



M'sia, China extend mutual visa-free entry to 90 days

Agreement to further promote people-to-people exchanges and deepen multi-sector cooperation between both countries, says China embassy.

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Young graduates today seek purpose, flexibility and impact, and when Malaysia becomes a land of opportunity, not merely a place of origin, our talent will find its way home, says educationist. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Reforms needed to retain talent

Economist advocates improving merit-based progression, creating high-skilled jobs, liberalising social attitudes, and ending indentured bond programmes to turn 'brain drain' into 'brain gain'.

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Medicine price display aids fair comparisons for insurance providers

New rule allows companies to investigate, analyse and take appropriate action when processing patient claims for treatment at private hospitals or clinics: Academic

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M'sian exporters brace for punishing tariffs on US-bound goods

Instead of quick fixes, industry groups urge government to focus on long-term structural reforms to strengthen country's export resilience.

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M'sia leads Asean for safer, responsible social media

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Malaysia is spearheading the development of Asean protocols on the safe and responsible use of social media platforms and recognising the growing challenges associated with social media use.

Leading the Malaysian delegation at the 17th Conference of Asean Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) here, Deputy Communications Minister Teo Nie Ching said the protocols are aimed at producing harmonised guidance for the region, produce a comprehensive report assessing social media regulations across Asean member states and supporting practical guidelines reflecting Asean's unique context.

"We are now in the crucial phase of information gathering and expert consultations. At this stage, questionnaires have been circulated, and we have requested nominations for interviews and participation in validation workshops.

"The efforts are vital to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the benchmarking exercise, and they will significantly strengthen the quality of the protocols we aim to develop," she said, adding that all Asean member states' contributions are essential and contribute to creating a safer and more responsible social media environment for the region.

Teo said this in her remarks during the plenary session held after the opening ceremony of the 17th Conference of AMRI yesterday. — Bernama

WFH policy in place for Asean Summit week

PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants who may be affected by traffic congestion in conjunction with the Asean Summit scheduled for this month are advised to apply to work from home (WFH).

The Public Service Department, in a statement yesterday, said this is in line with the government's commitment to ensure the well-being of the people and the continuity of public services.

"The WFH policy for civil servants will continue to be implemented flexibly, subject to current regulations.

"Eligible civil servants are advised to contact their respective heads of department for appropriate consideration."

It also said all department heads have been authorised to consider WFH applications for those who may be affected by the traffic congestion in conjunction with the Asean Summit and related meetings.

The 2025 Asean Summit is scheduled to be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) on May 26 and 27. — Bernama

Malaysia, China expand visa-free travel agreement

► Mutual arrangement which allows stay up to 90 days is aimed at boosting economic, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, says Chinese Embassy.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians will soon be able to enter China without a visa for a cumulative stay of up to 90 days, following the finalisation of domestic procedures under the Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement between both countries.

In a statement, the Chinese Embassy said the agreement will initially be valid for five years and will automatically be renewed for another five years upon expiry.

The agreement allows nationals of

either country to stay visa-free in the other for up to 90 days within any 180-day period. The 90-day limit is cumulative and applies only to visa-free entries.

"For foreign nationals entering China under the policy, the total number of days spent in China must not exceed 90 days within any 180-day timeframe," the embassy explained, adding that the 90-day count excludes days spent under other travel documents such as visas, residence permits or the Apec

Business Travel Card.

The visa-free privilege will not apply to individuals who have already stayed 90 days in the current 180-day period. If fewer than 30 days remain in that period, the next visa-free stay will be limited accordingly.

The same rules apply to Chinese citizens visiting Malaysia.

"We are confident this agreement will further promote people-to-people exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and deepen multi-sector cooperation between both countries."

The agreement was exchanged during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Malaysia last month and expands upon the current reciprocal policy, which permits visa-free stays of up to 30 days, reported Bernama.

Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister

Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing has defended Malaysia's 90-day visa-free policy for Chinese nationals, urging critics to focus on enforcement rather than scrapping a policy that delivers economic benefits.

In a Facebook statement responding to public concerns, Tiong stressed that illegal foreign business activity is a global issue and should not be used to discredit policies intended to stimulate economic growth.

"The issue of foreigners earning income illegally is not unique to Malaysia; it is a global challenge. Instead of casting doubt on the visa exemption, we must concentrate on enhancing enforcement to curb misuse."

He said visa exemption has played a key role in revitalising the economy, particularly in sectors such as food and beverage, hospitality, logistics and services.

Tiong noted that the ease of travel has led to increased business opportunities and broader customer reach for local entrepreneurs.

The minister also warned NGOs and associations against politicising or misrepresenting government policies, especially those developed through research and cross-agency collaboration.

"Blanket criticisms that dismiss such initiatives are irresponsible. They undermine the hard work and intentions behind our policymaking process."

Acknowledging that some individuals may abuse the visa-free system, Tiong emphasised that the solution lies in stricter enforcement, not reversing the policy.

"Enforcement agencies must step up and take firm action against lawbreakers. The public also plays a role by reporting any wrongdoing to the authorities."

On a misleading TikTok video suggesting that the government might reverse the visa policy due to an influx of Chinese visitors, Tiong said he has contacted the Chinese Embassy to investigate, and urged content creators to share information responsibly.

"The policy is not flawed, it is the exploitation of its loopholes that must be addressed. Let's not confuse the tool with the problem."



Country's tourism industry set to benefit as Malaysia and China agree on three-month visa policy expansion deal.

— AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

Govt initiatives to protect economy, workers: DPM

PUTRAJAYA: The government's response to retaliatory tariffs imposed by the United States is designed to safeguard the well-being of Malaysians, especially rural communities, to ensure they remain resilient amid global economic uncertainties, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Zahid, who is also the rural and regional development minister, said the Madani government's decision to establish the National Geo-Economics Action Centre demonstrates its firm commitment to defending national interests and maintaining Malaysia's global competitiveness.

"I take seriously the challenges faced by rural communities due to

global trade instability," he said in a Facebook post.

"Many rely on sectors such as electrical and electronics (E&E), palm oil, rubber and agriculture — industries where the US is a major export market for Malaysia."

He added that the government's ongoing efforts to negotiate tariff reductions, while simultaneously opening up new markets in Asean, the Middle East, Egypt, Pakistan and Cambodia are vital to safeguarding incomes and livelihoods.

Zahid highlighted the government's swift action to allocate RM1 billion for infrastructure upgrades along the Sabah-Sarawak and Kalimantan border. Additionally, he said the procurement limit for projects via quotation has been

raised from RM1 million to RM3 million, allowing for faster implementation of projects such as schools, clinics, roads and flood mitigation systems.

The measures, he said, will generate job opportunities for small-scale contractors and rural workers and accelerating economic activity in rural areas, Bernama reported.

As chairman of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council, Zahid acknowledged that global disruptions in the E&E sector have a direct impact on demand for skilled workers.

"I am committed to enhancing TVET institutions to encourage more international collaborations, particularly in artificial intelligence, green technology and digitalisation."

He emphasised the importance of providing rural youth with access to high-quality and relevant training to increase their participation in high-value sectors that will drive Malaysia's future economy.

Zahid said Malaysia is on a solid recovery path, with projected GDP growth of 5.1% for 2024, a declining fiscal deficit and stable inflation.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to key structural reforms, including the New Industrial Masterplan 2030, the National Energy Transition Roadmap and digitalisation initiatives. He said the reforms will be pursued without compromising core national principles, namely the protection of Bumiputera rights, support for local vendors and the safeguarding of strategic sectors.

Sarawak strengthens push for education autonomy

KUCHING: Sarawak is strengthening its push for education autonomy based on the Malaysia Agreement 1963 which is embedded in the Federal Constitution, said State Education, Innovation and Talent Development Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Annuar Rapae.

He said the matter is stipulated in Paragraph 17, Chapter 2 of the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) Report.

He added that the paragraph states that all education policies in the state must be made in consultation with the state government, despite being administered by federal officers.

"Although the state education director is a federal officer, all policies must be made in consultation with the state government. This is clearly outlined in the IGC, and it has now become law."

He was speaking after witnessing an MoU exchange ceremony between i-Cats University College and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institution yesterday.

Annuar said Sarawak has submitted 15 key items in its negotiations for greater autonomy, which have been tabled in the Dewan Rakyat and are progressing well.

"Among the most important are the use of English in schools and the authority for the state director to approve development projects." – Bernama

Special East Coast rail service for Aidiladha

KUALA LUMPUR: Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) has added a special train service to the East Coast to accommodate travellers returning home for Hari Raya Aidiladha next month.

KTMB said in a statement that the Ekspres Lambaian Aidiladha would operate with two scheduled services, with 436 tickets available for each trip.

"One-way fares are from RM80 to RM95, with premier and superior class seating, superior sleeper coach options and access to chillax and cafe coaches. Tickets will go on sale at 10am today."

The train will stop at Bandar Tasik Selatan, Kajang, Seremban, Pulau Sebang, Gemas, Bahau, Mentakab, Jerantut, Kuala Lipis, Gua Musang, Dabong, Kuala Krai, Tanah Merah, Pasir Mas, Wakaf Bharu and Tumpat. – Bernama

'Medicine price display promotes transparency'

KUALA LUMPUR: The implementation of the medicine price display rule for private healthcare facilities and pharmacies not only protects consumer rights but also allows insurance companies to compare medicine prices.

International Medical University Health Economics, Policy and Management professor Datuk Dr Syed Mohamed Aljunied said this would allow insurance providers to make fairer comparisons and engage in more transparent negotiations with panel health facilities while fostering more affordable and competitive pricing in the market.

"This move is one of the key building blocks in transforming the

➤ Initiative vital for nation's healthcare system, particularly to address rising costs and ensure access to quality medicines at reasonable prices, says academic

country's healthcare system, particularly in addressing rising health inflation and ensuring access to quality medicines at reasonable prices.

"The transparency of the price display makes regulation easier as there are clinics that may mark up prices unreasonably."

"This allows insurance companies to investigate, analyse

and take appropriate action when processing patient claims for treatment at private hospitals or clinics," he said when appearing as a guest on the *Temu Bual Radio* programme aired on Bernama Radio on Tuesday.

Syed Mohamed Aljunied said the medicine price display initiative was introduced to improve transparency in medicine pricing,

enabling consumers to make informed and smarter decisions when purchasing medicines, Bernama reported.

"Consumers can now view medicine prices before making a purchase, helping to prevent hidden costs or excessive pricing."

In response to concerns that the initiative may affect private medical practitioners or GPs, Syed Mohamed Aljunied said it is not intended to disrupt GP services or their operating models.

"What the government is doing is ensuring that medicine prices are displayed, not controlling them. Private facility doctors can set the prices they deem appropriate."

"The government does not set prices."



The medicine price display ruling enables consumers to check medicine prices before making a purchase, helping to prevent hidden costs or excessive pricing, says Syed Mohamed Aljunied. – ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Carnival offers 10,000 high-profile jobs

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 10,000 high-profile jobs will be offered at the MYFutureJobs 2025 Premium Carnival, organised by the Social Security Organisation (Socso), which will be held this weekend at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

In a statement yesterday, Socso said the two-day carnival would feature leading companies, offering over 70% executive-level positions, making it a strategic platform for graduates and professionals seeking to advance their careers.

Among the key participating employers are Bank Negara Malaysia, Employees Provident Fund, CIMB, Petron Malaysia, Malaysia Aviation Group, PwC, KPMG, Deloitte, Proton and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission.

"One of the main highlights of this premium edition is that some positions offer salaries of up to RM16,000 per month."

"This premium career carnival is specially designed to connect top local talent with the nation's leading employers, providing job seekers with opportunities for on-the-spot interviews and immediate job offers. The carnival will run from 9am to 5pm and end on Sunday."

It will also provide a range of supporting activities, including one-on-one resume reviews by industry experts and pocket talk sessions with notable figures such as Mohd Nizam Ahmad (PakTam), Sharifah Hani Yasmin, Muhamad Fairuz Zainal Abidin, Lora and Ku Sim Ling, also known as 'aunty HR'.

The first 500 visitors each day will receive exclusive ZUS Coffee vouchers and Touch 'n Go top-ups worth RM20, along with a chance to win attractive lucky draw prizes.

Those interested can register at www.myfuturejobs.gov.my/careerfair or download the MYFutureJobs app to access a wide range of job opportunities. – Bernama

Act 723 not meant to burden private doctors: Ministry

PUTRAJAYA: The Health Ministry has assured that the implementation of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 (Act 723) is not intended to disrupt the operations of private medical practitioners, but to promote transparency and affordability in healthcare.

In a statement, the ministry said the law, which requires clear labelling of medicine prices at private healthcare facilities and community pharmacies, is part of efforts to build a more equitable and sustainable healthcare system.

The clarification came after more

than 300 general practitioners (GPs), dressed in black, staged a peaceful protest near the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya on Tuesday.

The two-hour demonstration culminated in the submission of a memorandum opposing the enforcement of Act 723 on the medical profession, which was received by the prime minister's senior private secretary Aznur Hafeez Kaswuri.

Among other demands, the GP community is calling for Act 723 to be reviewed, proposing that the regulation of medical practice remain under the Private Healthcare Facilities

and Services Act 1998 (Act 586) which they argue already provides sufficient oversight.

"The ministry remains committed to an open and inclusive approach. Engagement sessions with all stakeholders have been held and will continue to ensure balanced implementation that does not unduly burden any party."

Representatives from several professional bodies took part in the protest, including the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia, the Federation of Private Medical Practitioners Associations Malaysia and the Malaysian Private Dental

Practitioners Association.

The ministry said it is open to reviewing the contents of the memorandum and considering improvements to current policies based on evidence and data but stressed that public access to affordable medicines remains a key priority.

The price labelling initiative, enforced under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering (Price Marking for Drug) Order 2025, came into effect on May 1. The move is a joint effort by the Health Ministry and the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry. – Bernama



Malaysian exporters brace for blow as US tariff looms

► Govt urged to move beyond quick fixes and focus on long-term structural reforms to strengthen national resilience

■ BY FAIZ RUZMAN
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysian exporters are bracing for a 24% tariff on goods bound for the United States, set to start by July.

Industry groups warned that the impact would be punishing, especially for SMEs.

They are urging the government to move beyond quick fixes and focus on long-term structural reforms to strengthen the country's export resilience.

Small and Medium Enterprises Association president Datuk William Ng cautioned that the impending tariff could have far-reaching implications for SMEs operating in high-volume, low-margin sectors.

He said businesses in industries such as furniture, rubber gloves, and electrical and electronics are especially vulnerable to the impact.

"Malaysia is among the top 10 furniture exporters to the United States, with nearly RM6 billion worth of exports last year.

A 24% cost hike to US buyers could render Malaysian-made furniture significantly less competitive, forcing many SMEs to either absorb the cost or risk losing market share."

However, the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry remains optimistic, particularly regarding Malaysia's standing in the rubber glove industry.

Its minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz, in a briefing on its Q1 performance on Tuesday, said Malaysia is poised to expand its dominance in this sector.

"We hold around 47% of the US rubber glove market and, based on industry feedback, that figure is expected to rise to 55%."

In contrast, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers president Tan Sri Soh Thian Lai pointed to data from an April survey that paints a worrying picture.

According to the findings, 24.1% of companies expected their export volumes to



Ng said businesses are already bracing for knock-on consequences, such as production slowdowns, reduced shifts, fewer overtime hours and scaled-back hiring. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

shrink between 10% and 30% while 27.8% foresaw a drop exceeding 30%. On the profitability front, 40.7% anticipated margin erosion of more than 30%.

"The figures reflect the potential severity of revenue loss if the 24% tariff comes into force.

"Such declines would not only disrupt business cash flow but also jeopardise the financial viability of exporters already grappling with rising operational costs and competitive price pressures."

Ng said the ripple effects go beyond exports and businesses are already bracing for knock-on consequences, such as production slowdowns, reduced shifts, fewer overtime hours and scaled-back hiring.

"It is not just exports at stake; it is the multiplier effect.

"Fewer orders mean less work for logistics firms, weaker demand from local suppliers and shrinking income for employees.

"We must resist the urge to treat foreign

labour as a quick fix in the face of international trade headwinds."

Both business captains stressed the need for strategic transformation to future-proof the industry.

Soh called for a nationwide push towards automation, digitalisation and workforce upskilling.

"To support this shift, we urge the government to enhance incentives for automation, particularly for SMEs, through targeted grants and access to Industry 4.0 solutions.

"Upskilling programmes must also be ramped up to equip local talent for a more sophisticated manufacturing landscape."

Ng echoed this sentiment, underscoring the importance of developing local talent and embracing productivity gains.

"For SMEs, the solution is not hiring cheaper labour; it is becoming more productive, more efficient and offering greater value."

'Consult dept before releasing fish into public waters'

SEREMBAN: The Negeri Sembilan Fisheries Department has urged the public against releasing foreign fish species into public waters without consulting the department.

Its director Kasim Tawe said the department received a complaint regarding several individuals from an NGO which released fish into a drain at Jalan Lee Sam here on Friday.

He said an inspection found that the fish released were African catfish, a foreign species considered a threat to native fish and the surrounding riverbed ecosystem.

"My team visited the location with representatives from the NGO and found around 50 non-native fish in the area, with water flowing into Sungai Linggi.

"We informed them that African catfish are an invasive species and should not be released into public waters as they pose a threat to native aquatic life."

He said based on the water quality in the area, only *puyu* (climbing perch) and *haruan* (snakehead) are naturally suited to survive there.

He advised those who wish to release fish into public waters to first refer to the Fisheries Department website for information on which species are permitted or prohibited.

State Local Government Development, Housing and Transport Committee chairman J. Arul Kumar said the Seremban City Council has been instructed to temporarily close off the area with immediate effect.

"The public cannot arbitrarily release foreign fish or construct structures for that purpose in public waters without permission. While the intention may be good, this is a public area and all activities must comply with established rules and procedures."

Earlier, a video showing a group of NGO members releasing non-native fish into the drain was widely spread. — Bernama

Crackdown on abandoned vehicles in govt quarters

PUTRAJAYA: The Property Management Division has removed 17 abandoned vehicles within compounds of government quarters during its enforcement operation targeting abandoned, derelict and unroadworthy vehicles here.

Led by its deputy secretary Sharez Izuhan Md Zaidi and Perbadanan Putrajaya Enforcement director Mohd Fauzi Ismail, the quarters involved were Phase 5R3 in Precinct Five, Phase 18R2 in Precinct Eight, Phases Five, Six, Seven and 12 in Precinct Nine, Zone 6B in Precinct 11 and Phase 14-7 in Precinct 14.

Sharez Izuhan said over 1,000 notices and reminders have been issued since 2024 to the owners, instructing them to relocate these abandoned vehicles.

The operation aimed to raise awareness and educate residents that quarters are not dumping grounds for derelict vehicles.

Abandoned vehicles often collect stagnant water or become nesting grounds for mosquitoes, wild animals or dangerous insects.

In August 2023, the Property Management Division submitted a list of 278 vehicles to Perbadanan Putrajaya. However, despite repeated warnings and demerit penalties, many vehicle owners remained uncooperative, Bernama reported.

A review in January found that 40 vehicles were abandoned in open parking areas. Towing notices were issued on May 1.

Innovathon presents platform for local inventors

PUTRAJAYA: The Innovathon programme, which is back for its third season, is a platform for local talents to showcase their creativity and innovation in producing products with high commercialisation potential, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang.

He said the programme is an initiative based on the concept of reality TV with an educational and entertainment element that showcases the inventiveness and originality of Malaysians.

"As a result, 26 products from the first season attracted the interest of domestic and foreign investors.

"This is proof that local innovation could go far if given the right platform and support," he said in his speech at the launch of the programme here on Tuesday.

He said programmes such as this are not just competitions but would continue efforts to

foster a culture of innovation among the people, attract young people's interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and increase the number of patents from local inventors.

"Innovation is no longer an option; it is a necessity. The government, higher education institutions and the private sector must continue to work together to build a conducive and sustainable innovation ecosystem."

Chang said the programme would continue with the collaboration between the Economy Ministry and the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, supported by the Education Ministry and the Higher Education Ministry as strategic partners.

He also said the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and Astro have targeted 2,000 product, technology or innovation entries.

He added that the audition session, which

runs from April 28 to July 23, will be held at several locations, including Cradle Fund in Jalan Putra, the National Institutes of Health of the Health Ministry in Shah Alam and Universiti Teknologi Mara Malacca.

Chang said the open audition session will be held from June 10 to August 5 in Sarawak, Penang, Sabah, Terengganu, Johor and Kuala Lumpur.

He said the full broadcast of the Innovathon programme is expected to begin in December over Astro channels and Radio Televisyen Malaysia.

"Initiatives such as Innovathon reflect the commitment of the Madani government in empowering local talent and driving innovation among the people. Through the programme, we are getting closer to realising Malaysia's aspirations as a high-tech, high-income nation by 2030." — Bernama

M'sia losing talent to career stagnation, not higher pay

► Calls grow to scrap restrictive scholarship bonds and fix meritocracy as brain drain threatens national development

BY QIRANA NABILLA
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PETALING JAYA: To bring back government-sponsored Malaysian graduates, the focus must go beyond wages.

Fixing career pathways and restoring meritocracy are essential to making home a place worth returning to.

Economist Prof Geoffrey Williams said retaining top talent requires bold reforms that promote merit-based progression, create high-skilled jobs and liberalise social attitudes rather than relying on restrictive scholarship bond systems, which he described as "indentured programmes".

"The main reasons are the lack of job opportunities in Malaysia for high-skilled graduates, poor career development and limited promotion prospects. Older individuals tend to hold on to senior positions and career progression is often not merit-based."

"Contrary to popular belief, salaries are not the main reason scholars leave and remain abroad. Although pay is typically higher overseas, so is the cost of living. In fact, Malaysia often offers more attractive lifestyle options."

Williams noted that while many view the trend as a national loss, the financial impact may not be as significant.

Scholars who choose to repay their bonds early effectively free up funds for new recipients.

He criticised the current system for placing a moral burden on scholars to "give back", likening the bond scheme to being trapped in a job without the freedom to leave – a key reason why many choose to pay off their contracts and remain overseas.

"The only reforms that can truly retain top Malaysian talent and encourage their return are improving merit-based progression, creating high-skilled jobs, liberalising social attitudes and ending indentured bond programmes."

He also urged the government to overhaul higher education funding by abolishing loans for local universities and modernising scholarship schemes.

"Removing bonds, obligations and expectations of gratitude would make scholarships more appealing and fair. The good news is that we're also seeing an inflow of highly qualified individuals from abroad."

National Association of Private Educational Institutions secretary-general Dr Teh Choon Jin said the decision by many sponsored students to remain overseas should not be interpreted as disloyalty, but rather a reflection of the opportunities available abroad.

"Many of our sponsored students excel and are offered promising roles overseas. This highlights the areas we need to improve domestically, not just job creation, but also creating an environment where returning is viable and meaningful."

However, Teh warned that when high-performing scholars choose to stay abroad, Malaysia loses potential leaders, experts and innovators vital to national development.

He pointed out that these graduates are part of a talent pipeline built for the country's progress and their absence creates a gap that is difficult to fill, not

just in numbers but in quality and depth.

"While scholarship bonds and return service agreements have a role, they alone aren't enough to draw scholars back."

Teh emphasised the need to support reintegration through impactful job placements, mentorship and a clear sense of purpose.

"If we can offer them roles that are fulfilling and meaningful, many will return, not out of duty, but because they see a future here."

"Younger graduates today seek purpose, flexibility and impact. When Malaysia becomes a land of opportunity, not merely a place of origin, our talent will find its way home."

Last month, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo revealed that Malaysia is facing a critical brain drain, with 1.86 million Malaysians having left the country over the past 50 years.

That figure represents 5.6% of the population, significantly higher than the global average of 3.6%.

Since 2010, more than 2,800 government-sponsored Malaysian students have graduated and taken up jobs abroad, with an estimated one in six failing to return after completing their studies.

Man held over wife's death after falling from van

KUALA LUMPUR: Police have detained a 50-year-old man in connection with the death of his wife, who is believed to have fallen from a moving van on the Shah Alam Expressway near the Awan Besar rest and service area heading towards Petaling Jaya on Tuesday.

Cheras police chief ACP Aidil Bolhassan said the man was arrested at about 6pm the same day in the Bandar Kinrara area.

The case is being investigated under Section 304A of the Penal Code for causing death by negligence.

"Based on preliminary investigations, the suspect admitted to having a heated argument with his wife during their journey home," he said in a statement.

The couple were reportedly married for 20 years and have two children.

Aidil added that a urine test conducted on the suspect returned positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and benzodiazepine.

The man also has one criminal record and two previous drug-related offences.

He further alleged that the victim had also been involved in methamphetamine abuse.

Police are continuing their investigation to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the incident and are in the process of obtaining further statements from relevant witnesses. – Bernama

Trader charged with dangerous driving

SEREMBAN: A trader pleaded not guilty in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday to a charge of dangerous driving that led to the death of a motorcyclist in a road crash at Matahari Heights earlier this month.

P. Mohan, 45, entered the plea before Magistrate Nurul Farha Sulaiman.

He was accused of driving a van dangerously and causing the death of Muhammad Annas Iskandar Mohd Khairi, 21, at the traffic lights at Persiaran Senawang 1, Matahari Heights, at 11.59pm on May 3.

The charge, framed under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987 (Act 333) carries a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to RM50,000, and disqualification from holding or obtaining a driving licence for not less than five years.

The court allowed bail at RM7,000 with one surety and ordered Mohan's driving licence to be suspended pending disposal of the case.

The matter was fixed for mention on July 3 for the submission of documents, including reports from the Computerised Vehicle Inspection Centre as well as forensic and chemist reports.

Earlier, Mohan's lawyer Rajindar Singh appealed for a lower bail amount, stating that his client, who earns between RM3,000 and RM3,500 a month, is self-employed.

He informed the court that Mohan's wife sells flowers and the couple are supporting two children, aged 21 and 22, who are still studying.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Nadia Ezzati Mohd Zainal appeared for the prosecution. – Bernama

Man dies while scaling Gunung Keriang

ALOR SETAR: A man died while scaling Gunung Keriang near here on Tuesday.

Kota Setar police chief ACP Siti Nor Salawati Saad said the district control centre at the Kota Setar district police headquarters was alerted to the incident by a member of the public at 6.18pm.

"A 48-year-old local man was found unconscious at the summit of Gunung Keriang. Police, together with a team of firefighters, brought the victim down to the foot of the mountain at 6.40pm."

"A medical officer at the scene confirmed that the victim had died."

There were no signs of foul play, and it is believed that he had climbed the mountain alone. The exact cause of death will be confirmed following a post-mortem," she said in a statement.

She added that the body had been taken to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital Forensic Department for further action.

"The public is advised not to speculate on the case, as it could disrupt public order."

"Anyone with information is urged to come forward to the Kota Setar IPD or contact the police at 04-774 7222." – Bernama



SECURITY DRILL ... Members of the Federal Reserve Unit take position during a protest simulation at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday as part of the preparations for the upcoming 46th Asean Summit. – BERNAMAPIC

Factory operator accused of murdering father-in-law

SEREMBAN: A factory operator was charged with murder in the Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the death of his father-in-law last month.

