



UV radiation risks present during rain or shine

Use sunscreen with protection factor of at least 30 regardless of weather conditions to prevent premature skin ageing and cancer, says dermatologist.

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Call for femicide law

Important to amend Penal Code to explicitly define gender related killing of women and girls, and identify unique patterns behind such crimes: Women's group official

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SPORTING ROYALTY ... Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, accompanied by the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah (second from right) and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz (right), grace a community event yesterday in Kampung Bagan Terap, Sabak Bernam. —BERNAMAPIC

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Learn CPR and AED skills, public urged

Critical to effectively use four-minute window to save unconscious individual after collapsing from cardiac arrest: First aid expert

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Call to put brakes on *kereta sapu* scourge

Poor enforcement allows unlicensed individuals, including foreign nationals, to use e-hailing service platforms to operate, says taxi association.

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Selangor Sultan, Tengku Permaisuri grace village-themed run

SUNGAI BESAR: Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah and Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin graced the Kebajikan Inklusiviti Teras Aspirasi Run in Kampung Bagan Terap, Sabak Bernam here yesterday.

The royal couple arrived at 7.30am and was welcomed by the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

Also present were state Rural Development, Unity and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Datuk Rizam Ismail and Local Government and Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Ng Suee Lim.

Dressed in *kain pelikat* and a straw hat to match the village theme of the event, Sultan Sharafuddin later flagged off about 2,500 participants for a three-km and five-km run around the area.

The Ruler participated in the three-km run,

enjoying the scenic *padi* fields and mingling with the people.

Tengku Zafrul said the Sultan had called for similar events to be organised in rural areas to engage local communities and promote a healthy lifestyle.

"At the same time, this run aims to create awareness about the attractions in these areas, whether in tourism, agriculture or entrepreneurship," he said, adding that the next run is set to be held in Klang next year. – Bernama



Anwar meeting congress delegates at Dewan Raja Muda Musa in Shah Alam yesterday. – BERNAMAPIK

PM confirms initial talks on PKR move by Zafrul

➤ Anyone welcome to join but it must be done in proper manner to maintain relationships with other parties: Anwar

SHAH ALAM: PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday confirmed that preliminary discussions have taken place within the party regarding rumours of Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz joining PKR.

The prime minister said PKR is open to participation of any individual, including Tengku Zafrul, as long as the person can contribute positively to the party.

"As a principle, we maintain an open stance – anyone who can contribute to the party is welcome, but their entry must be done properly to ensure our relationships with other parties, including Umno (remain unaffected)," he said after opening the PKR Special National Congress.

Previously, media reports alleged that

Tengku Zafrul would leave Umno to join PKR, alongside claims that he would take over as Selangor *menteri besar*, replacing Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, who is speculated to join the Cabinet, Bernama reported.

Anwar also emphasised that PKR does not practise inviting members of other parties to join its ranks, but is open to discussions, as the party maintains an inclusive stance.

He noted that in the past, some PKR leaders had moved on to become the secretary-general of Amanah, as well as joined DAP.

"So, when it comes to Keadilan (PKR), we have always left the door open, but we usually engage in proper discussions," he said.

Minister to issue statement over party switch speculation

SUNGAI BESAR: Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz said yesterday he will soon address rumours that he will be joining PKR.

Tengku Zafrul, who is also Investment, Trade and Industry minister, said he would clarify the speculation, including claims that the alleged move is tied to replacing PKR vice-president

Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari as Selangor *menteri besar*.

"I have yet to comment on the political situation involving me. At the same time, we have heard Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari's assurance that he will serve until the end of his term," he said when met at the Inklusiviti Teras Aspirasi charity run yesterday.

Earlier, Anwar attended the congress, which, among other objectives, aimed to amend the party's constitution.

The congress was convened after the 2024 PKR National Congress, scheduled to take place in Johor yesterday, was postponed due to floods affecting several states.

Anwar was received by top party leaders, including deputy president Rafizi Ramli, when he arrived for the congress, which was conducted in a hybrid format as some delegates were in flood-affected states.

Also present were PKR secretary-general Dr Fuziah Salleh and information chief Fahmi Fadzil.

Previously, Fuziah was reported as saying that the congress would, among others, make amendments to the party constitution related to the number of delegates, as well as gender and ethnic quotas.

She said the amendments would align with the principles of democratic participation, granting party members the right to vote for leaders in future elections.

On Saturday, Amirudin reaffirmed his commitment to continuing as Selangor *menteri besar* until the end of his current term.

Deputy Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi also confirmed he had not received any notification from Tengku Zafrul regarding his alleged resignation from Umno. – Bernama

Thai premier makes official visit to Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra will make her first official visit to Malaysia today to attend the 7th Malaysia-Thailand Annual Consultation to explore potential areas for collaboration.

In a statement yesterday, the Foreign Ministry said the visit, Paetongtarn's first since assuming office in August, was at the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Paetongtarn will be accorded an official welcoming ceremony at Perdana Putra Complex in Putrajaya, followed by a bilateral meeting with Anwar.

"Both leaders will also chair the 7th Malaysia-Thailand Annual Consultation (7th AC).

A joint press statement will be issued following the event.

The two prime ministers are expected to review the progress of bilateral ties and explore potential areas for further collaboration.

Discussions will also include regional and international issues of mutual interest, reflecting the shared commitment to close cooperation as Asean partners.

"The visit will mark a significant step in strengthening the longstanding relationship between the two neighbouring countries," the statement read.

Following the 7th AC, both leaders will witness the exchange of two memoranda of understanding – one on cooperation in the field of culture, arts and heritage, and the other on the development of the rubber industry and economic cooperation.

The Foreign Ministry said the visit is also part of the exchange of visits at the leader's level this year, following the working visit of Anwar and former Thai prime minister Srettha Thavisin to Sungai Golok in Thailand and Rantau Panjang in Kelantan on Aug 3.

Thailand remains a key trading partner for Malaysia, ranking as its sixth largest globally and second largest within Asean in 2023, with bilateral trade valued at US\$24.83 billion (RM113.16 billion).

For the period between January and October, trade between the two nations reached US\$20.75 billion, surpassing the US\$20.69 billion recorded in the same period last year. – Bernama

GRS reinforces cooperation with PH

KOTA KINABALU: Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) said it is keen to maintain its collaboration with Pakatan Harapan (PH) in the current Sabah government as part of its strategy for the upcoming state election.

In a statement issued in Kota Kinabalu yesterday, GRS chairman Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said the matter has been conveyed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also PH chairman, as part of efforts to strengthen unity among parties leading the Sabah government and to continue advancing welfare initiatives for the people.

The Sabah chief minister said he has also informed Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, about GRS's standing and chances in the next state polls.

"As for other parties, we'll observe and consider their approaches. What we want is unity. As chief minister, my priority is fostering harmony.

"That's why GRS was formed, comprising eight component parties. While some are smaller parties that didn't win in the last election, my intention has always been to unite us under one vision.

"We've learned from past lessons. My mission now is to strengthen relationships and bring the other party presidents together. – Bernama

Over 12,800 tonnes of flood waste collected

ALOR SETAR: The Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp) has collected over 12,800 tonnes of flood related waste across seven affected states from Nov 28 to Dec 11.

Housing and Local Government Deputy Minister Datuk Aiman Athirah Sabu said the cleanup involved 45 areas in Kedah, Perlis, Pahang, Johor, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan and Kuala Lumpur, as well as Putrajaya.

"We have set a target to complete the cleanup by Dec 20 in these states.

"We are hopeful that there will be no further floods," she said during post-flood cleanup operations in Taman Aman yesterday.

Also present was SWCorp Malaysia CEO Khalid Mohamed.

Aiman Athirah highlighted that in Kedah alone, 730 tonnes of flood waste have been collected at 19 locations in Alor Setar and 10 in Kubang Pasu, with the waste transported to the Jabal disposal centre.

She said the operation involved 79 mini armrolls, 13 backhoe loaders, one water jetter and an ultrahack to ensure efficient waste removal.

