kong, on optimism over potential US-China trade discussions, and the release of upbeat Chinese services activity data.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank fell 4 sen to RM9.96, Public Bank and IHH Healthcare were flat at RM4.47 and RM7, respectively, while Tenaga Nasional rose 26 sen to RM14.06, and CelcomDigi perked up 1 sen to RM3.79.

For active stocks, Reach Ten went up 2.5 sen to 56 sen, Permaju earned half-a-sen to 3.5 sen, Mr DIY gained 7 sen to RM1.74, while Ekovest eased half-a-sen to 32.5 sen. - Bernama

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWFJ	0.165	-0.020	-10.81	2,068,492
HSI-CWEI	0.145	-0.005	-3.33	2,031,034
HSI-CWEP	0.105	-0.010	-8.70	1,602,680
HSI-PWFM	0.105	-	-	1,356,212
REACHTEN	0.560	+0.025	+4.67	404,864
PERMAJU	0.035	+0.005	+16.67	404,083
GAMUDA-C2R	0.050	-0.005	-9.09	402,886
YTL-CIF	0.025	+0.005	+25.00	351,205
HSI-PWFQ	0.055	-0.010	-15.39	333,409
MRDIY	1.740	+0.070	+4.19	325,330
HSI-CWEY	0.240	-0.015	-5.88	324,430
EKOVEST	0.325	-0.005	-1.52	322,477
EWINT	0.310	+0.040	+14.82	321,986
SPTECH	0.220	-0.015	-6.38	319,047
TANCO	0.885	-	-	318,676
LEFORM	0.155	-	-	277,134
XIAOMI-C36	0.165	-0.030	-15.39	254,590
MYEG	0.890	+0.005	+0.57	228,780
RTECH	0.310	-0.010	-3.13	227,906
WESTVR	0.375	+0.005	+1.35	224,749



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	88.500	+2.000	2,905
AYER	8.380	+0.380	37
DLADY	28.200	+0.360	68
HEIM	26.800	+0.300	1,897
CARLSBG	19.180	+0.280	1,398
PETDAG	19.500	+0.260	1,489
TENAGA	14.060	+0.260	139,323
XIAOMI-C34	0.830	+0.200	35
ALLIANZ-PA	19.000	+0.180	8
KLK	19.700	+0.180	2,648
IDEAL	3.400	+0.170	159
ORNA	1.000	+0.160	2
GOLDETF	4.490	+0.150	720
KLIC2XL	2.050	+0.130	12
BKAWAN	18.920	+0.120	1
CHINTEK	8.160	+0.110	26
FGN	27.080	+0.100	3,723
ANALABS	1.700	+0.090	130
AJI	14.220	+0.080	29
TM	6.910	+0.080	26,208

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
MRCB-C1N	0.010	+100.00	2,160
NEXGRAM-WD	0.010	+100.00	501
UWC-C11	0.040	+100.00	410
UWC-C9	0.010	+100.00	3,160
YINSON-C41	0.020	+100.00	1,780
ARMADA-C96	0.030	+50.00	1,370
CMSB-C60	0.030	+50.00	2,180
GAMUDA-C2V	0.015	+50.00	164
SMTRACK	0.015	+50.00	14
MRDIY-C38	0.065	+44.44	3,896
MRDIY-C36	0.055	+37.50	78,104
HSI-CWAT	0.240	+37.14	101
MRDIY-C39	0.135	+35.00	100
AWANTEC-WA	0.020	+33.33	178
CTOS-C18	0.020	+33.33	500
FBMKLCI-CQU	0.020	+33.33	1,580
SCGBHD-C4	0.080	+33.33	5,350
TENAGA-C2U	0.120	+33.33	3,471
XIAOMI-C34	0.830	+31.75	35
BAUTO-C44	0.045	+28.57	5,200

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	41,218.83	-98.6	-0.24
S&P 500 [US]	5,650.38	-36.29	-0.64
NASDAQ [US]	17,844.24	-133.49	-0.74
NYSE [US]	19,303.23	-83.45	-0.43
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	5,229.06	-53.99	-1.02
FTSE 100 [UK]	8,578.72	-17.63	-0.21
DAX [GER]	22,951.03	-393.51	-1.69
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	36,830.69	378.39	1.04
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	2,687.78	8.34	0.31
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	22,662.71	158.03	0.7
CSI 300 [CHN]	3,808.54	37.97	1.01
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	190.45	0.77	0.41
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,316.11	37.08	1.13
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,559.79	3.18	0.12
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	80,615.19	-181.65	-0.22
ASX 200 [AUS]	8,151.44	-6.35	-0.08
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	8,369.31	-4.74	-0.06
FBM KLCI	1,536.80	-2.74	-0.18
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,854.39	1.32	0.03
WTI [US\$/BBL]	58.68	1.55	2.71
BRENT [US\$/BBL]	61.84	1.61	2.67
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,380.10	57.8	1.74
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	33.17	0.69	2.13
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	979.04	14.97	1.55
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	467.55	-2.35	-0.5
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	9,365.50	159.5	1.73
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	456	1.75	0.39
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	533.5	2.25	0.42
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	48.56	-0.17	-0.35
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	8,727.00	209	2.45
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	170.1	2.2	1.31

As at 5:30pm, May 6

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWFT	1.130	-0.580	14,800
MPI	19.320	-0.340	2,409
HSI-PWF1	0.245	-0.285	81,140
HSI-PWFZ	0.475	-0.265	27,980
HLBANK	20.000	-0.200	4,052
HSI-PWFI	0.375	-0.190	17,000
CIMB	6.900	-0.180	184,376
HSI-PWHB	0.225	-0.165	62
HSI-PWFO	0.420	-0.160	49,484
PCHM	3.300	-0.150	45,381
HSI-PWFA	0.575	-0.135	75
PETGAS	17.240	-0.120	1,893
YTL-CIK	0.045	-0.105	1,608
PPB	12.100	-0.100	1,385
HSI-PWD4	0.080	-0.095	930
GCB	3.480	-0.090	10,826
MASTER	3.130	-0.090	95
ALIBABA-C41	0.310	-0.085	276
HSI-PWFB	0.400	-0.080	25,670
LPI	14.060	-0.080	1,044

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
IOIPG-C31	0.005	-75.00	32
JTIASA-C2	0.005	-75.00	650
YTL-CIK	0.045	-70.00	1,608
OWG-WB	0.005	-66.67	4,262
TOPGLOV-C4Q	0.005	-66.67	1,000
HSI-PWDU	0.010	-60.00	4,615
HSI-PWD9	0.015	-57.14	700
HSI-PWD4	0.080	-54.29	930
HSI-PWF1	0.245	-53.77	81,140
ARMADA-C99	0.005	-50.00	1,000
HARTA-C20	0.005	-50.00	2,000
HSI-PWD7	0.005	-50.00	9,059
HSI-PWDZ	0.005	-50.00	80
NATGATE-CI	0.005	-50.00	1,500
PHB	0.005	-50.00	19,822
TOPGLOV-C4R	0.005	-50.00	5,932
YINSON-WA	0.005	-50.00	26,419
MEITUAN-C35	0.090	-43.75	600
HSI-PWHB	0.225	-42.31	62
XIAOMI-H1C	0.110	-42.11	1,600

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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Public Gold appointed SE Asia distributor for Emirates bullion

KUALA LUMPUR: Public Gold Marketing (Public Gold) has inked two strategic collaborations with Emirates Gold DMCC (Emirates Gold), a gold refinery and bullion manufacturer in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The precious metal trading company said the agreements marked a new era of global synergy between Malaysia and the UAE, strengthening regional gold supply chains, expanding innovative retail gold access, and enhancing bilateral economic ties.

"The products of these collaborations will be showcased during Emirates Gold's inaugural exhibition at the prestigious Malaysia Gold Jewellery Exhibition 2025 that is happening from May 9-11 at Setia SPICE Convention Centre in Penang.

"Being the appointed key distributor, Public Gold will be trading Emirates Gold-branded bullion and other gold products across the Southeast Asian markets backed by Emirates Gold," it said in a statement yesterday.

Public Gold said the collaboration also unites two industry leaders by leveraging on Emirates Gold's world-class refining capabilities and Public Gold's extensive customer network, deep market expertise, and trusted retail infrastructure within Southeast Asia.

Public Gold founder and executive chairman Datuk Louis Ng said the partnership is a testament to the company's capabilities – from product excellence to retail innovation.

"As Malaysia's gold industry enters a new chapter on the global stage, we take pride in building lasting trade ties that benefit both nations and the wider Asean economy," he said.

Meanwhile, Emirates Gold CEO Abhijit Shah said the collaboration marks a significant step towards advancing regional integration within the gold industry. – Bernama

Ringgit slips ahead of Bank Negara policy meeting

THE ringgit closed lower against the US dollar yesterday as traders remained cautious ahead of Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the local note depreciated to 4.2285/2360 versus the greenback compared to Monday's close of 4.1990/2035.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the MPC meeting on May 8 will be on traders' radar.

"We foresee that BNM might lower its policy rate as a preemptive measure to provide support for growth," he told Bernama.

Mohd Afzanizam said traders also remained focused on the two-day US Federal Open Market Committee meeting which begins May 6.

"The sharp appreciation of the ringgit against the US dollar (previously) may have compelled traders and investors to lock in some gains.

"Additionally, the US Dollar Index (DXY) continues to languish below 100 points at around 99.583 points at present," he said.

At the close, the ringgit traded lower against a basket of major currencies.

It eased versus the Japanese yen to 2.9502/9556 from 2.9192/9225 at Monday's close, inched lower vis-a-vis the euro to 4.7824/7909 from 4.7629/7680 on Monday, and weakened against the British pound to 5.6302/6402 from 5.5868/5928 previously.

Similarly, the ringgit performed weaker against its Asean peers.

It dropped versus the Singapore dollar to 3.2749/2812 from Monday's close of 3.2644/2682 and fell vis-a-vis the Thai baht to 12.9399/9700 from 12.7497/7747.

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.3050	4.1710	4.1610
1 Australian Dollar	2.7920	2.6790	2.6630
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3210	3.2250	3.2170
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1060	3.0220	3.0100
1 Euro	4.8650	4.7070	4.6870
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5710	2.4760	2.4600
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3210	3.2250	3.2170
1 Sterling Pound	5.7180	5.5360	5.5160
1 Swiss Franc	5.2540	5.0300	5.0150
100 UAE Dirham	118.4900	112.3600	112.1600
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.6140	3.3660	3.1660
100 Chinese Renminbi	59.8800	57.3000	57.3000
100 Danish Krone	66.8200	61.4900	61.2900
100 Hongkong Dollar	56.1000	53.3000	53.1000
100 Indian Rupee	5.1900	4.8700	4.6700
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0271	0.0245	0.0195
100 Japanese Yen	2.9910	2.8950	2.8850
100 New Taiwan Dollar	15.4000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	42.4700	39.0400	38.8400
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5600	1.4600	1.2600
100 Philippine Peso	7.8100	7.3600	7.1600
100 Qatar Riyal	119.3300	113.2800	113.0800
100 Saudi Riyal	115.9800	110.1000	109.9000
100 South Africa Rand	24.3900	22.0200	21.8200
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4700	1.3600	1.1600
100 Swedish Krona	45.8200	41.7100	41.5100
100 Thai Baht	13.6500	12.1000	11.7000

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

MR. D.I.Y. Group (M) Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM1.85



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

Q1'25 net profit of RM174 million (+20% YoY, +18% QoQ) accounted for 28% of ours/consensus FY25. A first interim DPS of 1.4sen was also declared, reflecting a payout ratio of 76% (Q1'24 DPS: 1sen, DPR: 65%), above its targeted payout ratio of 50% to 65%. Management guided that it intends to keep its payout ratio at 76% in FY25.

MRDIY's Q1'25 revenue grew +10% YoY predominantly due to added contribution from new stores (+173 stores YoY), and higher consumer spending from Chinese New Year and pre-Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations. Consequently, Q1'25 SSSG was +0.6% YoY (Q1'24: -1.0%; Q4'24: -5.5%) where transaction volumes increased by +9% YoY, alongside higher average basket size of RM25.90 (+1% YoY). Gross profit (GP) margins lifted to 47.8% (+2ppts YoY) on (i) lower inventory cost, and (ii) favourable CNY/RM FX, on track with MRDIY's GP margin guidance of between 46% to 48% in FY25.