V. Karthi, 32, was accused of murdering P. Sasi Kumar, 52, by repeatedly punching and beating him in the chest at about 2.30pm on April 27 in Taman Rahang.

He nodded as the charge was read

before Sessions Court Judge Hazeelia Muhammad, who was sitting as a magistrate.

No plea was recorded as the case falls under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

The charge, framed under Section 302 of the Penal Code, carries the death penalty upon conviction.

If not sentenced to death, the penalty is imprisonment for not less

than 30 years and up to 40 years, with a minimum of 12 strokes of the cane.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Nik Nur' Aqilah Syafra Nik Zaidi appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was represented by lawyer AR Thamayanthy.

The court fixed June 18 for mention for the submission of medical and chemical reports.

– Bernama



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'Tupai King' the new aristocrat of durians

► Penang's golden-hued sensation dethrones Musang King with soaring demand, elite flavour and a RM130 price tag to match

GEORGE TOWN: On the misty hills of Penang, a new king is rising – one with a creamy bite, a golden hue and a name that's stirring excitement among durian devotees near and far.

Known as the "Tupai King", this premium variety of the "King of Fruits" is fast earning the nickname "the aristocrat of durians", thanks to its exceptional flavour, rich aroma and exclusive price tag.

With prices reaching up to RM130 per kilogramme, Tupai King now claims the title of the most expensive local durian on the market, surpassing even household favourites such as Musang King and Black Thorn.

Durian grower Eric Yeap, who manages seven orchards across 53.4ha from Teluk Bahang to Balik Pulau, described the Tupai King as egg-shaped with a greenish-brown husk, rounded at the base and tapering to a point.

"Although Tupai King trees have been around for about six years, its popularity has truly soared in the last two," he explained in a recent interview.

Yeap said the fruit's striking orange-yellow flesh delivers a balanced mix of bitterness, creaminess and aroma – traits that durian lovers find irresistible.

"The appeal has gone international. Fans from Singapore and China now actively seek out Tupai King, with some even contacting me directly once the durian season begins. Some buyers fly in just to taste it at the source."

Despite its rising fame, supply remains limited, Bernama reported.

Most growers, including Yeap, have only recently begun cultivating Tupai King.

"I started five years ago and my first yield



Yeap said fans from Singapore and China now actively seek out Tupai King with some contacting him directly once the durian season begins.

was just two years back. Right now, I have about 20 Tupai King trees," he said, adding that expansion is underway to meet growing demand.

He is also exporting to Hong Kong, where prices are significantly higher, but ensures part of the harvest remains available locally for loyal customers.

He said there is already a base of regular buyers, and among true durian fans, who relish the sharp sweet-bitter profile.

Yeap expects commercial-scale production to take another three to four years as more farmers nationwide begin cultivating this high-end variety.

"It's a long-term investment but the payoff looks promising."

However, recent climate changes have posed challenges.

Heavier-than-usual rainfall is affecting flower blooms and could reduce this season's yield by up to 30%.

"The season started later this year and overall fruit production is down," he said.

On average, his orchards typically produce up to a tonne of durians daily, with 20% destined for export.

Even with potential price hikes, Yeap believes the quality justifies the cost.

"Durian from Penang, particularly Balik Pulau, is famous for its unique taste, texture and aroma. You're not just buying fruit, you're buying an experience."

In addition to Tupai King, his orchards offer a full spectrum of durians, from kampung varieties to best-sellers such as Musang King and Black Thorn, priced between RM8 and RM130 per kilogram.

Penang targets global travellers with orchard tourism push

GEORGE TOWN: The state is broadening its durian tourism campaign to include new markets such as India, Australia, Europe and the Middle East in a bid to attract more visitors during the May to August durian season.

State tourism and creative economy committee chairman Wong Hon Wai said tourists visiting Penang during this period could enjoy freshly harvested durians at reasonable prices while exploring the state's attractions.

"We have long promoted durians in Asean countries, China and Hong Kong due to their large populations. This year, we are extending efforts to India and the Middle East, especially with the availability of direct flights to Penang."

"Feedback shows that tourists from these regions enjoy durians and prefer experiencing them at orchards for the atmosphere and photo opportunities," he said after launching the Penang durian promotion on Tuesday.

In collaboration with the Penang Fruit Growers Association, the state has produced brochures to help both local and international visitors learn more about durians.

The brochures are available at Penang International Airport.

In addition to Balik Pulau, other durian-producing areas in Penang include Teluk Bahang, Bukit Mertajam, Sungai Bakap and Seberang Perai, all known for producing high-quality fruits.

The state government is also working with orchard owners and hotels to offer durian tasting packages aimed at international tourists.

Wong noted that this year's durian supply might be lower due to frequent rainfall, but expressed hope that prices would remain affordable.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Association of Hotels (Penang Chapter) chairman Datuk Tony Goh said several hotels are offering open-air durian tasting sessions, including at beachfront and poolside locations.

He added that orchard-based tasting packages arranged through hotels typically range between RM80 and RM100 per person, thanks to direct partnerships with orchard owners.

"During the peak durian months from June to July, hotel bookings increase by 40% to 50%, particularly among tourists from China, Singapore and Indonesia, who travel specifically to Penang for durian experiences." – Bernama

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'Terror camps' targeted: Delhi

► Pakistan says it shot down Indian jets

MUZAFFARABAD: India said it attacked "terrorist camps" in Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir yesterday and Pakistan said it had shot down five Indian fighter jets.

The Indian strikes on targets in Pakistan's most populous province of Punjab were the first since their last full-scale war more than half a century ago, triggering fears of a further escalation of military hostilities.

India said it struck nine "terrorist infrastructure" sites, some of them linked to an attack on Hindu tourists that killed 26 people in Indian Kashmir last month.

India had earlier said two of three suspects in that attack were Pakistani nationals. Pakistan denied that it had anything to do with the killings.

Islamabad said six Pakistani locations were targeted, and that none of them were militant camps. At least 26 civilians were killed and 46 injured, a Pakistan military spokesperson said.

Indian forces attacked facilities linked to militant groups Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, two Indian military spokespersons told a briefing in New Delhi.

The strikes targeted "terrorist camps" that served as recruitment centres, launchpads, and indoctrination centres, and housed weapons and training facilities, the spokespersons said.

They said Indian forces used niche technology weapons and carefully chose warheads to avoid collateral damage to civilians and civilian infrastructure, but did not elaborate on the specifics or methods used in the strikes.

"Intelligence and monitoring of Pakistan-based terror modules showed that further attacks against India were impending, therefore it was necessary to take pre-emptive and precautionary strikes," Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, the top official in its External Affairs Ministry, told the briefing.

Pakistan said Indian missiles hit three sites and a military spokesperson told Reuters five Indian aircraft had been shot down, a claim not confirmed by India.

However, four local government

sources in Indian Kashmir told Reuters that three fighter jets had crashed in separate areas of the Himalayan region during the night.

All three pilots had been hospitalised, the sources added.

Images circulating on local media showed a large, damaged cylindrical chunk of silver-coloured metal lying in a field at one of the crash sites. Islamabad called the attacks a "blatant act of war" and said it had informed the UN Security Council that Pakistan reserved the right to respond appropriately to Indian aggression.

Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, spokesman for the Pakistan military, said Pakistan would "respond to this aggression at a time, place, and means of our own choice".

"All of these engagements have been done as a defensive measure," Chaudhry said. "However, we will take all the steps necessary for defending the honour, integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan, at all cost."

The South Asian neighbours also exchanged intense shelling and heavy gunfire across much of their de facto border in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, police and witnesses said.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Muslim-majority Kashmir, which both sides claim in full and control in part.

Since a 2003 ceasefire, to which both countries recommitted in 2021, targeted strikes between the neighbours are extremely rare, especially Indian strikes on Pakistani areas outside Pakistani Kashmir.

"The precision strikes are a strong and appropriate response. The focus should remain on eliminating terrorism at its roots," said Tejas Patel, 42, a finance professional in Gujarat.

But analysts said the risk of escalation is higher than in the recent past due to the severity of India's attack, which New Delhi called "Operation Sindoor". Sindoor is the Hindi language word for vermilion, a red powder that Hindu women put on the forehead or parting of their hair as a sign of marriage.

US President Donald Trump called the fighting "a shame" and added, "I hope it ends quickly." The State Department said Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to the national security advisers of both nations, urging "both to keep lines of communication open and avoid escalation."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for maximum military restraint from both countries, a spokesperson said.

A team of UN officials had arrived in Pakistani Kashmir to ascertain facts after the strikes, the region's information minister said.

The shelling across the frontier in Kashmir killed 10 civilians and injured 48 in the Indian part of the region, police there said. At least six people were killed on the Pakistani side, officials there said.

Indian TV channels showed videos of explosions, fire, large plumes of smoke in the night sky and people fleeing in several places in Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir.

In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, damage from the Indian strike was visible at sunrise. Security forces surrounded a small mosque in a hill-side residential neighbourhood which had been hit, with its minaret collapsed.

Pakistani Defence Minister Khwaja Asif old Geo that all targeted sites were civilian and not militant camps. He said India's claim of targeting "camps of terrorists is false".

— Reuters



Metal debris lies on the ground in Wuyan in India-administered Kashmir. — REUTERS/PIC

AP to continue crediting 'Napalm Girl' photo to Nick Ut

NEW YORK: The Associated Press news agency will continue to credit one of its most distinctive photos, "Napalm Girl" taken during the Vietnam War, to photographer Nick Ut despite questions about who took it, the wire said on Tuesday.

The black and white photo of a severely burned Vietnamese girl, running naked down a road after a 1972 napalm attack in southern Vietnam helped alter perceptions of the war and remains a potent reminder of its devastation.

Vietnamese American AP photographer Huynh Cong Ut, better known as Nick Ut, won a Pulitzer Prize and a World Press Photo award for

the image. Ut claims the photo as his own.

The photo's subject, Kim Phuc Phan Thi, who became Canadian, has continued to bear witness to her ordeal as an adult.

But in January, *The Stringer* documentary screened at the Sundance Film Festival credited the image to Vietnamese freelance journalist Nguyen Thanh Nghe.

After a nearly year-long investigation, the news agency published a 97-page report on Tuesday concluding "it is possible Nick Ut took the photo."

"However, that cannot be proven definitively due to the passage of

time, the death of many of the key players involved and the limitations of technology.

New findings uncovered during this investigation do raise unanswered questions and AP remains open to the possibility that Ut did not take this photo," it said.

"The AP has concluded that there is not the definitive evidence required by AP's standards to change the credit of the 53-year-old photograph."

The agency concluded it is "likely" the photo was taken with a Pentax camera, while Ut said in interviews he carried two Leica and two Nikon cameras that day.

In *The Stringer*, Carl Robinson the AP's former photo editor in Saigon claimed he lied and altered the caption of the image under orders from Saigon photo chief Horst Faas.

"Nick Ut came with me on the assignment. But he didn't take that photo ... That photo was mine," said Nguyen Thanh Nghe, who said in the film that he was certain he took the photo.

AP insisted in its report "no proof has been found that Nguyen took the picture."

Ut remained with the AP for 45 years, leaving Saigon to later work for the wire in Los Angeles, until his retirement in 2017. — AFP

BRIEFS

RUSSIA CALLS FOR RESTRAINT

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday called for India and Pakistan to show "restraint" after they exchanged heavy artillery fire following deadly missile strikes by New Delhi, in the worst violence between the nuclear-armed neighbours in two decades. Russia's Foreign Ministry said it was "deeply concerned by the escalation of military confrontation", called "on the parties to exercise restraint to prevent further deterioration" and said it hoped tensions could be "resolved through peaceful, diplomatic means". — AFP

CHINA OPPOSES TERRORISM

BEIJING: China yesterday expressed regret and concern over Indian strikes on Pakistan, urging both sides to show restraint. It expressed "regret" and said it was "concerned about developments". "India and Pakistan are neighbours that cannot be moved apart, and they are also China's neighbours," a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said in a statement. "China opposes all forms of terrorism." "We call on both to prioritise peace and stability, remain calm and restrained and avoid taking actions that further complicate the situation." — AFP

UK READY TO HELP 'DE-ESCALATION'

LONDON: The UK is ready to support India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions, Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said. "We are a friend, a partner to both countries. Both have a huge interest in regional stability, in dialogue, in de-escalation and anything we can do to support that, we are here and willing to do," he told BBC radio. The Foreign Office advised British nationals against travel within 8km of the India-Pakistan border, within 16km of the Line of Control and all travel to Balochistan in Pakistan. — AFP

Lao clashes shut Thai scenic spot

BANGKOK: Rare armed clashes in Laos believed to be linked to drug smuggling have forced Thailand to close a popular mountain viewing point on its border.

Thai national park officials said the Phu Chi Fa scenic spot in northern Chiang Rai province has been closed.

The US embassy in Vientiane urged Americans thinking of travelling to Bokeo province to reconsider after reports of "clashes between the Lao army and armed groups".

"Local officials have requested raised security levels, which will include an increase in military checkpoints," the embassy said.

Unrest is rare in Laos but the country forms part of the Golden Triangle (covering the border areas with Myanmar and Thailand) that has been a hub for Southeast Asia's lucrative drug trade for decades.

Lao National Radio reported on Tuesday that a border patrol clashed with drug smugglers in Bokeo on Saturday and arrested four suspects.

The report said that some border patrol officials were killed.

Thai authorities estimate that at least one soldier may have been killed and more than a dozen hurt. — AFP



Cardinals hold final mass before papal conclave

➤ No clear frontrunner has emerged among prelates

VATICAN CITY: Cardinals from five continents held a final mass in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican yesterday before sealing themselves away to elect a new pope to lead the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

A total of 133 cardinal electors are expected to take part in the conclave, the voting process to pick a successor to Pope Francis, who died last month after a 12-year papacy.

No clear frontrunner has emerged from among the prelates – representing a range of progressive and conservative traditions within the Church – and the contest to lead the 2,000-year-old institution appears wide open.

In a time of geopolitical uncertainty, the new pope faces diplomatic balancing acts, as well as Church infighting, the continued fall-out from the clerical child abuse scandal, and, in the West, increasingly empty pews.

The "Princes of the Church" began a pre-conclave mass in St Peter's Basilica at 10am

(4pm in Kuala Lumpur), presided over by the dean of the College of Cardinals, Giovanni Battista Re.

It was the last rite to be celebrated publicly before the Church's 267th pope is presented to the world from a balcony of St Peter's Basilica, likely several days later.

Both Francis and his predecessor Benedict XVI were elected within two days, but the longest papal election in Church history lasted 1,006 days, from 1268 to 1271.

With clerics from around 70 countries, this conclave is the largest ever, and the next pontiff will have to secure at least 89 votes: a two-thirds majority.

The cardinals, who must be younger than 80 to take part, are staying at the Vatican's Santa Marta guesthouse, where Francis used to live, and Santa Marta Vecchia, a building next door usually housing Vatican officials.

At 3.45pm they set off from Santa Marta to gather at the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace.

They then proceeded into the 15th-century Sistine Chapel for the conclave.

Under a ceiling of frescoes painted by Michelangelo, Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin,

the senior elector, will call on God to give the cardinals "the spirit of intelligence, truth and peace" needed for their task.

Parolin, a frontrunner who was Francis's number two as secretary of state, will then lead the cardinals in chanting the Latin invocation of the Holy Spirit: "Veni, Creator Spiritus".

The cardinals have spent days discussing the most pressing challenges facing the Catholic Church and the character traits its new leader needs.

Burning issues include falling priest numbers, the role of women, the Vatican's troubled balance sheets and how to adapt the Church to the modern world.

Some 80% of the cardinals were appointed by Francis – an impulsive, charismatic champion of the downtrodden.

We may never know how close a race it is. Having surrendered mobile phones, the red-robed cardinals will swear an oath to keep the conclave's secrets.

The cardinals traditionally cast just one ballot on the first evening, burning the votes along with a chemical that produces black smoke if there is no decision, white for a new pope. – AFP

'AI key for health, education innovation'

JAKARTA: Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates said artificial intelligence will play a key role in unlocking new tools for health, education and agriculture at a meeting with Indonesia's president yesterday.

Indonesia is Southeast Asia's biggest economy and has a population of around 280 million across its sprawling archipelago, with a growing demand for data centres and AI tech in the region.

Gates visited President Prabowo Subianto and Indonesian philanthropists in Jakarta, where he spoke about his optimism that AI-driven innovation will help tackle global challenges.

"AI is going to help us discover new tools. And even in the delivery of health and education and agriculture advice, we'll be using AI," he told a meeting.

"Once we finish (eradicating) polio, we'd like to try and eradicate measles and malaria as well. We have some new tools for that. And of course, part of my optimism about the innovation is because we now have artificial intelligence."

UN agencies have been campaigning for four decades to eradicate polio, most often spread through sewage and contaminated water.

The billionaire philanthropist has donated more than US\$159 million (RM674 million) to Indonesia since 2009, mostly to the health sector including to fund vaccines, Prabowo said.

Gates later visited an elementary school in



Gates and Prabowo visit a school serving free meals in Jakarta. – REUTERS/PIC

Jakarta alongside Prabowo to see students launching free meals as part of a programme launched by the Indonesian leader.

Prabowo also announced plans to give Gates Indonesia's highest civilian award for his

"contribution to Indonesians and the world".

Microsoft chief executive officer Satya Nadella last year pledged a US\$1.7 billion investment in AI and cloud computing to help develop Indonesia's AI infrastructure. – AFP

Norway fund holds its breath

OSLO: Opposition efforts to allow Norway's US\$1.8 trillion (RM7.62 trillion) wealth fund, the world's largest, to invest in large defence companies appear to be faltering.

The fund follows ethical rules decided by parliament that prevent it from buying stakes in the likes of Airbus, Boeing, BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin on the grounds they make components for nuclear weapons.

Two opposition parties, the Conservatives and the Progress Party, have in recent months called on lawmakers to change the fund's guidelines on that point, when European countries are ramping up military investment.

Support for change also came from the head of the central bank, which operates the fund, who said in February, Norway "must be open to the possibility that what is considered to be ethically acceptable may change as the world again becomes marked by military rearmament and growing tensions between countries".

The Conservatives say it is no longer reasonable to exclude companies that make equipment critical to Norway and its allies' battle power.

The fund can invest in defence companies if they are not involved in the production of nuclear weapons and is therefore invested in the likes of Rheinmetall or Leonardo. But the guidelines prevent the fund from investing in several major defence companies.

Progress, meanwhile, is presenting a private member's Bill, which argues it is hypocritical of Oslo to ban its fund from buying shares in Lockheed Martin while buying 52 F-35 fighter jets from the US defence contractor at the same time.

"This is to make capital available to the defence industry, which is especially necessary now," said one of the co-authors of the Bill, Hans Andreas Limi.

They would require support from other parties to overturn the will of the minority Labour government and allow one of the world's largest investors to allot billions of dollars to defence companies.

This could in turn encourage other investors sceptical of the defence industry to reconsider their views, given the fund has long been a leading voice on matters of ethical investing.

But supporters of the change appear to be facing an uphill battle.

Among those opposing the change, is the Finance Ministry, led by no other than former Nato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg of the Labour Party.

"We believe it is too early for another full review of the guidelines now," Deputy Finance Minister Ellen Reitan told Reuters. She said there had to be a broad consensus in parliament and reviews of the fund's ethical criteria should not be made on an ad hoc basis.

"Over time, it may be appropriate to change the criteria in the guidelines. Such changes should be made on the basis of comprehensive and thorough assessments where the criteria are seen in context," she said. – Reuters

Sotheby's postpones historical gems auction after India backlash

HONG KONG: Sotheby's postponed an auction of gems with ties to early Buddhism after opposition from India, which said the jewels were the country's cultural heritage.

The Piprahwa gems, which the auction house said dated back to around 200 BC and were unearthed in 1898 by Englishman William Claxton Peppe in northern India, were scheduled to go under the hammer in Hong Kong yesterday.

The Ministry of Culture issued a legal notice on Monday calling the jewels "inalienable

religious and cultural heritage of India and the global Buddhist community" and said the sale violated Indian and international law.

It asked for the auction to be cancelled and the jewels repatriated to India, as well as an apology and full disclosure of provenance documents, according to the notice posted on X.

Sotheby's said the auction has been postponed "in light of the matters raised by the Government of India and with the agreement of the consignors".

"This will allow for discussions between the

parties, and we look forward to sharing any updates as appropriate," the auction house said in a statement.

Sotheby's said the night before that the auction would "proceed as planned".

The ministry wrote on X that it was "pleased to inform" readers that the auction was postponed following its intervention.

The gems in the Hong Kong auction were part of a collection of close to 1,800 gems and precious metal sheets including amethysts, pearls and gold pieces worked into small beads.

They were excavated at the Piprahwa village near Buddha's birthplace and have been attributed to a clan linked to the religious figure.

Indian authorities said an inscription on one of the caskets confirms the contents, which include bone fragments, as "relics of the Buddha, deposited by the Sakya clan".

In an article written for Sotheby's, Chris Peppe said his ancestor "gave the gems, the relics and the reliquaries to the Indian government" and that his family kept "a small portion" of the discovery. – AFP

Houthi ceasefire deal does not include Israel

ADEN: A ceasefire deal between Yemen's Houthis and the US does not include sparing Israel, the group said yesterday, suggesting its shipping attacks that have disrupted global trade and challenged world powers will not come to a complete halt.

President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday the US would stop bombing the Houthis in Yemen, saying that the group had agreed to stop attacking US ships.

Oman said it had mediated the ceasefire to halt attacks on US vessels.

There have been no reports of Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea area since January.

"The agreement does not include Israel in any way, shape or form," said chief Houthi negotiator Mohammed Abdulsalam.

"As long as they announced the cessation and they are committed to that, our position was self-defence so we will stop."

While tensions may have eased between the United States and the Houthis, the agreement does not rule out attacks on any other Israel-linked vessels or targets.

"They said 'please don't bomb us any more and we're not going to attack your ships,'" Trump said of the Houthis during a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

"And I will accept their word, and we are going to stop the bombing of the Houthis immediately," – Reuters

Xi heads to Moscow to beef up partnership

MOSCOW: Chinese President Xi Jinping headed to Moscow yesterday for a key three-day visit including a grand Victory Day parade and a show of support for Vladimir Putin.

Moscow and Beijing declared a "no limits partnership" weeks before Putin ordered Russia's Ukraine offensive in February 2022. The expanded ties since have troubled the West.

The visit comes with rising China-US tensions over biting US trade tariffs, while President Donald Trump has also made overtures to Putin to mediate the conflict in Ukraine.

In an article for Russia's *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* newspaper, Xi hailed "resilient" China-Russia ties.

"The two sides should jointly resist any attempt to interfere with and undermine the China-Russia friendship and mutual trust, not be confused by temporary events or disturbed by the rough seas and use the certainty and resilience of strategic cooperation to jointly promote the process of world multipolarisation and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind," he wrote.

The Kremlin had a day earlier praised Russia-China relations as a "genuine example" of cooperation and said they were "at their highest point".

It said Putin and Xi will discuss Ukraine and Russia-US relations at a one-to-one meeting.

China's Foreign Ministry said the leaders will "rally the Global South, shape global governance, oppose acts of unilateralism and bullying, and jointly promote an equal and orderly multipolar world", state broadcaster CCTV said. – AFP



Palestinians sifting through the site of a strike on a school sheltering displaced people in the Bureij camp yesterday.

– REUTERSPIC

Israeli strikes kill 13 in Gaza school

➤ Rafah demolitions continue

CAIRO: Israeli strikes on a school housing displaced families in northern Gaza killed 13 Palestinians yesterday, local health authorities said, as Israeli forces continued to demolish homes and buildings in Rafah in the south of the enclave.

Medics said two strikes targeted the Karama School in Tuffah, a suburb of Gaza City. Among those

killed was a local journalist, Nour Abdu, Palestinian media said.

Two Israeli airstrikes on another school, housing displaced people in central Gaza, killed at least 29 people, including women and children, on Tuesday, local health authorities said. The Israeli military said it struck "terrorists" operating from a command centre in the compound.

Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, said yesterday their fighters had detonated a pre-planted minefield targeting an Israeli armoured force east of Khan Younis. They said they inflicted casualties, followed by mortar shelling of the area.

In the nearby area of Rafah, near the border with Egypt, residents and Hamas sources said Israeli forces, who have taken control of the city, continued to blow up and demolish houses and buildings.

Israeli troops have already taken

over an area amounting to around a third of Gaza, displacing the population and building watchtowers and surveillance posts on cleared ground the military has described as security zones.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday an expanded offensive against Hamas would be "intensive" after his security Cabinet approved plans that may include seizing the entire Gaza Strip and controlling aid.

Israeli officials have said Rafah could be used as a potential new humanitarian zone.

Israel's military offensive has killed more than 52,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to health authorities, and reduced much of Gaza to ruins.

The Gaza government media office said the death of Nour Abdu yesterday raised to 213 the number of Palestinian journalists killed by Israeli fire since the war began. – Reuters

Almost half of Gazans willing to leave, survey finds

TEL AVIV: Almost half of Gazans may be willing to apply to Israel to help them leave to other countries, according to a survey on Tuesday.

The survey by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research was based on polling of people across the Gaza Strip and in the occupied West Bank between May 1-4, some six weeks after Israeli forces resumed operations in Gaza.

The centre, a think tank based in Ramallah and funded by Western donors, said in the report that 49%

of those surveyed declared that they would be willing to apply to Israel to help them emigrate via Israeli ports and airports, against 50% who said they would not be willing to do so.

Israeli officials have said that Israel will help Gazans who wish to leave the enclave but it has made little headway persuading other countries to accept them.

Although Israel's 19-month campaign has reduced most of Gaza to rubble and a blockade on aid since March has left the 2.3 million

population increasingly short of food, many Palestinians believe that leaving would mean effectively surrendering their home to Israel.

Hardline Israeli ministers have made little secret of their wish to see the whole Gaza population moved out of the enclave, in line with President Donald Trump's plan to redevelop Gaza as a coastal resort under American control.

The survey also found that 48% of Palestinians in Gaza supported anti-Hamas demonstrations in the

enclave, a much higher level than among Palestinians in the West Bank, where only 14% backed the protests, a rare public show of opposition to the group.

At the same time, 54% of Gazans thought the protests, which Hamas said were set up by Israel, were steered by outside hands and only 20% said they expressed the real opinion of the population.

The centre said the survey's sample was 1,270 with a margin of error of +/-3.5%. – Reuters

Kenya court fines ant smugglers for bio-piracy

NAIROBI: A court here fined four people yesterday, including two Belgian teenagers, more than US\$7,000 (RM29,674) for attempting to smuggle live ants out of the country.

David Lornoy and Seppe Lodewijckx, both 18 of Belgium, Duh Hung Nguyen of Vietnam and Dennis Nganga of Kenya all pleaded guilty to possession of the ants, but denied seeking to traffic them.

Lornoy and Lodewijckx were

arrested in possession of 5,000 queen ants packed in 2,244 tubes in Nakuru County.

Duh and Nganga were found with ants stored in 140 syringes packed with cotton wool and two containers.