"SWCorp has also instructed E-Idaman to place 171 waste bins, including 71 units with a 1,100-litre capacity, 95 units of 240 litres, two units of 660 litres and three Roro bins at 58 temporary relief centres in Kedah, with daily waste collection.

"I visited Taman Aman to personally oversee the cleanup efforts and ensure they are progressing as reported, so that the affected residents can return to a safe and comfortable environment," she added. — Bernama

Call for law to address gender based murders

■ BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
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➤ Experts urge legal reform to recognise and prosecute femicide cases in Malaysia

PETALING JAYA: Experts are urging the enactment of specific laws to address "femicide", defined as the killing of women and girls due to their gender, arguing that Malaysia's current criminal justice system lacks provisions to tackle it effectively.

On Aug 17, 10-year-old Nuraina Humaira Rosli was found dead in a swamp near Kampung Orang Asli Bersah in Pos Kuala Mu in Sungai Siput, Perak.

On July 17, the body of Nur Farah Kartini Abdullah, 25, was discovered in an oil palm plantation in Kampung Sri Kledang, Hulu Selangor.

Both cases are being investigated as murder under Section 302 of the Penal Code.

Universiti Malaya criminologist and deputy dean of postgraduate studies Dr Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid said while not all murders of women fall under femicide, the crime is not currently recognised by police since Malaysia has no legal provisions to charge individuals specifically for it.

Women's Aid Organisation (WAO) acting executive director Nazreen Nizam highlighted that while Malaysia lacks official data on

femicide, WAO media monitoring from January to August recorded 17 cases of women or girls being killed.

"Of these, 60% involved intimate partners, with 46.7% of them being married and 13.3% unmarried. Family members were the perpetrators in 20% of such cases, while friends and colleagues were involved in another 20%. This highlights the domestic nature of these crimes.

"Young women and girls are especially vulnerable due to societal norms that assign them lower status and power within families. Cultural beliefs reinforcing male dominance over women further increase the risks they face."

Nazreen noted that while Malaysia has laws addressing domestic violence and sexual assault, femicide is not recognised as a distinct crime driven by gender based motives.

Consequently, such cases are prosecuted under general homicide laws, failing to address the unique gendered patterns behind some of

the killings.

She added that the lack of gender sensitive training for law enforcement officials often leads to elements of femicide being overlooked.

"It is important to amend the Penal Code to explicitly define and criminalise femicide, provide specialised training for officials and strengthen victim support services.

"Both law enforcement officers and the public lack awareness of what constitutes femicide. Education and training on the nuances of femicide and gender based violence are crucial to ensure proper enforcement and legal recognition."

Nazreen also stressed the importance of support services for survivors of gender based violence, such as safe shelters, counselling, legal aid and 24/7 hotlines, which are currently provided by the government and NGOs.

These services help women escape violence, recover from trauma and navigate legal systems.

She called for increased funding for NGOs such as WAO, the All

Women's Action Society, Women's Centre for Change and Sisters in Islam to sustain and expand such services.

Meanwhile, Haezreena said femicide often occurs when killings are rooted in the perception that a woman has failed to conform to societal gender expectations.

Women who do not adhere to traditional gender norms or whose actions are deemed "immoral" may face extreme consequences.

"In some cultures, women are closely associated with a family's honour and actions perceived as dishonourable, such as engaging in inappropriate relationships, can lead to their deaths in what is known as 'honour killings'.

"Women enduring domestic violence or other forms of gender based violence are at heightened risk, particularly if they do not meet societal expectations of the 'ideal wife' or partner.

"Marginalised groups, such as female sex workers, are also frequent targets due to societal stigma and shame.

"This is why femicide provisions must be introduced in the Penal Code, so the police can consider it as an element in their investigations," she said.

National Service allowance unchanged

KOTA TINGGI: The Defence Ministry will retain the daily allowance rate of RM8 for participants of the National Service Training Programme 3.0, which is set to commence in January.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said there is currently no need to increase the allowance.

"We are retaining the RM8 allowance. The programme hasn't started yet, so let it begin first," he said at the launch and handover of projects under the Madani-Mindef Foster Village Programme at Balai Raya Kampung Baru Pasak yesterday.

On Thursday, the Special Parliamentary Select Committee on Security reportedly presented a report on National Service, which included a recommendation to raise the daily allowance for trainees to RM50. — Bernama



EDUCATIONAL FUN ... Children spending their weekend at the Smart Reader Kids Open Day at Laman Rimbulan in Kepong yesterday. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

Madani campaign against bullying, sexual misconduct in schools

JOHOR BAHRU: The Education Ministry's Madani Leadership Movement: End Bullying and Sexual Misconduct programme strengthens its initiatives to address these critical issues in schools nationwide, said Education Director-General Azman Adnan.

He said the programme is a supportive initiative featuring Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek and top ministry officials engaging directly with students and teachers during official school assemblies.

The first session, held at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Mutiara Rini in Johor, will be extended to other schools across the country.

"This programme aims to reinforce efforts to tackle bullying and sexual misconduct in schools. It reflects the ministry's commitment, complementing existing guidelines to manage such issues effectively."

Also present were Johor State Education director Mohd Hanafi Samad, Johor Bahru District education officer Saliman Selamat, and SMK Mutiara Rini principal Zanariah M. Yasin.

Azman added that the ministry recorded 6,528 bullying cases in 2022 through its Student Behaviour Management System, with 6,208 cases reported as of October. — Bernama

NGO lauds plan for Good Samaritan law

KUALA LUMPUR: The Alliance for a Safe Community has voiced its full support for the government's initiative to introduce a Good Samaritan Law, describing it as a significant step towards fostering civic responsibility and a culture of compassion in Malaysia.

Its chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye commended the proposed law announced by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, which aims to provide legal protection to individuals with good intentions who assist others in emergencies.

"A Good Samaritan Law offers legal protection to individuals who act in good faith to help others in emergencies. These Good Samaritans deserve recognition and support for their courage and compassion in offering aid without fear of legal repercussions," he said.

Lee's comments came in response to Dzulkefly's call for the introduction of the Good Samaritan Law before the conclusion of the current 15th parliamentary session as Malaysia currently lacks such legislation.

He added that the law could also bolster public health strategies, particularly in cases such as overdose interventions or administering first aid during traffic collisions.

However, Lee stressed the need for careful consideration to ensure the law is effectively drafted and implemented.

"There is a possibility that some individuals may misuse the law to escape accountability for negligent or harmful actions. Clear guidelines are essential to define the scope of protection and ensure the law applies

only to genuine acts of good faith."

He also warned against over-reliance on untrained individuals during emergencies, highlighting the importance of public education campaigns to raise awareness about the law and teach basic emergency response skills.

"We urge the government to engage all relevant stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, legal experts and community organisations, to craft a comprehensive and balanced Good Samaritan Law," Lee said. — Bernama



'Increase awareness of CPR and AED usage to save lives'

➤ Public training on emergency response skills can make difference between life and death: Experts

BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: Shockwaves were felt around the world on July 1 when 17-year-old Chinese badminton player Zhang Zhijie suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed on court during a tournament in Indonesia. He died later that day.

Now, St John Ambulance of Malaysia corporate training manager Chew Hoon Ling is urging the public to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use a portable automated external defibrillator (AED).

"When someone collapses and stops breathing, there is a critical four-minute window to save their lives. After this, the brain begins to die from a lack of oxygen," she said.

Chew noted that tragedies such as these could be prevented if the public were equipped with CPR skills, explaining that it typically takes about five minutes to make a 999 or 911 call and 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive, by which time it is often too late.

While CPR is vital, Chew



Chew urged people to set aside misconceptions and learn the basics of CPR as it can prevent tragedies. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN

highlighted that many people are unaware of the importance of AED devices, which work hand-in-hand with CPR.

"The use of an AED is critical, as survival rates with CPR alone are low, but they double or triple when an AED is used," she said.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Sports Innovation and Technology Centre director Dr Hadafi Fitri Mohd Latip warned that high-intensity physical sports such as badminton can be dangerous when pushed to the limits.