We prudently leave our earnings estimates unchanged in anticipation for seasonally weaker sales in Q2'25 – post-Hari Raya festivities. Our payout ratio assumptions are raised to 75% p.a. (from 60%), consistent with MRDIY's guidance. We believe that MRDIY is well positioned to benefit from the US-China trade war through (i) better negotiating terms with its Chinese suppliers (70% of MRDIY's SKUs are sourced from China), and (ii) further GP margin accretion should RM continue to appreciate against CNY in FY25. The overall uplift in disposable income, after minimum wage was increased to RM1,700/mth (+RM200/mth, effective Feb 1) is also expected to positively sustain its sales momentum in FY25.

BUY with RM1.85 TP. – **Maybank Investment Bank, May 6**

Gamuda Bhd

Outperform. Target price: RM5.30



Source: PublicInvest Research

FOLLOWING its acquisition of a 389-acre plot of land in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan on Dec 30, 2024, Gamuda is disposing of the land to Pearl Computing Malaysia SB, for a cash consideration of RM455 million. Gains from land sale as expected is minimal, after factoring legal fees, stamp duty and financing costs.

Enabling Works for Data Centre (DC) development. The RM1 billion contract covers earthworks and external infrastructure work. (i) The earthworks include site clearance, grading, construction of access roads, and drainage infrastructure to ensure the land is platform-ready, expected completion by Q3'25. (ii) External infrastructure work comprises a new water treatment plant with a total production capacity of 65m litres per day, along with water pipelines and an off-river storage system. These measures ensure sufficient water supply during the low season while mitigate pollution risks. The water treatment plant is expected to be completed by Q2'27, with the off-river storage system scheduled for completion by Q4'28.

With this addition, the group's unbilled order book increased by 2.7% to approximately RM37 billion. Assuming high-single digit margins and a corporate tax rate of 24%, this project is expected to contribute about 1.2% to net profit annually over its 4-year duration. We make no adjustments to our earnings estimate, as this constitutes part of our RM16bn order book replenishment assumption for FY25.

Despite concerns over potential shift in US government policies on artificial intelligence chip and the emergence of DeepSeek (a new competitor), Malaysia remains an attractive destination for global hyperscale data centre operators.

OUTPERFORM with RM5.30 TP. – **PublicInvest Research, May 6**

CIMB Group Holdings Bhd

Outperform. Target price: RM8.90



Source: PublicInvest Research

MANAGEMENT reiterated its loan growth target of 5-7% in FY25, despite the level of uncertainties globally with the growth momentum coming from consumer and commercial banking segments. However, unfavourable forex movements (depreciation in SGD and IDR) and liquidity tightness in Indonesia may drag CIMB's loan growth target. CIMB remains focused on its deposited strategy to protect its funding cost and liquidity instead of overpaying to drive loan growth.

We expect higher non-interest income (Noll) on a QoQ basis, mainly driven by stronger fee income, trading as well as FX income given the better spreads and higher market volatility. On the flip side, we expect Noll to be lower YoY, due to the absence of NPL sales and unfavourable currency translation.

NIM likely to remain stable Q1'25, due to the sequential expansion in NIM from Malaysia and Indonesia given the absence of seasonality impact. However, the unfavourable market or policy rate movements from Singapore and Thailand will likely offset the positives from Malaysia and Indonesia operations. Nevertheless, management believes that Noll growth and opex levers will help to act as a buffer to mitigate any potential deterioration in margins.

With trade-related loan exposures at a manageable level of <5%, we are not expecting a significant risk in CIMB's asset quality. We gather that customers that exports to the US accounts for 3-5% of its total loan book and the group remains comfortable with potential credit cost (FY25 target: 30-40 bps) and gross impaired loans.

OUTPERFORM with RM8.90 TP. – **PublicInvest Research, May 6**



the Sun **LYFE**

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Editorial
T: 03-7784 6688
F: 03-7785 2625
E: lifestyle@thesundaily.com

Advertising
T: 03-7784 8888
E: advertise@thesundaily.com

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Petite **weddings**

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More Jacky Cheung
shows in KL



FOREGOING grand halls and large guest lists, many young couples today are opting to tie the knot in a more relaxed, personal and meaningful celebration – the intimate wedding.

Beyond being cost-effective, this concept allows couples to celebrate their love with close friends and family in a serene, thoughtfully curated and emotionally rich atmosphere.

According to wedding planner Amirah Abdul Halim, these events typically host between 80 to 300 guests – mainly close family and friends – and are often held at venues such as villas, cafes or gardens, which are becoming increasingly favoured over large-scale ceremonies.

The owner of The Avenue event venue noted that even financially capable couples are embracing this concept, choosing to avoid unnecessary spending on less meaningful elements and instead investing in experiences that create lasting memories.

“Many assume that small weddings are more affordable, but costs can still add up depending on the couple’s preferences. Some choose to invest in cinematic videography, designer attire or premium catering, as they prioritise quality over quantity,” she said.

Keeping it on budget

Amirah explained that the overall cost of an intimate wedding depends on several key factors including the venue, food packages, decorations, photography, attire and entertainment. Opting for more premium choices usually increases the total cost of the event.

However, there are still ways to keep the event attractive without exceeding the budget, such as choosing a naturally beautiful venue, limiting the guest list and hiring creative but lesser-known service providers, she said.

Amirah also advised couples to set a budget early and avoid changing the concept often, which can add to costs. She emphasised the importance of discussing plans with family members early on to prevent last-minute guest additions.

Event hall operator Norsyafalina Yahaya noted that this concept gained popularity after the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020, when large-scale events were prohibited. Social media personalities sharing beautiful moments from their intimate weddings also played a role.

The co-founder of Chendana Puri Weddings & Events, based in Negeri Sembilan, said financial considerations are a key reason why young couples choose this concept, prompting more businesses to offer budget-friendly packages.

“We offer packages from RM5,900 for 100 guests. This includes a beautiful hall, a decorated dais and other setups. As for outfits and make-up, couples usually prefer to arrange those themselves based on their budget and personal taste.

“This way, the couple can still enjoy a traditional wedding atmosphere with elements such as a bridal procession, cake-cutting and a formal meal, but on a smaller scale.

“This differs from small gatherings such as thanksgiving feasts, which lack real wedding elements that many dream of and that become ‘a memory to cherish forever,’” she added, noting the concept is also ideal for couples entering second marriages or rebuilding their relationship.

Managing family expectations

Acknowledging that parental expectations for grand celebrations can be a major challenge for young couples, Ayu Fitri Saidatulnisa Raman, who celebrated her big day with just 100 guests, said communication is key to overcoming this hurdle.

The 24-year-old shared that she and her partner first agreed on a shared vision – including the guest list, budget and life focus after the wedding – which they then discussed openly with their parents.



When tying the knot, many young couples today are opting for a more relaxed, personal and meaningful celebration. – **ALL PICS FROM PEXELS**

Intimate weddings

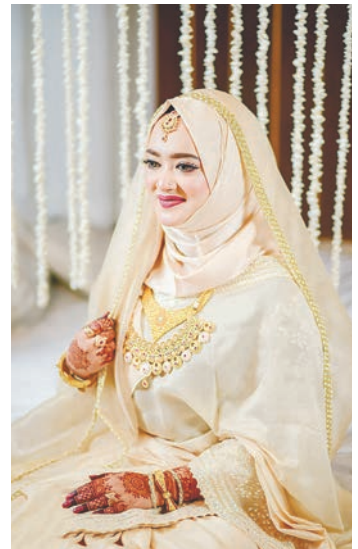
➤ Young couples opting for smaller celebrations

“To make sure our families did not feel excluded, we included them in decisions such as food selection and the event schedule. This helped ease their initial concerns about having a small-scale wedding,” she said, adding that the event cost around RM13,000.

Puteri Nurfarhah Mohd Zain, 26, shared a similar perspective, believing that a small wedding is not a downgrade. She and her partner were thoroughly satisfied, describing their ceremony as perfect, filled with beautiful moments and lasting memories.

“My advice is not to feel ashamed about choosing a small wedding. Beautiful memories are built on the support of family, the presence of close friends and the flow of unconditional love – all of which make your special day truly meaningful.

“If your family or partner is not on board with the idea of an intimate wedding, do not be discouraged. Everyone sees things differently, and open, honest conversations are the best way to avoid misunderstandings,” she added. – **Bernama**



Costs can still rack up as couples spend on things such as wedding attire and jewellery.



The cost of an intimate wedding depends on factors such as venue, food packages, decorations, photography, attire and entertainment.



Limiting guests to close family and friends can make for a more memorable event.

Shades of distinction

➤ New eyewear statements

■ BY THASHINE SELVAKUMARAN

EYEWEAR has evolved from a practical necessity to a defining accessory, one that signals attitude and identity. The latest 2025 collections from different brands capture this shift with striking clarity. These brands offer a lens into how eyewear is worn today in Malaysia and beyond.

Boss

Presented in a timeless black-and-white campaign fronted by tennis star and Boss ambassador Matteo Berrettini, Boss Eyewear reaffirms its ethos of style-driven self-determination. The 2025 collection channels this message through sleek silhouettes crafted from sustainable materials, ultra-thin hard acetate, stainless steel and Acetate Renew, which blends recycled and bio-based content. There is a quiet confidence to the Signature Light line, which features ultra-slim frames with signature Boss stripes and clean wire-core details.

For those who lean towards bolder statements, the Signature Bold line presents opticals and sunglasses with chunky constructions and transparent layering, accented subtly with embossed logos. Meanwhile, the Carbon Fiber range speaks to performance-driven wearers who value durability, lightness and a refined edge. Across the board, be it for men or women, Boss delivers clean lines and clear intentions.

Eyewear by David Beckham

Inspired by the vast Moroccan landscape and the refined quiet of ancient riads, Eyewear by David Beckham tells a story of exploration and craftsmanship. Designed by Safilo and shaped by Beckham's British style sensibility, the collection features timeless silhouettes infused with technical finesse.

A consistent hallmark throughout the line is the Talisman, a wing-inspired temple detail visible from every angle paired with the laser-etched DB monogram on the lens. The collection is divided into curated style families. The Style Pioneer collection makes a confident entrance with bold architectural frames, ideal for statement-making occasions, day or night. Chunky bevelled acetates, bent lugs and riveted hinges define this line, offering personality in every detail.

A more rugged chapter comes through the motorcycle range – oversized pilot-shaped sunglasses inspired by Beckham's love for bikes, complete with glare-reducing spoilers and masculine metal temples.

The Timeless Icons segment softens the mood with vintage-inflected silhouettes and ultra-tumbled surfaces that favour comfort and discretion. For purists, the Curator line delivers quiet sophistication with double-bridge styles, acetate and metal blends, and impeccable detailing, all designed for connoisseurs of quality.

Carrera

Carrera approaches 2025 at full throttle. With a campaign led by Formula 1 driver Charles Leclerc and actor Lucien Laviscount, the brand's DNA, rooted in motorsports and boundary-pushing design, is unmistakably on display.

The newest range plays with proportions and speed-inflected silhouettes. Think



The new 2025 collection, crafted by Safilo and envisioned by David Beckham.



Boss 1745/S Sunglass.



Carrera's new stunning woman collection is inspired by iconic feminine design and details.



Carrera C-Sport collection.

oversized wraparound visors, frameless shields and aerodynamic contours, crafted for the bold and style-conscious. The Carrera man or woman moves with intent – whether through traffic or on the tarmac, their eyewear reflects that urgency.

Bold temples, mirrored lenses and sculptural edges ensure these frames never fade into the background. Engineered for impact and performance, Carrera's offerings are for those who wear their ambition on their face.

Christian Louboutin

Then there is Christian Louboutin, bringing unapologetic glamour to the eyewear arena. Known for its signature red soles, the fashion house translates its flair for drama into a collection that is part accessory, part couture.