The two cases were separate but all four were tried together.

Lornoy was described as an "ant enthusiast" who kept colonies at home in Belgium and was member of a Facebook group called "Ants

and Ant Keeping", according to the sentencing report.

He told investigators he was not aware that transporting the ants was illegal.

Police had put the value of the ants taken by the Belgians at US\$7,740.

The haul included the rare Messor cephalotes species, a single queen ant of which sells for at least US\$99.

Possession of any wildlife

specimen or trophy without a permit is a criminal offence in Kenya, with suspects normally subject to a fine of up to US\$10,000 and five years or more in prison.

The court ultimately sentenced all four to a fine of US\$7,740, or a year in prison if they failed to pay.

The court said the case reflected a script "that has been played out before ... of Africa having resources that are plundered by the West and now the East". – AFP



COMMENT

Odyssey of mother turtles

UNDER a moonlit sky, close to midnight on Aug 13, 2022, the soft whispers of waves greeted a nesting marine turtle. She was a green turtle, one listed as "endangered" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species.

Pok Jamil, one of our dedicated local turtle guardians, watched as she emerged from the sea, dragging her heavy shell onto the sands of Telaga Papan Beach in Setiu, Terengganu.

Her turtle tag read "MY(TGG)1030" - MY for Malaysia, TGG for Terengganu and 1030 was her unique identification code. But for this story, we'll call her Melur.

She was born on this beach and has now returned to give birth to the next generation. With great care, she dug a nest and laid 70 precious eggs - each one a fragile promise of new life.

Due to the stringent monitoring efforts of our turtle guardians, every single egg was protected and brought back to the hatchery, giving them the best chance to hatch safely.

In time, 66 out of 70 turtle eggs hatched - a remarkable 94% hatch success rate. Melur's tiny hatchlings emerged, scurrying on the sandy beach, guided by the horizon and waves, embarking on their perilous journey into the deep ocean.

Unbeknown to Pok Jamil, Melur had been here almost exactly four years earlier. On Aug 2, 2018, she had nested on this same beach, laying 68 eggs. Of those, 61 hatchlings had made it to the sea. Safe to say Melur is a resilient and devoted mother turtle, but her return is not always guaranteed.

Perilous path

Melur's nesting activities are not only testaments to the resilience of marine turtles but also a reminder



Coastal erosion, spurred by climate change and human activity, threatens nesting beaches like Telaga Papan. - PIC COURTESY OF WWF-MALAYSIA

of the immense threats they face. Turtle poaching, egg harvesting and unsustainable coastal development continue to endanger these ancient mariners.

Poachers seek turtle eggs for sale and consumption, disrupting an already fragile life cycle. Without protection, countless eggs would be lost, diminishing the number of turtles that might one day return to nest.

This is why nesting monitoring is crucial. By safeguarding nests, we prevent poaching and give hatchlings the highest chance of survival. Climate change also poses a growing threat - rising sand temperatures can skew the sex ratio of hatchlings, leading to fewer males and making it harder for marine turtles to breed in the future.

To counter this, the hatchery's temperature is monitored to facilitate a balanced development for future marine turtle populations.

Importance of tagging

Marine turtles like Melur are highly migratory, often travelling thousands of kilometers across oceans. By tagging nesting mothers, we gain critical insight into their lives.

These records help

conservationists track their return journeys and, in the unfortunate event of poaching or accidental capture in foreign waters, they help identify affected populations.

Melur's return to Telaga Papan is not just a personal journey - it is a beacon of hope. But the question remains: Can she and future generations continue to find sanctuary on this nesting beach?

Future of turtles

Coastal erosion, spurred by climate change and human activity, threatens nesting beaches like Telaga Papan. Development along coastlines, pollution and unsustainable tourism further disrupt nesting activities.

Plastic pollution poses an additional silent killer - entangling newborn turtles or disrupting turtle nesting. WWF-Malaysia, alongside the Department of Fisheries Terengganu and our dedicated turtle guardians like Pok Jamil, work tirelessly to combat these threats.

Through nesting monitoring and coastal rehabilitation efforts - such as planting native vegetation for shading, beach profiling to monitor erosion and advocating stronger habitat protections - we strive to ensure that nesting beaches remain safe havens for

generations of turtles to come.

Mother turtle's legacy and our role

A mother turtle lays countless eggs in her lifetime, yet only one in a thousand hatchlings will survive to adulthood and return to nest.

Each egg, each hatchling and each nesting mother is precious. As we celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, let us remember the odyssey of turtle mothers, like Melur, who against all odds, return to continue the cycle of life. But they cannot do it alone. We must stand as their guardians.

Here is how you can help:

- 👉 Never consume turtle meat or eggs.
- 👉 Keep beaches clean - do not litter.
- 👉 Avoid visiting nesting beaches at night to prevent disturbing nesting mothers.
- 👉 Support conservation efforts and responsible ecotourism.
- 👉 Report to the Fisheries Department if you witness marine turtle poaching or stranding: Call 03-8870 4058.

Melur has nested twice between 2018 and 2022. Perhaps in 2026 or 2027, she will return once more. With the unwavering efforts of turtle guardians and your support, we can continue to welcome and protect these remarkable mothers.

As we honour mothers everywhere, let us also safeguard our mother turtles. Together, we can nurture a future where marine turtles continue to thrive alongside humankind, just as generations of mothers have before us.

This article is contributed by the Marine Programme, WWF-Malaysia. Its mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

LETTERS

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Understanding constructive dismissal

I REFER to the article, "Silent firing sparks legal poser over workplace practice", published on May 2.

The article quoted Prof Dr Balakrishnan Parasuraman of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, who stated that the practice of silent firing - where employees are systematically pushed out through isolation, lack of opportunities or deliberate neglect - may amount to constructive dismissal under Malaysian law.

Balakrishnan was further quoted as saying that when employees feel compelled to resign because the working environment becomes intolerable, it may amount to constructive dismissal.

However, it is important to note that mere isolation, neglect or lack of opportunities alone do not constitute constructive dismissal.

The law on constructive dismissal has evolved, and a resignation triggered solely by the employer's unreasonable conduct does not, by itself, meet the legal threshold for constructive dismissal.

The legal principles regarding constructive dismissal were laid down by the Federal Court in the recent case of Tan Lay Peng v RHB Bank Berhad & Anor [2024]. The conditions to establish constructive dismissal are as follows:

> The employer's conduct must amount to a breach of the employment contract, demonstrating an intention to no longer be bound by its terms.

> The employer must have committed a "fundamental breach", going to the root of the contract.

> The employee's decision to resign must be in response to that breach, and not due to unrelated reasons.

> The employee must resign without undue delay after the breach.

These conditions are strict, and it is important that employees are equipped with accurate information to understand their rights and obligations under the law.

Dr Kannan Loganathan
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Micro-bravery: Small acts, big shifts

WHEN fear whispers, it rarely does so dramatically. More often, it shows up as a quiet hesitation – a soft inner voice questioning whether you might look foolish, whether people might talk or whether it is safer to remain silent.

In these moments, many of us hide behind the excuse of not wanting to “show off” or complicate matters. We convince ourselves that retreat is wisdom. Yet, beneath the surface, it is often not humility but fear that holds us back – fear of judgement, fear of rejection and fear of confirming our own self-doubts.

This is where the concept of micro-bravery becomes crucial. Micro-bravery is the practice of taking small, deliberate actions despite fear. It is not the absence of fear that defines bravery but the refusal to allow fear to dictate our choices. Unlike the dramatic acts of heroism we often admire, micro-bravery is subtle. It is about choosing to speak up, to ask or to step forward even when discomfort urges you to retreat.

Over time, these small acts compound, transforming your relationship with fear and expanding your inner capacity for growth.

Staying silent to protect ourselves from imagined judgement often costs us more than any passing discomfort. In the end, the life you are building deserves a stronger advocate – and that advocate must be you.

An old Malay proverb captures this reality aptly: “*Segan bertanya, sesat jalan*,” meaning “Too shy to ask, and you lose your way”.

In a world that rewards participation and boldness, hesitation does not

protect us – it often causes us to miss valuable opportunities. Being silent out of fear is not a safer path; it is a quiet forfeiture of potential growth. Micro-bravery, then, becomes not just a personal virtue but a necessary survival skill in a complex and fast-moving world.

One practical way to cultivate micro-bravery is by learning to challenge our fear with reflective questioning techniques. When hesitation creeps in, it helps to pause and ask ourselves: Is this fear actually true? Often, our mind inflates the possibility of rejection or failure far beyond reality. Most people are far more forgiving, distracted or indifferent than our inner critic would have us believe.

Next, we can ask: Is staying silent truly necessary? There are moments when voicing a thought, asking a question or presenting an idea is the very act that could change the trajectory of a situation, a project or even a relationship. Holding back in these critical moments often robs us of unseen opportunities.

Another useful reflection is to consider: What am I really risking? More often than not, the worst-case scenario is manageable and minor while the upside of acting could be transformative. Fear often exaggerates risk without offering a realistic sense of proportion.

Finally, perhaps the most powerful question of all is: What if it goes right? Our brains are wired to anticipate threats but consciously imagining success opens a different, empowering mental pathway. Shifting our internal dialogue from doom to possibility loosens fear's grip and broadens our available choices.



“Micro-bravery is the practice of taking small, deliberate actions despite fear. It is not the absence of fear that defines bravery but the refusal to allow fear to dictate our choices.”

It is also important to shrink the perceived significance of small acts. Our minds often magnify minor actions like asking a question, introducing ourselves or making a suggestion into monumental risks.

In reality, these are small and survivable moments that rarely define us in the eyes of others. No single conversation or stumble marks our worth. When we reframe these experiences as natural and expected steps in growth, we reduce the power fear holds over our behaviour.

Accepting discomfort as part of the process is essential to cultivating micro-bravery. Courage rarely feels smooth or confident in the beginning. Instead, it feels awkward, exposing and uncertain.

Many people mistakenly interpret discomfort as a sign they are on the wrong path, when in truth, it often signals expansion and learning. If we expect bravery to feel effortless, we set ourselves up for frustration.

Discomfort is not an error; it is evidence that we are stretching beyond our familiar limits. Over time, the willingness to endure small doses of discomfort builds emotional resilience, self-trust and an authentic form of confidence that cannot be faked or fast-tracked.

It is helpful to also remember that most people do not have the time, energy or interest to fixate on our perceived missteps. The spotlight we imagine shining harshly on us is usually a creation of our own anxiety.

Even if a few people notice a stumble, their attention fades quickly as they return to their own concerns. What

remains with us far longer is the inner regret for the opportunities we did not seize, the connections we did not forge and the courage we failed to summon.

Every act of silence rooted in fear becomes a small but accumulating loss. Micro-bravery is not about grand, sweeping transformations. It is built through daily acts of defiance against fear's small but persistent voice.

It shows up when we send the email we almost didn't, when we ask the question we almost swallowed or when we voice the idea we almost convinced ourselves was not good enough.

Each small act chips away at fear's false authority and strengthens our sense of agency. Consistency in these small acts is what ultimately builds a life characterised by movement, participation and growth rather than stagnation.

Fear may never completely disappear, and that is perfectly normal. The real transformation happens when we refuse to let fear hold the pen that writes our story.

No one else will walk the path that belongs to you. No one else will shoulder the cost of dreams left unexplored or growth left unrealised.

The future you seek, the fulfilment you crave, live just beyond the small fears you are willing to challenge today. And it all begins, not with a grand gesture but with one simple, powerful act: the decision to try.

Dr Praveena Rajendra is a certified mental health and awareness practitioner specialising in narcissistic abuse recovery. Comments: letters@thesunday.com

COMMENT by Devaraj Kanagarajoo

Cyber ethics in the digital age

THE recent disturbing deepfake incident in Johor that made headlines is a serious concern, especially alarming for parents. As both a parent and an educator, I find myself asking urgent questions about how to address this issue. We have a vital duty of care to protect our children, particularly in a world increasingly shaped by advanced technologies.

As the internet continues to evolve, the responsibilities of users, especially young people, are expanding beyond just navigating digital tools to understanding the ethical implications of online behaviour.

The term “cyber ethics” refers to a set of moral rules or a code of behaviour applied to the online environment. As a responsible netizen, one should observe these rules to help make cyberspace a safe place.

Digital literacy refers to the ability to access, manage and critically evaluate information, among other skills. But one question remains: Are we truly abiding by these values?

With great power comes great responsibility. As trusted adults, we must use our influence and authority to guide children safely through the digital landscape.

Parents should engage in open conversations with their children about online safety, including how deepfakes work and the risks they

pose. Encouraging critical thinking and setting boundaries around media consumption are essential steps.

Meanwhile, educators can also play a crucial role by integrating digital literacy into the curriculum. Teaching students how to spot manipulated content and understand its potential impact can help build their resilience.

Schools should also provide training for staff to stay informed about emerging online threats and to understand the importance of safety protocols.

While technology offers many benefits, it also presents significant challenges – requiring a strong foundation in both ethics and digital literacy.

Traditional moral studies are no longer enough. We need well-structured and detailed modules that clearly explain digital ethics, which are accessible to the public.

Digital citizenship programmes are gaining momentum and should be effectively monitored. These initiatives aim to educate students on ethical online behaviour, protecting privacy, respectful communication and the risks of plagiarism and cyberbullying.

However, many argue that education must begin at home and continue into professional environments. It is undeniable that powerful digital technologies like AI



As the internet continues to evolve, the responsibilities of users, especially young people, are expanding beyond just navigating digital tools to understanding the ethical implications of online behaviour. – **BERNAMAPIC**

can make it easier to commit harmful acts.

That is why, as responsible individuals, we must emphasise that cyberbullying goes far beyond what is seen on a screen – it has deep and lasting impacts. The recent deepfake incident is no exception, as many of the victims were young children.

It is heartbreaking to consider the emotional and psychological impact these children may be facing.

Ultimately, protecting children in the digital age requires a collaborative and informed approach.

By staying proactive and emphasising shared responsibility, we can empower children to navigate technology with confidence and caution.

When cyber ethics and digital literacy work together, they promote safer, more thoughtful and respectful engagement in the digital world.

Elon Musk's recent quote, “With artificial intelligence, we are summoning the demon”, serves as a wake-up call. Therefore, a more meticulous approach must be developed to address this concerning issue.

Devaraj Kanagarajoo is a senior educator at Monash University Malaysia, School of Pathways and Immersion. Comments: letters@thesunday.com

Batiq epitomises the best of S2 Heights Aman

PETALING JAYA: Seremban 2 was once a sprawling 3,800-acre agricultural land brimming with potential.

In 1995, IJM Land saw the opportunity and took bold steps to create an integrated, self-sustaining township. Today, it is a flourishing community where nature and modern living come together, reflecting decades of vision and meticulous planning.

Spanning 400 acres within the expansive 3,800-acre Seremban 2 township, S2 Heights Aman marks the latest milestone in this vibrant community's ongoing transformation. With a GDV of RM1.59 billion, it reflects IJM Land's vision of an integrated, self-sustaining township that seamlessly blends nature with modern living.

S2 Heights Aman-Batiq show unit is now open for viewing.

Spread across 20 acres within S2 Heights Aman with a GDV of RM173 million, this development is an extension of the premium offerings available and comprises 177 units of Lakeside 2-storey Garden Homes that are priced from an accessible RM 878,800.

Phase 1 of Batiq comprises 82 units of Lakeside 2-storey Garden Homes with a GDV of RM80 million. These spacious residences, set on generous 28' x 60' lots, offer a premium living experience that goes well beyond the dimensions and comfort of conventional link homes, making them ideal for families seeking both space and lifestyle quality.

"Batiq is thoughtfully designed for those who value a serene yet well-connected lifestyle. The upcoming expansion of Labu Road from two to four lanes is set to significantly enhance traffic flow, offering residents a more seamless and convenient commuting experience for their daily travels.

S2 Heights Aman continues to evolve as a sought-after residential enclave, offering long-term value for both homeowners and incoming investors. At IJM Land, we take pride in developing homes that meet today's lifestyle demands while ensuring lasting value in a thriving, well-connected community that is still expanding for generations to come," said chief operating officer Datuk Chai Kian Soon.

IJM completes acquisition of 50% stake in UK's JRL Group

PETALING JAYA: IJM Corporation Bhd recently announced the completion of its acquisition of a 50% equity stake in JRL Group Holdings Ltd for £50 million (RM283 million) via the subscription of new ordinary shares in the UK-based contractor.

Headquartered in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, London - JRL now marks the beginning of a long-term partnership between two complementary businesses - positioning IJM and JRL to jointly scale capabilities and pursue growth opportunities in the UK.

Established in 1996, JRL is an integrated construction solutions provider with 14 specialist divisions offering end-to-end contracting, design, manufacturing and plant services. JRL has delivered a broad portfolio of residential, commercial and institutional projects, and holds a £1.45 billion order book, providing earnings visibility for the next three years and a healthy pipeline of secured and upcoming work.

► Partnership enables the two builders to jointly pursue growth opportunities

The acquisition enhances IJM's core construction capabilities and complements its existing RM6 billion order book. JRL's in-house delivery model - spanning key divisions such as Midgard (main contracting), J Reddington (concrete), McMullen Facades, Ark M&E and London Tower Crane Hire - aligns with IJM's ambitions to scale up in the UK construction market. It also strengthens JRL's capital base, providing liquidity and supporting the execution of its growing order book and future pipeline.

This investment supports IJM's broader strategy to diversify revenue streams and expand its international footprint. The UK remains a key focus for the group, with active investments across property,

construction and urban regeneration. JRL's track record and capabilities - particularly in complex, inner-city and infrastructure-linked sites - align with IJM's focus on high-value, transit-oriented developments. This strategic move integrates IJM's development experience with JRL's contractor expertise, optimising the value chain and reinforcing the group's foothold in a mature market.

Since 2021, JRL has also diversified into property development, which includes around 2,400 build-to-rent and co-living units across seven sites, with an estimated GDV of £780 million.

Its main contracting division Midgard, served as the builder for IJM Land's maiden UK development Royal Mint Gardens Phase 1, completed in 2020. The 325,000 sq ft project included 256 luxury apartments constructed above active railway lines at Tower Hill. Midgard has also been appointed as the contractor for Phase 2 - branded as 88 Royal Mint Street - which includes a 463-room Wilde Aparthotel operated by Staycity Group and 79 residential units.

IJM Corporation Bhd group CEO and managing director Datuk Lee Chun Fai said: "The completion of this acquisition marks a significant advancement in IJM's UK growth strategy. JRL's strong project delivery credentials, specialised technical expertise and solid order book enhance our construction capabilities. This enables us to effectively pursue complex, transit-oriented and infrastructure-led developments, aligning with IJM's long-term plans in the UK market."

JRL Group managing director John Reddington commented: "Finalising this partnership marks a major milestone for JRL, built on mutual trust developed over years

of collaboration. IJM's global experience and strategic ambition align with our focus on complex, large scale delivery. Together, we are well-positioned to unlock new opportunities and drive the next phase of growth in the UK."

The investment strategically complements IJM Land's flagship Innova joint venture with Network Rail Property, targeting multiple railway-adjacent sites across four London boroughs. With a combined GDV exceeding £3 billion, these transit-oriented schemes will directly benefit from JRL's proven ability to deliver over and alongside active rail infrastructure, unlocking the value of underutilised railway land around key transport nodes.

More broadly, the acquisition aligns with IJM's UK strategy of securing high-quality developments that offer recurring income streams such as:

► **88 Royal Mint Street:** A mixed-use development comprising a 463-room Wilde Aparthotel under a long-term master lease with Staycity Group and 79 residential units, targeted for completion in 2028.

► **25 Finsbury Circus:** A premium redevelopment of a Grade II-listed commercial building strategically located in London's financial district, generating recurring income through a 20-year lease to international law firm Simmons & Simmons.

► **The Wheat Quarter:** Redevelopment of the historic 11-acre Shredded Wheat Factory site in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire into a mixed-use community, featuring build-to-rent units, retail, leisure and community spaces.

These developments anchor IJM's long-term growth and market presence in the UK, positioning the group as a credible investor, developer and builder with recurring income opportunities. They reflect IJM's disciplined approach to scaling in mature markets - building on strong fundamentals, deep local partnerships and a long-term view on value creation.



Royal Mint Gardens Phase 1, IJM Land's maiden property development in the UK was completed in 2020 with Midgard, the construction arm of JRL serving as the main contractor.

MTD Properties unveils three major projects in Kajang and Malacca

KUALA LUMPUR: MTD Properties Sdn Bhd has unveiled three major developments, including two residential projects and an industrial park in Malacca and Kajang, aimed at catering to growing market demand.

MTD group CEO Dr Nik Fauzan Nik Faizul said the residential projects are the MTD Sutera Vista Residence in Taman Sutera, Kajang, and the Taman Tasik Utama Phase 24 in Ayer Keroh, Malacca.

The industrial park development will be MTD Nexus 28 in Taman Tasik Utama, Malacca.

"Sutera Vista Residence will feature 378 modern apartment

units, with 74 units allocated for the Rumah Selangorku affordable scheme. Prices will range from RM229,500 to RM500,000.

"Meanwhile, MTD Nexus 28 Industrial Park will offer 86 smart-enabled factory units and Taman Tasik Utama Phase 24 comprising 297 terrace homes designed for growing communities," he told the media at the MTD Properties Showcase recently.

Beyond these developments, Nik Fauzan also shared plans for upcoming integrated townships in Sungai Kantan and Seremban, along with the 283.36-hectare Parcel B expansion in Ayer Keroh.

This strategic move is set to support the growth of a vibrant integrated city in Malacca, further strengthening the group's long-term development pipeline and regional presence.

He said these developments come on the back of strong sales in 2024.

Nik Fauzan also noted that the firm is in ongoing negotiations for 89.03ha of land in Klang Valley, with finalisation expected by this year.

MTD Properties CEO Reime Rizal Abdul Aziz said the company now has a new mandate to accelerate project launches annually, shifting away from its previous conservative

approach of developing projects sequentially.

"Our focus now is on launching multiple projects each year. This approach creates more touchpoints with the community and strengthens stakeholder engagement," he said.

While the company did not disclose its specific sales target for 2025, Reime Rizal said MTD Properties projected an increase of 20% in sales compared to last year.

Commenting on the current property market, the CEO said Malaysia is showing signs of gradual recovery, supported by a stable economic outlook, government

incentives for homebuyers, and growing interest among younger generations in investing in property.

"Demand remains particularly strong for developments that combine strategic locations with excellent connectivity and a wide range of lifestyle-oriented amenities, as homebuyers increasingly seek properties that align with both convenience and quality of life.

"Buyers today are more discerning, prioritising quality, value and long-term livability, especially in integrated developments or those with sustainable features," he added. - Bernama



Malaysian and Cambodian chambers sign pact to enhance trade ties

PETALING JAYA: The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCIM) and Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) have launched a joint initiative to enhance economic cooperation and increase bilateral trade.

The two chambers signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday to formalise their collaboration, according to a statement from CCC, *Bernama* reported.

The May 6 signing ceremony was held at the headquarters of the CCC.

ACCIM president Datuk Ng Yih Pyng said the delegation aimed to partner with its Cambodian counterpart to explore new economic opportunities in the kingdom.

"The main objective of the visit is to explore potential cooperation and promote sustainable events in Asean."

The MoU sets out a framework for promoting economic ties and encouraging trade and investment between both countries.

Trade between Malaysia and Cambodia reached about RM3.7 billion in 2024.

Malaysia's key exports to Cambodia include petroleum products, chemicals, textiles, apparel, footwear, metals and non-metallic mineral products.

Cambodian officials pointed to the country's young and energetic workforce, a productive investment climate, and supportive government policies as key advantages.

"There is a close economic relationship between Cambodia and Malaysia, strong trade demand, and Malaysian investment in key sectors," said CCC vice-president Sok Piseth, according to the statement.

Ng and Piseth signed the MoU on behalf of their respective chambers.

Demand for data centre space in Malaysia **outstrips** supply

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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CYBERJAYA: The demand for data centre space in Malaysia is far outpacing supply, particularly in Johor, according to Equinix, Inc, a global digital infrastructure company, which currently operates two data centres in the country.

Equinix Malaysia managing director Cheam Tat Inn said its Johor data centre rack space was fully taken up just a month after its launch.

"In Johor, just one month after we launched, the racks were completely full. The demand right now far exceeds what the industry can offer. And our second phase of KL1 is already filling up. Customers are already moving in," he told reporters during a media tour of Equinix's KL1 International Business Exchange data centre here yesterday.

Cheam said much of the demand comes from smaller

► Equinix managing director here points to country's advantage of hosting three major digital ecosystems – data hubs, artificial intelligence and semiconductors

deployments rather than large-scale cloud infrastructure.

"We get inquiries in Johor almost every other week. If there's no space, we try to fit them into KL. We'll ask if they would consider KL instead, because here, we still have availability. Some agree because they need the facility, but others insist on Johor due to its proximity to Singapore. There are customers who only want to be very close to Singapore."

According to him, the Johor facility is fully taken up, while Kuala Lumpur is about 90% occupied.

Cheam said Equinix is positive about the outlook of Malaysia's data centre industry. "Malaysia is the fastest growing in the Asean region for new data centres or the data centre industry."

The key reason, he said, is the growing digital economy in Asean which drives the need for supporting digital infrastructure across the region.

"Singapore is at a stage where I don't think they can expand anymore in terms of physical capacity. But the demand for digital infrastructure in Singapore is still

strong. It's just that they're going to look elsewhere to expand. Johor seems to be the next choice because of its proximity. It's just incredible. The number of new data centres in Johor is impressive."

Cheam highlighted Malaysia's advantage of hosting three major digital ecosystems – data centres, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors – which strengthens the country's position in the regional technology landscape.

"We are one of the few countries in the world with all three tech ecosystems in one place. That positions us well to deploy digital infrastructure and support the rapid growth of the region's digital economy. It's a very positive message for Malaysia."

Equinix has completed the second phase of its KL1 data centre here. The latest phase added 450 cabinets to the facility to meet the demand for digital infrastructure in Malaysia.

"Completing KL1's second phase within the first year of our operations in Malaysia signals our deep commitment to helping the nation become a strategic location in the region's digital economy," Cheam said.

Since launching its Cyberjaya operations in 2024, Equinix has secured global and local customers across diverse sectors, including cloud and IT services, content and digital media, enterprises, and network providers.

Equinix has interconnected its Malaysian data centres – KL1 in Kuala Lumpur and JH1 in Johor – with its existing data center campus in Singapore via Equinix Fabric.

With future expansions into Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, Equinix aims to facilitate seamless business exchanges and enable customers to deploy multisite, latency-sensitive workloads across Asean.



Equinix Malaysia's facility in Cyberjaya. Cheam says the growing digital economy in Asean is driving the need for supporting digital infrastructure across the region.

Asean urged to strengthen climate partnerships amid global uncertainty

PETALING JAYA: Asean must build on its shared strengths and deepen partnerships on climate action across all sectors following the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and its sweeping tariff plans.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad (*pic*) said Malaysia is ready to collaborate, share lessons, and take the lead where possible.