"Badminton is one of the most physically demanding sports,

requiring rapid directional changes, high jumps and powerful smashes. It demands significant aerobic and anaerobic energy, placing strain on the cardiovascular and muscular systems.

"Playing in poorly ventilated environments can lead to heat exhaustion and dehydration, further taxing the heart. Overtraining and inadequate recovery can also cause cumulative fatigue, increasing the risk of cardiac issues," he said.

Hadafi emphasised that survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest can increase by up to 75% with timely CPR and defibrillation.

"Preparedness is essential. In any setting – casual or professional – coaches, referees and teammates should be trained in basic life support techniques to act immediately during emergencies," he said.

Chew encouraged people to set aside misconceptions and learn the basics of CPR, as it can save lives and prevent tragedies.

"In Malaysia, many hesitate to act due to fear or discomfort with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, leading to a drop in bystander CPR rates.

"Even if you're unwilling to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, hands-only CPR, which focuses solely on chest compressions, is still effective. It's better than doing nothing. While mouth-to-mouth is preferable, chest compressions alone can still save lives," she said.

Chew urged the public to be proactive in learning life-saving skills, mentioning that St John Ambulance Malaysia's national headquarters offers free two-hour CPR and AED courses on the last Sunday of every month, except December.

"Sudden cardiac arrest can strike anyone, anywhere, at any time – even during sleep, not just from exercise or health issues.

"That's why everyone must learn CPR and AED skills. It's not enough to hear about it, one needs to practise it. By doing so, the public can make a difference between life and death and offer hope and a chance of survival."

Langkawi ferry fares to increase in January

ALOR SETAR: Langkawi Ferry Line Ventures Sdn Bhd, the operator of ferry services between Langkawi and Kuala Perlis as well as Kuala Kedah, has announced a fare increase ranging from RM3 to RM10.50 per one-way trip, depending on passenger category and route.

Operations manager Lt/Comm (Rtd) Norhafiz Abdul Wahid said the new fares will take effect from Jan 1 next year.

"For the Langkawi-Kuala Perlis-Langkawi route, the fare for Malaysian adults will increase by RM3, from RM21 to RM24, and for children from RM16 to RM19.

"For the Langkawi-Kuala Kedah-Langkawi route, the increase is RM3.50, from RM26.50 to RM30 for adults and from RM20.50 to RM24 for children," he said in a statement yesterday.

For non-citizens, the fare for the Langkawi-Kuala Perlis-Langkawi route will increase by RM8 for adults, from RM27 to RM35, and by RM5.50 for children, from RM19.50 to RM25.

For the Langkawi-Kuala Kedah-Langkawi route, the fare for non-citizens will rise by RM10.50 for adults, from RM34.50 to RM45, and by RM6.50 for children, from RM25.50 to RM32.

Norhafiz added that fares for Langkawi residents will increase by RM3 and RM3.50 respectively for the two routes.

"For Langkawi-Kuala Perlis-Langkawi, the fare for residents will rise to RM18 for adults and RM13 for children. For the Langkawi-Kuala Kedah-Langkawi route, the new fare will be RM23.50 for adults and RM17.50 for children," he said.

However, there will be no fare increase for the elderly and people with disabilities. — Bernama

Teacher turns love for autistic son into life-changing innovation

KOTA KINABALU: For Dr Velerie Wheelervon Primus, better known as Vonn Primus in his circle, raising his nine-year-old autistic son has been a journey of love, resilience and inspiration.

His personal experience as a father sparked an extraordinary project – a multisensory room designed to help special needs students thrive at his rural school in Sabah.

As a special education teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Bingkor, Keningau, Vonn Primus has turned challenges into a mission.

Located more than two hours from the state capital, SK Bingkor may be tucked away in a quiet part of Keningau, but the impact of his work is far-reaching.

With a profound understanding of

inclusive education, Vonn Primus transformed an old teacher's quarters into a state-of-the-art multisensory room with three distinct areas.

One section serves as a teaching space equipped with a science, technology, engineering and mathematics lab and a digital integration hub.

Another section, the Snoezelen room, provides a calming environment for students experiencing sensory overload or tantrums, complete with aromatherapy.

The third section, a play therapy room, doubles as a reward space for students who excel and a training area for developing occupational skills.

"Many of our students face behavioural or sensory challenges.

The Snoezelen room helps them calm down, while the play therapy room motivates and rewards their progress. It's a holistic approach to nurturing their development," he said.

The multisensory room, the first of its kind in Keningau, has already made a remarkable difference.

Drawing from his research into sensory development and the pyramid of learning, Vonn Primus emphasised the importance of addressing sensory needs to help special needs students focus and succeed.

"The results have been incredible. About 70% of our autistic students have overcome speech and behavioural challenges. Academically, 10 of them have mastered basic reading, writing and arithmetic. Some

who couldn't speak are now reading fluently," he said proudly.

The project, which began late last year and was completed earlier this year, cost about RM25,000.

Vonn Primus used RM10,000 from his winnings in the Rise Educator Award 2023 and supplemented the rest with his own savings.

His tireless efforts to ensure equal access to education for special needs children have not gone unnoticed.

In October, he was honoured with the Malaysia Teacher Prize 2024 by Education Minister Fadhilina Sidek.

This prestigious accolade capped a year in which he also won the National and Sabah State Special Education Teacher Awards and the Sabah State Youth Premier Award. — Bernama

UniMAP gets RM23.6m in research funding

KANGAR: Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) has secured RM23.6 million in research funding this year, marking the highest amount received by the university since its establishment in 2002.

Vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Zaliman Sauli said the funding comprised nearly RM14 million in government contributions, RM8 million from industry partners, over RM1 million in international funds and about RM600,000 in university allocations.

"UniMAP also recorded one of the highest receipts for the 2024 Research Grant Scheme under the Industry Matching Programme, with RM6.5 million from Higher Education Ministry funds and RM1.5 million from industry partners," he said yesterday.

Zaliman highlighted that UniMAP researcher Prof Dr Azreimi Abdullah Al Hadi was recognised as one of Malaysia's Top Research Scientists 2024 by the Malaysian Academy of Sciences.

"In addition, six UniMAP researchers, including staff and one postgraduate student, were listed among the World's Top 2% Scientists by Stanford University for the Career-Long and Single-Year Citation Impact 2024 category," he added. — Bernama

RM200 billion construction sector spending expected next year

PONTIAN: The Works Ministry is projecting construction sector spending of RM200 billion next year, encompassing government projects, GLC, GLIC and the private sector.

Deputy Minister Datuk Seri

Ahmad Maslan said the projection includes projects for road, highway, and bridge construction, slope and building repairs, facility maintenance and the continuation of existing projects.

Of the total, RM88 billion will

come from the government's budget, RM32 billion is allocated for projects undertaken by GLCs and GLICs, and RM80 billion is expected from the private sector.

"Next year will see the country's development focusing on the

interests of the people," he said after officiating at the Career Skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training construction carnival organised by the Construction Industry Development Board yesterday. — Bernama

Be vigilant against online fraud, Malaysians told

SIBU: As the government moves to pass amendments to the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 and the Online Safety Bill 2024 in Dewan Negara this week, Malaysians are urged to increase vigilance against online crimes.

Communications Deputy Minister Teo Nie Ching said this could be achieved by raising awareness on the growing prevalence of online fraud, which has surged since 2022, Bernama reported.

"As of October, Malaysia recorded RM1.224 billion in losses due to online crime, with the majority of fraudulent posts found on Facebook."

She said the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission removed 242 fraudulent posts from social media in 2022, 6,297 posts last year and 56,294 posts this year.

She urged the public to be more vigilant against online fraud, advising them not to click on posts unless they are certain of their authenticity.

The Communications and Multimedia (Amendment) Bill 2024, which introduces comprehensive regulatory reforms and security guarantees for internet users, was approved by Dewan Rakyat on Dec 9.

Two days later, the Online Safety Bill 2024 was passed, requiring social media platform providers to ensure platform safety, protect children under the age of 13 and restrict access to harmful content.