Every pair pulses with bold creativity such as dramatic contours, jewel-like embellishments and high-shine materials are the cornerstone of the collection. These sunglasses and opticals demand to be seen, whether framed in gold,

edged in enamel or sculpted with spikes and curves. With rich palettes, luxurious finishes and architectural flourishes, they make a case for statement dressing from the eyes down. Designed for those who never do minimal, Louboutin's eyewear is joyfully excessive and fiercely directional.



N1'SS25 eyewear collection blends nostalgia with innovation.

EssilorLuxottica

Adding a fresh pulse to the eyewear landscape is EssilorLuxottica's N1'SS25 collection, a dynamic expression of future-forward design grounded in nature and nostalgia. From the soft glow of dusty pink lenses to the sharp geometry of alien-eye frames, this collection redefines how we see and how we are seen. Nature-inspired greens, transparent neutrals and soft metallics lend a grounded yet elevated feel, while experimental metals and distorted silhouettes push the boundaries of style. Highlights include the return of the oval



Eyewear by David Beckham.

frame, retro yet modern alongside bold reinterpretations of racer-inspired shapes and genderless palettes that span soft taupes to shimmering violets.



House of Herrera silhouettes available in oversize round or squared.

Carolina Herrera

Creative director Wes Gordon pays homage to the long-standing connection between the House of Herrera and Mexico, a bond woven with admiration, craftsmanship and a celebration of beauty, through Carolina Herrera's Resort 2025 Eyewear collection. It reflects the brand's signature femininity and sophistication.

Expect bold, elegant shapes adorned with signature details such as the CH monogram and delicate metal bows. Particularly striking are the "House of Herrera" silhouettes, oversized round or squared styles defined by metallic studs are a nod to the house's iconic polka dots, wide temple arms with sculptural white edging, and medallion finishes that add a dramatic flourish.

The line offers a refined contrast, with chic two-tone arms revealed through meticulous milling, blending subtle CH branding with pops of unexpected colour.

Vision, refined

Together, these brands outline the new codes of eyewear in 2025. More than seasonal trends, they speak to enduring style values that capture confidence, individuality and clarity of purpose.

In Malaysia's ever-adapting lifestyle climate, they do not just complete the look. They define it.



Fall or rise of Versace?

➤ Italian giant may return to former glory after becoming part of fashion house Prada

ITALIAN fashion giant Versace, the long-held family business known for its flashy, sexy designs and Medusa head logo, will now become part of Prada, its larger rival and polar opposite in terms of style.

The €1.25 billion (RM5.94 billion) acquisition, announced on April 10, aims to breathe new life into Versace, whose highs and lows have included the 1997 murder of its founder Gianni Versace, and the stewardship of the brand's legacy by his sister Donatella. Here are five things to know about the Milan-based luxury brand:

Gianni Versace, stylist of stars

Born in Calabria, southern Italy, to a dressmaker mother, Gianni began designing clothes at a young age and moved to fashion capital Milan when he was 25.

In 1978, he presented his first signature collection, with his brother Santo taking care of the label's business arm.

"He was a 360-degree creator, a real artist, he had a pure creative vision on colours and materials," said Stefania Saviolo, who is a director of the luxury and fashion centre at Bocconi University.

Versace wowed the showbiz world, dressing A-listers from Madonna to Elton John and getting 1980s supermodels such as Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford to strut their stuff down the catwalk for him.

Liz Hurley dress

Gianni's collections were colourful, sexy and over the top. His designs mixed baroque prints, animal skin motifs, bondage-style leather, slits and especially, ultra-tight fits.



Donatella remains Versace's brand ambassador. — AFP/ICC

At the 1994 premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, he dressed actress Liz Hurley in a famously suggestive black dress.

Made from silk and lycra, with a sharply plunging neckline and a long slit up the side, the dress was held together by several oversize golden safety pins.

The dress catapulted Hurley, then romantically involved with actor

Hugh Grant, to fame and became simply known as "THAT dress".

Death and fall

On July 15, 1997, Gianni was shot dead by luxury-obsessed serial killer Andrew Cunanan as he returned to his luxury villa in Miami after buying his morning papers.

The killing shocked the worlds of fashion and show business at a time

when the brand was at its height.

Gianni's younger sister Donatella, then in charge of the lower-cost Versus line, took over as artistic director, while Santo kept control of the business side of the enterprise.

But the Versace brand's power shrank as management teams succeeded one after the other, employees were laid off and boutiques closed.

Donatella

Gianni's muse and confidante Donatella had worked for 14 years at the side of her older brother and sunk into depression after his death, going into rehab for drug addiction in 2004.

Eternally tanned with dyed-blond hair and a penchant for plastic surgery, she was initially dismissed as a lightweight substitute for her brother.

But with time, the younger Versace rose to the challenge, producing her own showstopping creations, such as the barely-there green chiffon jungle dress worn by Jennifer Lopez at the 2000 Grammy Awards.

After nearly 30 years as artistic director, the 69-year-old stepped down last month, handing the reins to Prada's Miu Miu former design director Dario Vitale. Donatella remains Versace's brand ambassador.

New spark

Since the US holding company Capri Holdings acquired Versace for about €1.8 billion in 2018, it has lost some of its luster.

"The Versace brand has become too commercial. Prada can allow it to return to its golden age and reconnect with its luxury DNA," said fashion consultant Antonio Bandini Conti.

Prada's deeper pockets will help the brand compete in an increasingly crowded field of well-funded luxury brands, dominated by France's LVMH fashion conglomerate.

Most recently, Versace posted US\$193 million (RM810 million) in revenue for its fiscal 2025 third quarter, down 15% from the period a year earlier. — AFP

Sports bra with excessive bounce reduction may be hurting your back

WEARING an ultra-constraining sports bra may seem like a good idea when thinking about how to get adequate support while moving. However, in the long term, it could actually be harmful to back health.

A British study published in the *European Journal of Sport Science* challenges the idea that maximum support is always beneficial. It shows that wearing a bra maximises bounce reduction during physical exercise could, over time, increase the risk of back pain.

For years, sports bra manufacturers have touted "maximum support" as essential for optimal comfort and performance. However, researchers at the University of Portsmouth have revealed an unexpected phenomenon. Slight movement of the chest during running helps absorb shock, acting as a natural shock absorber for the spine. This discovery calls into question current standards in sports underwear design.

Their research is based on computer modelling of the female anatomy in motion. To refine their observations, they designed a first-of-its-kind articulated musculoskeletal model incorporating sliding joints between the breasts and the torso. This innovative approach made it

possible to simulate the effects of different types of bras on a moving body.

A volunteer wearing a size 34DD was fitted with 59 anatomical markers before running on force platforms. Three conditions were tested – without a bra, with a conventional bra and with a sports bra. A fourth, more extreme bra situation was also simulated to produce total elimination of breast movement.

Their findings were clear – when breast movement is completely restricted, the pressure exerted on the lumbar spine increases significantly. In particular, the lower back is subjected to stress greater than 0.05 Nm/kg, a threshold already recognised in scientific literature as being associated with the onset of back pain.

Another striking finding concerns the influence of bra type on posture. Participants stood approximately 4 degrees straighter when wearing a sports bra compared with running without a bra. This may seem like a minor detail but it is essential, as good posture helps prevent injuries.

This study does not call into question the usefulness of sports bras, but rather offers some thoughts on how support is designed. Although reducing breast movement



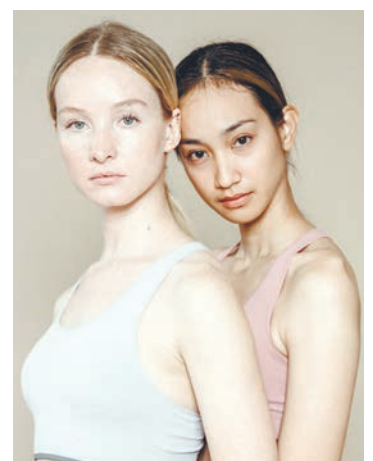
According to a study, wearing a bra that maximises bounce reduction during physical exercise could, over time, increase the risk of back pain. — PICS FROM PEXELS

may help reduce discomfort, overly constricting support could, conversely, be harmful to the back.

"While a supportive sports bra is crucial for exercise comfort, excessive bounce reduction may place additional strain on spinal muscles,

increasing the risk of back pain," explained University of Portsmouth sports and exercise science senior lecturer in Dr Chris Mills in a statement.

For women with large breasts, who are often prone to pain during



Another striking finding concerns the influence of bra type on posture.

exercise, it is essential to find a bra that can absorb shocks while allowing freedom of movement. This compromise could well transform the comfort and performance of female athletes for years to come. — ETX Studio

BRIGHT and vibrant, chartreuse is a yellow-green colour that is shaping up to be one of the key shades of spring-summer 2025. Spotted on the catwalks and in the street, this refreshing shade stands out for its ability to work with a wide variety of styles, from sophisticated looks to casual clothing.

The major fashion houses have adopted chartreuse in very different ways. At Prada, this yellow-green hue named after a French liqueur is seen in structured head-to-toe looks that play on satin and technical textures, with draped and sculptural dresses that focus on visual impact. Gucci, meanwhile, explores a more retro style with an A-line dress in chartreuse-coloured patent leather. Its shiny finish and clean lines evoke the fashions of the 1960s.

At Ganni, this shade of green lands in a more casual street-inspired style, through pieces, such as a striped ribbed tank top or an oversized mesh T-shirt. Here, the shade adds a bold touch to laid-back looks, designed for everyday wear. This makes the shade feel particularly accessible, even to those who might be reluctant to try more eye-catching colours.

At Issey Miyake, the shade gets a more organic dimension. The Hempens dress combines a hemp-based fabric with soft, asymmetrical shapes, designed to move with the body. Dries Van Noten, on the other hand, explores a more feminine style, combining silk and lace details in contrasting colours.

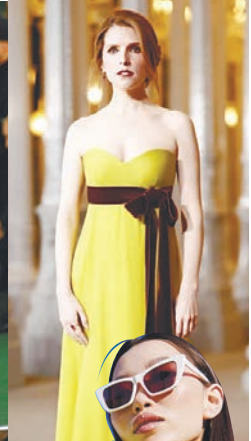
Styling chartreuse

Chartreuse green is not an easy colour to integrate into a wardrobe, but nevertheless it offers several entry points. Worn as an all-over look, be it a dress, jumpsuit or a more formal suit, this colour makes for a striking, modern silhouette. This is the case with the GG canvas jumpsuit from Gucci, where the bright hue is combined with a retro cut for a look that is sharp and accessible.

Blake Lively recently showed how to slip chartreuse seamlessly into everyday style. Photographed in New York last October in a chartreuse lace dress paired with a loose cardigan and dark thigh-high boots, she showcased a masterful urban look.

Another option, perhaps the simplest, is to adopt the shade in small touches, such as a bag, a pair of mules, textured top or a simple piece of jewellery. Gucci's Jackie bag in a chartreuse green is a good illustration of this approach. It is bright enough to make your look stand out, but easy to combine with other pieces.

Chartreuse also works well with neutral tones such



Kendrick has worn the colour at the Lacma Art + Film Gala last November.

— ANNAKEND RIK47PIC

Chartreuse's comeback is part of a broader movement in which bold colours are back in vogue. — AFPPIC

Green revival

► Vibrant chartreuse takes over runways, streets in fashion rebirth

as off-white, beige or light gray. For a more contrasting effect, it can also be accentuated by richer colours such as burgundy or purple. This was the choice made by actress Anna Kendrick at the Lacma Art + Film Gala last November. Her strapless Oscar de la Renta dress was matched with a burgundy velvet bow, which gave the ensemble real depth while letting the brightness of the yellow-green shade shine through.

Bold comeback

The return of chartreuse is no coincidence. It is part of a broader movement in which bold colours are coming back into fashion, driven by two forces. On the one hand, there is the current wave of nostalgia for the 1990s and 2000s. On the other hand, there is a more recent aesthetic that gained popularity on social networks through the phenomenon of "brat green" – a flashy shade of acid green synonymous with the cover of the *Brat* album by British

artist Charli XCX. But while the unique shade of green is all the rage today, it is not the first time it has enjoyed a moment in the fashion spotlight. In 1997, Nicole Kidman made an impression at the Oscars in a green Dior satin

dress designed by John Galiano. The dress became iconic and helped to put green back on the agenda at major fashion events.