"No country can face the climate crisis alone. But together, Asean can lead. We have natural resources, growing markets, young populations, and a shared destiny."

"We must build on our common

strengths and deepen our partnerships – across governments, businesses, civil society, and academia," he said in a pre-recorded keynote address at the Financing Asia's Transition Conference held in Singapore yesterday.

While Malaysia remains committed to resolving the tariff issue through bilateral and regional negotiations, Nik Nazmi said the climate cooperation agenda must progress in tandem.

He reiterated Malaysia's commit-



ment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with a pledge to peak emissions by 2030 and reduce the intensity of emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 45% compared to 2005 levels.

Malaysia, Nik Nazmi said, views the green transition as an economic stimulus, particularly in areas such as energy efficiency, solar photovoltaic and electric vehicle manufacturing, green hydrogen and nature-based solutions.

He said Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap is projected to unlock investments of RM1.85 trillion by 2050, offering abundant opportunities for local entrepreneurs, workforce upskilling and an expanded role for women and youth in the clean energy sector.

Nik Nazmi called on development banks, multilateral institutions, and the private sector to help build a financial ecosystem that supports sustainability.

He said that green ambitions such as the Asean Power Grid infrastructure initiative aimed at supporting the region's energy transition to renewable energy, require

matching financial infrastructure.

"Private capital must be mobilised, derisked, and directed towards sustainable investments. Blended finance, green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, and catalytic funds must be scaled up," he said.

Nik Nazmi noted that Malaysia has introduced the green sukuk and is actively exploring innovative financing mechanisms to encourage private sector participation.

According to the Asian Development Bank, Asean will require an estimated US\$210 billion (RM888.3 billion) annually until 2030 to support climate-aligned infrastructure. – *Bernama*



Capital A plans major expansion into Saudi Arabia

➤ Group to bring whole business ecosystem with it – new air routes, logistics operations, MRO services and digital solutions

PETALING JAYA: Capital A Bhd yesterday announced plans to significantly expand into Saudi Arabia, marking a pivotal step in the group's Middle East growth strategy.

The multifaceted initiative will begin with AirAsia introducing new routes to Riyadh and Dammam, while increasing flight frequencies to Jeddah from Kuala Lumpur.

The group is also studying new connections from Bangkok, Thailand, and Jakarta, Indonesia, to Riyadh, as part of its wider ambition to enhance Middle East connectivity across the ASEAN region.

The expansion extends well beyond airline operations, as Capital A plans to introduce its entire business ecosystem to the kingdom, including Teleport – Capital A's rapidly growing logistics arm; Asia Digital Engineering (ADE) – providing comprehensive aircraft maintenance and engineering services; and AirAsia MOVE – the digital travel platform offering seamless end-to-end travel booking solutions.

The announcement follows high-level discussions between Capital A's senior leadership team, including CEO Tan Sri Tony

Fernandes and AirAsia Thailand CEO Tassapon Bijleveld and officials from the Saudi Ministry of Investment, General Authority of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Transport.

The meetings explored strategic partnerships across airline connectivity, Red Sea tourism development initiatives and potential collaborations in logistics and aircraft engineering services.

Fernandes said: "I am absolutely blown away by what's happening in Saudi Arabia – the cultural shift, the transformation in people's lives and the sheer scale of ambition is truly mind-blowing. But, more importantly, it's the motivation and mindset of the Saudi people that moved me. There's a real drive to build something big, especially the

logistics to aircraft engineering; we're ready to grow with our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia."

As part of the group's logistics focus, Teleport aims to explore working with Saudi logistics hubs and free trade zones to establish efficient cargo corridors between ASEAN and the Middle East, enabling faster, cost-effective movement of goods including e-commerce. With AirAsia's extensive belly cargo capacity and network reach, the partnership could help position Saudi Arabia as a key regional transshipment point for goods moving between Asia, Europe and Africa – supporting the kingdom's Vision 2030 goals of becoming a global logistics hub.

Meanwhile, ADE will explore opportunities to collaborate with Saudi aviation stakeholders to support the kingdom's fast-growing aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul sector. This may include setting up line maintenance facilities at key Saudi airports, training and upskilling local talent in aviation engineering, and sharing best practices in cost-efficient, high-quality MRO services.

With the exponential growth of airlines in the region, ADE aims to contribute to building a robust and self-sustaining aviation support ecosystem in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia now ranks as a top priority market for Capital A, following its rapid expansion in India and China. With Vision 2030 transforming the kingdom into a global tourism and logistics hub, Capital A's multivertical model is uniquely positioned to contribute meaningfully to its growth trajectory.



breathtaking Red Sea development, which I must say is one of the most ambitious tourism and infrastructure projects in the world. The scale of it is truly inspiring, and that energy is infectious."

He added, "We believe the new Riyadh route is projected to serve close to one million two-way passengers by 2026 and more than seven million by 2030, reflecting strong demand for increased connectivity between ASEAN and the Gulf region. We have so many projects we're excited to embark on from

SD Guthrie's Q1 net profit soars 169% year-on-year to RM567 million

PETALING JAYA: In a strong start to the financial year, SD Guthrie Bhd, formerly known as Sime Darby Plantation Bhd, registered a net profit of RM567 million in the first quarter of its financial year ending Dec 31, 2025 (Q1'25), an increase of 169% from RM211 million in the corresponding period of 2024 (Q1'24).

The group's profit before interest and tax (PBIT) increased 118% to RM818 million year-on-year (y-o-y), underpinned by the robust performance of the upstream segment, which mitigated the fall in the downstream segment.

The upstream segment gained from higher y-o-y average realised crude palm oil (CPO) and palm kernel (PK) prices, as well as increased fresh fruit bunch (FFB) production.

The group's realised CPO and PK prices averaged RM4,576 and RM3,342 per tonne respectively, a corresponding increase of 18% and 72%. FFB production in the group's Indonesian operations rose by 11% while production in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands improved by 10%, cushioning the 7% decline in the group's Malaysian operations.

SD Guthrie International (SDGI), the group's downstream arm, recorded a lower PBIT of RM76 million in Q1'25, representing a 37% y-o-y decline. SDGI's performance was impacted by lower margins in the bulk and differentiated product segments, as well as weaker demand in its European and trading operations. This, however, was partially mitigated by better performance and higher profits from its Asia-Pacific operations.

Chairman, Tan Sri Dr Nik Norzrul Thani Nik Hassan Thani said: "The uncertain operating environment, due to persistent inflationary pressures fuelled by volatile monetary and trade policies, as well as continuing geopolitical tensions, presents challenges that the group will navigate with caution over the short and medium terms. Despite this, I firmly believe the group has the necessary resilience and capability to face headwinds, just as we have in the past, underscoring the wealth of experience and unwavering commitment of our management and employees."

Group managing director Datuk Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha said: "The group kicked off the year on a strong note, as reflected by our solid performance, driven by ongoing efforts to enhance operational excellence. As the year progresses, we are cognisant of prevailing economic and geopolitical conditions that may require strategic shifts to keep the group on track for a strong FY2025."

On a positive note, he added that its industrial park growth pillar has attained a milestone with the recent signing of a tripartite agreement for the development of the group's prime land in Bukit Pelandok, Negeri Sembilan, within the country's Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0 growth area.

The company said the CPO price is expected to soften in the near term mainly due to a rebound in palm oil production as a result of improved weather conditions. Furthermore, demand from biodiesel blending is expected to weaken given the current low crude oil price environment. Whilst tariffs announced by the United States may have minimal direct impact on Malaysian CPO, it has created uncertainty and volatility of prices across all vegetable oil markets. In addition to price uncertainty, the potential disruption in the global supply chain could further lead to an overall increase in operational costs.

Amid rising market volatility, the group expects modest improvement in FFB production, driven by its ongoing operational excellence and yield-enhancing initiatives.

PMCK inks underwriting agreement with Malacca Securities

PETALING JAYA: PMCK Bhd, a private healthcare service provider based in Alor Setar, Kedah, entered into an underwriting agreement with Malacca Securities Sdn Bhd yesterday for the company's initial public offering (IPO) and upcoming listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities.

PMCK, which is well-positioned for continued healthcare innovation and expansion, is developing a 12-storey private medical centre in Kulim, Kedah (PMC Kulim), a facility that will complement its existing operations and cater to the increasing demand for private healthcare services in the northern region of Peninsular Malaysia.

The IPO comprises an issuance of 272.60 million new shares and an offer for sale of 32.72 million existing shares, which will be made available through a private placement to selected investors. Of the new shares, 54.53 million will be made available to the Malaysian public through balloting, 43.62 million to eligible directors, employees, as well as persons who have contributed to the success of PMCK, 136.33 million reserved for private placement to selected Bumiputera investors approved by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry and 38.12 million by way of private placement to selected investors.

Malacca Securities will underwrite a total of 98.15 million shares, which includes 54.53 million shares made available to the Malaysian public and 43.62 million shares allocated to eligible persons.

PMCK plans to utilise the proceeds from its IPO for strategic purposes, including the repayment of bank borrowings, particularly those incurred for the construction of PMC Kulim.



From left: Lee, deputy executive chairman Datuk Dr Lim Kim Huat, Malacca Securities managing director Lim Chia Wei, and corporate finance vice-president Tan Sin Jiang at the underwriting ceremony.

PMCK managing director Datuk Lee Gaik Cheng said their upcoming medical centre in Kulim marks a major milestone in their growth journey – designed to expand access to care across Kedah, Perlis and Penang.

"This underwriting marks a significant step forward in our journey, and we look forward to building a healthier, smarter, and more

connected future in Malaysian healthcare. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Malacca Securities for their unwavering support throughout this listing process."

Malacca Securities is the principal adviser, sponsor, underwriter and placement agent for the IPO. PMCK is expected to be listed in the third quarter of the year.

PETALING JAYA: I-Berhad posted a strong start to FY25, reporting a significant 150% year-on-year surge in profit before tax (PBT), reaching to RM12.36 million, alongside a 53% rise in revenue to RM62.06 million for the first quarter ended March 31, 2025.

The performance was driven by steady contributions from the group's three core business segments – property development, property investment, and leisure and hospitality.

The group's results validate its strategic pivot over the past year towards building a more resilient and sustainable asset-backed business model – an approach increasingly relevant in a volatile global environment marked with the rising importance of stable cash flows.

Leisure and hospitality generated RM26.4 million in revenue during the quarter, remaining the group's leading revenue segment. The newly rebranded Wyndham Garden i-City (formerly Best Western Hotel) recorded healthy occupancy in its first full quarter of operations, contributing alongside DoubleTree by Hilton i-City and Wyndham Suites KLCC.

I-Berhad in a statement said that these assets continue to underpin the company's strategy of yield optimisation and premiumisation within its hospitality portfolio.

The property development segment recorded a turnaround, posting RM28.36 million in revenue and RM4.62 million in PBT, compared to a loss of RM2.23 million in the same period last year. This was driven by sustained demand for units at BeCentral, as well as a soon-to-be-launched branded residence within i-City Finance Avenue.

As at March 31, 2025, unbilled sales stood at RM89.2 million, providing earnings visibility into the quarters ahead.

Executive chairman Tan Sri Lim Kim Hong said the results reflected the company's evolution into a more balanced, asset-driven business.

I-Berhad kicks off FY25 with 150% surge in Q1 earnings

➤ Strong gains driven by steady contributions across property, investment and hospitality segments

"Over the past year, we've restructured our growth engine to ensure we create an ecosystem that generates recurring income across our existing assets. The performance we are seeing today shows that our strategy is working – our earnings are broad-based, resilient, and supported by both recurring income and market-responsive development," he added.

The property investment segment contributed RM6.66 million in revenue and RM5.28 million in PBT – a 42% increase from the previous year. High occupancy levels at Mercu Maybank Premium Corporate Tower and Central i-City Mall, together with active rental management strategies, helped anchor this recurring income stream.

The leisure and hospitality segment's PBT eased to RM2.97 million from RM4.16 million a year ago, mainly due to Ramadan seasonality and initial costs from new offerings. The group expects a stronger second quarter, supported by school holiday tourism and yield optimisation, especially with Visit Selangor 2025 and Visit Malaysia 2026 gaining momentum.



From left: Wyndham Hotels & Resorts Apac president JoonAun Ooi, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts CEO Geoffrey Ballotti and Lim at the signing ceremony to rebrand Best Western Hotel to Wyndham Garden i-City.

Lim said that the group's diversified income sources place it in a strong position to manage changing market cycles. "We are focused on quality over speed. Each business vertical plays a specific role – some offer growth, others provide stability. This balance allows us to reinvest selectively and protect long-term value."

Looking ahead, I-Berhad will focus on phased development, operational efficiency, and strengthening its commercial leasing. With RM5 billion in remaining GDV at i-City, the group will time future launches to maximise value and align with market conditions.

"With a stabilised earnings base and significant GDV held in reserve,

we are entering a new phase – one where disciplined execution, yield optimisation, and long-term ecosystem value will define our performance. We are building more than just structures but a destination, while we are curating experiences, enabling connectivity, and cultivating a future-forward lifestyle hub," Lim said.

Heineken Malaysia delivers steady quarterly performance

PETALING JAYA: Heineken Malaysia Bhd delivered steady performance and sustained its momentum in a dynamic market landscape in the first quarter ended March 31, 2025 (Q1'25).

In the first quarter, the group experienced a slight decline in revenue by 3% compared to the same quarter in 2024. The decrease is primarily influenced by the timing of Chinese New Year (CNY), with this year's festive period occurring in January, resulting in an earlier sell-in activity that took place in the fourth quarter of last year. Despite the slight decline in revenue in Q1'25, the group maintained steady profit before tax (PBT) of RM161 million and net profit of RM122 million, demonstrating strength and stability.

Managing director Martijn van Keulen (pix) said, "Our performance this quarter was impacted by an earlier CNY and post-festive demand normalisation. We are resilient in maintaining our profitability, and it reflects our disciplined cost management and focus on financial efficiency. As we build momentum for 2025, we will continue our growth journey through our EverGreen strategy. This strategy is anchored on driving superior growth with a



cost-conscious mindset, catering to evolving consumer preferences, embedding sustainability into our operations, investing in becoming the best-connected brewer, and most importantly, unlocking the potential of our people."

On outlook, Martijn shared, "As we move forward, we anticipate that consumer sentiment will be shaped by inflationary pressures and ongoing global economic uncertainties, particularly those arising from tariff-related issues and escalating

geopolitical trade tensions, which could impact consumer confidence and spending patterns. Nevertheless, we will continue to navigate the dynamic landscape with agility, driving topline growth through targeted commercial initiatives while maintaining disciplined cost control and operational efficiency to sustain healthy margins. We will continue to future-proof the business, as we execute our EverGreen strategy in navigating the evolving external environment."

The board of directors does not recommend any dividend in respect of the quarter ended.

In 2024, the group paid RM1.45 billion in taxes, representing 52% of its total revenue. The excise duty is one of the highest in the world. This highlights Heineken Malaysia's contribution to the economy and creating value for the country and its people.

The group applauds the government's decision to maintain excise duties on beers in Budget 2025, as any hike in excise rates will drive greater demand for illicit alcohol. Heineken Malaysia regards illicit alcohol as a serious issue and remains committed to supporting the government in mitigating illicit trade through holistic efforts, including enforcement collaboration and raising greater awareness in the market.

Pro-Net, operators team up to enhance EV charging at condos

PETALING JAYA: Pro-Net, the new energy subsidiary of Proton, has joined forces with four of the region's top charging point operators (CPO) – Charge+, ChargeSini, REXharge, and Charge N Go – to enhance electric vehicle (EV) charging accessibility at residential condominiums across Malaysia.

The collaboration aims to further strengthen the national EV ecosystem and support the increasing number of Proton e.MAS and smart owners.

"Our collaboration with these CPOs supports our goal of making EV ownership simpler and more accessible," said Pro-Net CEO Zhang Qiang.

With this partnership, Proton e.MAS and smart customers can now conveniently charge their vehicles at 320 condominium and apartment locations nationwide. Including the earlier collaboration with EV Connection (EVC) in December 2024, Pro-Net now lists a total of 1,053 charging points at high-rise residential buildings across the country.

Together, these initiatives contribute to Malaysia's 90% coverage milestone for public charging needs, complementing to the current network of 2,500 public charging points nationwide.

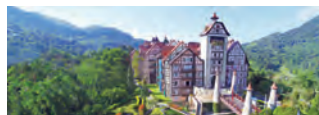
The signing ceremony, held at Proton's Centre of Excellence in Subang Jaya yesterday, marks another important step in Malaysia's journey towards a greener future.

Charge+, Singapore's largest EV charging operator, is installing chargers at 18 condominium locations in Malaysia as part of its regional expansion while Charge N Go is installing chargers at 93 condo sites and ChargeSini at 204 condominium locations. REXharge, a clean energy solutions provider, will be installing chargers at five condominium locations.

To mark the launch of this strategic collaboration, Pro-Net is rolling out a limited-time promotional campaign exclusively for Proton e.MAS dan Hello smart app users.

Beginning June 1 until Dec 31, owners will enjoy special EV charging rates at participating condominium charging points provided by each CPO. Each partner will offer customised promotional pricing, with rates starting from RM0.75/kWh, depending on location and provider.

These rates will be available exclusively via the Proton e.MAS app, which seamlessly integrates Pro-Net's live charging map with each CPO's charging platform.



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Mission to enhance financing access for MSMEs

Digital Penang FinHero partner up to unlock opportunities for businesses

GEORGE TOWN: Digital Penang Sdn Bhd and Sisters Inspire Sdn Bhd's fintech solutions provider unit FinHero have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand access to financing for Penang's micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

In a statement yesterday, Digital Penang said the collaboration supports its mission to accelerate Penang's digital economy by introducing digital-first, alternative financing options and equipping business owners with the skills to navigate them confidently.

The partnership also aligns with the Penang2030 vision of "A Family-Focused Green and Smart State", reflecting a shared goal of enabling inclusive digital growth.

"By bridging traditional financial gaps through innovation and education, the initiative aims to unlock opportunities for businesses often overlooked by conventional financing systems.

"At the heart of this collaboration is a

commitment to community impact," the statement said.

Under the MoU, Digital Penang and FinHero will launch programmes to help local MSMEs understand and access a new generation of financial tools.

These include artificial intelligence (AI)-powered automation, alternative credit scoring, and revenue-sharing financial models – all designed to support businesses with limited credit histories but high growth potential.

State infrastructure, transport, and digital committee chairman Zairil Khir Johari, who also serves as Digital Penang's vice-chairman, said the partnership underscores a shared commitment to making financial tools and digital education accessible across all levels of the business community.

"Inclusive innovation is the bedrock of a resilient, future-ready economy," he said.

As part of the collaboration, FinHero will contribute its expertise by offering business-friendly financing solutions such as invoice-based funding and flexible repayment schemes.

Its proprietary solution, FinXtract, will further support digital adoption by automating data extraction and simplifying repetitive tasks, freeing up time and resources for entrepreneurs.

To promote fintech awareness, Digital Penang said it will organise monthly workshops

and seminars to introduce practical fintech applications and promote smarter financial strategies.

Additionally, it will connect FinHero with its network of MSMEs and business associations to ensure the partnership's benefits reach those who need them most.

The collaboration, it noted, aligns with Digital Penang's broader mission to elevate Penang's innovation economy and foster a digitally engaged society.

"This partnership expands the financial landscape for MSMEs by offering practical tools and accessible support tailored to their needs.

"With improved access to digital solutions and flexible financial options, business owners will be equipped to grow sustainably, make informed decisions and strengthen their resilience in a dynamic economic environment," it added.

Digital Penang noted that inclusive finance is becoming an integral feature of Penang's evolving digital economy, supporting long-term participation and progress across the business community.

The first series of community workshops is set to launch in the second quarter of 2025, bringing fintech insights and financing pathways directly to Penang's small business owners. – Bernama

Maybank mobilises RM46.73 billion in social investments

KUALA LUMPUR: Maybank Banking Bhd said it has mobilised RM46.73 billion in social investments and impacted 4.23 million lives over the past decade, underscoring its commitment to purpose-driven financial services across Asean.

In a statement, Maybank said that under its social financing efforts, it served more than 480,000 customers in 2024 by providing financial support to lower-income segments, including individuals and micro, small and medium enterprises.

This included disbursements of over RM12.18 billion for affordable home loans, vehicle financing and insurance.

The milestone was outlined in Maybank's second social impact report (SIR) 2024, launched at its 65th annual general meeting.

The report, based on a two-pronged approach of social financing and social empowerment, aims to drive inclusive socio-economic growth and support a sustainable future for communities in the region.

Meanwhile, its social empowerment initiatives have reached 2.37 million lives over the past decade, with RM67.68 million invested in 75 ongoing programmes.

In 2024 alone, these efforts benefited 799,427 individuals across Asean, the bank said.

Maybank added that these initiatives span education, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, vocational training, environmental conservation and zakat distribution – targeting students, women, marginalised communities and persons with disabilities.

In 2024, Maybank Islamic and Etiqa mobilised RM23.69 million in zakat contributions for bursaries and community-led initiatives, uplifting 75,855 lives.

President and group CEO Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli said Maybank believes that profit and purpose can go hand in hand, and that social impact remains central to the group's mission of generating sustainable outcomes for the communities it serves.

"As the world continues to evolve owing to geopolitical and economic uncertainties, social impact is a key differentiator for Maybank as we champion efforts towards humanising financial services.

"On our end, we remain on track to deliver on our commitments, uplifting 1.28 million lives and disbursing RM12.36 billion in social investment in 2024," he added. – Bernama

Life Water plans smart manufacturing line in Sandakan

SANDAKAN: Life Water Bhd, a homegrown bottled water manufacturer, is currently in the midst of setting up an additional drinking water manufacturing line at its existing Sandakan Sibuga Plant 1.

This development forms part of the company's expansion strategy outlined in its Initial Public Offering (IPO) prospectus.

The new manufacturing line is expected to be operational in the second half of 2025 and will boost the company's annual drinking water production capacity by an additional 178 million litres.

With the recent commencement of its Keningau Plant, Life Water's current annual drinking water production capacity stands at 448 million litres.

Upon completion of the new line at Sandakan Sibuga Plant 1, the group's total capacity will increase to 626 million litres per annum.

The capital expenditure for this project is approximately RM19.0 million.

"The upcoming line not only supports our growth plans but is also designed with sustainability and efficiency at its core," Life Water managing director Liaw Hen Kong said.

"It underscores our commitment to adopting Industry 4.0 practices, while continuing to deliver quality drinking water to more Malaysians.

"In line with Industry 4.0 practices, the new manufacturing line will be equipped with automated systems to enhance operational efficiency.



The upcoming line in Sandakan is designed with sustainability and efficiency at its core.

"With smart control systems and energy-efficient technology in place, the company anticipates substantial utility savings – estimated at 29,700 tonnes of water and 215,424 kWh of energy per year.

"The new line will also support our bottle light-weighting efforts, allowing the company to reduce plastic usage and lower overall carbon emissions throughout the production

and distribution process," Liaw said.

"These improvements are part of our broader strategy to scale up responsibly and contribute to a low-carbon, resource-efficient future."

This expansion marks another important step in Life Water's journey to scale up its operations responsibly and sustainably, in line with growing consumer demand and the company's long-term vision.

Pan Merchant inks underwriting agreement for ACE Market listing

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's solid-liquid filtration solutions provider Pan Merchant Bhd signed an underwriting agreement with Affin Hwang Investment Bank Bhd yesterday, as part of its initial public offering (IPO) exercise on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities.

The IPO entails a total of 250.2 million ordinary shares in Pan Merchant, comprising 232.2 million new shares and 18 million offer-for-sale shares.

The total number of shares represents 27.3% of the enlarged share capital.

Managing director Wong Voon Ten said: "We are pleased to have Affin Hwang on board, supporting us with their experience and market insights in our IPO journey.

"We are eager to tap into the opportunities the capital market offers to drive our next phase of growth with our listing status.

"We strongly believe that being listed on Bursa Malaysia will position us with enhanced credibility among customers worldwide for our long-term success and expansion into new regions and industries."

Affin Hwang CEO Nurjesmi Mohd Nashir said: "We are truly honoured to play a pivotal role in Pan Merchant's listing journey. Upon listing, Pan Merchant will be the only solid-liquid filtration

solutions provider listed on Bursa Malaysia, marking a unique issuer on Bursa Malaysia and reinforcing its position as the largest homegrown solid liquid filtration solution industry player in Malaysia in terms of its revenues.

"With the group's strong fundamentals, growth prospects, industry experience and niche expertise, we are optimistic that Pan Merchant will garner strong investor interest."



Members of the media sitting on the floor as Bessent testifies before a House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee oversight hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. —REUTERS/SPIC

US and China to hold talks in Geneva

► Beijing injects new monetary stimulus to combat tariff blow

WASHINGTON: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and chief trade negotiator Jamieson Greer will meet China's economic tsar He Lifeng in Switzerland this weekend for talks that could be the first step toward resolving a trade war disrupting the global economy.

News of the planned Geneva meeting, first announced by Washington on Tuesday night, sent US equity index futures higher.

Stock markets in China and Hong Kong followed suit during Asian trading yesterday.

The talks come after weeks of escalating tensions that have seen duties on goods imports between the world's two largest economies soar well beyond 100%, amounting to what Bessent on Tuesday described as the equivalent of a trade embargo.

The impasse, alongside US President Donald Trump's decision last month to slap sweeping duties on dozens of other countries, has upended supply chains, roiled financial markets and stoked fears of a sharp downturn in global growth.

The negotiating teams convening in Switzerland, known for its neutrality, are expected to discuss reductions to the broader tariffs, two sources familiar with the planning said.

The talks should also cover duties on specific products, export controls and Trump's decision to end de minimis exemptions on low-value imports, one of the sources added.

"My sense is this will be about de-escalation," Bessent told Fox News after the announcement.

"We've got to de-escalate before we can move forward."

A Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson later confirmed that China had agreed to meet the US envoys.

"On the basis of fully considering global expectations, China's interests, and the appeals of US industry and consumers, China has decided to re-engage the United States," the spokesperson said, citing a proverb about actions speaking louder than words.

This is the first meeting between senior Chinese and American officials since US Senator Steve Daines met Premier Li Qiang in Beijing in March.

Beijing has largely adopted a fiery rhetoric as tensions with Washington have ratcheted up, repeatedly saying it would not engage in negotiations unless the US withdrew its tariffs.

Signaling a change in tack, however, China's Commerce Ministry on Friday said it was "evaluating" an offer from Washington to hold talks.

Asked about the apparent U-turn yesterday, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a daily press conference that Beijing's "position of firmly

opposing US abuse of tariffs has not changed."

The stakes for China's economy are high, with its vast factory sector already bearing the brunt of the tariffs.

Many analysts have downgraded their 2025 economic growth forecast for the Asian giant, while investment bank Nomura has warned the trade war could cost China up to 16 million jobs.

China's central bank yesterday announced fresh monetary stimulus, flagging rate cuts and a liquidity injection into the banking system aimed at countering the economic impact of the duties.

Analysts described the move as measured and tactical.

"There's almost certainly also an element of signaling to the US government ahead of the upcoming meeting," said Christopher Beddor, deputy China research director at Gavekal Dragonomics.