She said addressing online crime requires effort from the government, platform providers and the public.

Summonses issued in special traffic ops

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 376 summonses were issued to motorists during a special integrated operation in the Bukit Bintang area on Saturday.

Kuala Lumpur deputy police chief Datuk Azry Akmar Ayob said 195 summonses were issued by police, with 119 for obstruction and 76 to motorcyclists for riding without a valid licence, expired licence or modified registration numbers.

He said the operation, carried out from 10pm on Saturday until 1am yesterday, involved the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Division of the Dang Wangi district police headquarters, the department and City Hall.

The operation targetted areas such as Jalan Bukit Bintang and Jalan Imbi.

He said the operation would continue to be carried out to ensure motorists comply with traffic regulations. — Bernama

Ministry urged to address illegal ride-hailing services

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA
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➤ Inadequate enforcement efforts and legal loopholes within sector allow unlicensed operators to continue activities with impunity

PETALING JAYA: Gabungan Teksi SeMalaysia has called on the Transport Ministry to put a stop to illegal ride-hailing services, known as *kereta sapu*, more effectively as current efforts seem to be failing.

Its president Kamarudin Mohd Hussain said inadequate enforcement efforts have made it easier for illegal operators to hide behind e-hailing services to operate.

"The situation has worsened of late due to the inability of enforcement authorities to curb *kereta sapu* activities. This is also due to legal loopholes within the e-hailing sector that make it difficult to distinguish between licensed vehicles and *kereta sapu*."

"While the issue is often highlighted in the media, there have only been a few arrests that generated significant attention."

"Thousands of illegal *kereta sapu*

continue to operate, including many driven by foreign nationals."

Road Transport Department deputy director-general (Planning and Operations) Datuk Jazmanie Shafawi said *Ops Ulat*, conducted from Nov 25 to Dec 3, resulted in the arrest of 15 individuals suspected of offering unauthorised transport services.

He said illegal operators earn between RM10,000 and RM30,000 monthly and the department has arrested 469 illegal operators since 2022 and fined them more than RM1.66 million.

Kamarudin said enforcement actions have yet to present a meaningful deterrent and current measures appear to be reactive

rather than proactive.

"I propose that the government grant enforcement authority to the Land Public Transport Agency, similar to the powers previously held by the Commercial Vehicle Licensing Board."

"Any appointment of enforcement officers within the agency must follow strict standards to avoid the shortcomings of the past, in which enforcement efforts did not meet expectations."

Gerakan E-Hailing Malaysia chief activist Jose Rizal said close collaboration between the government, e-hailing companies and the community is essential to eliminate *kereta sapu*.

He said while the Road

Transport Act 1987 provides provisions to regulate vehicles and traffic on public roads, compliance remains low.

"This highlights the need for stricter enforcement and potential improvements to the law. The use of advanced technology and harsher penalties for repeat offences are necessary to address the matter effectively."

UITM Malaysian Institute of Transport head of legal and quality Dr Siti Ayu Jalil said *kereta sapu* operations have a detrimental impact on Malaysia's transport ecosystem as they bypass established legal frameworks and undermine the safety, fairness and integrity of the transport sector.

She said *kereta sapu* operations also create regulatory challenges as enforcement agencies struggle to address their operations.

"The main challenge in addressing *kereta sapu* activities lies in law enforcement, public awareness and active reporting of such offences."

"If enforcers and consumers play their roles, the issue could be resolved effectively."

She said illegal ride-hailing services pose risks to passenger safety as they often operate without proper regulations or standards.

"One significant concern is the lack of insurance coverage in the event of a road crash, leaving passengers vulnerable."

"They also often operate without regulated pricing, which means passengers could be unfairly charged."

"The safety risks are heightened because drivers are not required to undergo screenings or meet safety standards, unlike licensed operators."

She said consumers who prefer to use *kereta sapu* services would face consequences due to its illegality.

Individuals involved in these activities would be penalised under Section 23(2) for the misuse of the Motor Vehicle Licence under the Road Transport Act 1987.

If convicted, offenders could face a fine of between RM1,000 and RM10,000, up to two years' jail, or both.



Siti Ayu said *kereta sapu* operations have a detrimental impact on Malaysia's transport ecosystem as they bypass established legal frameworks and undermine the integrity of the sector. — SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THESUNDAILY

Village committees set up to support rural communities

BUTTERWORTH: The Rural and Regional Development Ministry has established 375 Penang Madani Village Community Committees in phases since March 1 in complementing and adding value to efforts to support the people.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also rural and regional development minister, said the committees have also been established in Selangor and Sabah as part of the ministry's efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty among those in the rural community.

"It is hoped that the committees,

each headed by a chairman and assisted by a secretary and 11 committee members, could become a platform connecting the ministry and rural communities."

"The state Community Development Department is the main organiser of the committees and this year, the ministry has allocated RM1.875 million for the provision of a one-off committee governance incentive of RM5,000 to enable the committees to implement community development based activities in their respective localities."

He was speaking after an appreciation ceremony for the

one-year implementation of Penang's committee and the establishment of the Civil Defence Auxiliary Emergency Response Team at the PICCA Convention Centre here, which was also attended by Civil Defence Force chief commissioner Datuk Aminurrahim Mohamed.

Ahmad Zahid said the committees are eligible to apply for the Sejati Madani Grant under the management of the Implementation Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, and 88 applications from the Penang Customs Department have

been approved, with an overall allocation of RM8.45 million.

He said in June, the Rural and Regional Development Ministry, in collaboration with the Civil Defence Force, carried out a basic disaster management training programme for 41 Penang Customs personnel.

"The three-day training, conducted at the Civil Defence Force Northern Region Training Centre in Baling, Kedah exposed the personnel to basic knowledge on addressing disasters, such as CPR, bandaging wounds and firefighting." — Bernama

Wood products seized at port

JOHOR BAHRU: The Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Service Department in Johor confiscated nearly six tonnes of wood products from China estimated to be worth RM75,000 at the Pasir Gudang Port on Tuesday after the consignment was found without a valid import permit.

Importing products without a valid permit is an offence under Section 11(1) of the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Act 2011 and is punishable under Section 11(3). — Bernama

Invisible threat from UV exposure

➤ Vital to use sunscreen when outdoors as ultraviolet rays just as damaging even on cloudy days

■ BY DEEPAKSHMI MANICKAM
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Dermatologists have warned the public to beware of ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which is a constant threat regardless of weather conditions.

Central Dermatology Specialist Clinic consultant dermatologist Dr Teeba Raja said up to 80% of UV rays can penetrate clouds, including ultraviolet A (UVA), which causes skin ageing and pigmentation, and ultraviolet B (UVB), which causes sunburn.

"A phenomenon known as 'cloud scattering' allows UV rays to diffuse and reach the ground, even when the sun is not visible.

"Malaysia's tropical climate sees consistently high UV levels throughout the year, including during overcast and rainy days. While heavy rain might temporarily block some UV rays, they usually clear up quickly."

Teeba stressed that applying sunscreen to the skin is important even during rainy days as one is not shielded from UV damage, and protecting one's skin from such rays is a year-round commitment.



Teeba said a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 30 or higher would be best to protect against UVA and UVB rays. — SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THESUN

Not using sunscreen during cloudy days or rainy weather can still result in sunburn, irritation and uneven skin tone. Over time, the cumulative effects of UV exposure can cause premature ageing, with wrinkles, loss of skin elasticity and persistent skin pigmentation.

"Cumulative UV damage is irreversible. It accelerates collagen breakdown and causes DNA mutations in skin cells, leading to skin cancers such as basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma."

Teeba said the high humidity of the rainy season further complicates sunscreen application because it feels heavy or greasy, leading people to avoid using enough of it. Sweat and water exposure also washes it off, reducing its effectiveness.

She recommended using lightweight, water-resistant sunscreens that are better suited for the local climate.

Teeba advised choosing a broad spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor of 30 or higher to protect against UVA and UVB rays. For sensitive skin, mineral sunscreens containing zinc oxide or titanium dioxide are a good option, while a gel-based formula is ideal for oily or acne-prone skin.

"Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours if you're outdoors, regardless of the weather. After heavy sweating or rain, it's essential to reapply it immediately to maintain protection."

Her colleague and consultant dermatologist Dr Meera Kuppusamy also expressed concern over blue light exposure from digital screens, especially during the rainy season when people usually remain indoors.

"While artificial lighting and blue light from screens have a less significant impact compared with UV rays, it can still penetrate deeper layers

of the skin and cause oxidative stress. This might lead to hyperpigmentation and inflammation over time."

Meera recommends sunscreens containing iron oxide or antioxidants for those exposed to prolonged screen time. However, sunscreen may be unnecessary for short-term indoor exposure to blue light.

She also addressed the ecological implications of sunscreen use during the rainy season, with many products washing off into the environment.

"Mineral-based sunscreens which contain zinc oxide or titanium dioxide are safer for the ecosystem. Products labelled 'reef-safe' or 'environmentally friendly' should be prioritised."

For individuals with eczema or rosacea, Meera advised opting for fragrance-free, non-irritating formulas.

"Those with sensitive skin should use thick, emollient-rich moisturisers to restore the skin barrier and choose sunscreens specifically designed for sensitive skin, that are free of alcohol or synthetic fragrances."

Children, whose skin are more delicate, also require sun protection during the rainy season.

"Mineral-based sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide are gentle and effective for young skin. Parents should ensure a generous application to all exposed areas and reapply every two hours or after water exposure, even on cloudy days," she added.

Meera said for our humid weather, gel-based or lightweight formulations are preferable, as they are less greasy and more breathable.

Animal abuse claims spark call for product ban

■ BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
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PETALING JAYA: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) has called on the authorities to ban coconut milk imported from Thailand due to animal cruelty.

Dr Heather Rally, who is a medical director at a US veterinary hospital in Los Angeles and a Peta activist, told theSun that its latest investigation took viewers inside schools at which endangered baby pig-tailed macaques were forcibly trained to pick coconuts for the Thai coconut industry.

"These macaques, that are less than three months old, are torn from their mothers and tethered for years on chains so short they can barely move. They are kept in flooded or trash strewn areas, and driven insane by endless confinement.

"So, we are appealing to the Malaysian government to ban the import of Thai coconut milk as we have found them being sold in supermarkets at major malls in the country."

Rally, who said she took part in the investigation, added that the macaques were forced to endure physical, social and psychological torment as part of their training.

She said Peta investigators have documented baby monkeys that were abducted from their families in nature or bred on-site being tethered on ropes and chains.

"Macaques are social animals but they are not given any shelter from extreme weather and denied the comfort, enrichment or adequate socialisation they require.

"Many of them were tied to tiny cages on which their skin were chafed raw from the metal bars. The macaques pace neurotically and some frantically (lunged against the) tethers, repeatedly choking themselves on their collars."

Rally said the schools are also promoted to

tourists on the Thai government website, which she alleged "put on deceptive coconut-picking demonstrations for visitors that involve adult macaques that have been abused and broken".

She said Peta has also called on the Thai government to shut down the schools.

"Every single macaque I saw was suffering in some way, physically and psychologically. As a veterinarian, I am disturbed and horrified by these conditions.

"As a mother, my heart is shattered. These macaque babies should be cradled by their mothers, but they are kept in torturous conditions as prisoners."

EDUCATION

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South Korean acting president reassures allies

➤ Capable, experienced and respected in foreign capitals, says former NZ envoy

SEOUL: Acting President Han Duck-soo moved yesterday to reassure South Korea's allies and calm financial markets a day after president Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached and suspended from his duties over a martial law attempt.

Han spoke with President Joe Biden by phone, the White House and Han's office said.

"South Korea will carry out its foreign and security policies without disruption and strive to ensure the South Korea-US alliance is maintained and developed steadfastly," Han said.

The main opposition party announced it would not seek to impeach Han for his involvement in Yoon's Dec 3 martial law decision.

"Given that the prime minister has already been confirmed as acting president and considering that excessive impeachments could lead to confusion in national governance, we have decided not to proceed with impeachment procedures," said Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung.

Han, a longtime technocrat picked by Yoon as prime minister, was elevated to acting president in accordance with the constitution while Yoon's case moves to the Constitutional Court.

Demonstrators seeking Yoon's ouster braved the cold to throng the streets outside the National Assembly building where he was impeached. The crowd was about 200,000, according to police.

Since Han's role is only acting president, "I hope he will exercise the minimum power to operate the country stably, rather than actively be involved in state affairs," said Jo Sung-woo, a 39-year-old Seoul resident.

About 8.5km away, a much smaller number of Yoon supporters (about 41,000 according to Yonhap news agency) demonstrated in the central Seoul area.

Yoon's surprise martial law declaration and the ensuing political crisis spooked markets and South Korea's diplomatic partners worried over the country's ability to deter nuclear-armed North Korea.

Biden told Han the ironclad US-South Korea alliance remained unchanged and Washington would work with Seoul to further develop and



Han (left) salutes the South Korean national flag during a Cabinet meeting on Saturday. - REUTERS/SPIC

strengthen the alliance as well as trilateral cooperation including neighbour Japan, Han's office said.

Han convened his Cabinet and National Security Council shortly after Saturday's impeachment vote and vowed to maintain military readiness to prevent any breach of national security.

South Korea's partners wanted to see a credible and constitutional temporary leadership put in place as soon as possible, said Philip Turner, a former New Zealand ambassador to South Korea.

"They will be pleased to see Prime Minister Han take over as acting president. He is capable, experienced and well respected in foreign capitals," he said.

The Constitutional Court has up to six months to decide whether to remove or reinstate Yoon. If he is removed or resigns, a new election will be held within 60 days.

"During that time Korea's highly competent professional bureaucracy can be relied on to keep the country's foreign policy running, but they will find it hard to provide clear direction," Turner said.

South Korean shares rose for a fourth straight session on Friday on hopes that the political

uncertainty would ease after the impeachment vote in parliament, which followed a failed vote a week earlier.

Democratic Party leader Lee said the most pressing issue is a slump in consumption caused by insufficient domestic demand and the government's reduction of its fiscal role.

He called for a National Stability Council for Governance comprising the government and parliament to discuss finance, economy and public livelihoods.

"To address this, I believe it is necessary to promptly discuss a supplementary budget," Lee said, adding that a supplementary budget could include funding to support small businesses and investments related to artificial intelligence and infrastructure to try to head off energy shortages.

Parliament, controlled by Lee's party, passed a 673.3 trillion won (RM2.1 trillion) 2025 budget bill on Tuesday that cut the government's 677.4 trillion won proposal, without reaching agreement with Yoon's People Power Party and the government.

By law parliament cannot increase government budgets, and at the time the Democratic Party said a supplementary budget could be needed to address spending for people's livelihoods. - Reuters

BRIEFS

U.S. MARINES RELOCATING FROM OKINAWA

TOKYO: The United States has begun relocating thousands of Marines from the Japanese island of Okinawa. In 2012, the United States said it would redeploy 9,000 Marines from the island where communities complain bases are an unfair burden - with objections ranging from pollution to noise and helicopter crashes. The relocation began with "a small detachment of about 100 logistics support Marines" transferred to the US island territory of Guam. There are around 19,000 Marines in Okinawa - strategically located east of Taiwan. The 9,000 relocating Marines are set to be moved to Guam, Hawaii and Australia. - AFP

SPACE ONE DELAYS ROCKET LAUNCH AGAIN

TOKYO: A startup aiming to become Japan's first private firm to put a satellite into orbit postponed a rocket launch for the second day running yesterday after its first try ended in a mid-air explosion. Space One had initially scheduled liftoff for its *Kairos* rocket on Saturday, but pushed the launch back 24 hours because of high wind speeds. It postponed the launch again yesterday because of weather conditions. In March, the solid-fuel *Kairos*, carrying a small government test satellite, lifted off for the first time from the Space One launch pad, dubbed *Spaceport Kii*. But seconds later, technical problems were detected and a self-destruct order was sent to the 18m rocket. - AFP

Two held after blast kills three at Thai festival

BANGKOK: Authorities in Thailand have arrested two men following a bomb blast at a festival near the border with Myanmar that killed three people and wounded dozens, police said on Saturday.