Since then, the colour has been revived and reinvented several times, and is now making a strong comeback in the form of the chartreuse shade – not only in spring-summer 2025 but also in fall-winter 2025–2026 collections, where it has been used by several designers. This is further proof this colour, once considered difficult to wear, is establishing a lasting presence in the fashion landscape. — ETX Studio



'Brat green', a colour associated with Charli's album *Brat* has contributed to the rise of chartreuse. — 123RFPIC

Soothing natural ingredients for skin preservation, regeneration

MOISTURISING one's skin is an essential step in preserving its suppleness and encouraging its regeneration, especially when it has been subjected to harsh conditions of various kinds. While targeted treatments have a role, certain natural ingredients offer comparable benefits when it comes to soothing, restoring and deep nourishment. And three of the most basic have the potential to be valuable go-tos in your daily skin care routine.

Shea butter

If you could only choose one essential ingredient for skincare, shea butter would have to be a top contender. Ultra-nourishing and rich in vitamins, particularly vitamin A, shea butter regenerates, protects and softens the skin, while helping preserve its elasticity.

Provided it is used in an unrefined form, it is effective, even on sensitive or irritated areas (itching, razor burn or insect bites).

It is suitable for all skin types, even the most sensitive, and can be used on the face, body and hair. Solid and convenient to transport, it can be incorporated into a daily skincare routine.



Olive oil is rich in antioxidants, it moisturises, nourishes and soothes sensitive or tight skin.

— PEXELSPIC

Aloe vera

A star ingredient of natural skincare products, aloe vera continues to be popular for its intense moisturising capabilities. Composed of more than 95% water, this succulent plant soothes dry, sensitive or irritated skin, while supporting its regeneration. Its light texture is ideal for those looking for a product that does not leave a greasy film. Aloe vera also can help combat signs of skin ageing and is suitable for acne- or redness-prone skin. Its versatility allows it to fit into any routine, whatever the

season or skin type.

Olive oil

This kitchen staple is also a valuable resource for skincare. Rich in antioxidants, it moisturises, nourishes and soothes sensitive or tight skin. Used since ancient times, it is renowned for its protective and anti-ageing properties. In cosmetics, it is found in different forms: In oils, balms, or even traditional soaps. A favorite ingredient for a simple, effective routine that respects the needs of the skin. — ETX Studio



The colour works well with neutral tones. — GANNIPIC



Jacky Cheung adds three more KL shows

DUE to overwhelming demand, Cantopop legend Jacky Cheung's 60+ Concert Tour in Kuala Lumpur will have three additional shows on Aug 22-24.

Tickets for the original three shows – scheduled for Aug 15-17 at Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil – sold out in under three hours, sparking a ticketing frenzy and flooding social media with ticket requests. There will now be six back-to-back performances across two weekends.

To ensure fair access for dedicated fans and curb scalping, organiser Star Planet implemented a ballot ticketing system for the newly added shows.

Successful ballot participants will receive a unique promo code, granting them access to purchase up to four tickets for their chosen performance between next Tuesday and next Thursday.

To ensure fans have another and final opportunity, 10% of tickets for each show will be reserved and made available for public sale next Friday (from 12pm).

With a career spanning over four decades, Cheung is celebrated for his powerful vocals and artistic stagecraft. His music continues to resonate across generations. His timeless hits have accompanied generations through love, growth and reflection, and each show offers a heartfelt journey through the soundtrack of a lifetime.

► Cantopop singer to also perform on Aug 22-24 after previous dates sell out



With a career spanning over four decades, Cheung is celebrated for his powerful vocals and artistic stagecraft.

ALBUM REVIEW

BY R. BALA

AUTISM, ADHD and deep depression – how is that for a tri-factor of melancholic muses to draw from?

Far from being a bleak listen, the second full-length record from Emma-Jean Thackray is anything but gloomy. Impossibly funky, *Weirdo* is an unabashed celebration of life, pitfalls and all.

Clocking in at nearly an hour, the 19 tracks (yes, 19!) are a full-on exploration of grief, disillusionment and state of mental health. Yet, somehow Thackray is able to approach each of these subjects with *joie de vivre* that makes this such a joyous album to behold.

Thackray hails from Leeds, which is not exactly a hotbed for jazz. But she studied jazz at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama under British jazz pianist and composer Keith Tippett. After her studies at the college, she took a master's in orchestral jazz composition at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance under composers Issie Barratt and Errollyn Wallen. With a love of Miles Davis and John Coltrane, she set about creating a new vibe within the genre, hugely informed by the

Toe-tapping jazz with Thackray



Thackray is the current darling of the burgeoning UK jazz scene. – PIC FROM FACEBOOK @EMMAJEANTHACKRAY

UK's trip hop scenes of the 90s.

The new record is quite a leap from her debut *Yellow*, which was a far jazzier affair, with her trumpet playing taking centre stage. This time round, other instruments, especially the bass guitar, are given more room to shine as Thackray pumps out jazz tunes that are infected by the Parliament-Funkadelic bug.

Reminiscent of 90s acid jazz outfits such as Brand New Heavies, Thackray marries toe-tapping

brilliance with an air of effortless cool. She keeps the scat vocals at a level whereby proceedings are obviously "jazz" but also takes in a whole lot more. Influences stretch from the cosmic musings of Sun Ra to Stevie Wonder's funkier moments.

Reclaiming the title "weirdo" after being harassed throughout her childhood with it, the title track is a refreshing, joyous big kiss-off to all the naysayers.

It is but one gem in an album full of them. Bright, sparkling jazz tunes drenched in summer vibes, driven forward by simple hypnotic hip-hop beats make this one of the best albums to land this year thus far.

Though it is early days yet, *Weirdo* is sure to make many end-of-year Top 10 lists. This is just a quality release which will keep listeners engaged for a good while.

This does not resemble Laufey in any shape or form. It has a more modern a vibe to even be compared. Suffice to say, those who make the effort to seek this out will not be disappointed.

Weirdo was released on April 25 via the Brownswood label and is available to stream on all major platforms.



Sheeran reflects on memory and growth in the music video for *Old Phone*.

Ed Sheeran's *Old Phone* explores time, relationships

POP star Ed Sheeran, who is releasing his new album *Play* on Sept 12, has dropped a nostalgic new single *Old Phone*, offering fans a glimpse into the emotional depths of his upcoming project.

Old Phone, produced by Blake Slatkin and Ilya Salmanzadeh, strikes a chord of tender nostalgia. Inspired by rediscovered memories on a long-forgotten phone, the track explores how time transforms relationships and identity. With its stripped-back acoustic feel and raw lyricism, *Old Phone* bridges Sheeran's early sound with his evolved artistry.

Play marks a fresh artistic chapter for Sheeran, closing the door on his iconic Mathematics series and embarking on an explorative journey across cultures and sounds. Drawing inspiration from his exposure to Indian and Persian musical traditions, surprisingly intertwined with the Irish folk roots he grew up on, Sheeran crafts a borderless musical tapestry.

Sheeran describes *Play* as a joyful, technicolour response to the darkest



Sheeran's *Play* album cover teases a vibrant, playful new chapter in his music journey.

chapter of his life, created across continents and completed in Goa, India. The album, under Gingerbread Man Records and Atlantic Records UK, promises a rollercoaster of emotions, blending fun, chaos and the grounded reflections of life as a partner and father. Always one to surprise, Sheeran teases a playful album campaign filled with impromptu folk jam sessions, gigs on open-top buses and pink cowboy hats on bar counters.

Jackson Wang's next single

JACKSON WANG has announced that *Buck* is to be the next single off his *Magic Man 2* album. The reveal came during a Bangkok gig with GOT7 last Friday where the singer teased audiences with a sample of the new solo track at the close of the concert. The show also witnessed the live debut of his solo hit *GBAD*.

The newly unveiled teaser for *Buck* is touted as the album's ultimate dance anthem. The music continues to build Wang's bold visual narrative, weaving cinematic elements that have ignited widespread anticipation among fans.

As the third single to be introduced from *Magic Man 2*, *Buck* is set for official release this Friday, accompanied by its music video. Through the powerful line "I dreamed of going all the way to hell to deal with you," Wang delivers an



Through music, Wang connects with universal themes of authenticity, vulnerability and growth.

unfiltered and authentic expression of his artistry – staying unapologetically true to himself and embracing every facet of his journey.

With the *Buck* teaser now released, Wang continues to redefine self-identity through music, connecting with universal themes of authenticity, vulnerability and growth. His album *Magic Man 2* will make its global debut in July.



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NO. BA-354-51/2025

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Prosiding Percebalan dan Hal Ewal
Perkembangan 1991

DAN

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 5, 10, 11
Atas Perundangan Kaedah-Kaedah 1991

DAN

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 3(1)
Atas Perundangan Kaedah-Kaedah
(Narkah) 1968

DAN

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 53, 54, 58, 92, 93, 96,
dan 97 Atas Membarulah Undang-Undang
(Perkembangan dan Penceraian) 1976;

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DAN

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seseorang melalui Petitioner Percebalan
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Petitioner, Notis Percebalan Percebalan,
Percebalan Mengenal anak-anak
perkembangan, Notis Percebalan dan Atas Terima
Penyampaian (selepas ini dijangka sebagai
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terakhir yang dikeluarkan Petitioner telah
juga premi Responden Sumam di No. 24,
Jalan Tan 9/10, Taman Tanjung Ampuan
Nanyah, 71450 Sungai Gadut, dengan
memampukan di pagen notis Mahkamah
Tinggi Kelantan Seremban dan akhirnya
dengan mengemukakan sekali dalam satu
akbar tempatan "The Sun" dan selanjutnya
dengan penampukan dan pengiklanan
tersebut di disebarkan cukup dan sempurna
ke atas kamu telah (7) hari selepas tarikh
pengiklanan dan pengiklanan
tersebut dan bahawa kos pemohonan
adalah kos dalam kuasa.

DAN AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa
pengiklanan sekiranya review bagi kes
ini telah ditetapkan pada 18/05/2025, dan
9 pagi. Sekiranya kamu gagal, perintah
suport dihapus akan dikeluarkan oleh
mahkamah.

Perintah Penyampaian Ganti tersebut boleh
diperiksa oleh kamu dengan memohon
kepada Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 05 haribulan Mei, 2025

Pengiklanan Perintah
Timbalan Pendatara
Mahkamah Tinggi
Seremban

NOTIS IKLAN dikeluarkan oleh Tuan R.
Nengra Ram & Co peguambaga bagi plaintiff
yang berlamat untuk penyampaian di 41-
2, Jalan USJ 2/17, 47630 Subang Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan. NO TEL: 010-5278687,
EMAIL: nengraram@gmail.com.

302 Jobs

theSun
Malaysian Paper



1 MEDIA SALES - Specialist

Job Description

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

Requirements

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

2 MEDIA SALES - Representative/Agent (Freelance)

Requirement

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

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 Notices

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
SWISS XORA SDN. BHD.
Registration No. 20060100910 (720657-H)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)**

At a Meeting of Members of the Company duly convened and held at 48 Jalan Kota Laksamana 2/15, Taman Kota Laksamana, Seksyen 2, 75200 Melaka on the 1st day of May 2025, the following special resolutions were carried out as follows:-

1. That the Company will be liquidated by way of Members' Voluntary Winding Up.
2. That Ms Owe Yee Juan of 48 Jalan Kota Laksamana 2/15, Taman Kota Laksamana, Seksyen 2, 75200 Melaka be appointed as Liquidator to act for the purposes of winding-up of the Company's affairs and distributing its assets.
3. That the said Liquidator be authorised to divide amongst the members in specie or kind, the whole or any part of the assets of the Company and may, for such purpose, set such value as the deem fair upon any property to be divided as aforesaid and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between the members.