"The message is that Chinese officials are not panicked or scrambling to shore up economic growth, and they're not going to be negotiating from a position of weakness."

Bessent told Fox News the two sides would work out during their meeting on Saturday "what to talk about."

"Look, we have a shared interest that this isn't sustainable."

"And 145%, 125% is the equivalent of an embargo."

"We don't want to decouple."

"What we want is fair trade," he said. —Reuters

Thai business group cuts economic growth forecast

BANGKOK: Thailand's economy and exports will grow less than expected this year because of US tariffs, a leading business group said yesterday, adding the country could lose market share in the United States if a tariff reduction was not secured.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy was now expected to grow between 2% and 2.2% this year, down from a previous forecast of 2.4% to 2.9% growth, the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking said.

And exports, a key economic driver, were seen growing by between 0.3% and 0.9% this year, down from earlier projection of 1.5% to 2.5% growth, while expected tourist arrivals were cut to 36 million to 37 million, down from 39 million to 39.5 million.

Thailand is among the Southeast Asian nations hardest hit by US President Donald Trump's trade policy, facing a 36% tariff on shipments to its biggest export market if a reduction cannot be negotiated before July.

If the tariffs stand, the economy might grow by just 0.7% this year, and

lost export revenue over the next decade could be 1.4 trillion baht (RM182 billion), said Kriengkrai Theinnukul, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, part of the group.

There was also a risk that other countries might negotiate better tariff terms and weaken Thai exports to the United States, Kriengkrai said.

The United States took more than 18% of Thai exports last year, worth US\$55 billion.

Washington has put its trade deficit with Thailand at US\$45.6 billion.

Kriengkrai said business was also worried about the strength of the baht, saying the government should make sure the currency does not appreciate too fast or become too volatile.

The Finance Ministry last week cut its forecast for economic growth this year to 2.1% from 3% due to the impact of US tariffs and a global slowdown.

Thailand's economy has lagged regional peers since the pandemic, and the group said tariffs added to structural challenges such as high levels of household debt. —Reuters

Indian exchanges BSE, NSE curb overseas access to their websites

MUMBAI: India's top two exchanges, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and BSE Ltd, have temporarily restricted access to their websites for overseas users, three sources familiar with the matter said.

This does not impact the ability of overseas investors to trade on the Indian markets, the sources said.

The decision was taken after a joint meeting of exchanges on Tuesday in which cyber threats were discussed, one of the sources said, declining to be identified as the matter is confidential.

A BSE spokesperson, when contacted by Reuters, also referred to cyber threats, but did not specify if the exchange had faced one recently.

It comes against the backdrop of an escalating conflict between nuclear armed neighbours India and Pakistan, but sources did not say if the cyber

threat was directly linked to recent developments.

Given the sensitivity of the overall environment, some "precautionary" steps have been taken by exchanges, said another of the sources.

Indian markets are functioning completely normally, the person said.

"BSE, being a critical market infrastructure institution (MII), proactively and continuously monitors risks at domestic and international levels for potential cyber threats," the BSE spokesperson said.

"Based on such monitoring of cyber traffic, as a precautionary and protective measure, websites/locations are blocked to protect users and systems," the spokesperson said, adding that access is being permitted on a case-by-case basis.

A spokesperson for NSE did not respond to Reuters' queries. —Reuters

Foxconn signs electric vehicle pact with Mitsubishi Motors

TOKYO: The EV unit of Taiwanese technology giant Foxconn has agreed in principle to develop and supply an electric vehicle model to Japan's Mitsubishi Motors, the companies said yesterday.

It marks Foxconn's first major contract in the fast-growing EV sector, and comes as analysts say many Japanese automakers will need to seek alternative partners to stay competitive as cars become more high-tech.

Mitsubishi Motors and Foxtron Vehicle Technologies said they had signed a memorandum of understanding and would "proceed with discussions towards a definitive agreement."

"The EV model to be supplied to Mitsubishi Motors... will be developed by Foxtron, manufactured in Taiwan by Yulon Motor Co Ltd, and introduced in the Oceania region

(Australia and New Zealand) in the second half of 2026," they said.

The model's "excellent driving performance and infotainment functions as an electric vehicle make it ideal for the region," the statement added.

Foxconn — also known as Hon Hai — is the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer and builds devices for major tech companies, including Apple's iPhones.

It has recently been pushing into areas ranging from electric vehicles to semiconductors and servers.

Foxconn said in February it was open to buying Renault's stake in Japan's Nissan.

Experts also say Honda, whose merger talks with Nissan fell through in February, could also be a good candidate for a Foxconn tie-up as it has technologies Honda wants. —AFP



Palantir shares dive after quarterly results fail to impress investors

NEW YORK: Shares of Palantir Technologies slumped more than 13% on Tuesday, after quarterly results and a raised forecast failed to meet the high expectations of Wall Street investors, who had driven the stock price up significantly ahead of earnings.

The data analytics company's stock had gained 63% ahead of earnings this year, following a more than fourfold increase last year, fuelled by AI-powered growth and government contracts.

"We believe we have reached a

point where respectable earnings beats and raised guidance aren't enough to materially move the stock to the upside," Morningstar analyst Mark Giarelli said.

Palantir is set to lose more than US\$40 billion (RM170 billion) from its

market valuation of US\$292.06 billion if losses hold.

The Denver, Colorado-based company is a significant beneficiary of increased AI-driven demand and strong government contracts, with its AI software solutions being widely

used across US commercial sectors such as healthcare, energy, and automotive.

Palantir's total revenue grew 39% in the first quarter to US\$883.9 million, with US government revenue up 45% from a year earlier. – Reuters

Mobile operators warn Europe may fall behind US on 6G

BRUSSELS: Twelve of the largest European telecoms firms urged regulators yesterday to allocate more spectrum for mobile services, warning Europe risks falling behind the US in future 6G deployment.

In a letter seen by Reuters, operators including Britain's Vodafone, Germany's Deutsche Telekom, France's Orange and Italy's TIM demanded the entire upper 6GHz band be made available for mobile networks.

The upper 6GHz band is one of the few remaining large blocks of mid-band spectrum available, as most European nations auctioned airwaves in the 3.4-3.8 GHz range for initial 5G deployments.

This spectrum is ideal for networks that need to handle massive amounts of data while still providing reasonable coverage.

While the United States opened this band for Wi-Fi use in 2020 and China allocated it for 5G and 6G services in 2023, Europe has yet to make a decision on repurposing these frequencies.

"If the decision to make the upper 6GHz band available to European mobile operators is delayed, while US technology interests are permitted to secure further 6GHz capacity, Europe's competitiveness would be threatened," the operators said.

"We remain concerned that access to upper 6GHz band is still sought for Wi-Fi by US stakeholders," they added.

The European Union's Radio Spectrum Policy Group is expected to issue a draft opinion for public consultation on the 6GHz band in June. – Reuters

UK, India clinch 'ambitious' trade agreement

» Tariffs lowered on whisky and food, quotas for cars

NEW DELHI: Britain and India clinched a long-coveted free trade pact on Tuesday after tariff turmoil sparked by US President Donald Trump forced the two sides to hasten efforts to increase their trade in whisky, cars and food.

The deal, between the world's fifth and sixth largest economies, has been concluded after three years of stop-start negotiations and aims to increase bilateral trade by a further £25.5 billion (RM144 billion) by 2040.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the trade deal was "ambitious and mutually beneficial".

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the strengthened alliance would reduce trade barriers in a "new era for trade".

Trump's tariffs have prompted countries across the world to redouble efforts to seek new trade partners and people familiar with the UK-India talks said the turmoil had sharpened the focus to get a deal done.

The deal, which will lower tariffs on goods such as whisky, allow British firms to compete for Indian contracts and Indian workers to more easily work in Britain, is significant for both economies.

It marks India opening up its long-guarded markets, including automobiles, setting an early example for the South Asian nation's likely approach to dealing with major Western powers such as the US and the European Union.

It also represents Britain's most significant trade deal since it left the EU in 2020, though the projected boost to British economic output from the deal, of £4.8 billion a year by 2040, is small compared to the country's gross domestic product of £2.6 trillion in 2024.

India's Trade Ministry said 99% of Indian exports would benefit from zero duty under the deal, including textiles, while Britain will see reductions on 90% of its tariff lines.

Talks over a free trade deal between India and Britain were initially launched in January 2022, and became a symbol of Britain's hopes for its independent trade policy after Brexit.

But negotiations were stop-start, with Britain having four different prime ministers since that launch

date and elections in both countries last year.

Britain's Labour Party, elected last July, moved rapidly to conclude a deal after restarting negotiations in February, with last-minute talks between the countries' trade ministers in London last week enough to get it over the line.

Britain's Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said the deal was a "beacon of hope amidst the spectre of protectionism".

Whisky tariffs will be halved from 150% to 75% before reducing to 40% by the deal's 10th year, while auto tariffs will go from over 100% down to 10% under a quota system.

The Scotch Whisky Association said the agreement would be "transformational" for the industry and the UK auto industry body SMMT said it appreciated the considerable effort of negotiators despite the apparent compromises made.

The governments did not publish the text of the deal, which is subject to legal checks, signing and ratification.

Modi invited Starmer to India in a call welcoming the conclusion of the substantive talks.

The deal covers rules of origin regulations, giving access to manufacturers to lower tariffs even

if they use inputs from other places and includes provisions on procurement allowing British firms to compete for more contracts in India.

While Starmer is seeking to generate growth, political opponents criticised the deal for provisions it had on business mobility and social security amid public concern over immigration.

The free trade deal provides for easier mobility of certain professionals, while under a separate pact workers no longer have to make social security contributions in both India and Britain during temporary postings in the other country.

Kemi Badenoch, a former trade minister who now leads the opposition Conservative Party, said she had refused to sign a similar deal because of India's demands on visa requests and social security.

Britain's Trade Minister Jonathan Reynolds said the social security pact created a level playing field for India, and emphasised that Britain had rejected requests on more visas for students under the talks.

"There is no impact on the immigration system of the deal that we have agreed," Reynolds told reporters, saying there were only "modest changes" on business mobility. – Reuters

Zalando uses AI to speed up marketing campaigns, cut costs

LONDON: European online fashion retailer Zalando is using generative artificial intelligence to produce imagery faster for its app and website, it said yesterday, as AI shakes up the fashion industry and cuts costs.

Zalando, which sells branded clothes, shoes, and accessories across 25 markets in Europe, is using AI to produce imagery quickly enough to respond to short-lived fashion trends spread on social media.

It is also developing AI-generated "digital twins" of models to use in its marketing.

"We are using AI to be able to be reactive," Matthias Haase, vice-president of content solutions at Zalando, told Reuters in an interview.

Using generative AI cuts the time needed to produce imagery to around three to four days from six to eight weeks, and reduces costs by 90%, Haase said, adding the AI-generated content drives greater engagement from customers.

"It's not because of AI content that is better than human-created content,

it is really about how new, how relevant it is to our customers," Haase added.

Around 70% of Zalando's editorial campaign images were AI-generated in the fourth quarter of last year as it has increased use of the technology. AI-generated images illustrated Zalando's recap of the year's biggest trends, including "brat summer," "mob wife" and double denim.

For an industry used to costly, meticulously planned fashion shoots on sets or in far-flung locations, the prospect of using AI to speed up production and use marketing money more efficiently is of particular appeal to retailers with far smaller budgets than the big, luxury players.

Zalando is the latest retailer to try out AI-generated digital twins of models, after Sweden's H&M in March said it created digital twins in collaboration with a modelling agency.

The AI-generated three-dimensional replicas enable Zalando to feature a model in a campaign and show an exact replica of that model in the app's



product pages, without needing to take hundreds of photos.

Asked how generative AI could affect job prospects for fashion photographers, Haase said traditional

fashion shoots will still be needed, but that photographers and other creatives will also have to adapt to using AI tools.

"Creative people fear that AI makes

creatives redundant," Haase said.

"I don't see that at all, to be honest ... I see it rather that creative minds have now, instead of two hands, six hands." – Reuters

Zalando parcels are transported on a conveyor through an automatic coding device at the parcel distribution center of Schweizerische Post in Frauenfeld, Switzerland. – REUTERS/SPIC

MARKET ROUND-UP: MAY 7

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

7 May 2025

Participation		Retail (16.08%)	Institution (41.25%)	Foreign (42.67%)
Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	Net (in RM mil.)	Net (in RM mil.)
-74.41		-290.41	+364.82	
Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)
353.65	428.06	857.31	1147.72	1219.54
				854.72

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	11,519.50 +106.12
FBMKLCI	1,549.90 +13.10
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	509.50 +1.85
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	152.29 +1.81
CONSTRUCTION	278.18 +6.27
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,188.60 +59.42
ENERGY	685.05 +6.43
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	508.47 +8.65
HEALTH CARE	1,916.20 +15.75
TRANSPORTATION	983.34 +4.60
PROPERTY	1,006.67 +12.70
PLANTATION	7,305.29 +20.33
FBMSHA	11,438.00 +126.80
FBMACE	4,651.61 +12.84
TECHNOLOGY	48.76 +0.53
TURNOVER: 2.844 bil	
VALUE: RM2.43 bil	

Buying of heavyweights lifts Bursa to end at intraday high

PERSISTENT buying in selected telecommunications and media, as well as utilities counters lifted Bursa Malaysia to end at an intraday high yesterday, in line with positive momentum across the regional market, an analyst said.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI gained 0.85%, or 13.1 points, to 1,549.9 from yesterday's close of 1,536.8.

CelcomDigi and YTL Corp were the top two contributors to the benchmark index's increase, rising 12 sen to RM3.91 and 11 sen to RM2.05, respectively, with a combined contribution of 4.50 points.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said key regional indices closed higher after the Trump administration confirmed that top US officials would meet Chinese counterparts this weekend for trade discussions.

"We believe these discussions could represent a pivotal step towards easing trade tensions sparked by President Donald Trump's policies. The local bourse is recovering after two weak sessions, supported by improved investor sentiment and increased foreign buying driven by attractive valuations.

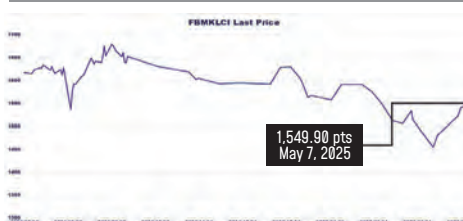
"With positive technical signals emerging, the FBM KLCI appears poised for further gains, provided it holds above its support zones. We expect the benchmark index to trade between 1,530 and 1,560 for the remainder of the week," he told Bernama.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank rose 4 sen to RM10, Tenaga Nasional advanced 10 sen to RM14.16, CIMB garnered 5 sen to RM6.95, while Public Bank and IHH Healthcare were flat at RM4.47 and RM7, respectively.

For active stocks, Sapura Energy perked up half-a-sen to 4.5 sen, Tanco Holdings added 1.5 sen to 90 sen, DNeX went up 1.0 sen to 27.5 sen, while WTEC slipped 1.5 sen to 24 sen.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWEI	0.145	-	-	1,504,336
SAPNRG	0.045	+0.005	+12.50	1,123,148
HSI-PWFJ	0.160	-0.005	-3.03	1,102,401
HSI-PWFR	0.160	-	-	980,175
HSI-CWEY	0.245	+0.005	+2.08	884,952
HSI-CWEP	0.110	+0.005	+4.76	584,474
HSI-CWCT	0.070	-	-	399,701
HSI-PWFM	0.100	-0.005	-4.76	382,890
HSI-CWC4	0.075	-	-	367,939
HSI-CWC6	0.250	+0.005	+2.04	364,982
WTEC	0.240	-0.015	-5.88	318,915
TANCO	0.900	+0.015	+1.70	317,577
DNEK	0.275	+0.010	+3.77	301,343
POS	0.300	+0.030	+11.11	297,717
REACHTEN	0.565	+0.005	+0.89	292,607
VELESTO	0.155	+0.005	+3.33	279,320
YTL	2.050	+0.110	+5.67	273,956
MYEG	0.895	+0.005	+0.56	258,542
GAMUDA	4.520	+0.170	+3.91	229,591
SNS	0.485	+0.025	+5.44	228,531



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
DLADY	28.900	+0.700	104
MPI	19.560	+0.240	1,164
CARLSBG	19.400	+0.220	1,539
FGN	27.300	+0.220	2,969
KLK	19.920	+0.220	2,343
ALLIANZ	18.960	+0.200	696
HEIM	27.000	+0.200	3,536
GAMUDA	4.520	+0.170	229,591
PPB	12.260	+0.160	2,804
LCTITAN	0.570	+0.150	133,636
AMBANK	5.300	+0.140	77,761
LPI	14.200	+0.140	181
PICHEM	3.430	+0.130	43,460
TM	7.040	+0.130	161,149
VITROX	3.300	+0.130	15,013
CDB	3.910	+0.120	44,648
HSI-CWE4	0.635	+0.120	280
YTL	2.050	+0.110	273,956
HSI-CWE8	0.415	+0.105	24,726
HLIND	13.820	+0.100	125

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
ARTRONIQ-WA	0.020	+100.00	44,961
DNEK-C38	0.010	+100.00	27,700
DRBHCOC3K	0.010	+100.00	511
IOIPG-C31	0.010	+100.00	5,000
LCTITAN-CT	0.040	+100.00	3,629
LCTITAN-CU	0.120	+100.00	32,323
SIMEPROP-C41	0.010	+100.00	1,000
TENAGA-C2S	0.010	+100.00	23,418
YINSON-WA	0.010	+100.00	15,660
SIMEPROP-C45	0.035	+75.00	1,200
GCB-C16	0.060	+71.43	1
TM-CIR	0.075	+66.67	250
AMBANK-C50	0.040	+60.00	28,498
HARTA-C2N	0.015	+50.00	2,010
ITRONIC-WA	0.015	+50.00	2,164
SALCON-WB	0.015	+50.00	6,041
SUNCON-C26	0.015	+50.00	26,807
VITROX-C8	0.015	+50.00	200
SUNCON-C27	0.050	+42.86	3,668
HKEX-CR	0.055	+37.50	1,099

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	40,829.00	-389.83	-0.95
S&P 500 (US)	5,606.91	-43.47	-0.77
NASDAQ (US)	17,689.66	-154.58	-0.87
NYSE (US)	19,182.16	-121.07	-0.63
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	5,252.43	-10.95	-0.21
FTSE 100 (UK)	8,573.29	-24.13	-0.28
DAX (GER)	23,246.71	-2.94	-0.01
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	36,779.66	-51.03	-0.14
TOPIX INDEX (JPN)	2,696.16	8.38	0.31
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	22,691.88	29.17	0.13
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,831.63	23.09	0.61
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	190.62	0.17	0.09
SHANGHAI SE COM (CHN)	3,342.67	26.55	0.8
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	2,573.80	14.01	0.55
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	80,715.38	74.31	0.09
ASX 200 (AUS)	8,178.32	26.88	0.33
ALL ORDINARIES INDEX (AUS)	8,399.83	30.53	0.36
FBM KLCI	1,549.90	13.1	0.85
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	3,861.26	0.85	0.02
WTI (US\$/BBL)	59.55	0.46	0.78
BRENT (US\$/BBL)	62.55	0.4	0.64
GOLD (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	3,386.00	-36.8	-1.08
SILVER (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	33.02	-0.36	-1.08
PLATINUM (US\$/T OZ)	983.77	-3.94	-0.4
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	469.7	-8.1	-1.7
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US\$/MT)	9,538.00	172.5	1.84
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	462.25	6.75	1.48
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	542.75	6.75	1.26
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	48.99	0.64	1.32
COCOA (ICE) (US\$/MT)	8,905.00	-20	-0.22
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	170.7	-0.1	-0.06

As at 5:30pm, May 7

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	87.440	-1.060	1,102
HLFG	16.660	-0.460	2,724
CITAGLB-PA	0.700	-0.300	20
GLDHC-H2	0.085	-0.165	20,000
PANAMY	13.840	-0.140	23
PGF	1.760	-0.140	34
SAB	3.070	-0.130	20
HSI-PWF7	0.085	-0.125	450
HSI-PWFA	0.450	-0.125	25
PETDAG	19.380	-0.120	615
HSI-PWFE	0.505	-0.110	365
DIN045801028	101.300	-0.100	2
HSI-PWF6	0.300	-0.100	275
HSI-PWF2	0.035	-0.095	100
HSI-PWF5	0.720	-0.095	30
UEMS-CIS	0.060	-0.090	20,000
HSI-CWEZ	0.155	-0.085	38,898
LHI-C31	0.065	-0.085	300
HSI-PWF1	0.305	-0.070	300
SBAGAN	5.780	-0.070	20

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWF2	0.035	-73.08	100
SYGROUP-CD	0.010	-66.67	28
GLDHC-H2	0.085	-66.00	20,000
UEMS-CIS	0.060	-60.00	20,000
HSI-PWF7	0.085	-59.52	450
LHI-C31	0.065	-56.67	300
HSI-CWEU	0.060	-52.00	4,860
BAT-C35	0.055	-50.00	224
GENM-C30	0.005	-50.00	80
IOICORP-C64	0.005	-50.00	1,000
JADI-WB	0.005	-50.00	1
UWC-C8	0.005	-50.00	20
HSI-PWF8	0.015	-40.00	1,779
PICHEM-CIN	0.090	-40.00	1,000
UWC-C11	0.025	-37.50	150
HSI-CWEZ	0.155	-35.42	38,898
COMFORT-WB	0.010	-33.33	2,965
HARTA-C2P	0.010	-33.33	1,600
HARTA-C2Q	0.020	-33.33	3,000
HSI-PWBU	0.010	-33.33	574

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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Matrade expands export reach with RM50m boost

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) is expanding Malaysia's export presence in emerging markets, following the government's RM50 million allocation for its global trade diversification strategy.

Matrade said in a statement yesterday that it is strengthening ties with traditional markets like the US, China, Asean, and the European Union, while ramping up efforts to venture into markets such as Latin America, Central Asia, South Asia and Africa.

"In 2024, Malaysia's exports to these markets registered encouraging growth notably to South Asia and the Middle East which expanded by 11.8% and 6.3% respectively," it said.

Matrade added that through targeted initiatives such as trade expos, export missions, business matching, and digital tools like the Madani Digital Trade platform, it is helping Malaysian exporters, especially small and medium enterprises, diversify into new markets and strengthen global trade linkages.

On May 5, the government said it will allocate an additional RM50 million to Matrade to expedite efforts to explore new markets.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the initiative is a key part of the Madani government's strategy to maintain economic stability and protect national interests in the short to medium term, especially in light of the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US on Malaysia.

Matrade chairman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the RM50 million allocation would enable the agency to step up its market diversification efforts and provide greater support for Malaysian exporters. – Bernama

Ringgit slips ahead of Bank Negara rate decision

THE ringgit ended slightly lower against the US dollar yesterday ahead of Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) overnight policy rate (OPR) decision today, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the local note inched lower to 4.2360/2435 versus the greenback compared to Tuesday's close of 4.2285/2360.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would deliberate on the OPR decision, with economists expressing varied opinions on the likely outcome.

"Some (economists) have pencilled in for a 25 basis points cut while others are of the view that the benchmark interest will stay unchanged at 3%," he told Bernama.

Mohd Afzanizam said geopolitical risks are once again on traders' radar, with the latest military encounter between India and Pakistan having led to anxiety over how it might impact the global economy.

At the close, the ringgit traded lower against a basket of major currencies.

It dropped versus the Japanese yen to 2.9556/9613 from 2.9502/9556 at Tuesday's close, depreciated vis-a-vis the euro to 4.8104/8189 from 4.7824/7909 on Tuesday, and eased against the British pound to 5.6479/6579 from 5.6302/6402 previously.

Similarly, the ringgit performed weaker against its Asean peers.

It rose versus the Indonesian rupiah to 256.1/256.7 from Tuesday's close of 257.0/257, declined versus the Singapore dollar to 3.2802/2862 from 3.2749/2812, and edged lower against the Philippine peso to 7.647/7.66 from 7.60/7.62 on Tuesday.

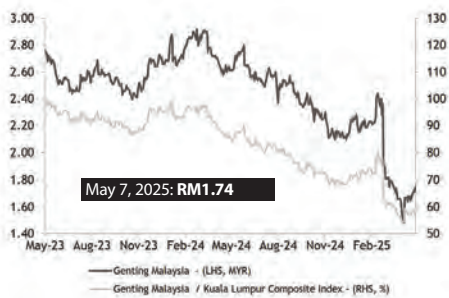
Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.3030	4.1690	4.1590
1 Australian Dollar	2.8050	2.6910	2.6750
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3290	3.2310	3.2230
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1150	3.0300	3.0180
1 Euro	4.8850	4.7280	4.7080
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5920	2.4960	2.4800
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3290	3.2310	3.2230
1 Sterling Pound	5.7480	5.5640	5.5440
1 Swiss Franc	5.2450	5.0230	5.0080
100 Chinese Renminbi	59.9000	57.3700	57.3700
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.6130	3.3640	3.1640
100 Danish Krone	67.1200	61.7600	61.5600
100 Hongkong Dollar	56.0500	53.2500	53.0500
100 Indian Rupee	5.1700	4.8600	4.6600
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0269	0.0244	0.0194
100 Japanese Yen	3.0100	2.9130	2.9030
100 Norwegian Krone	42.8800	39.4300	39.2300
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5500	1.4600	1.2600
100 Philippine Peso	7.8800	7.4200	7.2200
100 Saudi Riyal	115.9100	110.0400	109.8400
100 South Africa Rand	24.4500	22.0800	21.8800
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4700	1.3600	1.1600
100 Swedish Krona	46.2600	42.1300	41.9300
100 Thai Baht	13.7000	12.1500	11.7500
100 UAE Dirham	118.4400	112.3100	112.1100
100 Qatar Riyal	119.2700	113.2300	113.0300
100 New Taiwan Dollar	15.3000	N/A	N/A

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Genting Malaysia Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM2.08



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

GENM has proposed to acquire the remaining 51% of Empire common stock from Kien Huat Realty III (KH), which is controlled by the deputy chairman & CEO for US\$41 million (RM177 million). It is expected to be completed by end-Q2'25 and does not require shareholders' approval. Empire owns Resorts World Catskill (integrated casino resort), Resorts World Hudson Valley (video lottery terminal casino) and Resorts World Bet (mobile sports betting) which all operate in the state of New York, US.

Although GENM has hitherto owned 49% of Empire common stock, it has equity accounted 90% of its losses as GENM also owns Empire convertible preferred stock. Thus, accounting for the remaining 10% of Empire's losses lowers our FY25/FY26/FY27 core net profit by -2%/-4%/-3%. But given that Empire will be a subsidiary instead of an associate going forward, GENM will consolidate Empire's US\$300 million Senior Secured Notes and weaken its end-FY25 net gearing to 98% from 79%.

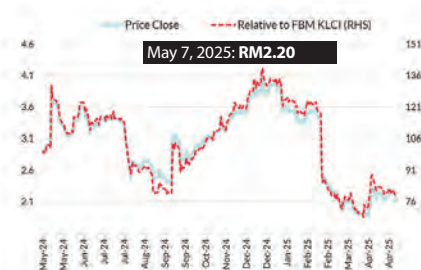
With this proposal, GENM would have poured in US\$765.4 million into Empire. We hope this will be the last value destroying RPT by GENM. We continue to impute no value to Empire and consolidate Empire's US\$300 million Senior Secured Notes.