An improvised explosive device went off on a dance floor at a festival in Umphang district in Thailand's northern Tak province on Friday night, police said.

Two people were killed instantly and another died later in hospital. The explosion also injured 48 people among 8,000-9,000 attending the event.

Thai police said they had arrested a Thai youth and a man they said was a member of the Karen National Union (KNU), a rebel group that has fought the Myanmar military for decades for autonomy in Karen state.

Tak police chief Major-General Samrit Ekamol said the Myanmar suspect had thrown the bomb after encountering a "rival gangster" he had previously fought with.

A senior KNU official contacted by AFP, who declined to be named as he was not authorised to speak to media, denied any involvement and said the group did not have any members in the area.

The KNU expressed condolences to the families of those killed and wounded in the blast in a separate statement on their Facebook page.

"We will cooperate with the Thai government to bring about justice. We do not accept this type of terrorist action and condemn it," the statement said.

The KNU can call on more than 5,000 fighters, maintains close links with Thai police and military, and has extensive business interests on both sides of the border, according to analysts.

Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra expressed her condolences to the victims and their families, and urged security agencies to carry out an investigation. - AFP

China, Philippines tensions continue

MANILA: China accused the Philippines of having "provoked trouble" in the South China Sea with US backing, which Manila denied, as tensions between the two neighbours continue.

"The Philippine side, with US support and solicitation, has been stirring up trouble in many spots in the South China Sea," said Wu Qian, a spokesperson for China's Defence Ministry, on its official WeChat account.

"The Philippines is well aware that the scope of its territory is determined by a series of international treaties and has never included China's Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal," he said.

The Philippines denied China's claims. "Such statements are clear evidence of bullying," said Jay Tarrila, Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson for the South China Sea.

China, which aims to intimidate the Philippine government into withdrawing its support for its own fishermen, is "escalating its rhetoric by

instructing its Defence Ministry to issue warnings about using stronger countermeasures", Tarrila said.

Beijing and Manila have been involved in a series of confrontations at reefs and outcrops in the South China Sea, which China claims almost in its entirety.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also claim parts of the sea.

They are concerned China's expansive claim encroaches into their exclusive economic zones (EEZ), non-territorial waters that extend 370km from the coasts of a nation's land.

The US Navy's 7th Fleet, the largest of the US Navy's forward-deployed fleets that operates in the Indo-Pacific, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China submitted nautical charts earlier this month to the United Nations that it said supported its claims to the waters, which a 2016 international tribunal found to be a long-

established fishing ground for fishermen of many nationalities.

Following the charts' submission, a spokesperson for the Philippines' National Maritime Council said China's claims were baseless and illegal.

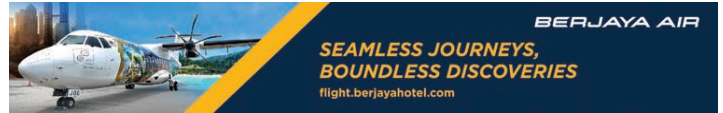
The 2016 tribunal ruled that China's claim had no basis under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and its blockade of the Scarborough Shoal was in breach of international law.

Beijing has never recognised the decision.

Sovereignty over the Scarborough Shoal has never been established.

The Philippines and other Asean members have spent years negotiating a code of conduct with Beijing for the strategic waterway, with some nations in the bloc insisting that it be based on the convention.

EEZs give the coastal nation jurisdiction over living and non-living resources in the water and on the ocean floor. - Reuters



'Bali Nine' members return to Australia

➤ Albanese thanks Indonesia

SYDNEY: Australia's government said yesterday that five members of the "Bali Nine" drug ring have returned from Indonesia, after diplomatic efforts between the countries this month to strike a repatriation deal.

"The Australian government can confirm that Australian citizens Matthew Norman, Scott Rush, Martin Stephens, Si Yi Chen and Michael Czugaj have returned to Australia," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in a statement.

The men were among nine people arrested in 2005 trying to smuggle more than 8kg of heroin out of Bali.

"These Australians served more than 19 years in prison in Indonesia. It was time for them to come home," Albanese said.

Two ringleaders of the group, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, were executed in 2015, prompting Australia to recall its ambassador in protest.

The only woman in the group, Renae Lawrence, was released from prison in 2018, and a male member, Tan Duc Thanh Nguyen, died of cancer the same year.

"We would like to convey our deep appreciation to the government of Indonesia for its cooperation to facilitate the men's return to Australia on humanitarian grounds," Albanese said.

He said the men's return reflected "the

strong bilateral relationship and mutual respect between Indonesia and Australia."

"The men will have the opportunity to continue their personal rehabilitation and reintegration in Australia."

Indonesia's Senior Minister for Legal Affairs Yusril Ihza Mahendra this month met Australian Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke in Jakarta and handed over a draft proposal for the return of the five prisoners.

The terms of the draft included the five being banned from returning to Indonesia, regulations on the legal basis for the transfer and a requirement that Australia respect the decision of the Indonesian court, Yusril said.

Yusril said at the time that Indonesia would respect any decision taken by Australia when

the prisoners returned home, including if the group was granted a pardon. He said the repatriation would not involve an exchange of prisoners.

Indonesia's government did not respond immediately to requests for comment yesterday.

Earlier this month, Indonesia signed an agreement with the Philippines for the return of mother of two Mary Jane Veloso, who was arrested in 2010 after the suitcase she was carrying was found to be lined with 2.6kg of heroin.

Her supporters claim she was duped by an international drug syndicate, and in 2015, she narrowly escaped execution after her suspected recruiter was arrested. - Reuters/AFP

Oldest Miss France clinches crown, aged 34

PARIS: A 34-year-old flight attendant from the French Caribbean island of Martinique on Saturday became the oldest contestant to win the Miss France pageant.

Angelique Angarni-Filopon clinched the crown thanks to a rule change which permitted women over 24 to take part, as well as those who are married or mothers.

"In 2011, a young woman aged 20 finished first runner up in the Miss Martinique competition. Today, it's the same young woman aged 34 who stands before you to again represent Martinique, its diaspora as well as all the women who were once told that it was too late," she said on winning the competition, which was broadcast by TF1.

Thirty candidates including doctors and dentists took part in the final, parading in swimsuits, regional costumes and ballgowns.

They performed to a host of music genres, including country, 90s, salsa and Mozart.

After winning the contest, Angarni-Filopon gets a year-long salary from the Miss France firm, access to a Paris apartment and various gifts from sponsors.

The France contest comes just days after the Miss Netherlands pageant was scrapped after 35 years.

Organisers said they were "changing with the times" and will instead run a platform to share stories of successful women and those struggling with issues such as unrealistic beauty standards. - AFP



Angarni-Filopon celebrates her win. - AFP/PPIC

Drone sightings were manned aircraft, says FBI

WASHINGTON: Officials from the White House, FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Saturday stressed that most of the recent reported drone sightings in New Jersey and nearby states involved manned aircraft, and there was no evidence of any national security threat.

An FBI official told reporters during an impromptu briefing that the agency was working with 50 local, state and federal partners to look into increased reports. The official said less than 100 of the over 5,000 reported sightings had turned out to merit further investigation, and all of the large fix-wing reported sightings so far involved manned aircraft.

"The combination of efforts so far ... to include technical equipment, tip line information and noted consults has ... not found any evidence to support large-scale (unmanned aerial systems) activities," the official said, adding that many of the sightings occurred along regular flight paths.

Extensive efforts were under way to

investigate the remaining cases, using interviews and analyses of radar and intelligence, the official added.

"We can't ignore the sightings that have been there. We're doing our best to find the origin of those drone activities, but I think there has been a slight over-reaction," the official said.