POH CHEE TECK
Director

Dated this 7th day of May, 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
SWISS XORA SDN. BHD.
Registration No. 20060100910 (720657-H)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above Company are required to send in their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned (the Liquidator of the said Company) at the below mentioned address by 5.00 p.m. on 9th day of June 2025:-

c/o Profession & Business Consultants Sdn. Bhd.
(Registration No. 197801003573 (40688-X))
48 Jalan Kota Laksamana 2/15
Taman Kota Laksamana
Seksyen 2, 75200 Melaka

The creditors (either through their solicitors or personally) who do not file their debts and claims on or before the specified date and time above will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made.

OW PEE LIAN
Liquidator

Dated this 7th day of May, 2025

322 Notices

**DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI
MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
DALAM KERABKAPAN NO.
PA-29NCC-534-08/2024**

Per: **Tooh Wod Jhin**
(No. K/P: 880322-35-5209)
Penghujung Penghiklanan

Ex parte: **Hong Leong Bank Berhad**
(No. Syarikat: 193401000023
(97141-X))

Pemilutangan Penghiklanan

NOTIS
Dalam perkara Petitioner Pemilutangan
yang bertarikh pada 02-01-2025

Kepada:

Tooh Wod Jhin
30B-5-12B Lilitan Sg Ara
Kediam Laverder 3,
11900 Bayan Lepas
Pulau Pinang

AMBIK PERHATIAN bahawa satu
Petitioner Pemilutangan telah dikeluarkan
terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini
oleh Hong Leong Bank Berhad yang
beralamat di Tingkat 30, Menara Hong
Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damansara, Bukit
Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur
dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan
supaya Petitioner Pemilutangan tersebut
disampaikan kepada kamu dengan
memampukan salinan-salinannya
berserta satu salinan terjemahan
Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti
pada Papan Notis Mahkamah Tinggi
di Pulau Pinang dan di tempat kelara
di premis Penghujung Penghiklanan
di 30B-5-12B, Lilitan Sg Ara, Idaman
Laverder 3, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Pulau
Pinang dan juga dengan menyebarkan
Notis ini sekali di dalam akbar harian
tempatan berbahasa Inggeris iaitu
"The Sun" dan bahawa penampukan
dan penyiaran sedemikian disfatkan
penyampaian yang sempurna dan
cukup akan Petitioner Pemilutangan
tersebut kepada kamu (7) hari
selepas hari terakhir penampukan
atau penyiaran sedemikian Notis ini
mengikut mana yang berkenaan.

DAN SELANUTNYA AMBIL PERHATIAN
bahawa Petitioner Pemilutangan tersebut
akan digider di Mahkamah ini
pada 25 Jun, 2025 pada pukul 9.00
pagi pada hari yang mana kamu
dikehendaki hadir, dan jika kamu tidak
hadir Mahkamah boleh membuat
Perintah Penyerahan terhadap kamu
dalam ketidakdikan kamu.

Petitioner Pemilutangan tersebut boleh
diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan
di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 22 April 2025.

tandatangan
.....
**AIMA NABILA BINI
MUHAMMAD AZHAR**
Penolong Kanan Pendatara
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia
Georgetown

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tuan K. Ooi & Lee Hong, Peguambaga bagi
Pemilutangan Penghiklanan yang
dinamakan di atas dan alamat untuk
penyampaian kepadanya ialah di 53,
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Pinang.

322 Notices

**DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI
MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
DALAM KERABKAPAN NO.
PA-29NCC-534-08/2024**

Per: **Tooh Wod Jhin**
(No. K/P: 880322-35-5209)
Penghujung Penghiklanan

Ex parte: **Hong Leong Bank Berhad**
(No. Syarikat: 193401000023
(97141-X))

Pemilutangan Penghiklanan

NOTIS
Dalam perkara Petitioner Pemilutangan
yang bertarikh pada 02-01-2025

Kepada:

Tooh Wod Jhin
30B-5-12B Lilitan Sg Ara
Kediam Laverder 3,
11900 Bayan Lepas
Pulau Pinang

AMBIK PERHATIAN bahawa satu
Petitioner Pemilutangan telah dikeluarkan
terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini
oleh Hong Leong Bank Berhad yang
beralamat di Tingkat 30, Menara Hong
Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damansara, Bukit
Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur
dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan
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"The Sun" dan bahawa penampukan
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tersebut kepada kamu (7) hari
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atau penyiaran sedemikian Notis ini
mengikut mana yang berkenaan.

DAN SELANUTNYA AMBIL PERHATIAN
bahawa Petitioner Pemilutangan tersebut
akan digider di Mahkamah ini
pada 25 Jun, 2025 pada pukul 9.00
pagi pada hari yang mana kamu
dikehendaki hadir, dan jika kamu tidak
hadir Mahkamah boleh membuat
Perintah Penyerahan terhadap kamu
dalam ketidakdikan kamu.

Petitioner Pemilutangan tersebut boleh
diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan
di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 22 April 2025.

tandatangan
.....
**AIMA NABILA BINI
MUHAMMAD AZHAR**
Penolong Kanan Pendatara
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia
Georgetown

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tuan K. Ooi & Lee Hong, Peguambaga bagi
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322 Notices

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MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
DALAM KERABKAPAN NO.
PA-29NCC-534-08/2024**

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Penghujung Penghiklanan

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Tooh Wod Jhin
30B-5-12B Lilitan Sg Ara
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11900 Bayan Lepas
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"The Sun" dan bahawa penampukan
dan penyiaran sedemikian disfatkan
penyampaian yang sempurna dan
cukup akan Petitioner Pemilutangan

All roads lead to Rome

Focus on world No. 1 as Sinner returns after contested doping ban

JANNIK SINNER is the star of the show at the upcoming Rome Open as the world No. 1 and Italian tennis hero gears up for his return to the courts after a contested doping ban.

Away from the game since agreeing a suspension with the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) in February, Sinner was welcomed back to action yesterday by thousands of fans who watched his first training session at the tournament on centre court at the Foro Italico.

Such is the interest in Sinner, who has become a national hero in Italy since rising to the top of the men's game, that Sky Sport broadcast the practice match with world No. 38 Jiri Lehecka live on television.

All eyes will be on the 23-year-old as he hasn't swung a racket since retaining his Australian Open title in January, a victory which took his Grand Slam tally to three.

"I'm very happy, happy to be back here. It has been a very long, long three months," Sinner told reporters in a packed conference room inside the centre court.

Fans in Rome have waited two years to see Sinner play their clay court tournament after he missed last year's edition, won by Alexander Zverev, with injury.

It is on a surface which is not his favourite and his rustiness was clear to see yesterday.

Only one of Sinner's 19 titles has come on clay, in Umag beach in 2022, the same year as his best result in Rome, a quarterfinal exit at the hands of beaten finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas.

However he does have some time before he finally takes to the court, his status as the top-ranked player on the men's tour allowing him a bye into the second round which starts on Friday.

Sinner is eyeing a run at the French Open, the second Slam of the season which follows the Rome tournament.

"My objective is Roland Garros, I'm here to see what level I'm at," said Sinner.

"I'm not here to beat whoever, but to get past the second round and then see what happens."

Sinner's rise to the top of the game in 2024, when he won eight titles including his first two Slams and the ATP Finals, was dogged by the controversy which followed his two positive tests for traces of clostebol in March last year.

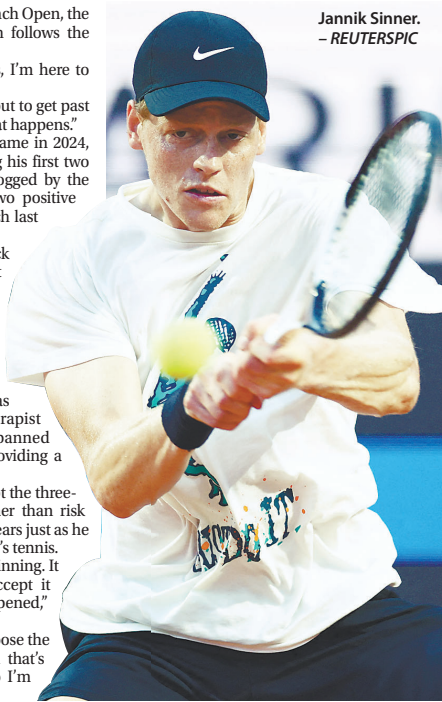
He said last month he hit "rock bottom" at the most recent Australian Open, saying he felt like other players "looked at me differently".

Sinner was aggrieved as he feels he did nothing wrong, and Wada said explicitly he "did not intend to cheat", accepting he was contaminated by his physiotherapist using a spray containing the banned substance to treat a cut before providing a massage.

Regardless, he also had to accept the three-month ban offered by Wada, rather than risk being forced out of tennis for two years just as he became the dominant force in men's tennis.

"I didn't want to do it in the beginning. It was a bit not easy for me to accept it because I know what really happened," said Sinner.

"But sometimes you have to choose the best in a very bad moment. And that's what we did. It's all over now, so I'm happy to play again." - AFP



Jannik Sinner.
- REUTERS/SPIC

Ruud revels in timely boost

CASPER RUUD said winning the biggest title of his career in Madrid is a timely boost ahead of the French Open, where the world No. 7 will look to reach a third final in four years and claim his maiden Grand Slam trophy.

Ruud overcame both a rib injury sustained in the semifinal and a resilient Jack Draper to seal a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 victory in the Spanish capital on Sunday to become the first Norwegian winner of a Masters 1000 crown.

It ended a run of six successive losses in big finals for the 26-year-old, including the 2022 French Open and US Open title clashes and the Roland Garros final two years ago.

"With this win, I put myself back in a good position when it comes to ranking and seeding," said Ruud, who jumped eight spots in the rankings and returned to the top 10 ahead of the year's second Grand Slam starting on May 25.

"If you want to win a tournament it doesn't really matter what your ranking is because you have to beat every player you play anyways."

"But it's a good step forward, and when I come to Paris, I'll always have great feeling and memories from the place."

"I'm a good clay court player and in best-of-five sets I'll be even tougher to beat, that's my mentality."

"I know I don't need to play great every point or every single match, but I know I can physically be there for a long time and play my clay court game, make it difficult for the opponents. That's how I felt when I've done well there."

Ruud, who has more tour-level wins (125) and titles (12) on clay than any other player since 2020, will continue his preparations for Roland Garros at the Italian Open this week.

"A win here shows the other players that I'm here to try to do well for the rest of the clay season," he added. - Reuters

Madrid Open heartbreak igniting Draper

JACK DRAPER (pic) has claimed the hurt of losing the Madrid Open final will "fuel my fire" to get even better.

"I think the exciting thing is there's so much more to come from myself," said the new world No. 5. "I am nowhere near where I want to be."

The US Open semifinalist won his first Masters title at Indian Wells in March and reached his first clay-court final in the Spanish capital.

The British No.1 lost in three gruelling sets to three-time Grand Slam champion Casper Ruud of Norway.

Draper, who is now ranked higher than 24-time Grand Slam champion

Novak Djokovic, said: "It really hurts. But at the same time, I think I've enjoyed a lot of really good successes here."

"I've come through a lot of matches, and so maybe this loss and maybe being in a final and not quite getting over the line just helps me to fuel my fire a bit more that I can, I need to keep on pushing, I need to keep on improving."

"I'm really proud of the way I've been the first few months of this season. I think the exciting thing is there's so much more to come from myself. "I feel like there's



still areas of my game that I can really improve, and that's very motivating for me and my coach and my team that I honestly feel like I'm at the start of my journey."

"So I'm going to keep on improving and keep on pushing hard and keep these sort of tough moments in my head to keep on driving myself to be better."

Draper will play two more clay events - the Italian Open and then the French Open - before the grass-court season peaks at Wimbledon.

"I knew I was good on the clay," insisted the 23-year-old. "I had a couple of really tight losses last year, and I just needed to get my foot in the door somewhere to show that I'm able to compete to a really high level on this surface. I think this week has shown that." - Express Newspapers

Cummins heroics in vain for Hyderabad

PAT CUMMINS' figures of 3-19 went in vain after rain ended his and Sunrisers Hyderabad's chances of reaching the playoffs as their clash against Delhi Capitals was called off yesterday.