Although GENM stated that Empire generates positive free cash flows that is sufficient to even cover its interest expense, we choose to impute no value to it still. We continue to ascribe 10% discount to our SOTP-based valuation lest its dividends be reduced again due to GENM continuing to financially support Empire.

BUY with RM2.08 TP. – **Maybank Investment Bank, May 7**

Hartalega Holdings Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM2.83



Source: Bloomberg

Q4'25 swung into losses – mainly dragged by US customers front loading their orders from Chinese producers ahead of the tariff implementation as volume shrunk 20% QoQ. This was offset by a favourable sales mix, which lifted ASP by 2.6% to US\$22.60. Consequently, HART's plant utilisation rate edged down to 69% (Q3'25: 86%).

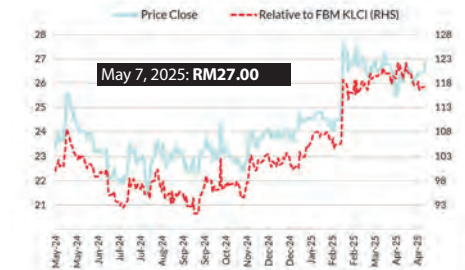
Our late March sector upgrade has largely played out following companies under our coverage rallying 7-15%. HART is currently trading at 1.65x CY25 P/BV, which is 0.35D below its 3-year historical mean of 1.8x. We deem the current valuation as attractive, considering the subsequent earnings recovery prospects in Q1'26 post the inventory adjustment cycle. Management guided that the May orderbook had picked up to 2.3 billion pieces from an average monthly orderbook of 2-2.1 billion pieces, with Q1'26 guided volume to be within the range of 6-6.5 billion pieces – indicating a 6% QoQ growth at the higher end of guidance. That said, we expect near-term valuation to be impacted by investor sentiment following China's hints of possible trade negotiations with the US.

We lower our FY26-27 earnings by 6-4% after we trim our FY26-27 USD/RM to 4.25/4.20 from 4.28/4.21. We also cut out volume assumptions to align with management's guided quarterly output of 6-6.5 billion pieces. HART will be able to pass on the effects of a weakening USD to customers, as the quantum of USD/RM weakening (-3.5% in April-May vs the March quarter) had surpassed the quantum of the decline in raw materials (2.5%).

BUY with RM2.83 TP. – **RHB Research, May 7**

Heineken Malaysia Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM31.30



Source: Bloomberg

HEINEKEN Malaysia's Q1'25 results are in line with expectations, thanks to steady consumption and efficiency gains. Its current below-mean valuation is undemanding, in view of the solid earnings growth and dividend payout – notwithstanding the cautious consumer sentiment and environment of rising operating costs. We believe this is sustainable on demand stickiness, margin uplift brought about by a premiumised product mix and price increases, as well as the encouraging trend in tourist arrivals.

YoY, Q1'25 revenue dropped by 3% to RM764 million as the earlier timing of the Lunar New Year in 2025 led to some of the festive season sales being captured in Q4'24. In addition, Q1'24 was boosted by frontloading purchases before the prices increase in April 2024. That said, the topline softness was largely mitigated by improved operational efficiency, which propelled a 0.5 ppt net margin expansion in Q1'25 – thereby leading to flat YoY earnings growth. On a QoQ basis, Q1'25 revenue and net profit fell 7% and 13% on relatively weaker seasonality due to the abovementioned Lunar New Year timing, whilst Q4'24 was also aided by a lower ETR of 19.1% vs 24.1% in Q1'25.

For the immediate term, we look forward to HEIM booking more respectable earnings growth in Q2'25, with Q2'24 (a low base) impacted by weaker demand post price increase. Overall, we expect consumption to be steady in FY25, underpinned by tight enforcement to keep the contraband trade at bay. Meanwhile, positive traction from tourist arrivals and the rise in disposable income should provide further support.

BUY with RM31.30 TP. – **RHB Research, May 7**



the Sun **LYFE**

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Plants for your home

Refresh your decor
with leafy greens - **P22**

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Virtual boy band Plave
takes over K-pop

BY THASHINE SELVAKUMARAN

PLANTS have become indispensable elements in interior design, offering more than just an aesthetic appeal. They breathe life into our homes, purify the air and create a soothing ambience.

Whether you are a seasoned plant enthusiast or a novice looking to infuse new energy into your living space, incorporating these seven plants will elevate your home decor to new heights.

Monstera deliciosa (Swiss cheese plant)

With its iconic perforated leaves reminiscent of Swiss cheese, the monstera deliciosa brings a touch of tropical elegance to any room. Its lush green foliage instantly transforms dull corners into vibrant oases. Thriving in indirect sunlight, this low-maintenance plant requires occasional watering and well-draining soil. Place it in a stylish ceramic pot and let its trailing vines cascade gracefully, adding drama and visual interest to shelves or mantelpieces.

Fiddle leaf fig

The fiddle leaf fig exudes sophistication with its broad, violin-shaped leaves, making it ideal for contemporary or minimalist interiors. It commands attention with its statuesque presence, accentuating high ceilings and creating a sense of verticality. Provide ample indirect sunlight and water sparingly to prevent root rot. Wipe its leaves regularly to maintain their glossy sheen and remove dust. Position it as a focal point in a spacious living room or hallway to make a statement.

Snake plant (Sansevieria trifasciata)

Renowned for its resilience and air-purifying qualities, the snake plant is an ideal choice for busy homeowners seeking a low-maintenance, green companion. Its upright, sword-shaped leaves



Monstera deliciosa adds a tropical vibe to any space.



Pothos is easy to care for and best known for its air-purifying qualities.



The peace lily helps improve indoor air quality. – ALL PICS FROM PEXELS

Nature's touch

➤ Transform your living space with leafy greens

feature striking patterns that effortlessly complement modern interiors. Thriving in low-light conditions, this hardy plant requires infrequent watering and well-draining soil. Arrange multiple snake plants in sleek, minimalist planters along a windowsill or as a centrepiece on a coffee table to create a cohesive and visually striking display.



The fiddle leaf fig is a popular choice for interior decoration.

Pothos (Epipremnum aureum)

With its cascading vines and heart-shaped leaves, the pothos plant brings natural beauty and charm to any room. Versatile and easy to propagate, it can thrive in various lighting conditions, making it an excellent choice for beginners. Hang a trailing pothos plant in a macrame planter near a sunny window or drape it over a bookshelf to add a whimsical touch to your decor while maximising vertical space. Indirect sunlight is preferable, but pothos can tolerate low-light environments. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings, and trim the vines to encourage bushier growth.

ZZ plant (Zamioculcas zamiifolia)

Characterised by its glossy, dark green foliage and architectural silhouette, the ZZ plant is a resilient and stylish addition to any home. Its ability to thrive in low light and tolerate neglect makes it just right for those with busy lifestyles. Showcase the ZZ plant in a modern ceramic pot on a side table or console, allowing its glossy leaves to add sophistication to your interior while requiring minimal upkeep. Place it in low to moderate indirect light and allow the soil to dry out completely between waterings.

Peace lily (Spathiphyllum)

The peace lily is beloved for its elegant, white flowers and dark green foliage, making it a timeless addition to any home. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, this plant is known for its air-purifying properties, helping to remove common household toxins. It thrives in low to moderate indirect light and requires consistently moist soil. Keep its leaves clean by gently wiping them with a damp cloth to prevent dust buildup. Place the peace lily on a side table or countertop in your living room or bedroom to bring a sense of freshness to your space.

Rubber plant (Ficus elastica)

With its large, glossy leaves and striking appearance, the rubber plant adds a bold and sculptural element to interior spaces. This hardy plant is relatively low-maintenance and can tolerate a variety of light conditions, although it prefers bright, indirect light. Allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings, and avoid



The rubber plant is a statement piece that adds a touch of drama to any room.



The snake plant is a low-maintenance plant, ideal for beginners.



The ZZ plant is drought-tolerant, making it ideal for forgetful plant owners.

overwatering to prevent root rot. The rubber plant is ideal for filling empty corners or adding height to your decor. Place it in a stylish planter and let its dramatic foliage make a statement in any room of your home.

Incorporating these plants into your home decor not only enhances its visual appeal but also promotes a

healthier and more harmonious environment. Embrace the beauty of nature indoors and transform your living space into a sanctuary of style and serenity. With their unique characteristics and effortless charm, these plants are sure to breathe new life into your home, bringing you closer to nature's beauty every day.



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SCAN ME

Colours of motherhood

► Palette of love, strength

A mother's love is unparalleled, always present, always giving. Their unwavering love is powerful, unconditional and unbreakable. They are the heartbeat of the household, and they make a house feel like a home.

This Mother's Day, let us honour mothers for their sacrifices, their care and how much of their love can go unnoticed.

Let us celebrate them not just as caregivers but as artists, women who fill their homes with feeling, memory and colour. Because in every home, there are shades that speak the language of love.



(Second from right) Asilah and her family.

Space for rest - Asilah Rafar, 60, former actress and restaurant owner

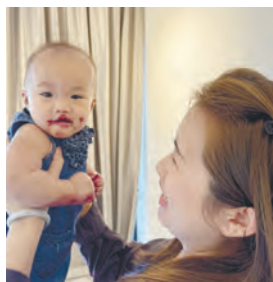
"All my children are adults now with full-time (and) demanding jobs. But I consider myself lucky because they still live with me! I show my love by making our home a place they are excited to come back to - a space where they can rest, recover and be completely themselves."

Asilah's dining room is where stories unfold. It is painted in warm,

inviting greens with a refined two-tone finish. The soft olive of Nippon Paint's Green Heights on the top half brings openness - while the richer Esparina grounds the lower walls with depth and elegance.

"This space is our everyday gathering spot, breakfast, dinner and during weekends, our main hangout spot. It is where I see my children as the adults they have become, yet I still feel the closeness of our bond. As children grow into fully independent adults, their lives naturally shift. They want time with friends, and they *balik lambat,epak* with friends and have lives of their own now."

She paused for a moment, then added softly: "Children change as they grow. Their time becomes limited. Their world gets bigger. That is why it means so much to me that I have created a home they are excited to return to. A space where they feel safe to be themselves and where I get to be their mother, not just in title but in presence. It is something I know not every mother my age gets to experience, and I truly treasure it."



Teh and her daughter.

Safe haven for daughter - Jeslyn Teh, 25, PR consultant

"My baby girl is 18 months old and already so cheeky. I show my love by creating a joyful, safe space where she can play and explore freely."

In Jeslyn's home, the soft lilac playroom, painted in Royal Carriage, is a gentle, bright space filled with toys, books and sunlight. It is where



Teh's mum loves shades such as purple, which is her pick for her daughter's playroom.



Asilah picks shades of green for her dining room as they invite openness and add a touch of elegance.



Prema picks earthy tones for her kitchen as they confer a modern yet comforting ambience.

her daughter explores the world one colour block at a time, feeling safe and stimulated in a world designed just for her.

"The walls of our home were always a reflection of my mother. She loved warm tones - purples and maroons - because to her, those colours meant energy and closeness. Now I have my own family, I am inclined towards similar colour palettes, as it is a reminder of all the sweet experiences we had together. As she is residing in Port Dickson, having these colours around makes me feel closer to her and now, I get to pass that same warmth and love on to my daughter. It is really beautiful, and

the impact colour can have on your mood and cultivate a feeling of love is really great," Teh said.

Being a young mother has not always been easy for Teh. Most of her friends are single, or even if they have a partner, they do not have children yet. There are days Teh admitted to feeling left out. Being the first among her peers to take on motherhood has been lonely at times.

"Sometimes I feel like I am in a different place than everyone else my age. But when I sit in this space with my daughter, surrounded by soft colours, laughter and love, I know I am exactly where I am meant to be. It is incredible what a warm and uplifting space can do."

kitchen, cooking up a storm and making their favourite dishes. It is my way of giving them a taste of home and reminding them just how much they are loved."

Prema's kitchen is full of laughter and flavours. Painted in the soft, grounding tones of Timeless and enriched with the earthy depth of Firewood, the space feels modern yet deeply comforting. It is where *sambal* simmers, stories are shared and traditions are passed down.

A devoted mother and a woman who has built a life of career and family, Premia balances the demands of her work with the joys of motherhood. When Premia's eldest son comes home from Australia, the kitchen becomes a symphony of spices, laughter and endless pots bubbling on the stove.

"I do not wait for him to ask. I already know what he has been craving," she said with a laugh.

"Chicken varuval, butter prawns, my *dhal* with crispy *papadam*, the flavours they grew up with, made just the way they like it.

"Work can get very demanding at times, but I always make sure to carve some time out of my day to cook and eat as a family, especially now, with my youngest, since he will be flying off soon. These little everyday moments mean even more now. I want him to carry the warmth of home with him."

For Premia, the kitchen is a special place filled with memories of her sons.

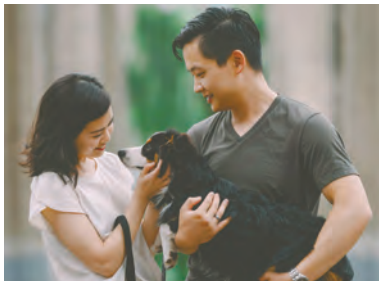
"They may be grown, and the house may be quieter now, but when they are here, we are whole. And when they are not, this kitchen helps keep them close."



Prema is a doting mother and career woman.

Bonds of taste - Premia Dass, 52, finance director

"I have one son studying in Australia, and another who will be joining him soon. I already miss the one who is away, and I know I will miss them both once they are gone. Whenever they come home for their semester breaks, I spend all my time in the



Dogs are now central to the lives of many families.

Do you love your dog more than people?

COULD dogs play a more important role in our emotional lives than we think? So suggests a Hungarian study published in *Scientific Reports*. It compares the relationships we have with our dogs with those we have with our loved ones.

To carry out their research, scientists at Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary interviewed over 700 dog owners. These participants were asked to evaluate 13 dimensions of their relationship with their dog, but also with their child, romantic partner, closest relative and best friend. The aim was to understand the place dogs occupy in our lives.

The results are surprising, to say the least. Indeed, it seems that dogs are more than just loyal companions. They combine the qualities of a child with those of a best friend.

They evoke a sense of relationship security and the need for protection or nurturing, just as a child would, while at the same time offering a harmonious, conflict-free relationship such as a deep friendship.

But unlike human relationships, those with dogs are based on a clear asymmetry of power. The owner decides everything and controls the animal's environment, creating a particular dynamic that is stable and rewarding for the human.

"The power asymmetry, having control over a living being, is a fundamental aspect of dog ownership for many," explained senior author and Eotvos Lorand University ethology department head Eniko Kubinyi, quoted in a news release.

Another striking fact is that participants consider their relationship with their dog to be the most precious, far above all others. For them, their four-legged friend is their most loyal companion and the one who shows them the most affection. The researchers also observed the more a person has strong human relationships, the more they develop a deep and harmonious bond with their dog.

Long confined to practical roles, dogs are now central to the lives of many families. This is reflected in the emergence of the terms "dog mums" and "dog dads" to designate people who no longer see themselves as dog owners, but as pet parents, caring for their dog's well-being and showing their pet affection, as they would with a child. This reveals a profound change in the status of dogs in today's society. – ETX Studio



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Automatic curtains or blinds could make for happier, more energetic mornings.

Natural light key against morning drowsiness

Study suggests timed exposure may help

EACH morning you wake up with one desire in mind – to go back to sleep. You have ruled out a sleeping disorder but there must be something you can do to stop feeling this way. Rest assured, Japanese researchers believe they have found a simple and natural solution to help you start the day off right. Their trick is all about getting natural light at the right time – a small gesture that could transform your mornings.

For many, the start of the day is nothing short of an ordeal. It is hard to leave the comfort of your bed without using the snooze button on your alarm several times. This is a common reflex with a scientific explanation – "sleep inertia" can leave you feeling foggy-minded for almost two hours, even after a full night's sleep. To remedy this, many people turn to a cup of coffee, hoping to chase away the morning drowsiness.

But researchers at Osaka Metropolitan University propose a gentler, more natural

and effective approach – letting daylight into your bedroom a few minutes before you wake up. In a study published in the journal *Building and Environment* and spotted by StudyFinds, they demonstrate the benefits of this habit through an experiment conducted with about 20 young adults, with an average age of 25.8 years, who tend to go to bed late.

Participants were exposed to three different conditions in an east-facing room equipped with motorised curtains: 20 minutes of natural light before waking up, continuous exposure to light from dawn and total darkness until it was time to get up.

The researchers evaluated the effects of these scenarios using electroencephalograms, vigilance tests, heart rate measurements and questionnaires on sleepiness and fatigue. The study took place in January and February to ensure stable light levels, minimising weather disruptions.

Let sunshine in

It turns out participants exposed to natural light 20 minutes before waking up were more alert and emerged more quickly from their morning drowsiness. This method promotes

a smoother awakening, significantly reducing sleep inertia. By facilitating the transition between deep sleep and wakefulness, the morning light seemed to act as a natural signal, preparing the body to wake up in better conditions.

However, it has to be perfectly timed – light that comes on too early can have the opposite effect. When the curtains opened at dawn, people felt like they had been awakened during the night, which disrupted their sleep. The key, therefore, lies in precisely timed exposure to light.

In our overlit LED-brightened environments, access to natural light is becoming nothing short of a real luxury. And yet it is light that regulates our biological clock. The authors of the study advocate for better integration of daylight in housing design. And why not imagine smart houses where the curtains or blinds open automatically for a gentle awakening? Some people already opt for artificial dawn simulators but, according to researchers, nothing beats real sunlight. Our body is naturally attuned to it – much more than to artificial light, however sophisticated it may be. – ETX Studio

No magic formula for happiness

WHAT is the secret to happiness? Does it come from within or does it rely on external influences such as jobs, health and relationships?

A North American study, recently published in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*, challenges a number of preconceived ideas.

In recent years, happiness has become a serious subject of study. Psychologists, economists and sociologists have joined forces to unravel the inner workings of human fulfillment. With this in mind, researchers from several North American universities have analysed the lives of over 40,000 people in five countries. Over a period of almost 30 years, they examined their level of general satisfaction, as well as their

relationship to five essential dimensions of existence: health, income, housing, work and relationships.

It turns out there is not just one, but a multitude of ways to be happy, specific to each individual and each context. For some, happiness is based on tangible criteria such as income, employment or housing. For others, it depends on personal traits such as resilience or the search for meaning. Some combine these two dimensions, while a minority seem to deviate from any pre-established model.

These findings call into question the two main theoretical models that have dominated until now. The first, termed "bottom-up", explains happiness derives from satisfaction in the various

areas of life. The second, called "top-down", argues certain personal dispositions, such as optimism or emotional stability, influence our perception of happiness independently of external circumstances.

This study proposes a third, more flexible path, closer to reality, with a "bi-directional model", in which internal and external factors are intertwined.

"These things are treated separately, but they are not really. They feed into each other at a personal level," explained first author on the paper and University of California, Davis assistant professor of psychology Emorie Beck, quoted in a statement.

To promote well-being, public policies should be designed to take



Raising a society's level of happiness means taking each individual's needs into account.

– ALL PICS FROM PEXELS

account of this diversity, rather than relying on universal approaches.

"We have to understand the sources of happiness to build effective interventions," said Beck.

In other words, raising a society's level of happiness means taking each individual's needs into account. The same policy can transform the lives of some, while making no difference

to others.

This study serves as a reminder there is no magic formula for happiness. It is complex, specific to each individual and sometimes even elusive. But one thing seems certain – to better understand it, we need to stop thinking of it as a universal standard and start thinking of it in terms of the individual. – ETX Studio

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

American thriller *Drop*, directed by Christopher Landon, arrives with an irresistible premise – a first date that spirals into a nightmare of anonymous threats, escalating dangers and rising suspicion. Add in the backing of genre powerhouses Blumhouse and Platinum Dunes, and expectations naturally soar. But while *Drop* delivers gorgeously polished visuals and performances, its narrative leans heavily on familiar tricks, asking viewers to stay patient as it unfurls its tangled threads.

There is no denying *Drop* is a feast for the eyes. Cinematographer Marc Spicer (who deserves applause here) bathes the upscale restaurant setting in moody lighting, gleaming surfaces and just the right touches of noirish shadow. Every glass of wine, flicker of candlelight and nervous glance is captured with surgical precision. This is a film where even a cell phone notification looks cinematic. But as sharp as the visuals are, the plot sometimes struggles to keep pace.

Familiar recipe (but still tasty enough)

Let us be clear: *Drop* does not reinvent the thriller wheel. The core premise – a protagonist trapped in a confined, elegant space while an unseen tormentor pulls the strings, echoes everything from *Phone Booth* to *Panic Room*. Add in a widowed protagonist with a tragic backstory, too-charming date and a parade of suspicious side characters, and the setup feels more comfort-food familiar than groundbreaking.

Yet despite the sense of *deja vu*, *Drop* remains a solid watch. This is thanks largely to Meghann Fahy's magnetic presence as Violet, the frazzled yet determined single mom trying to navigate dating jitters and escalating danger. Fahy brings an emotional vulnerability that grounds the more outlandish moments, making the audience root for her even when the plot feels like it is jogging in place.

Brandon Sklenar's Henry, meanwhile, plays the charming date with just the right amount of "Is he or is he not?" ambiguity. The supporting cast, including Violett Beane as Violet's sister and Gabrielle Ryan as the sharp-eyed bartender, fill out the ensemble with texture, even if many of them serve more as set dressing for Violet's rising paranoia.

Let tension build

Here is the key to enjoying *Drop* – approach it knowing that it is not a non-stop thrill ride. This is not one of those breathless, edge-of-your-seat thrillers where the plot fires off twists every ten minutes. Instead, Landon crafts a deliberately slow burn, teasing out the tension piece by piece.

For some, this will be a treat – a rare thriller that luxuriates in mood, atmosphere and simmering dread. For others, it might test their patience. There are stretches where the movie seems to coast on its vibes rather than push the story forward and the central mystery occasionally feels padded out to stretch the runtime. But for viewers willing to sink into the slow-building unease, *Drop* offers a satisfying pay-off.

Visuals outshine plot

It bears repeating. The real star of *Drop* is its visual design. The film's upscale restaurant setting is a living,



(From left) Violet (Fahy) and Henry (Sklenar) share a tense first date where charm quickly turns to suspicion. – ALL PICS FROM IMDB

Drop serves killer looks

➤ Pacing weighs down visually appealing thriller



Violet (Fahy) struggles to keep her cool as anonymous threats push her to the edge.

breathing character, full of reflective surfaces, shadowy corners and a tense, claustrophobic atmosphere. Landon, known for stylish genre hits such as *Happy Death Day* and *Freaky*, brings his playful touch here, making even the most

mundane objects – a phone, cocktail glass, a note scribbled on a napkin – pop with cinematic flair.

The visuals are so compelling that they often distract from the more predictable beats of the story. There is a sense that Landon and his

team know they are working with a somewhat familiar script, so they lean hard into the atmosphere, ensuring the film at least looks fresher than it reads. For thriller fans who value aesthetics and mood, this attention to detail makes *Drop*



DIRECTOR:
Christopher Landon
CAST:
Meghann Fahy, Brandon Sklenar, Reed Diamond, Gabrielle Ryan, Violett Beane

E-VALUE

7

PLOT

7

ACTING

8

Drop is a high-stakes thriller where no one can be trusted.

worth the ticket price alone.

Worth watching, with right expectations

Drop is not the most original thriller to hit screens this year, but it does not need to be. It knows what it is doing, delivering a tense, visually stunning cat-and-mouse game wrapped in a glossy package and it does it well enough to satisfy.

Sure, the plot relies on familiar tropes and the pacing demands a patient viewer, but the overall experience is polished, suspenseful and anchored by strong lead performances.

Audiences looking for groundbreaking twists or adrenaline-pumping action might walk away wishing for more. But for those content to settle in for a stylish, slow-burning thriller with a killer aesthetic, *Drop* delivers just enough thrills to keep them watching and admiring how good it all looks along the way.



Virtual boy band Plave conquers K-pop

► Five-member group uses motion capture tech to find way into hearts of fans

One of K-pop's trendiest groups Plave has appeared on television and held concerts. One of its songs has even secured a place in the prestigious Billboard Global 200, an international music chart.

On paper, the band seem like any other K-pop sensation, except the members are two-dimensional avatars with songs and content that have racked up more than 470 million views on YouTube.

The boy band – consisting of Yejun, Noah, Eunho, Bamby and Hamin – said it wants to be globally recognised such as K-pop sensation BTS.

"We do not often get to meet our fans, so when we meet them at a concert, we get very excited. They cheer for us together. We make an all-out effort when we perform," said Bamby, who has pink hair and eyes.

Unlike many other virtual groups, Plave's label Vlast said the avatars are controlled by humans, using motion capture and other technology to relay their actions and singing.

However, Vlast keeps the identity of the humans behind the avatars a secret, so they spoke on condition of anonymity. Since the group's debut in 2023, Plave have broken streaming records and topped music charts in South Korea with its latest album *Caligo Pt.1*, released in

February, selling more than one million copies in one week.

"For concerts, we connect our in-house motion capture studio directly to the actual concert venue in real time. This set-up includes a feedback system that allows the members to see fan reactions from the concert venue as they perform," Vlast CEO Lee Sung-gu said in an email.

Despite the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), Lee said his company plans to expand on the motion capture technique.

"It is our unique strength," he added.

There is little difference between virtual and real-life idols to Chang Ya-han, a 30-year-old Taiwanese fan who learnt about Plave in an Instagram video.

"The love they give us, the way they drive us to become better or how I wake up every day wanting to see them – that feeling is the same," she said at a crowded fan event in Seoul.

Vlast considers itself as a "virtual entertainment" start-up and said it received equity investments from K-pop labels Hybe and YG Plus early in 2024.

In recent years, technology such as AI and the metaverse are increasingly embraced by the multi-million-dollar K-pop industry.

According to Seoul-based music



Plave has accrued an astounding number of fans.

– PICS FROM REUTERS

critic Kim Do-heon, Plave's success hinges on their interaction with fans.

"It is expensive to go to an idol group's concert and you need to use a paid messaging app to interact with them these days. But, the accessibility of cyber singers makes it much easier to like them," he said. – Reuters

'Makes no sense': Trump's film tariffs baffle Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD reacted with skepticism to US President Donald Trump's announcement of 100% tariffs on foreign films, with movie insiders calling it a policy made up on the fly by a president who does not understand how the industry works.

"It makes no sense," entertainment lawyer Jonathan Handel said.

Handel said many US productions, from *James Bond* flicks to the *Mission Impossible* franchise, are filmed abroad for obvious creative reasons.

"If the stunt is Tom Cruise climbing up the Eiffel Tower, what are we supposed to do, shoot at the replica Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas? I mean, it is just nonsensical," he said.

Writing on his platform Truth Social, Trump said on Sunday: "I am authorising the Commerce Department and the US Trade Representative to immediately begin the process of instituting a 100% tariff on any and all movies coming into our country that are produced in foreign lands. We want movies made in America again!"