The Federal Aviation Administration restricted the air space around Saturday's Army-Navy football game in Maryland, creating a "No Drone Zone" extending two miles around the stadium, state officials announced. President-elect Donald Trump and J.D. Vance attended the game.

A spate of reported drone sightings that began in New Jersey in mid-November spread in recent days to include Maryland, Massachusetts and other states.

The sightings have garnered media attention and prompted creation of a Facebook page called "New Jersey Mystery Drones - let's solve it" with 56,000 online members.

On Cape Cod in Massachusetts, residents and a police officer in Harwich reported seeing 10-15 drones flying in the Friday night sky, the *Boston Herald* reported.

Governor Maura Healey said on Facebook that she is also "aware of a growing number of drone sightings across Massachusetts and we're monitoring the situation closely".

New York Governor Kathy Hochul on Saturday called for a boost in federal law enforcement efforts after the runways at a local airport in the Hudson Valley were shut down for one hour due to drone activity on Friday.

"This has gone too far," Hochul said in a statement on X, urging the Biden administration to boost law enforcement in New York and other areas, and calling on Congress to pass drone reform legislation.

An official with the Federal Aviation Administration said a temporary ban on drone activity had been put in place over Pictinny Arsenal, a military base in Wharton, New Jersey, that was due to expire on Dec 26 and could be made permanent. - Reuters

Fatal attack triggers hunt for knifeman

TOKYO: Japanese police were searching yesterday for the attacker who fatally stabbed a junior high school student and wounded another at a McDonald's restaurant.

The teens were in line to order on Saturday night when the attacker entered the fast-food restaurant and stabbed them both without warning, according to broadcaster NHK.

They were rushed to hospital where the girl later died. The other victim, a boy, survived and told police he did not know the man who had stabbed them, NHK said.

It was not clear whether the girl knew the man, who remained at large.

Dozens of police have deployed to find the attacker, described as a man who appears to be in his 40s, wearing a grey jacket and dark pants, according to Television Nishinippon.

Police declined to comment on the case.

The attack in the city of Kitakyushu, in Fukuoka prefecture, happened in less than a minute, media reported, adding that around 10 customers were inside the restaurant at the time.

Violent crime is rare in Japan, which has strict gun control laws. But there are occasional stabbings and even shootings. - AFP

BRIEFS

TRUMP PICKS RICHARD GRENNELL AS ENVOY

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump said on Saturday he was picking Richard Grenell, his former intelligence chief, as presidential envoy for special missions, a post where he will likely drive policies towards some US adversaries, including North Korea. "Ric will work in some of the hottest spots around the World, including Venezuela and North Korea," Trump said. A Trump transition source said Grenell will also focus on tensions in the Balkans. Grenell served as Trump's ambassador to Germany, a special presidential envoy for Serbia and Kosovo peace negotiations, and as acting director of national intelligence during Trump's 2017-2021 term. - Reuters

MAURITIUS EX-BANK GOVERNOR FACES ARREST

PORT LOUIS: Mauritius police have issued an order for the arrest of the Indian Ocean islands' former central bank governor, in connection with an inquiry into a conspiracy to defraud case. Harvesh Kumar Seegolam, who was out of the country, would be arrested as soon as he returned, police said in a notice published in Mauritius newspapers yesterday. They gave no more details into the nature of the case he was being investigated over. Seegolam was not immediately reachable for comment. - Reuters

CYCLONE SLAMS INTO REMOTE FRENCH ISLAND

PARIS: At least 11 people were killed after a cyclone slammed into Mayotte, the most intense storm to hit the French Indian Ocean archipelago north of Madagascar in nearly a century, French weather forecasters and authorities said yesterday. Cyclone Chido swept through Mayotte overnight, Meteo-France said, bringing winds of more than 200kph and damaging makeshift housing, government buildings and a hospital. It was the strongest storm in more than 90 years to hit the islands, the forecaster said. It was difficult to ascertain the precise death toll after the cyclone, which also raised concerns about access to food, water and sanitation, authorities said. – Reuters

RUSSIA SPY CHIEF DENIES CIA TALKS OVER MISSILES

MOSCOW: Russia's foreign intelligence chief said he has not been in contact with the CIA over Kyiv's strikes with Western long-range weapons into Russia and Moscow's use of its new missile in response, Russia's RIA agency reported yesterday. "No, I have not been in contact," Sergei Naryshkin told RIA in an interview when asked if he had talked to CIA Director William Burns in relation to Kyiv's strikes into Russia or Russia firing its new intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile known as Oreshnik into Ukraine. – Reuters

West Africa bloc meets as military rulers vow to quit

ABUJA: West African leaders from the regional group Ecowas met yesterday for a summit with security and the departure from the bloc of three military-led governments high on the agenda.

Before the meeting, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger reaffirmed as "irreversible" their decision to quit the bloc, which they condemned as subservient to former colonial ruler France.

The departure of the three could have a major impact on free trade and movement as well as on security cooperation in a region where rebel groups are gaining ground across the Sahel.

Senegal President Bassirou Diomaye Faye said last week he was "making progress" in talks with the three and said there was no reason for them not to maintain relations, especially given the security situation.

The departure of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger will become effective one year after the announcement, in January, according to the bloc's regulations.

The three states have also formed their own confederation, the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), after severing ties with France and pivoting towards Russia.

The three breakaways held a separate ministerial-level meeting on Friday in Niger's capital, Niamey.

"The ministers reiterate the irreversible decision to withdraw from Ecowas and are committed to pursuing a process of reflection on the means of exiting in the best interests of their peoples," they said in a joint statement.

The three states have all gone through military coups and insurgencies in recent years.

Ecowas member state Guinea is also run by a military government after a 2021 coup. – AFP

Turkiye ready to offer military training

ANKARA: The new administration in Syria should be given a chance to govern following their constructive messages, and Turkiye stands ready to provide military training if such help is requested, Turkish Defence Minister Yasar Guler said.

Nato member Turkiye backed the Syrian rebels who toppled President Bashar al-Assad last weekend, ending a 13-year civil war.

Turkiye reopened its embassy in

Damascus on Saturday, two days after its intelligence chief visited the Syrian capital.

"In their first statement, the new administration that toppled Assad announced that it would respect all government institutions, the United Nations and other international organisations," Guler told reporters in Ankara in comments authorised for publication yesterday.

"We think that we need to see

what the new administration will do and to give them a chance."

When asked whether Turkiye was considering military cooperation with the new Syrian government, Guler said Ankara already had military cooperation and training agreements with many countries.

"(Turkey) is ready to provide the necessary support if the new administration requests it," he said. Since 2016, Turkey has mounted

four military operations across growing swathes of northern Syria, citing threats to its national security.

Turkiye is estimated to maintain a few thousand troops in towns including Afrin, Azez and Jarablus in northwestern Syria and Ras al Ain and Tel Abyad in the northeast.

Ankara may discuss the issue of its military presence in Syria "when necessary conditions arise," Guler said. – Reuters

Strikes kill 17, including Hamas mayor in town hall

Key Hezbollah supply route cut off

GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes on the territory killed 17 people on Saturday, including seven at a UN school housing displaced people that the Israeli military said was used as a Hamas command centre.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said there were

seven people killed, including women and children, and at least 10 wounded "when Israeli warplanes targeted the Al-Majda Wasila school west of Gaza City."

The school was run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees but like many such facilities it has been turned into a makeshift shelter for those displaced by the war in Gaza.

The vast majority of Gaza's population has been displaced by the war, often multiple times.

The Israeli military said it struck "Hamas gunmen who were

operating in a command and control centre embedded" within the school.

Bassal said an Israeli strike on the town hall in Deir el-Balah in central Gaza killed mayor Deial ab Jarao and nine other people.

The Israeli military said it targeted Jarao in a strike on "the humanitarian area in Deir el-Balah," accusing him of being "an operative in Hamas' military wing."

Israel's military offensive has killed at least 44,930 people in Gaza, a majority of them civilians.

In Beirut, Hezbollah head Naim

Qassem said the group had lost its supply route through Syria.