Hyderabad restricted Delhi to 133-7 in 20 overs, but rain fell ahead of the chase and after about one hour and 45 minutes the officials decided to share one point each between the two teams.

Rain stopped after more than 70 minutes but the ground remained covered with puddles of water and Cummins and Delhi skipper Axar Patel shook hands.

Last year's runners-up Hyderabad with seven defeats, three wins and

one no result fell out of the playoffs contention along with Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals.

Delhi in fifth place keep their dream alive of winning their first-ever IPL title.

The top four teams at the end of the league stage will move into the playoffs.

Australia's Cummins struck on the first ball of the match and had the opposition reeling at 62-6, before Ashutosh Sharma and Tristan Stubbs put on 66 runs for the seventh wicket.

Cummins elected to field first and took a wicket in each of his first three overs to send back Karun Nair for a first-ball duck, Faf du Plessis (three)

and Abhishek Porel (eight).

Harshal Patel dismissed Axar, and KL Rahul fell to Jaydev Unadkat in a dominant bowling performance by Hyderabad.

Stubbs and impact substitute Ashutosh both scored 41 each to check Delhi's slide.

Ashutosh took on the attack in his 26-ball knock, laced with two fours and three sixes, before falling to Sri Lankan Eshan Malinga in the final over.

South Africa's Stubbs finished off the innings with his fourth boundary but rain had the final say.

It was the second match of the current IPL season to be called off due to rain. - AFP

322 Notices

DALAM PERKARA AKTA SYARIKAT 2016 DAN DALAM PERKARA VISION CONNECTION SDN BHD 199401002127 (Co no 287805- D) (PENGUJUALAN SYARIKAT SECARA SUKARELA AHLI)

NOTIS adalah diberikan bahawa anggota-anggota VISION CONNECTION SDN BHD 199401002127 (Co no 287805- D) telah meluluskan Resolusi khas seperti yang berikut di Mesyuarat Agung Syarikat bertempat di A-3-9, 8 Avenue Business Centre, Jln 8/1, 46050 Petaling Jaya, pada 7 Mei 2025:

BAHAWA Syarikat ini digugurkan menurut Seksyen 439 (1) (b) Akta Syarikat 2016, dan Then Vel Yee dilantik sebagai Penerima untuk tujuan pengumpulan tersebut dan menggunakan aset Syarikat mengikut kuasa dan hak yang diberi.

BAHAWA buku, akaun, dokumen Syarikat dan Pelikudasi boleh dimusnahkan selepas tempoh tiga (3) bulan dari tarikh Mesyuarat Akhir.

DENGAN INI DIMAKLUMKAN BAHAWA penidang-penidang VISION CONNECTION SDN BHD 199401002127 (Co no 287805- D) yang sedang dipukul secara sukarela, diminta mengemukakan nama dan alamat dengan butiran hutang atau tuntutan kepada Penerima atau tuntutan mereka seperti yang dinyatakan dalam notis sedemikian, atau secara langsung, mereka akan dikecualikan daripada faedah pengumuman yang dibuat sebelum hutang dan tuntutan dibuktikan.

NOTIS MESYUARAT AKHIR (DISAMPAIKAN) BAHAWA menurut Seksyen 439 (2) Akta Syarikat 2016, Mesyuarat Akhir Ahli-Ahli Syarikat yang dinamakan di atas akan diadakan bertempat di A-3-9, 8 Avenue Business Centre, Jln 8/1, 46050 Petaling Jaya pada pukul 10 pagi 9 JUNE 2025 untuk tujuan berikut:

Untuk menerima penyata akaun Ahli Penerima yang menunjukkan bagaimana pengumpulan telah dijalankan dan menerima apa saja penjelasan mengenainya.

Then Vel Yee Penerima
Tarikh 7 Mei 2025

322 Notices

PERISYTTARAN JUALAN DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-23-02/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perseorahan No: 28470/2007/ bertarikh : 12/09/2007, 0799SC2015016369 bertarikh : 11/05/2015) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipanggil di bawah Hakmilik Strata No. Hakmilik: Geran 56701/M18/5/126, Lot 544, Mukim 17, Daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang

Dalam perkara mengenai Auran 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012
...PLAINTIF
Public Bank Berhad (No. Syarikat : 6463-H)
DAN
Tong Siew Chin (No. Kad Pengenalan : 550620375524) ...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 6 Januari 2025 dan 26 Mac 2025, adalah dengan ini dinyatakan bahawa Timbalan Pendftar/Pendong Kanan Pendftar Pusing Operasi adalah di Kuantian

AKAN MELAKSANAKAN SECARA LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Khamis, 15 Mei 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTIAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua lampiran, bebanan serta mengenai panti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari https://lelong.hakmilik.gov.my/bidderweb

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:

No. Hakmilik	: Hakmilik Strata No. Hakmilik: Geran 56701/M18/5/126
No. Lot	: Lot 544
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri	: 17/ Timur Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan	: Hakmilik Kukul
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan	: 126 / 5 / M18
Keluasan Tanah	: 1324.0000000000000 kaki persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar	: 123.0000000000 meter persegi
Syarat Nyata	: Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan pangsupur sahaja.
Sekatan Kepentingan	: Charged twice to Public Bank Berhad
Bebanan / Lain-Lain	:
Kawasan Rizab	:
Kawad	: Nomor Pers: 07996202000670 Kawad

Pendaftaran Atas Petak oleh PLUS GRANDVIEW SDN. BHD didaftarkan pada 22 Januari 2020

LOKASI DAN PERIHARTAMAH:
Hartanah tersebut adalah A corner three-bedroom condominium comes with two car parking bays yang beralamat pada di Unit No. 7-3A-5, Persiaran Tanjung Bungah, Twin Tower, 1206, Tanjung Bungah, Pulau Pinang.

HAJSA HJAS:
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "superfitemana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak RM 560,000.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: LIMA RATUS ENAM PULUH RIBU SARAJAJ) dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang ditampikan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mengemukakan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama PUBLIC BANK BERHAD 1 HARI SEBELUM sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada PUBLIC BANK BERHAD dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiran-butiran selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman :	WONG-CHOH & MOND NOR
Mamat :	No. 27, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR
	JALAN MAJU JAYA
	PUSAT PERKUALIFIKAN MAJU JAYA, 14000, PG, MY
No. Telefon :	04-5396855
No. Fax :	04-5396855
No. Faksimili :	WCM(MPM)/PBB-HL/2024-563/TSC(RS/J)

SHORTS

Doohan's F1 future with Alpine in doubt

AUSTRALIAN Jack Doohan's Formula One future looks increasingly uncertain amid speculation the rookie could be replaced at Renault-owned Alpine before the next race at Imola.

Doohan, 22 and son of motorcycle great Mick, has yet to score a point in six races this season and one at the end of 2024.

The *Race.com* website said Alpine were evaluating Doohan's position following another retirement at the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday.

The driver has been dogged for months by questions about his future, with Alpine signing Argentine Franco Colapinto from Williams as a reserve before the start of the season.

Colapinto raced nine times for Williams last year as replacement for dropped American Logan Sargeant and scored five points, with a best finish of eighth in Azerbaijan.

Alpine's executive advisor Flavio Briatore, a team boss of the team in its former guises of Benetton and Renault, is a fan and known to be keen to get him into the race seat.

Alpine team boss Ollie Oakes cancelled his regular media session after Sunday's race in which Doohan collided with New Zealander Liam Lawson's Racing Bulls on the opening lap and retired.

Alpine are ninth of the 10 teams in the constructors' standings.

"As it is today, Jack is our driver along with Pierre (Gasly)," Oakes had said on Friday when asked to confirm Doohan would be in the car at Imola.

"We always evaluate, but yeah. Today, that is the case."

Marko makes 'depressing' admission after Miami

HELMUT MARKO has admitted that it was "depressing" to see the true speed of McLaren's 2025 challenger at the Miami Grand Prix.

Oscar Piastri won his third successive race, and Lando Norris came home in second, with both drivers over 30 seconds ahead of George Russell in third.

Max Verstappen, meanwhile, finished in fourth after his podium challenge was scuppered by an unfortunately timed virtual safety car.

Yuki Tsunoda struggled to make any headway following a frustrating qualifying session and was classified in P10, behind both Williams drivers.

Assessing the performance with *Autosport*, Marko said: "The main conclusion is we are too slow. We saw when they were driving flat out, we are seven-tenths of a second behind."

"We saw the real speed for the first time. We have to find some performance straight away, but it was depressing how quick the McLaren's really are."

Asked if the upcoming upgrade package would be sufficient to reel in McLaren's advantage, Marko's reply was unconvincing.

"It has to (be)," he stated. "But such a big step is difficult to catch up."

Kane says long-awaited first trophy 'feels sweet'

BY FLO CLIFFORD

HARRY KANE said it feels "sweet" to have finally ended his career-long trophy drought as Bayern Munich lifted the Bundesliga title on Sunday.

The England captain, who joined the side from Tottenham in 2023, celebrated the long-awaited major title with his teammates after Bayer Leverkusen drew 2-2 at Freiburg at the weekend.

He played a major role in their top-flight success this campaign, scoring 24 goals in 29 games and breaking the record in November for the fastest player to register 50 Bundesliga goals, needing just 43 games.

"What a night last night, what a

celebration with the players, with the staff," Kane – sporting a Bayern Munich shirt – said in a video posted to social media yesterday.

"I'm sure everyone's feeling it a little bit this morning! But we're here and I feel amazing."

"It's been a long time coming, obviously a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication. It just feels sweet to win the title, the first one of my career."

Bayern had looked on track to secure the title against Leipzig on Friday but

conceded a stoppage-time equaliser to draw 3-3 and delay the celebrations until Leverkusen's draw.

Kane was forced to wait on from the stands following a one-game ban for picking up his fifth yellow of the season, but will be eligible to play when Bayern host Borussia M'gladbach this Saturday and can celebrate in front of their home fans.

"Appreciate all the support as always, it never goes unnoticed and I can't wait to enjoy these next couple of weeks," Kane continued.



Last line of defence

Donnarumma stands tall on PSG's Champions League run

OSMANE DEMBELE and his fellow attacking players may have stolen most of the limelight on Paris Saint-Germain's run in this season's Champions League, but the form of goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma has been just as important in taking the French giants to the brink of the final.

PSG host Arsenal at the Parc des Princes tomorrow in the second leg of their semifinal and come into the match with a 1-0 lead following last week's clash in London.

Dembale scored the only goal at the Emirates Stadium, his 33rd of the season in all competitions further underlining his status as the leader of the Paris attack in the wake of Kylian Mbappe's departure.

But Donnarumma played a key part too with five saves, including two of the highest class to deny Gabriel Martinelli and Leandro Trossard.

The Italian was also posted missing when Arsenal scored early in the second half, coming off his line at a free-kick and getting nowhere near the ball, only to be

rescued by an offside decision.

But Donnarumma's shot-stopping allowed Luis Enrique's side to thwart the Gunners and followed decisive contributions against Liverpool and Aston Villa in each of the two previous rounds.

"To be champions you need a great goalkeeper," said PSG captain Marquinhos after Donnarumma's array of saves prevented them from caving in completely to a Villa fightback in the second leg of their quarterfinal.

PSG won the first leg 3-1 at home and were two goals ahead at half-time in the return, only for Villa to score three times and threaten to level the tie.

Donnarumma came to the rescue with superb

interventions to keep out a Marcus Rashford shot and a Yuri Tielemans header in particular.

"We are aware of the goalkeeper we have, he's one of the best. Lots of people have doubts about him, but not us," said Achraf Hakimi after that game.

"We know he is one of the best goalkeepers in the world. We are pleased to have him at PSG and we hope he stays for as long as possible."

The Italian had already been the hero in the penalty shoot-out win away to Liverpool in the last 16, saving from Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones.

There is a sense in Paris of the 26-year-old, who stands 1.96m tall, finally imposing himself at the club he joined in 2021.

Donnarumma had just starred for Italy in their European Championship triumph, performing heroics as they beat England at Wembley to win the trophy.