His words plunged the movie industry into uncertainty as entertainment companies saw their stock prices fall, unions struggled to understand if the bombshell also applies to TV series and everyone wondered if the policy could even be enforced.

Handel said movies involve intellectual property.

"You can buy a movie ticket, but you do not buy a movie the way you

buy a piece of clothing or an automobile (which can be taxed as they cross a border into the US)," he said.

Even if a system could be devised to impose tariffs on movies filmed outside the US, such levies would do more harm than good to the US industry, Handel said.

"The result of that would be to reduce production, to increase the cost of movies, to reduce the number of movies available for movie theatres and streamers to show, which would damage the distribution side of the business," he said.

California Governor Gavin Newsom called on Monday for a partnership with the Trump administration to "Make America Film Again".

"We have proven what strong state incentives can

do. Now, it is time for a real federal partnership to Make America Film Again," he wrote on social media platform X.

'Confusion'

Unions for actors and other media as well as entertainment workers said they awaited more details of Trump's plan but supported the goal of increasing production of movies, TV and streaming in the US.

"We will continue to advocate for policies that strengthen our competitive position, accelerate economic growth and create good middle-class jobs for American workers," said one such guild, Sag-Aftra.

Many movie studios and other industry organisations had yet to officially react but

Trump's announcement triggered crisis meetings, Hollywood news outlets reported, publishing skeptical comments from insiders speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I cannot see his target here other than confusion and distraction.

"Let us hope this only encourages desperately needed increases in US state tax incentives being implemented as soon as possible," the showbiz news outlet Deadline quoted a top distribution executive as saying.

Such incentives offered by other countries – such as Britain, Canada and Ireland, among others – are a lure for US movie studios to film outside the country.

Australia, which for years used generous tax breaks and other cash incentives to lure foreign filmmakers, said it still wants to make "great films" with the US.

With Trump's tariffs threatening the home of Hollywood hits including *The Matrix*, *Elvis* and *Crocodile Dundee*, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said on Tuesday "collaboration is a good thing".

While Trump's idea is divisive, there is widespread agreement that the US movie industry is in dire straits. Hollywood has struggled to get back on its feet since the historic strikes by actors and writers that shut it down in 2023.

The number of filming days in Los Angeles hit a record low in 2024, excluding the total shutdown in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is in part because many movies are now filmed in a growing number of countries that offer incentives such as tax rebates.

Deadline quoted a Hollywood movie financier as saying he agreed with Trump's goal of having more movies filmed in the US.

"But obviously the need is for rebates, not tariffs. Tariffs will just choke the remaining life out of the business," they were quoted as saying.

As Hollywood fretted over Trump's announcement, the White House said no decision on foreign film tariffs has been made.

"The administration is exploring all options to deliver on President Trump's directive to safeguard our country's national and economic security while 'Making Hollywood Great Again,'" the White House said in a statement.

Trump told reporters on Monday: "I am not looking to hurt the industry. I want to help the industry. But, they are given financing by other countries."

That seemingly conciliatory remark stopped short of walking back the film tariff announcement, as Trump criticised Newsom, who is pushing for his state to double the tax credits it grants to the movie industry. "Our film industry has been decimated by other countries taking them out and also by incompetence.

"He has just allowed it to be taken away from, you know, Hollywood," Trump said of Newsom. – AFP



Hollywood has been struggling since historic strikes in 2023. – AFP/PI



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322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT
JUNIOR BARU
IN THE STATE OF JOHOR
DARUL TAHAZ, MALAYSIA
ORIGINATING SUMMONS
NO. -JG-28-JM-1-01/2025

In the matter of O Development Sdn. Bhd.
(Company No.: 20180100916 (1271630-0))
And
In the matter of the Judicial Management and
the appointment of Judicial Manager pursuant
to Section 40A, Section 40S and Section 410 of
the Companies Act 2016;

And
In the matter of Rules of Court 2012 and the
inherent jurisdiction of the Honourable Court.

BETWEEN
MAH ARCHITECTS SDN. BHD.
(COMPANY NO.: 199701001188
(41694-M)) ...APPLICANT

AND
O DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD.
(COMPANY NO.: 20180100916
(1271630-0)) ...RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL
MANAGEMENT ORDER

1. Notice is hereby given that an application
for placing the above-named companies i.e.
O Development Sdn. Bhd. (Company No.:
20180100916 (1271630-0)) under the
judicial management of a judicial manager
by the Court has been filed on the 27th
January, 2025 by MAH ARCHITECTS SDN. BHD.
(Company No.: 199701001188 (41694-M))
of 6-16-GA, Jalan Prima Saujana 2/E, Prima
Saujana, 43000 Kajang, Selangor.

2. The said application is directed to be
heard before the Court at 9:00 a.m. on
the 29th April, 2025 and Cheng Voon Hoy
(BNC No.: 620308-07-5469) (Reported
No.: 10015/06/2025 PJ) from VC Corporate
Advisory of Lot 348-B, Tower 2, Faber
Tower, Jalan Desa Bahagia, Taman Desa,
56100 Kuala Lumpur has been nominated
as the judicial manager.

3. Any person who intends to oppose the
making of a judicial management order
under section 40S of the Companies Act
2016 may appear at the time of hearing
by himself or his counsel for that purpose.

4. A copy of the application and its supporting
affidavit will be furnished to any creditor
or member of the company requiring the
copy of the application and its supporting
affidavit from the applicant upon payment
of the charge as specified in rule 12 of the
Companies (Corporate Rescue Mechanism)
Rules 2016.

5. The applicant's address is 6-16-GA, Jalan
Prima Saujana 2/E, Prima Saujana, 43000
Kajang, Selangor.

6. The applicant's solicitors are at The
Chambers of Cheong of 8-2-15, Sunway
Nexus, No. 1, Jalan PJU 5/1 Kota Damansara,
47810 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Dated this 6th May, 2025
The Chambers of Cheong
Solicitor for the Applicant
The Chambers of Cheong

Note:
a) Any person who intends to appear at the
hearing of the application must serve on the
applicant or his solicitors a notice in writing
of his intention to appear.

b) The notice of intention to appear must be
served, either personally or by post, not later
than twelve noon of the 24th April, 2025.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL
MANAGEMENT ORDER is prepared by
The Chambers of Cheong, solicitors for the
Applicant whose address for service is at
8-2-15, Sunway Nexus, No. 1, Jalan PJU
5/1, Kota Damansara, 47810 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

03 - 7624 4962 03 - 7624 4963
legal.team@gmail.com
(Ref: TCDCL0064125/APCQJLMKVCNHL)

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- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
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NOTICE OF TENDER

KMI Kuantan Medical Centre is part of KMI Healthcare Group (a subsidiary of TDM Berhad) invites qualified vendors to participate in the following tender exercise:

Tender No.	Particulars	Opening & Closing Dates	Price of Tender Document
KMI/KMIKMC/ FBESS/08/2025	TENDER FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ONCOLOGY CENTRE IN KMI Kuantan Medical Centre	Opening Date: 9th May 2025 (Friday, 9:00AM)	RM100.00 (non-refundable) in the form of Cash only and made payable to KUMPULAN MEDIC IMAN SDN BHD
KMI/KMIKMC/ FBESS/09/2025	TENDER FOR LEAD CONSULTANT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF ONCOLOGY CENTRE IN KMI Kuantan Medical Centre	Closing Date: 29th May 2025 (Thursday, latest by 12:00PM)	

- Please send the QR code below to register your interest in these tenders. Details of the bank account will be emailed upon receipt of registration of interest.
- Bidder should provide proof of payment by email after payment is made. A confirmation email together with the tender documents shall be provided.
- After completion and duly signed by the authorized person of the company, the documents are to be submitted not later than **12pm, Thursday, 29th May 2025** by hand and deposited into the designated tender box located at the **Procurement Department, KMI Healthcare, Level 25, Menara KH, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Wilayah Persekutuan, Kuala Lumpur**. A soft copy of the tender documents must also be submitted electronically to **kmi.procurement@tdmberhad.com.my**
- Tender documents received after the closing date/time will NOT be considered. Shortlisted bidders will be invited to e-bidding process.
- KMI Kuantan Medical Centre does not bind itself to accept the lowest quotation, nor to assign any reason for the rejection of any quotation, nor will it be responsible for any cost incurred by the bidders.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Rayney Azmi bin Ali
Chief Executive Officer

Kumpulan Medic Imnan Sdn Bhd 201301032521 (1062350-0)
(Ref: TCDCL0064125/APCQJLMKVCNHL)

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PROCLAMATION OF SALE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT KUALA LUMPUR
EXCEUTION NO. 18-16-01-10/2024

WILL SELL BY
PUBLIC AUCTION
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 28TH MAY 2025 AT 10:30 AM
ELECTRONICALLY ON THE AUCTION WEBSITE: AUCTIONS.ARENAAUCTIONS.COM
KUALANTAN COURT COMPLEX, PANGKALJAYA, MARAULU
PANGKALJAYA, KUALANTAN (see attached map)

RESERVED PRICE: RM 530,000.00

PLAINTIFF: ANSARIK MOHAMED
DEFENDANT: YAP CHEN HOONG
TITLE NO. LOT NO.: HAZELBURG 4-B (S) 14899/ NCD P.T. 41918
SOLICITOR: SEMENYIN ULU LANGAT 1, SELANGOR
MEMBER SIDA TECH WONG & DENING (M)

AN INTERMEDIATE DOUBLE STOREY TERRACED HOUSE
1,362.00 SQUARE FEET / 1,362.00 SQUARE METER
NO. 12, JALAN HF 07 JALAN HILL PARK 7/1, HILLY PARK 5, KEMER SEMENYIN, SELANGOR

For any inquiries please contact the company appointed by the Plaintiff:
ARENA AUCTIONS SDN BHD
TEL NO: 03-2777 7777 FAX NO: 03-2777 7777
Email: arena@arenaauctions.com arenaauctions.com

DALAM PERKARA AKTA SYARIKAT 2016 DAN DALAM PERKARA BFE ASPIRE SDN. BHD. NO. PENDAFTARAN : 202001024145 (1380465-P) (Dalam Penggugulan Syarikat Secara Sukarela Oleh Ahli)

NOTIS RESOLUSI

NOTIS DENGAN INI DIBERI bahawa dalam Mesyuarat Pemegang-pemegang Saham syarikat BFE ASPIRE SDN. BHD. yang telah diadakan di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan pada 8hb Mei 2025, Resolusi Khas seperti berikut telah diuluskan:-

PENGGUGULAN SYARIKAT SECARA SUKARELA OLEH AHLI

"BAHAWA Syarikat ini digugulkan secara sukarela menurut Seksyen 439(1) Akta Syarikat 2016 dan En. YAP KAI WENG yang beralamat di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up."

Dated this 8 May 2025

NG WU CHAO
Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 202001018708 (1375028-X) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Meeting of the member of TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. duly convened and held at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan on the 8th day of May, 2025 the following Special Resolution set out below was duly passed:-

MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP

"THAT the Company be wound up voluntarily pursuant to Section 439(1) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that Mr. YAP KAI WENG of No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up."

Dated this 8 May 2025

NG WU CHAO
Director

KMI Healthcare
(a subsidiary of TDM Berhad)

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 202001018708 (1375028-X) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Meeting of the member of TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. duly convened and held at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan on the 8th day of May, 2025 the following Special Resolution set out below was duly passed:-

MEMBER'S VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP

"THAT the Company be wound up voluntarily pursuant to Section 439(1) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that Mr. YAP KAI WENG of No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up."

Dated this 8 May 2025

NG WU CHAO
Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 202001018708 (1375028-X) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the creditors of TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. which is being voluntarily wound up, are requested to, on or before the 10th day of June, 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts and claims and of any security held by them, and the names and addresses of their solicitor (if any) to YAP KAI WENG, the Liquidator at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan and if so required by the notice in writing to the said Liquidator, or by their solicitor or personally to come and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made.

Dated this 8 May 2025

YAP KAI WENG
Liquidator

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FAX: 06-764 2051

JOHOR BAHRU MS. Anne Lim
TEL: 013-770 6699
FAX: 07-355 5549

322 Notices

DALAM PERKARA AKTA SYARIKAT 2016 DAN DALAM PERKARA TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. NO. PENDAFTARAN : 202001018708 (1375028-X) (Dalam Penggugulan Syarikat Secara Sukarela Oleh Ahli)

NOTIS RESOLUSI

NOTIS DENGAN INI DIBERI bahawa dalam Mesyuarat Pemegang-pemegang Saham syarikat TOP FORM PRINTING SDN. BHD. yang telah diadakan di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan pada 8hb Mei 2025, Resolusi Khas seperti berikut telah diuluskan:-

PENGGUGULAN SYARIKAT SECARA SUKARELA OLEH AHLI

"BAHAWA Syarikat ini digugulkan secara sukarela menurut Seksyen 439(1) Akta Syarikat 2016 dan En. YAP KAI WENG yang beralamat di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan dilantik sebagai Pelikudasi untuk tujuan penggugulan tersebut."

Tarikh: 8hb Mei 2025

NG WU CHAO
Pengarah

PENGGUGULAN SYARIKAT SECARA SUKARELA OLEH AHLI

"BAHAWA Syarikat ini digugulkan secara sukarela menurut Seksyen 439(1) Akta Syarikat 2016 dan En. YAP KAI WENG yang beralamat di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan dilantik sebagai Pelikudasi untuk tujuan penggugulan tersebut."

Tarikh: 8hb Mei 2025

NG WU CHAO
Pengarah

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYSIA DI KUALA LUMPUR, DALAM WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN, MALAYSIA. (BAHAGIAN DAGANGAN) PENGGUGULAN SYARIKAT NO. WA-28NCC-524-54/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 465 (1) (e) dan Seksyen 466 Akta Syarikat 2016

DAN

Dalam perkara mengenai JS COMFORT HOMES SDN. BHD. (NO. SYARIKAT: 20001003272 (1359592-K))

DAN

Dalam perkara mengenai Kandah-Kandah (Penggugulan) Syarikat 1972

ANTARA

ISMAHAN ROBERTSON SDN. BHD. (NO. SYARIKAT: 200010030449 (98612-V)) ...PETISIYEN

DAN

JS COMFORT HOMES SDN. BHD. (NO. SYARIKAT: 20001003272 (1359592-K)) ...RESPONDEN

PENGKULAN PETISIYEN

NOTIS ADALAH DENGAN INI DIBERI bahawa suatu Petisiyen untuk Penggugulan Syarikat yang dimajukan di atas oleh Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia Kuala Lumpur telah pada 23 April 2025, dimajukan oleh ISMAHAN ROBERTSON SDN. BHD.

DAN bahawa Petisiyen tersebut adalah diarahkan supaya dibicarakan di hadapan Mahkamah yang beridat di Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia Kuala Lumpur pada 10 Julai 2025 pada jam 9.00 pagi

DAN mana-mana pihak peminta atau penyumbang syarikat tersebut yang ingin menyertai atau mementing sesuatu perintah mengikut Petisiyen tersebut boleh hadir dengan tujuan itu secara peribadi atau melalui Penguacaranya pada masa percabaran. Sesetengah Petisiyen tersebut akan dibicarakan oleh pihak yang bertandatangan di bawah ini kepada mana-mana peminta atau penyumbang Syarikat tersebut yang mementing dengan membuat bayaran yang ditetapkan

Aliran Penggugulan adalah di Menara Gamuda, D-16-01, Block D, PJ Trade Centre, No. 8, Jalan P.J. 8/8A, Bandar Damansara Perdana, 47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Penguacaranya bagi Petisiyen adalah Tuan Nee Hock Chuan & Co, yang beralamat di Suite 1802, Tingkat 18, Plaza Sea Hoy Chan, Jalan Raja Chulan, 50200 Kuala Lumpur.

Bertarikh pada 5 Mei 2025

-L-

Penguacaranya bagi Petisiyen Tuan Nee Hock Chuan & Co

NOTA: Sesapa yang ingin hadir pada percabaran Petisiyen tersebut hendaklah menyampaikan atau menghantar satu salinan kepada Penguacaranya bagi Petisiyen yang tersebut di atas atau notis tersebut entang ini sah sebagai. Notis tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat pihak berkenaan atau jika ia sebuah firma, nama dan alamat firma dan mestilah ditandatangani oleh pihak atau pihak berkenaan atau penguacaranya (jika ada), dan Notis tersebut hendaklah dihantar dan sekiranya dengan pos hendaklah dihantar dalam pengampulan yang mencukupi, supaya sampai kepada pihak yang dimajukan di atas sebelum pukul 12.00 tengahari 9 Julai 2025 (atau hari bekerja sebelum tarikh yang ditetapkan untuk percabaran Petisiyen tersebut).

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to Messrs. S Murti & Associates a notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or firm, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named solicitors not later than 12:00 p.m. of the 2nd day of July 2025 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the petition)

Lodged by: Messrs S Murti & Associates Address: Lot BM-05, Mezzanine Floor, P3 Industrial Park, No.13, Jalan Kemajuan, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan (Ref: SM2504A-YTS-Prasen-WUP) (Telephone: 03-79575780 Email: office@smurtilaw.com)

322 Notices

DALAM PERKARA AKTA SYARIKAT 2016 DAN DALAM PERKARA HUNTING - MESCO SURVEYS (M) SDN. BHD. NO. PENDAFTARAN : 19840101505 (124047-W) (Dalam Penggugulan Syarikat Secara Sukarela Oleh Ahli)

NOTIS RESOLUSI

NOTIS DENGAN INI DIBERI bahawa dalam Mesyuarat Pemegang-pemegang Saham syarikat HUNTING - MESCO SURVEYS (M) SDN. BHD. yang telah diadakan di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan pada 8hb Mei 2025, Resolusi Khas seperti berikut telah diuluskan:-

PENGGUGULAN SYARIKAT SECARA SUKARELA OLEH AHLI

"BAHAWA Syarikat ini digugulkan secara sukarela menurut Seksyen 439(1) Akta Syarikat 2016 dan En. YAP KAI WENG yang beralamat di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan dilantik sebagai Pelikudasi untuk tujuan penggugulan tersebut."

Tarikh: 8hb Mei 2025

TONG EEE PING
Pengarah

PENGGUGULAN SYARIKAT SECARA SUKARELA OLEH AHLI

"BAHAWA Syarikat ini digugulkan secara sukarela menurut Seksyen 439(1) Akta Syarikat 2016 dan En. YAP KAI WENG yang beralamat di No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan dilantik sebagai Pelikudasi untuk tujuan penggugulan tersebut."

Tarikh: 8hb Mei 2025

TONG EEE PING
Pengarah

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA IN KUALA LUMPUR IN THE STATE OF WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN, MALAYSIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANIES WINDING-UP PETITION NO. WA-28NCC-524-54/2025

In the matter of Section 465(1)(e), 465(1)(g) and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016

And

In the matter of the Kuala Lumpur High Court Judgment dated 19.12.2024 in the proceeding of Kuala Lumpur High Court Originating Summons No.: WA-24QARB-62-10/2024

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding Up) Rules 1972

BETWEEN

YTS ARCHITECTURE SDN BHD (COMPANY NO.: 675598-X) ...PETITIONER

AND

PROVEN PROPERTIES SDN BHD (COMPANY NO.: 316031-M) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the winding-up of the above-named company by the High Court was, on the 8th day of April 2025 presented by YTS Architecture Sdn Bhd having its address at No.125, 2nd Floor, Jalan Jelika, Taman Melati, Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Kuala Lumpur High Court at 9:00 a.m. on the 3rd day of July 2025; and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is No.125, 2nd Floor, Jalan Jelika, Taman Melati, Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur.

The Petitioner's Solicitors are Messrs. S Murti & Associates whose address is at Lot BM-05, Mezzanine Floor, P3 Industrial Park, No. 13, Jalan Kemajuan, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

MESSRS S MURTHI & ASSOCIATES
Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTE: - Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to Messrs. S Murti & Associates a notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or firm, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named solicitors not later than 12:00 p.m. of the 2nd day of July 2025 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the petition)

Lodged by: Messrs S Murti & Associates Address: Lot BM-05, Mezzanine Floor, P3 Industrial Park, No.13, Jalan Kemajuan, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan (Ref: SM2504A-YTS-Prasen-WUP) (Telephone: 03-79575780 Email: office@smurtilaw.com)

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BFE ASPIRE SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 202001024145 (1380465-P) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Meeting of the member of BFE ASPIRE SDN. BHD. duly convened and held at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan on the 8th day of May, 2025 the following Special Resolution set out below was duly passed:-

MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP
"I/We the Company be wound up voluntarily pursuant to Section 439(1) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that Mr. YAP KAI WENG of No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up."

Dated this: 8 May 2025

NE WU CHAO
Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BFE ASPIRE SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 202001024145 (1380465-P) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the creditors of BFE ASPIRE SDN. BHD. which is being voluntarily wound up, are requested to, on or before the 10th day of June, 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts and claims and of any security held by them, and the names and addresses of their solicitor (if any) to YAP KAI WENG, the Liquidator at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan and if so required by the notice in writing to the said Liquidator, or by their solicitor or personally to come and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made.

Dated this: 8 May 2025

YAP KAI WENG
Liquidator

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF HUNTING - MESCO SURVEYS (M) SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 198401011505 (124047-W) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Meeting of the members of HUNTING - MESCO SURVEYS (M) SDN. BHD. duly convened and held at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan on the 8th day of May 2025 the following Special Resolution set out below was duly passed:-

MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP
"I/We the Company be wound up voluntarily pursuant to Section 439(1) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that Mr. YAP KAI WENG of No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such winding-up."

Dated this: 8 May 2025

TONG EEE PING
Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF HUNTING - MESCO SURVEYS (M) SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NO.: 198401011505 (124047-W) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the creditors of HUNTING - MESCO SURVEYS (M) SDN. BHD. which is being voluntarily wound up, are requested to, on or before the 10th day of June, 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts and claims and of any security held by them, and the names and addresses of their solicitor (if any) to YAP KAI WENG, the Liquidator at No. 9, Jalan Indah 16, Taman Cheras Indah, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan and if so required by the notice in writing to the said Liquidator, or by their solicitor or personally to come and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made.

Dated this: 8 May 2025

YAP KAI WENG
Liquidator

Oliver Oakes.
- REUTERS/SPIC



ALPINE'S team principal Oliver Oakes has resigned after less than a year in the job, the French Formula One team announced yesterday.

"The team has accepted his resignation with immediate effect," Alpine said in a statement.

The 37-year-old Briton's surprise exit comes only nine months since his appointment as successor to Frenchman Bruno Famin.

"As of today, Flavio Briatore will continue as executive adviser and will also be covering the duties previously performed by Oliver Oakes," the team statement added.

Oakes leaves his role with Alpine ninth of the 10 teams in the constructors' world championship after six races.

"The team would like to thank Oliver for his efforts since he joined last summer and for his contribution in helping the team secure sixth place in the 2024 constructors' championship.

"The team will not be making any further comment," Alpine said.

French driver Pierre Gasly has picked up all the Enstone-based team's seven points, with Australian

Alpine shock

... as F1 team principal Oakes resigns

Jack Doohan yet to score in his rookie season.

Doohan's seat has been at risk from Franco Colapinto ever since Alpine signed the Argentine from Williams over the winter.

Doohan replaced Esteban Ocon, who claimed Alpine's sole win, in Hungary in 2021.

Reports suggest Colapinto will be in place instead of Doohan for the upcoming race in Emilia-Romagna next week.

Oakes' unexpected departure is the latest chapter in a rocky time for the former Renault team.

He told *AFP* last November he wanted Alpine to shrug off their problems and be at "the front" of the midfield this season.

He said there were "no silver bullet". "I think we ultimately have to produce a better car," the former

racing driver conceded.

Next season Renault are to stop producing F1 engines, with Alpine becoming a customer outfit for the first time since 2015, using engines supplied by Mercedes.

Oakes, the 2005 world karting champion, succeeded Famin in 2024 a month after the appointment of one of F1's most controversial figures, 74-year-old Briatore.

Among the team's many investors are golf superstar Rory McIlroy, former heavyweight champion boxer Anthony Joshua and actor Ryan Reynolds, part owner of Welsh football club Wrexham, promoted to the English Championship last month.

They will all be counting on the grid strugglers emerging from this period of turbulence to fulfil Oakes' wish of a brighter future. - AFP

Last-ball thriller

MUMBAI INDIANS captain Hardik Pandya said the three no-balls he and teammate Deepak Chahar bowled against Gujarat Titans were a "crime" that led to their loss in a last-ball thriller in the Indian Premier League on Tuesday.

Mumbai's six-match winning streak came to an end as Gujarat survived intense drama in a rain-affected match in Mumbai before escaping to victory off the last ball.

Needing 15 runs off the last over from Chahar, Gujarat batters Rahul Tewatia and Gerald Coetzee milked 11 off the first three deliveries before the bowler sent down a no-ball.

It eased pressure on Gujarat, who, despite losing Coetzee, went on to accomplish a tricky chase of 147 from 19 overs.

Mumbai also dropped Gujarat captain Shubman Gill and an erratic Pandya bowled an 11-ball over that included two no-balls and three wides.

"The catches didn't really cost us. We were very clinical with that," Pandya said after their three-wicket loss.

"Maybe definitely with the no-balls, with my no-ball and even the last (over) no-ball.

"That, in my eyes, indeed it's a crime, and most often than not it kind of bites you."

"It definitely did to us, but at the same point of time, really happy with the boys giving their 120% and making sure that we were in the game and not giving up."

Mumbai rode Will Jack's 53 to post a modest 155-8 on a tricky track at the Wankhede Stadium, which did not look enough to test Gujarat's strong batting line up.

Gill (43) and Jos Buttler (30) got the starts but Mumbai hit back through their bowlers to stay in contention in the stop-start match.

"It was definitely not a 150-run wicket. I think it was a 175 (surface)," Pandya said.

"We were definitely short in batting by 20-25 runs or maybe 30 runs. But credit to the bowlers, they kept fighting and they kept bowling at the right areas." - Reuters

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT KUALA LUMPUR COMPANIES (WINDING-UP). NO. PA-28NC-56-04/2025

In the matter of Section 465(1) (c) & (h) of the Companies Act 2016

And

In the matter of YOUNG SHENG TRADING SDN. BHD. (Company No: 198901007332 (184635-X))

BETWEEN

LIM SAW ENG (NRC No: 490222-07-5062 / 2532305)PETITIONER

AND

YOUNG SHENG TRADING SDN. BHD. (Company No: 198901007332 (184635-X))RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the above-named Company, YOUNG SHENG TRADING SDN. BHD. by the High Court was, on the 3rd day of April, 2025 presented by the Petitioner, LIM SAW ENG and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Pulau Pinang at Kompleks Mahkamah Pulau Pinang, Lebuhraya Light, 10200 George Town, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning on Wednesday, 18th June 2025; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address of service is at No. 61, Jalan Utama, 10460 George Town, Pulau Pinang.

The Petitioner's solicitors are Messrs. LOW & PARTNERS of No. 233-1, Jalan S2 B10, Uptown Avenue Seremban 2, 70300 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

Dated the 30th day of April 2025.

By _____
Messrs. Low & Partners
For and on behalf of the Petitioner

NOTE:- Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovesigned solicitors, Messrs. Low & Partners, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovesigned solicitors not later than 12.00 o'clock noon on Tuesday, 17th June 2025.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION is filed by Messrs. Low & Partners of No. 233-1, Jalan S2 B10, Uptown Avenue Seremban 2, 70300 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.
Tel: 06-6012283 Fax: 06-6013298 Email: low@lowpartners.com.my Ref: LPS/C/9919/11/2021/ASE

322 Notices

KMI Healthcare
(a subsidiary of TDM Berhad)

Kumpulan Medic Iman Sdn Bhd (Subsidiary of TDM Berhad)
25th Floor, Menara KH, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur

TENDER NOTICE

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR TENDER OF PROPOSED RENOVATION WORKS FOR RENOVATION CLINICS, ADDITIONAL STRUCTURE, AND ASSOCIATED WORKS FOR KMI KUALA TERENGGANU MEDICAL CENTRE (KMI/KMIKT/FBESS/07/2025)

- Kumpulan Medic Iman Sdn Bhd, under the organization of TDM Berhad, is inviting qualified, experienced contractors who meet the following key criteria to participate in the Pre-Qualification for the Tender Proposal for the **Proposed renovation works for renovation clinics, additional structure, and associated works for KMI Kuala Terengganu Medical Centre**
- The qualified contractors must meet the following criteria:
 - Financial capability
 - Technical capability, specifically in B04, B07, B29, CE21 and related Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) works.
 - Expertise and experience in hospital upgrading projects
 - The company must have sufficiently skilled workforce appropriate for a hospital project
- And registered with the Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) specifically for codes B04, B07, B29 and CE21, with a valid registration period, must submit the following documents:

TENDER NO.	REQUIRED DOCUMENTS
KMI/KMIKT/FBESS/07/2025	Interested contractors must submit proof of technical capability, relevant experience, and the company's financial documents, all certified by the Company Secretary, along with other required documents. These documents should be arranged in the following order, complete with an index: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Company Profile, The organizational structure and establishment of the company must be no less than three (3) years. A copy of the latest registration with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM). A copy of Registration Certificate with CIDB which is still valid for at least one year from the date of advertisement. A copy of Form 9 (Certificate of Incorporation of a Private Limited Company). A copy of Form 24 (Return of Allotment of Shares). A copy of Form 44 (Notice of Situation of Registered Office and of Office Hours and Particulars of Changes) A copy of Form 49 (Return Giving Particulars in the Register of Directors, Managers, and Secretaries and Change of Particulars). A copy of the latest 3 years audited financial statements, A copy of the latest 6 months bank-certified financial statement, A statement of the latest Employee Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for the last three (3) months. A copy of evidence of completed contracts with work details, with a minimum project duration of 3 years, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contract value (RM), Contract completion period; and Client reference/support with the front page of the contract attached. A list of equipment or machinery related to the works, either owned or rented, with proof of ownership or agreement. List of previous projects (Experience record) List of Technical Staff Organization Chart Additional documents relevant to the nature of this project.

- Kumpulan Medic Iman Sdn Bhd reserves the right to conduct a "Physical Evaluation" of the shortlisted contractors for further verification as follows:
 - Financial capability
 - Technical capability, specifically for Interior Design (ID) and Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) works
 - Expertise and experience in hospital upgrading projects
 - Completeness of machinery and equipment listed by the contractor
 - Verification of original documents

- All the above documents, which have been completed, organized according to the index, and signed, must be placed in a sealed envelope. The tender number and title should be written on the left side, and the envelope should be submitted to the tender box at the following address:

UNIT PEROLEHAN
KUMPULAN MEDIC IMAN SDN BHD 203010302521 (0623560-H)
ARAS 25, MENARA KH, JALAN SULTAN ISMAIL, KUALA LUMPUR

- The closing date for the submission of documents is on: **15th May 2025**, before 12:00 pm.

- All costs related to the preparation of the **PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS** are the responsibility of the contractor. Documents received after the tender closing date will not be considered.

IGA SWIATEK, who is still looking for her first title of 2025 as she prepares to defend her Rome title, yesterday blamed her quest for perfectionism for the difficulties she has been experiencing this year.

Although she has reached at least the quarterfinals of each tournament she has contested this season, the Pole has yet to win a title or even reach a final.

"This year I feel like I am struggling a bit more with my perfectionism," said the world No. 2 at a press conference.

"I have a love-and-hate relationship with my perfectionism. These clay court tournaments, I just try to reflect on how I see my game and

Swiatek struggling with 'perfectionism' ahead of Rome

how I also saw previous seasons.

"The thing is, I only remember the good stuff because I was winning titles and everything.

"I'm making decisions that are not really good at the moment because I just remember how it felt in previous tournaments.

"I assume it's going to go in, and then I make mistakes. It's not the same, I'm confused."

In 2024, Swiatek won five titles, including three in a row on clay – Madrid, Rome and the

French Open at Roland Garros.

This year, however, she has yet to reach a final, falling at the semifinal stage at the Australian Open, Qatar Open, Indian Wells and Madrid where last week, she was routed 6-1, 6-1 by Coco Gauff in the semifinals.

"The match with Coco for sure wasn't good," said Swiatek.

"I had trouble focusing. I wasn't moving well. I think everything kind of built up at one moment. That's why the score was like that."

The 23-year-old, however, hit a pragmatic

note with regard to the Gauff thrashing as she continues the build-up to the French Open where she will be looking for a fifth title in six years.

"It's just like one day," she said. "You can't judge everything by it. I'm continuing the work that I've been doing. I trust the process. We'll see on the next one."

"I'm proud of the consistency. Still I feel I'm as consistent as I was previous years. But for sure I also want to win some tournaments. That's the goal." – AFP

Kvitova gets winning feeling again

FORMER Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova has finally tasted the winning feeling again after a less than impressive return to the sport following the birth of her first child.

The 35-year-old Czech had lost all four of her matches since making a comeback in February after 15 months away, during which time son Petr was born last July.

Yesterday, however, she beat Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu 7-5, 6-1 in the Italian Open first round in Rome.

"It's kind of weird that my first one came here," she told the WTA's website. "I've never played my best tennis here. But it feels much better than losing, that's for sure."

Kvitova, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014 and reached No. 2 in the world, said she had doubted she would ever return to the international arena.

"I was 95% that I would never come back," she said. "I had enough of tennis at that time. I was like, 'I can't do it any more,' so we decided to try for a baby."

"I didn't say anything because it wasn't 100%. When I could do something finally after pregnancy, I played some tennis and it felt so good. I was laughing. Every shot I hit smoothly, I was like, 'Wowwww – it's still there.'"

Kvitova, who plays Tunisia's Ons Jabeur next, is not putting any expectation on her comeback.

"However long I'm going to enjoy it," she said. – Reuters



Alexander Zverev during training. – REUTERS/SPIC

Zverev blames burn-out

Defending Rome champion in slump since AO final defeat

DEFENDING Rome Open champion Alexander Zverev said he is now on a "good path", putting a poor run of form following his defeat in the Australian Open final down to burn-out.

The 28-year-old world No. 2 put an end to the dry run – which included opening round defeats in Indian Wells and Monte Carlo – by winning the ATP title in Munich in mid-April.

The German, who is still seeking his first Grand Slam title, said he should in retrospect have taken time off after losing to Jannik Sinner in straight sets in the Australian Open final at the end of January.

"Before Munich obviously my level of play wasn't great," he said at yesterday's press conference.

"There are reasons for it. I think not taking time off after Australia was a big reason for it. I felt like I burned out a little bit."

Zverev said the life of a professional tennis player was an incessant cycle of travelling and playing without any time to rest.

"Tennis is a tough sport," he said.

"We play a lot. We travel a lot. First of all, we don't give our bodies rest, but we also don't give our

heads rest. They don't get mental rest. I needed that a little bit.

"I'm on a good path. I won a tournament two weeks ago. I cannot forget that. And I have to focus on the positives."

Zverev, though, said he believed one day he would be world No. 1 and lashed out at the media for belittling him when he was enduring the bad run.

He said he was not the only one who had been struggling lately with former No. 1s and multiple Grand Slam champions Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz also enduring some tough times.

"I do think the media also loves to put players down, right?" he said.

"I had a bad two months before Munich, right? I didn't play great tennis before Munich. All of a sudden I'm like the worst world No. 2 ever."

"I don't deserve to be there. I'm there because I won tournaments. I'm there because I have results."

Zverev is hoping a good title defence in Rome will set him up to go one better than last year at the French Open and be crowned champion.

"At the end of the day in big matches, big moments, I still believe the top players will rise," he said.

"I still believe that I am going to find my tennis for the biggest tournaments." – AFP

'Dominant McLaren sure to attract more scrutiny'

FORMULA ONE champions and leaders McLaren will attract more scrutiny and face more questions about their cars simply because they are so dominant, according to Red Bull boss Christian Horner.

McLaren have won five of six races this season and took a dominant one-two in Miami on Monday, with championship leader Oscar Piastri ahead of teammate Lando Norris while George Russell's third-placed Mercedes was more than half a minute behind.

There was plenty of chatter about tyre temperatures afterwards, and questions about how McLaren were managing better than others to keep them under control.

After unsubstantiated suspicions last year,

without any formal protest, that McLaren might be putting water in the rear tyres to cool them down, team boss Zak Brown ostentatiously sipped from a drinking bottle with 'tire water' stickers on it.

He also made the point that anyone suspecting his team of illegality should launch a formal protest if they really believed it.

"I'm not suggesting that there's anything illegal on the car," Horner, who had Max Verstappen start on pole but finish fourth, told reporters. "Well done to McLaren, they were in a league of their own."

"Of course in Formula One there are always going to be questions that are raised."

"(McLaren) did exactly the same about the

front suspension on our car last year. So it's inevitable when you're running at the front, as we have for the last few years, you always come under more scrutiny."

"McLaren have got the car to beat at the moment, that's quite clear. They're going to be tough to beat over the next few races."

McLaren are already 105 points clear of second-placed Mercedes.

"We're just not good with the tyres over an extended run. And McLaren shows how it's being done," said Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff.

"They are definitely doing an excellent job by being able to go fast around the corners without overheating them (the tyres). So this is what we need to look up to and engineer our way out."

Wolff said the top people at McLaren – Brown, principal Andrea Stella and chief designer Rob Marshall – were "good people with integrity."

"I have no doubt that these guys stay within the rules. It's just really good development. They've understood how to manage the tyre much better than everybody else. And in my opinion, it's totally legit."

"It started two years ago in Austria. They brought an update that was much better than they expected. And part of the development since then was also nurturing the tyres in the right way."

Wolff said Mercedes needed to find out where to focus their development attention and identify the main performance contributors. – Reuters

Villans 'not happy'

Tottenham match brought forward by two days due to Spurs potentially playing in the Europa League final

BY JAMIE GARDNER

ASTON VILLA bosses insist they are "not happy" about their Premier League match against Tottenham being brought forward two days to assist the Londoners' preparations for a potential Europa League final appearance.

Spurs' request to bring the match forward from its original date of May 18 to May 16 has been granted by the Premier League, with Ange Postecoglou's side in a strong position to reach the continental final on May 21.

Villa's director of football operations Damian Vidagany said his club had reluctantly accepted the change, and hoped the "clear prejudice" against Villa in this decision would be remembered should they need assistance with fixture scheduling due to European football next season.

"Fixture changed and honestly, not happy," he wrote on X.

"But it could be even worse (sic). We really pushed - everyone in the club at different levels - with solid and fair grounds to protect our fans (our main task and duty) and keep the Spurs match on Sunday. Nothing against Spurs."

Vidagany said that considering the alternatives were to bring the game forward even earlier to Wednesday or Thursday, playing on Friday was the least "damaging" they could get.

Efforts to bring the match forward to

Saturday, May 17 were thwarted because of the clash with the FA Cup final, Vidagany said.

"Hopefully in the future all of them (the Premier League and the Football Association) would remind the clear prejudice in this case to Villa fans and will be consistent and equally supportive if we need changes to help us in Europe (if hopefully we are there)," Vidagany added.

"We didn't feel this support last season or this one. European football is not only demanding for English clubs on the verge of the finals."

Earlier this season, Villa had a rearranged Premier League fixture against Liverpool moved into a midweek slot that they thought would be free after avoiding a playoff round in the Champions League.

Villa's director of football Monchi echoed Vidagany's sentiments, adding on his own X account: "The change of the fixture of Tottenham is not what we wanted. We were not entitled to keep it and we got the least damaging alternative."

"Our fans didn't deserve but we tried hard to keep the match to protect the most important for us: YOU and OUR

TEAM. We need you on Friday. Always Up the Villa!!!"

Tottenham lead their Europa League semifinal against Bodo/Glimt 3-1 on aggregate heading into Friday's second leg (3am Malaysian time).

If they progress they could well find themselves up against Manchester United in the final, with the Red Devils 3-0 up in their tie against Athletic Bilbao ahead of the home leg.

Leaving Spurs' match where it was would have given United a major advantage in terms of rest, with their league game against Chelsea already scheduled for May 16. - The Independent

TOTO SPORTS TOTO RESULTS
DRAW NO: 5963/2025 DATE: 07/05/2025 (WED)
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
19690100090 (8420D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	0232
2nd Prize	3890
3rd Prize	9313

Special
8637 2818
9172 6361
0389 8068
7827 1991
5243 6409

Consolation
1015 8507
0038 2446
8631 0484
7292 0004
8399 0049

4D JACKPOT
Jackpot 1 **RM 14,057,777.56**

0232 3890	3890 0232
0232 9313	9313 0232
3890 9313	9313 3890

Jackpot 2 **RM 199,041.15**
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	0232	+	BOAR
2nd Prize	3890	+	
3rd Prize	9313	+	
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	+	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D

1ST	5 5 7 5 7
2ND	7 8 1 0 7
3RD	3 5 9 9 8
4TH	5 7 5 7
5TH	7 5 7
6TH	5 7

6D

1ST	3 3 1 4 2 2
2ND	3 3 1 4 2
3RD	3 3 1 4
4TH	3 3 1
5TH	3 3

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POWER 9 17 22 26 49 55
Jackpot **RM 12,693,878.23**

STAR 3 8 19 20 35 49 + 17
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Jackpot 2 **RM 100,000.00**

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RM 425,384

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Tom Cleverley.
- AFP/IC



Watford sack Cleverley

WATFORD have sacked head coach Tom Cleverley following a disappointing 14th-place finish in the Sky Bet Championship.

The Hornets have announced that the 35-year-old, who was appointed on a permanent basis last summer after a successful spell in interim charge, has departed with the search for a replacement now under way.

Sporting Director Gian Luca Nani told the club's official website: "We thank Tom for his service - not just in his role as head coach, but for everything he has given Watford as a player and member of staff."

"But the time has come for a change and to build on what we believe is a young and talented squad that will have benefitted from the experience of the Championship this season."

Cleverley initially took up the reins at Vicarage Road in March last year after Valerien Ismael's exit in the wake of a run of 10 league games which yielded only one win.

The former Manchester United trainee, who also had spells at Everton and Watford -

for whom he made 147 appearances - before retiring through injury at the age of 33 in 2023, guided Watford to a 15th-place finish.

However, hopes of a promotion drive this season evaporated after a poor conclusion to the campaign saw the Hornets lose seven of their last 11 games to slip 11 points adrift of the playoff places.

Nani continued: "It has been a privilege to work closely with Tom, to understand how he sees the game and his enthusiasm for everything here. He deserves to be recognised for this and I'm sure he will have a bright future in the game."

"Tom will always be part of Watford in recognition of all that he has achieved over so many years."

Cleverley's departure leaves the club looking for an 18th permanent boss since Gianfranco Zola left in December 2013.

A club statement added: "There will be no further club comment until a new appointment has been made." - The Independent

WINNING NUMBERS damacai
Draw Date: 07/05/25 (Wed) Draw No: 591025 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER 1+3D

1st Prize	5818
2nd Prize	5359
3rd Prize	0616

Starters
7513 9020
7876 4065
0708 6822
4035 2968
0262 2377

Consolation
9614 2038
6480 6321
5662 2504
8106 5564
0041 5386

1+3D Jackpot 1 RM3,343,539.30

5818 + 5359	5359 + 5818
5818 + 0616	0616 + 5818
5359 + 0616	0616 + 5359

Jackpot 2 RM102,509.70
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
555 818 +	BOAR	RM170,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
785 359 +	ROOSTER	RM1,012,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
660 616 +	RAT	RM2,081,506.00

Starters
897 513 379 020
927 876 354 065
140 708 136 822
414 035 612 968
240 262 382 377

Consolation
769 614 102 038
126 480 186 321
796 562 162 504
868 106 415 564
000 041 895 386

3D

1st Prize	818
2nd Prize	359
3rd Prize	616

3D Jackpot

Jackpot RM640,077.20

818 + 359 + 616	359 + 616 + 818
818 + 616 + 359	616 + 818 + 359
359 + 818 + 616	616 + 359 + 818

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

1+3D Jackpot 2 RM141,770.20 won on 4/5/25!

The Community Chest is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental charitable organisation which supports education for the sole benefit of the Malaysian community and is primarily funded by the profits of Dita Ma Cai.

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RESULTS

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE (semifinal, 2nd leg): **Inter Milan 4** (Martinez 21, Calhanoglu 45-pen, Acerbi 90+3, Frattesi 99) **Barcelona 3** (Garcia 54, Olmo 60, Raphinha 87) – **aet** (Inter Milan win 7-6 on aggregate).

TOUCHLINES

AL-HILAL are preparing a bid for Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes, but the Red Devils have no plans to sell the 30-year-old Portugal midfielder.

NEWCASTLE are monitoring 29-year-old Bayer Leverkusen and Germany defender Jonathan Tah, who will leave the club when his contract expires in the summer.

LIVERPOOL'S English midfielder Harvey Elliott, 22, is attracting interest from several Premier League clubs, including Wolves.

REAL MADRID are not planning to make a move for Real Sociedad midfielder Martin Zubimendi as they do not think they need the Spain international, who has a release clause of £51m (RM288m).

ARSENAL are considering another move for Paris St-Germain midfielder Lee Kang-in, 24, after failing to strike a deal for the South Korea international in January.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN and Germany midfielder Florian Wirtz, 22, is set to snub interest from Manchester City and Real Madrid to join Bayern Munich.

RB LEIPZIG striker Benjamin Sesko's release clause is more than £68m (RM384m) but clubs will be able to sign him for less if a suitable offer for the 21-year-old Slovenia international is made.

WEST HAM and Ghana winger Mohammed Kudus, 24, is the subject of fresh interest from Arsenal.

FEDERICO CHIESA, 27, could be on his way out of Liverpool this summer with AC Milan and Napoli interested in the Italy winger.

MANCHESTER UNITED added Torino's 28-year-old Serbia goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic to their summer transfer shortlist.

REAL MADRID are ready to move for William Saliba this summer, if not in 2026 or 2027 on a free transfer.

Blessing in disguise for Jun Hao

Sudirman Cup disappointment renewed confidence and belief

NATIONAL men's singles player Leong Jun Hao may not have clinched a medal at the recently concluded Sudirman Cup 2025 in Xiamen, China, but he walked away with something just as important: renewed confidence and belief in himself.

Appointed as team captain for the first time in a major team event, Jun Hao led Malaysia into the quarterfinals of the world's prestigious badminton mixed team tournament at the Xiamen Fenghuang Gymnasium.

Malaysia's campaign ended in disappointment last Friday, as they were swept 0-3 by hosts and eventual champions China.

Amidst the heartbreak, Jun Hao's gritty group stage win over Japan's Kodai Naraoka 21-8, 13-21, 21-18, his fourth out of five matches, was a bright

spark and a promising sign for the world No. 24 moving forward.

"For sure, the victory over Naraoka boosted my confidence and I have gained a lot more (belief) from it," he said when met at the training session on Tuesday.

Jun Hao also said that his 6-21, 14-21 loss to world No. 1 Shi Yu Qi of China in their first-ever meeting during the Sudirman Cup 2025 quarterfinals was an invaluable learning experience.

Although he admitted to having a tough time against Yu Qi, the 25-year-old observed how the Chinese shuttler used a variety of shots and tactical control to restrict his movement and deny him any

real chance of victory.

In the meantime, the Kuala Lumpur-born shuttler has seen improvements in his game under the guidance of national singles coaching director Kenneth Jonassen, who assumed the role earlier this year.

"I am getting used to his (Jonassen's coaching) style right now, but I still need to gain more input from him," he said.

As for his next goal, Jun Hao hopes to regain his momentum when he returns to action against Hong Kong's Angus Ng Ka Long in the opening round of the Thailand Open 2025, scheduled for May 13-18. – Bernama

Hakim Danish aims for victory at Le Mans

THE second round of the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup is set to kick off this week at the iconic Le Mans Circuit, a track built in 1965 and renowned for hosting legendary races such as the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

The 4.19km circuit, featuring 14 corners, nine right-handers and five left is expected to push the limits of young riders' skills and physical endurance.

The year 2025 marks a crucial chapter in the career of Malaysia's young rider, Hakim Danish. With high expectations from the SIC Racing Team, led by Zulfahmi Khairuddin, Danish's performance in both the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup and the FIM JuniorGP World Championship will play a significant role in shaping his future, including his chances of earning a wildcard entry to the MalaysianGP this October.

A less-than-impressive performance could

impact his prospects of being selected for the wildcard and ultimately for the Moto3 World Championship next year, particularly given the team's financial constraints.

The 2025 season started on a strong note for Danish. In the opening round of the Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup at the Jerez Circuit in Spain, he secured second place in both Race 1 and Race 2.

He then carried that momentum into Estoril, Portugal for the opening round of the FIM JuniorGP World Championship, once again finishing in second place.

Now, the mission to secure a race victory continues on French soil. The historic Le Mans Circuit presents a crucial opportunity for Hakim to showcase his abilities and determination in pursuit of his dream to compete on the world stage.



Hakim Danish.

'Include more esports in development programmes'

THE Youth and Sports Ministry (KBS) recommends that more types of sports, particularly the fast-growing esports, be included in the development programmes under the First Schedule of the Sports Development Act 1997 (Act 576).

Sports Commissioner Suhardi Alias said the move would add value to the country's sports ecosystem, thus paving the way for athletes to make a name for themselves in the domestic and international sports scene.

"There are many more sports that can be included in the existing list to pave the way for the younger generation to continue to be involved in healthy activities as well as to highlight their talent and performances through their respective sport.

"This act has undergone several amendments and the list has grown from 39

to 103 types of sports, which are currently undergoing the development process under the ministry's supervision through the Sports Commissioner," he said.

He told reporters this after officiating the handing over of the *Jalur Gemilang* to the national digital dodgeball team at Sportizza here yesterday as the team gears up to leave for Shanghai, China on May 21 to compete in the three-day 2025 Hado World Cup from May 23.

Suhardi said that every type of sport recommended will first undergo several review processes and discussions to see if it is suitable to be classified as a sport, particularly those that use digital elements.

He also did not rule out proposals to include esports in the existing act and, instead, recommended that associations or

clubs come forward to present the types of sports that they feel should have the support of KBS.

"This initiative aligns with the ministry's efforts through the Sports Commissioner regarding the definition of sports that can be used for esports, which also includes elements of mental, physical and fitness," he said.

The First Schedule of the Sports Development Act 1997 (Act 576) compiles types of sports for the purpose of guidance and reference on activities considered as sports listed under the amended sports development order.

The 2025 Hado World Cup will be participated by 18 countries, including the United States, Spain, Greece, South Korea and Australia, with Malaysia slated to face nine countries in the group stage. – Bernama

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SCAN ME



Barcelona's Pau Cubarsi (bottom) tackles Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez during their Champions League semifinal second leg. - AFP/ICC

San Siro thriller

Frattesi shoots Inter into UCL finals after win against Barca



Inter Milan's Francesco Acerbi (left) scores his team's third goal against Barcelona. - AFP/ICC

DAVIDE FRATTESI fired Inter Milan into the Champions League final yesterday with an extra-time winner which gave the Italians a stunning 4-3 triumph over Barcelona, 7-6 on aggregate.

Italy midfielder Frattesi won a tie for the ages under a downpour in Milan when he lashed home in the 99th minute after great play from Marcus Thuram, sending a packed and rocking San Siro wild with joy.

Simone Inzaghi's team will face either Arsenal or Paris Saint-Germain at the end of this month in Munich, where they will feel they have a great chance to be crowned kings of Europe for a fourth time after coming out on top in an epic contest.

Frattesi has become something of a super-sub for Inter and he struck late just as he did in the first leg of his team's quarterfinal win over Bayern Munich.

"It's just incredible, I don't know what to say. I thought after the Bayern game I couldn't ever feel the same emotions, but tonight was even more incredible," said Frattesi to *Sky Sport*.

"This has been my career, really. I wasn't blessed with incredible talent, but I never give up and always believe and this is the reward for all my effort and dedication."

Yesterday's triumph saved Inter's season as their bid for the treble went up in smoke after getting past Bayern.

Inter conceded top spot in Serie A to Napoli, who are favourites to claim the domestic league title, while AC Milan dumped them out of the Italian Cup.

But Inter ended Barca's hopes for the quadruple and head into the final weeks of the season buoyant with a second Champions League final in three seasons to look forward to.

"We know that there are two really strong teams in the other semi. But you have to play to win any final," said Federico Dimarco.

Barca now have to try

to maintain their four-point lead over Real Madrid at the top of La Liga on Sunday (10.15pm Malaysian time) after missing out on a chance to claim every trophy available this season.

"The truth is we are sad. We wanted to get to the final, we were having a great Champions League campaign," said Ronald Araujo to *Movistar*.

"We were very close and it got away from us."

After the match against Inter, Hansi Flick said that his Barcelona players will bounce back from their dramatic Champions League semifinal defeat.

Barca were gunning for a quadruple in Flick's first season as coach but will have to go again in Europe's top club competition after a defeat which was hard to digest.

"I'm proud of my team, I'm proud of your team, we gave everything, and sometimes it's like that," Flick told reporters.

"We have to accept it, and we start again next season. To win the Champions League, this is one of our goals... We will be back next season."

Flick has already won the Spanish Super Cup and Copa del Rey and is still favourite to complete a domestic treble.

"And of course, La Liga, it will be also a tough match on Sunday but we also give everything," added Flick.

"When they (the players) look in the mirror when they arrive at home at three or four o'clock in the night, or in the morning, I think they can be very proud."

Meanwhile, Lautaro Martinez said yesterday that he was brought to tears at a hamstring injury which nearly kept him out of Inter Milan's Champions League decider with Barcelona.

Inter captain Martinez almost didn't play at the San Siro after being injured in last week's first leg, drawn 3-3 in Catalonia, but recovered to start another thrilling match which ended with the Italians winning on aggregate.

"The first two days I just sat at home crying, but we did great work with the staff and I managed to recover," Martinez told *Sky Sport*.

"You've got to give your all in these games. I promised my family that I would get on the pitch today." - AFP



Davide Frattesi celebrates after scoring against Barcelona. - AFP/ICC