Donnarumma's quality as a shot-stopper has never really been called into question, but his ability to play out with the ball at his feet has.

That is an issue given the way coach Luis Enrique likes his team to play, and the Spaniard notably dropped Donnarumma for a game at Bayern Munich in November.

Matvey Safonov, the Russian signed ahead of this season, took his place.

"I felt Safonov was better placed to deal with Bayern's pressing," insisted Luis Enrique.

Safonov was at fault for the goal which gave Bayern a 1-0 win, and Donnarumma was promptly restored to the team.

The former AC Milan goalkeeper, who recently played his 150th game for PSG, now hopes to stay at the club beyond 2026.

"I am keen to stay and extend my contract because this is my home," he said earlier this year.

Before thinking about the long-term future, however, Donnarumma and PSG have a Champions League final to aim for. – AFP



Milan rally past Genoa to keep slim European hopes alive

TWO GOALS within 60 seconds helped AC Milan staged a superb fightback to beat Genoa 2-1, a result that leaves them six points off the top seven with three games remaining.

The driving rain at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris made things difficult with players from both sides struggling to stay on their feet.

After a goalless first half, Patrick Vieira's side took the lead 16 minutes after the break when substitute Vitinha, who had only been on the field for a matter of seconds, scored with his first touch, ending a year-long drought by converting with a delicate volley from a delicious Aaron Martin cross.

Milan, who have picked up the joint-second

most number of points from losing positions in Serie A this season, hit back 15 minutes later when their own substitute, Rafael Leao, saw a deflected strike from near the penalty spot balloon past Genoa keeper Nicola Leali.

Seconds later, the comeback was complete when Danish fullback Morten Frendrup inadvertently smuggled a cross into his own net, shattering Genoa hearts in the process.

Rossoneri coach Sergio Conceicao praised Santiago Gimenez's impact off the bench after the Mexican striker helped spark the comeback win.

"Even in the most difficult moments, he's one of the first to arrive at Milanello. He has the quality.

It's just a matter of time. Adapting to Italy is not easy for anyone," said Conceicao.

Gimenez came on in the second half and provided an assist just six minutes later, setting up Leao's equaliser.

"I feel really good physically," Gimenez told DAZN. "I train at my best to then show it on the pitch."

"I truly believe that how you train is how you perform in the game. I'm feeling really good."

"I know my strengths and always try to make them available to the team. I feel comfortable when I have to attack the space in depth." – Agencies

Club World Cup dilemma for Tuchel

ENGLAND head coach Thomas Tuchel faces a dilemma over releasing his players early next month before the Club World Cup.

His side are scheduled to play two games in June – a World Cup qualifier against Andorra in Barcelona on June 7 before a friendly against Senegal at Nottingham Forest three days later.

The game at the City Ground on June 10 takes place just four days before the club tournament starts in the USA.

Players from Manchester City, Chelsea, Bayern Munich, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid – who are all involved in the inaugural Club World Cup – could all be selected in Tuchel's squad for the international double-header.

Tuchel and the FA's decision over releasing players could impact as many as 12 players.

Chelsea contingent Cole Palmer, Reece James, Levi Colwill and Noni Madueke could be selected by Tuchel.

Captain Harry Kane is at Bayern Munich while Jude Bellingham plays for Real Madrid and fellow midfielder Conor Gallagher for Atletico Madrid.

Should all players remain with the England squad, Chelsea could be the worst hit.

Teams competing at the Club World Cup are required to arrive in the USA no later than three days before their opening tie.

With that in mind, Enzo Maresca's side face a potential Europa Conference League final in Poland on May 28 May – three days after the final day of the Premier League season – before joining up for international duty.

Their first game of the Club World Cup is against Leon on June 16 June – six days after the clash versus Senegal.

Manchester City's first game of the tournament is on June 18 June versus Wydad AC.

Bayern play Auckland City and Atletico face Paris St-Germain on June 1 while Real are up against Al Hilal on June 18. – Agencies

Palmer back to his best for Chelsea

COLE PALMER said he felt "free" during Chelsea's 3-1 win over Liverpool after he rounded off the victory with a penalty to end his 16-week scoring drought.

The new Premier League champions were seen off by an excellent display from Enzo Maresca's side with Palmer back to his brilliant best.

The England forward had not scored since Jan 14 but there had been signs during recent matches of his form returning, and against a Reds side featuring six changes from their title triumph a week ago his flair and invention bloomed.

"I felt good all game," he told Chelsea's official website. "I thought I was playing free, I was playing well before the goal."

"I felt confident and just thought about trying to score. We would have won anyway to be honest but to seal it felt good."

Palmer's moment came with virtually the game's final kick and it was a fitting finale.

After Jarell Quansah had upended Moises Caicedo's dart into the penalty area, Palmer took the roof off Stamford Bridge to cap a perfect afternoon for Chelsea who moved level on points with fourth-placed Newcastle.

It left their Champions League fate firmly in their own hands, holding a two-point lead over Nottingham Forest.

Chelsea travel to St James' Park on Sunday, then after a home game against Manchester United they round off the campaign with a potentially season-defining trip to the City Ground to face Forest, a match that could prove a straight shoot-out for the top five.

Yet in Palmer, Maresca's side have a key weapon back in their armoury.

His return to form could not have come at a better moment, and the Blues will likely be favourites to pip Villa and Forest should the 22-year-old keep firing for the next three games.

"I knew that patches like this (scoring drought) were going to come, it was going to happen," said Palmer.

"It's not really affected me, it's just one of those things in life. Maybe it was on my mind at the start, but as it's gone on I've realised that it's just life. I'm not going to stay in a good patch for 18 months and never have a bad patch." – The Independent

Forest push their luck

Draw against Crystal Palace edge Nuno's men closer to European place

NOTTINGHAM FOREST grabbed another point towards their European push as Murillo's lucky strike secured a 1-1 Premier League draw at Crystal Palace.

Murillo might not have known much about his goal as he diverted a Neco Williams shot into the net, but it could prove vital during the run-in.

Forest's top-five bid may no longer be in their hands, but with distinctly-winnable games against Leicester and West Ham to come, all eyes could yet be on a final-day shootout with Chelsea for a Champions League spot.

Palace, playing their first match since beating Aston Villa to reach the FA Cup final, had taken the lead through Eberechi Eze's penalty.

Forest, who suffered Wembley heartbreak 24 hours later against Manchester City, were without the injured Callum Hudson-Odoi – who instead joined the away fans in the stand.

After a goalless first half, Palace who went ahead on the hour after Mitchell was felled by a combination of Nicolas Dominguez and keeper Matz Sels in the area.

Referee Andy Madley did not initially give the penalty but changed his mind after

a look at the replay, booking Sels for his troubles, with Eze tucking away the spot-kick.

The influential Adam Wharton had taken a knock to his ankle knock and went off, with Oliver Glasner taking no chances with him 11 days before the Wembley date with City.

Forest levelled in the 64th minute when Murillo, up for a corner, stuck out a leg to flick Williams' shot past the wrong-footed Dean Henderson.

Forest rode their luck late on as Eze agonisingly clipped the crossbar with a 20-yard curler before substitute Eddie Nketiah had the ball in the net only to be flagged offside.

Forest's top-five bid may no longer be in their hands, but with distinctly-winnable games against Leicester and West Ham to come, all eyes could yet be on a final-day shootout with Chelsea for a Champions League spot.

"It was a very intense game, with lots of chances. I'm proud we've been able to improve," said boss Nuno Espirito Santo.

"We need a lot of character, a lot of belief. We are pushing the players physically and

mentally because we are in a battle no one expected us to be in.

"The schedule is very hard. It is a big fight we are involved in and we need characters."

Murillo also seemed to pull up injured, but Nuno added: "We'll assess him. Hopefully it's nothing."

As for whether Murillo meant his slightly-fortuitous goal, Nuno said: "I think he just wanted to touch the ball. Sometimes they go in."

Palace boss Glasner is hopeful the ankle injury suffered by Wharton will not rule his key midfielder out of the FA Cup final.

"I hope it's not that serious," said Glasner. "It's a little bit sore, he twisted it a bit but hopefully it's nothing serious."

Glasner was delighted his side proved they were not only focused on their Wembley date with Manchester City on May 17.

"I was pleased with the desire to win the game," added Glasner. "We missed a couple of chances, especially at the end."

"We weren't efficient enough but the players showed they 100 per cent wanted to win this game. I'm delighted we scored a penalty after missing two."

– The Independent



Nottingham Forest's Neco Williams (centre) in action with Crystal Palace's Maxence Lacroix (right). – REUTERS/PICTA

Europa League on Amorim's mind

BY REUBEN ROSSO-POWELL

RUBEN AMORIM said Manchester United's Europa League semifinal second leg on Friday (3am Malaysian time) is what is important after a 4-3 Premier League defeat at Brentford on Sunday.

The Red Devils' winless run in the League was extended to six matches despite a late comeback that saw Alejandro Garnacho and Amad Diallo score consolation goals.

However, after their 3-0 first-leg win over Athletic Bilbao last Thursday, United know they have the chance to qualify for the Champions League by winning the Europa League.

"I think it's stressful to lose games. When we're fighting for a title it's not stressful," said Amorim, whose side are 15th in the table.

"I have no doubts that we are playing better and we are understanding the way we play,

even in this context.

"So we have to take all the hits in this moment. We are losing games in the Premier League, but we are fighting for the Europa League so we need to accept that and to think about now Thursday which is the most important game for us."

Kevin Schade's brace, a Luke Shaw own goal and Yoane Wissa's 18th of the campaign helped Brentford to victory at the Gtech Community Stadium, after Mason Mount had opened the scoring.

"We, as a club, need to understand in this moment that we have a big responsibility (to win the Europa League). "We have to prepare a squad for different competitions," Amorim said on the eight changes he made to his starting XI.

"(Rotation) is good for the players. Everybody is playing, we are preparing more

than one game but it's hard.

"Of course we want to be competitive, we struggled a lot during these 90 minutes. We have to think about the next game and then the Premier League."

"It's really hard but we are doing the best we can to try to manage (the situation) and try to risk in some games."

Thomas Frank's Bees capitalised on an injury to Matthijs de Ligt by using the extra man to score their first goal.

The Dutch defender was substituted and is a doubt for Friday's European tie.

"Yeah, I definitely have sympathy about De Ligt and, you know, it's clear that they struggle in many ways," boss Frank said.

"When you are in football, the struggles are part of football but you just know it is not nice. Of course, it's a tricky situation so I hope De Ligt is OK." – The Independent

RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace 1 (Eze 60-pen) Nottingham Forest 1 (Murillo 64).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	35	25	7	3	81	35	82
Arsenal	35	18	13	4	64	31	67
Newcastle	35	19	7	9	67	43	64
Chelsea	35	18	9	8	62	41	63
Nottm Forest	35	18	7	10	54	42	61
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	35	11	13	11	44	48	46
Wolves	35	12	5	18	51	62	41
Everton	35	8	15	12	36	43	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

LA LIGA: Girona 1 Mallorca 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
Atletico	34	19	10	5	56	27	67
A. 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
Celta Vigo	34	13	7	14	52	46	46
R. Vallecano	34	11	11	12	36	42	44
Mallorca	34	12	8	14	31	39	44
Osasuna	34	10	14	10	42	50	44
Real Sociedad	34	12	7	15	32	37	43
Valencia	34	10	12	12	40	51	42
Getafe	34	10	9	15	31	31	39
Espanyol	34	10	9	15	36	44	39
Girona	34	10	8	16	41	52	38
Sevilla	34	9	11	14	37	46	38
Alaves	34	8	11	15	35	46	35
Las Palmas	34	8	8	18	40	56	32
Leganes	34	6	13	15	32	51	31
Valladolid	34	4	4	26	25	83	16

SERIE A: Genoa 1 AC Milan 2.

	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
Bologna	35	16	14	5	53	38	62
Fiorentina	35	17	8	10	53	35	59
AC Milan	35	16	9	10	55	39	57
Como	35	12	9	14	45	48	45
Torino	35	10	14	11	39	40	44
Udinese	35	12	8	15	38	49	44
Genoa	35	9	12	14	30	43	39
Cagliari	35	8	9	18	36	51	33
Verona	35	9	5	21	30	63	32
Parma	35	6	14	15	40	54	32
Lecce	35	6	9	20	24	57	27
Venezia	35	4	14	17	28	49	26
Empoli	35	4	13	18	27	55	25
Monza	35	2	9	24	25	63	15

CHAMPION RELEGATED

High expectations

Herry hopes Hon Jian-Muhammad Haikal will come good in Taiwan

NATIONAL MEN'S doubles head coach Herry Iman Piengadi is banking on Muhammad Haikal Nazri, having recovered from his hip injury, to get his partnership with Choong Hon Jian back in the groove when they return to action in the Taiwan Open today.

Herry said the pair had shown progress in training despite having not played competitively for four months, adding that the May 6-11 Taiwan Open, being their first competitive outing this season, would be the best platform to judge the actual progress the pair has made.

The coach also said that Hon Jian-Muhammad Haikal are also highly motivated heading into the tournament as they are one of the five Malaysian men's doubles pairs with the potential to be in the top 20 of the world ranking by the end of this year.

"Hopefully, they can put into practice what they have learned in training. I can't fully evaluate them until they start competing, but I hope they can regain their old form," he told reporters after a training session at Akademi Badminton Malaysia (ABM) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Hon Jian and Muhammad Haikal have been sidelined since January after the latter tore his hip muscle during training.

Herry, however, is concerned over the fitness level of the world No. 32 Hon Jian-Muhammad Haikal as well as their ability to adapt to a proper tournament setting.

"In terms of playing, there is no problem, but we need to pay attention to their physical fitness. Having not competed for so long, their body's resilience and their feel for the game may not be as sharp," he said.

He advised the pair to just enjoy the game and work on their on-court communication in a bid to regain their rhythm and confidence.

The former world No. 18 pair are also slated to join several other tournaments after the Taiwan Open, including the Thailand Open (May 13-18) and Malaysia Masters (May 20-25), to improve their world ranking.

Hon Jian and Muhammad Haikal last competed in the China Masters in Shenzhen in November, going down 12-21, 15-21 to homesters Hi Ji Ting-Ren Xiang Yu in the opening round.

In related news, the national men's doubles head coach denied that the declining performance of the 2025 Badminton Asia Championship (BAC) champions Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik was the reason for their defeat in the 2025 Sudirman Cup quarterfinals against Japan, recently.

On the contrary, he said the national pair, ranked fourth in the world, was unlucky to lose to 17th-ranked Takuro Hoki-Yugo Kobayashi 21-12, 20-22, 21-23.

"The result itself showed a tough competition. We won the first set then narrowly lost the next two sets. For me, it was more a 'luck' factor in the final points, not because their performance had declined," he told reporters.

According to Herry, the selection of players was made collectively by the coaching staff and Aaron-Wooi Yik was fielded after taking into account their "champion aura".

Meanwhile, regarding the latest performance of Aaron-Wooi Yik after undergoing intensive training under his supervision, Herry said the national pair had shown improvement but there was still room for improvement.

"Their playing style is different now, but the aspects of physical strength and attacking power, especially from the back of the court, still need to be improved," he said.

He said Aaron-Wooi Yik will next compete in the Thailand Open from May 13 to 18.

"They remain among the country's main backups. With continued hard work, I am confident they will be able to bounce back and perform better in the upcoming tournament." - Bernama

Don't cling to power if can't deliver: Yeoh



Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh. - BERNAMAPIC

YOUTH AND SPORTS Minister Hannah Yeoh has called for the responsibility of managing football clubs to be entrusted only to parties with genuine financial and managerial capabilities, to ensure the sustainability of the domestic league and safeguard the welfare of players.

She said the failure of some clubs to manage fundamental responsibilities, such as paying salaries and ensuring players' welfare, has likely undermined efforts to attract and retain sponsors in support of football development.

"So, if football is already finding it difficult to get sponsors, imagine how it is for other sports. Football has a large audience, which is why I believe that to convince sponsors, all they want to see is how a club is run, how they pay salaries or look after the welfare of players.

"I urge that those who are not capable should not 'touch' it, let others take over. Sometimes, there

are those who cannot manage but still want to hold on to power, preventing others from stepping in," she told reporters in Kuala Lumpur on Monday night.

Yeoh also reminded that a football is not a cheap sport, as it requires a vast ecosystem to ensure the smooth running of the league and the development of players.

The financial crisis that has plagued local football teams in recent years has worsened, with Perak FC deciding to dissolve its team and withdraw from the upcoming Super League season, while several other teams are reportedly considering similar moves.

Perak is reported to have spent nearly RM40 million over the past three years.

On the direction of the Malaysian League (M-League), Yeoh said the Malaysian Football League (MFL), as the governing body, should hold comprehensive

discussions with stakeholders to ensure a more structured and sustainable future for the league.

Meanwhile, she said Super League giants Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) are an example of a professional club that should serve as a benchmark for others, and she did not see the Southern Tigers' dominance as diminishing the competitive nature of the league.

"I don't think you can fault JDT for being good. You should be working towards matching their standard, rather than saying, 'because you're too good, I'll boycott, and I don't want to play.' I think it doesn't make sense.

"To me, JDT are raising the standard of football in Malaysia, and that's a good thing. (Other teams should) find a way to become great competitors to JDT, that should be their goal, rather than saying, 'because I can never be as good as JDT, I don't want to play.' That's not sportsmanship," she added. - Bernama

M'sia warned not to underestimate Thailand

BEWARE of new-look Thailand! That's the warning from national sepak takraw team tekong Mohd Syahir Mohd Rosdi ahead of the 2025 Asian Cup that will be held at the Titiwangsa Stadium here from May 10-18.

He believes that Thailand, who will be fielding new faces this time, are capable of putting up a strong challenge for the title.

"We know the players listed by Thailand and they have just been called up to the national team.

"Knowing Thailand, they would not have taken this tournament lightly and whoever they have called up must be a top-notch player.

"So, I won't take them lightly although nearly all the players listed are newcomers. I hope our players will stay focused and give

their best when they take on Thailand," he said.

The 29-year-old Mohd Syahir, meanwhile, aspires to help the national team clinch the men's regu title.

"In addition to winning the regu event, I also want to come out triumphant in team regu. That's the only event I have yet to win with the national team.

"Previously, we lost narrowly 2-1 to Thailand in the team regu event. So, I hope to inspire our team to victory in that event," he said.

Malaysia have drawn in Group D with the Philippines, Nepal and Singapore in the regu event while for the team regu, they will have South Korea, Brunei and Japan for company in Group B. - Bernama

Muhammad Soufi completes gold-medal haul

THE head of the Malaysian lawn bowling team, Muhammad Soufi Rusli created personal history when he emerged as the sole national athlete to win gold medals in all senior categories at the Asia Lawn Bowls Championship.

The 37-year-old lawn bowler, with his partner Amirul Danial Abdul Rahim, completed his haul of gold medals at the tournament after defeating the Hong Kong representatives 21-10 in the men's pair doubles final that took place last week in the Philippines.

Success did not come easily for Muhammad Soufi as he faced various pressures, including from

the home athletes who were two-time defending champions.

"This was the only gold medal (in the pairs event) that I had not won at the Asian Championships since I started representing the country in 2008.

"Previously, I did not have the opportunity to play in this event because the coach saw me as being better in the fours and triples events.

"So when the coach chose me for this event, I challenged myself to win the gold medal and finally succeeded," he said when met recently.

For the record, Muhammad

Soufi won gold in the men's singles event in 2017 in India; two gold medals in the triples event in the 2014 and 2024 editions; and was champion thrice in the fours event in 2014, 2023 and 2025.

Meanwhile, when asked about his plans for the rest of the year, the Kuala Lumpur native said his focus will now be on the Australian Open Bowls tournament to be held from June 7 to 20 in the Gold Coast.

He also hopes to be selected to represent the country in the inaugural World Cup in Hong Kong in November and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next year. - Bernama



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SCAN ME

All or nothing

Arsenal must 'stick together' in PSG showdown, says Odegaard

MARTIN ODEGAARD has urged Arsenal to "stick together" after their recent failures as they aim to defy the odds in tomorrow's (3am Malaysian time) decisive Champions League semifinal showdown with Paris Saint-Germain.

The Gunners head to the Parc des Princes faced with the daunting task of having to beat the French champions to reach the Champions League final for the second time in their history.

Mikel Arteta's side trail 1-0 from the first leg after Ousmane Dembele's winner in north London.

PSG have already eliminated Premier League champions Liverpool in the last 16 and Aston Villa in the quarterfinals, after beating Manchester City in the group phase.

Arsenal, who have never won the Champions League, are on the brink of becoming PSG's latest English scalp this season after a disappointing first leg that could have ended in a heavier defeat.

Their preparations for the second leg in Paris couldn't have gone much worse as they slumped to a 2-1 home defeat against Bournemouth in the Premier League on Saturday.

Arteta said Arsenal were full of "rage and anger" after two painful losses.

But Gunners captain Odegaard said they can use those emotions as fuel to inspire an epic victory over PSG - as long as there are no recriminations over the badly-timed slump.

"We're disappointed now, but we have to move on and be strong and stick together and prepare for a massive game," Odegaard said.

"It's a massive game. That's the good thing. When you're disappointed now and you're angry and frustrated, you can take all those emotions into the match.

"We know what we're playing for. We have to stick together and create energy and be ready."

Arteta's decision to make just two changes against Bournemouth raised eyebrows as he risked the fitness of his key players.

Only Jurrien Timber and Mikel Merino did not face the Cherries, with Arteta

revealing the Dutch defender faces a fitness test before his availability for the PSG clash is decided.

Second-placed Arsenal still need two wins from their last three League games to secure qualification for next season's Champions League.

But it is the current edition of the tournament that has Arsenal's attention for now.

After finishing as Premier League runners-up to Manchester City for the previous two seasons, Arsenal's failure to win a first title since 2004 weighs heavily on Arteta and his players.

Injuries and inconsistent form from their forwards stopped Arsenal keeping pace with champions Liverpool.

Without a trophy since winning the 2020 FA Cup, Arteta is desperate to turn Arsenal's undoubted quality into the tangible reward of silverware.

Ahead of tomorrow's clash at Parc des Princes, Arteta said his players need to be ready to give their life to reach the final.

"Excitement, goosebumps, wanting the day to arrive, (the feeling) of being very prepared, very convinced and knowing that the opportunity is to play in a Champions (League) final," he told *ESPN*.

"And when you get to that point, you have to give your life for it."

When asked about his frustrations around having a depleted squad, Arteta said: "Look, when I was going through the tunnel, I see (Takehiro) Tomiyasu out, (Riccardo) Calafiori out, Gabriel Magalhaes out, Kai Havertz out, Gabriel Jesus out, Thomas Partey out, Jorginho out. Starters!

"And I see the team compete and I get goosebumps. Because we have a lot of merit and yet the game was by very, very, very small margins that weren't on our side that day. That's why I'm very optimistic."

Arsenal's last European trophy came when Alan Smith scored the winner against Parma in the 1994 Cup Winners' Cup final.

Arsene Wenger's reign brought countless trophies, but their two European finals under the Frenchman ended in defeat to Galatasaray in the 2000 UEFA Cup and against Barcelona in the 2006 Champions League.

Arsenal also lost the 2019 Europa League final to Chelsea in Unai Emery's brief spell in charge.

It is that 1994 Cup Winners' Cup success for George Graham's men that Arsenal hope will prove a good omen for tomorrow's game.

The Gunners were underdogs in the semifinal 31 years ago against a PSG side featuring George Weah and David Ginola, but emerged with a 2-1 aggregate victory.

If Arsenal can overturn the deficit against the current PSG generation, it will go down as one of the greatest results in the club's history. - AFP/Agencies



Gabriel Martinelli

Mikel Arteta

Martin Odegaard



All roads lead to Rome

Story on page 28



Last line of defence

Story on page 29



Forest push their luck

Story on page 30