Under Assad, Hezbollah used Syria to bring in weapons and other military equipment from Iran, through Iraq and Syria and into Lebanon. But on Dec 6, anti-Assad fighters seized the border with Iraq and cut off that route, and two days later, rebels captured Damascus.

"Yes, Hezbollah has lost the military supply route through Syria at this stage, but this loss is a detail in the resistance's work," Qassem said in a televised speech on Saturday.

"A new regime could come and this route could return to normal, and we could look for other ways."

Hezbollah started intervening in Syria in 2013 to help Assad fight rebels seeking to topple him. Last week, as rebels approached Damascus, the group sent supervising officers to oversee a withdrawal of its fighters.

More than 50 years of Assad family rule has now been replaced with a transitional caretaker government put in place by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a former Al Qaeda affiliate that spearheaded the rebel offensive.

Qassem said Hezbollah "cannot judge these new forces until they stabilise" and "take clear positions," but said he hoped that the Lebanese and Syrian peoples and governments could continue to cooperate.

"We also hope that this new ruling party will consider Israel an enemy and not normalise relations with it. These are the headlines that will affect the nature of the relationship between us and Syria," Qassem said. – AFP/Reuters



Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of a strike at the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza Strip. – REUTERS/PC

Syria de facto leader keen to avoid confrontation

DAMASCUS: Syria's de facto leader, Ahmad al-Sharaa said on Saturday Israel is using false pretexts to justify its attacks on Syria, but that he is not interested in engaging in new conflicts as the country focuses on rebuilding.

Sharaa – better known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani – leads the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group that swept into power last week.

Israel has since moved into a demilitarised zone inside Syria created after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, including the Syrian side of the strategic Mount Hermon that

overlooks Damascus, where it took over an abandoned Syrian military post.

Israel, which has said that it does not intend to stay there and calls the incursion into Syrian territory a limited and temporary measure to ensure border security, has also carried out hundreds of strikes on Syria's strategic weapons stockpiles.

Several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Jordan, condemned what they called Israel's seizure of a buffer zone in the Golan Heights.

"Israeli arguments have become

weak and no longer justify their recent violations. The Israelis have clearly crossed the lines of engagement in Syria, which poses a threat of unwarranted escalation in the region," Sharaa said in an interview published on the website of Syria TV, a pro-opposition channel.

"Syria's war-weary condition, after years of conflict and war, does not allow for new confrontations. The priority at this stage is reconstruction and stability, not being drawn into disputes that could lead to further destruction."

He also said diplomatic solutions were the only way to ensure security and stability and that "uncalculated military adventures" were not wanted.

On Russia, whose military intervention almost a decade ago helped tip the balance in Assad's favour and which gave asylum to the ousted leader earlier this week, Sharaa said that its relations with Syria should serve common interests.

"The current stage requires careful management of international relations." – Reuters



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COMMENT by Nahrizul Adib Kadri

Walking the hero's path, quietly

WHEN I was thirteen, my father and I boarded a bus in Johor Bahru bound for Kuala Kangsar.

It was my first time leaving home, and I was heading to a boarding school I knew little about, in a town I had never been to.

The journey was long, with the bus rattling along endless stretches of highway. My dad was not a man of many words but as we sat side by side, his presence was enough.

He did not try to soothe my anxieties or promise that everything would be easy. Instead, he simply placed his trust in me, silently teaching me that life would often require independence and resilience in the face of uncertainty.

When we arrived, he helped me settle into the dorm, said a quiet goodbye, and then left. There were no grand speeches, no dramatic farewells. It was just: "Pandai-pandailah jaga diri. Belajar rajin-rajin."

Yes, it was a small act, one that would never make headlines or draw applause but it shaped who I became. My father's quiet heroism lay in his steadfast duty - doing what needed to be done, without seeking recognition.

The myth of loud heroism

In today's world, heroism is often defined by visibility. Social media has conditioned us to associate significance with likes, shares and public acknowledgement.

Activism, achievements and even acts of kindness are frequently amplified for the world to see. There is nothing wrong with celebrating success or causes - some stories need to be told - but the quiet heroism of simply living rightly has been overshadowed.

Heroism does not always require a stage. There is profound courage in the unseen, the uncelebrated. A mother sacrificing her dreams to ensure her children receive an education. A son rearranging his life to care for an ageing parent. A teacher who spends decades inspiring students, one classroom at a time. And many other examples.

Marcus Aurelius, one of the most powerful men in history, left behind a body of work, *Meditations*, that reveals a deeply introspective soul. Despite his position as a Roman emperor, he constantly reminded himself that his duty was to serve, not to seek glory.

"Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one," he wrote.

In a society obsessed with self-promotion, Aurelius' philosophy is a reminder that the truest heroism often lies in simply fulfilling our roles with integrity. Whether as a parent, a friend or a member of a community, our quiet contributions can ripple outwards in ways we may never fully see.

Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* offers a similar lesson. Santiago's journey is filled with grand adventures, but the story's heart lies in the simple moments: learning from the crystal merchant, listening to the desert's silence and realising that his treasure was within reach all along. Coelho reminds us that life's magic often lies not in monumental achievements but in the quiet, persistent pursuit of purpose.

Just as Santiago learns to follow the "Language of the World", we can find heroism in following our internal compass.

Raising a family with values, being a reliable colleague or simply showing kindness to strangers - these are acts of quiet courage. They do not demand recognition, but they build the foundation of a good life.

The courage to be quiet

Living a quiet life requires its own kind of bravery. It means resisting the urge to measure your worth by external validation. It means finding satisfaction in doing what is right, even when no one notices.

My father did not need an audience to teach me resilience that day on the bus. He was not looking for accolades when he left me at that boarding school. Yet, his actions instilled in me lessons that I carry to this day. He taught me that strength is not always loud, and

"Raising a family with values, being a reliable colleague or simply showing kindness to strangers - these are acts of quiet courage. They do not demand recognition, but they build the foundation of a good life."



True heroism is found in the commitments we keep, and in the everyday acts that may seem insignificant but collectively shape the world around us. - SUNPIC

that some of life's greatest acts of heroism happen far from the spotlight.

In a world increasingly defined by noise and spectacle, perhaps it is time to redefine what it means to be heroic. It is not about the size of the stage or the applause you receive. True heroism is found in the commitments we keep, and in the everyday acts that may seem insignificant but collectively shape the world around us.

It is in the person who picks up a piece of litter, even though they did not drop it. It is in turning off the tap while brushing your teeth to save water or switching off the lights and fans when leaving a room to conserve energy. It is in the classmate who stays late to help a struggling colleague meet an assignment deadline or a neighbour who waters someone's plants while they are away.

These actions do not make

headlines or win awards but they speak volumes about character and integrity. It is in these moments, often unnoticed, that true heroism resides - a commitment to doing what is right simply because it needs to be done.

So, as we manoeuvre this age of visibility and constant attention-seeking, let us not forget the heroes who walk among us silently.

Let us honour the courage of those who simply do what is right, day after day, not for recognition, but because they know it matters. And maybe, the most heroic thing we can do in life is simply to do the same.

Quietly.

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Embracing true spirit of Christmas

THE season of jingling bells and radiant splendour is upon us once again. Streets shimmer with festive lights, and the melodies of Christmas tunes weave an enchanting serenade in the air.

Christmas, with its promise of warmth, togetherness and renewal, casts a luminous glow over our lives. Yet, as we revel in this season's charm, it is impossible to ignore the contrasting shadows that loom for others.

In not too far away in our country, communities are still mending the shreds of lives torn asunder by merciless floods. Entire neighbourhoods, once thriving with laughter, now stand in eerie silence, their remnants reduced to heaps of rubble.

Families seek refuge in temporary shelters, clinging to fragments of normalcy while their surroundings echo the tales of displacement and despair. Beyond our borders, a broader world grapples with relentless conflicts, where humanity's darker impulses leave a trail of sorrow. The chasm between our celebrations and these harsh realities is vast and humbling.

The contrast invites introspection. Is it selfish to lose ourselves in merriment when others are enduring suffering? This question lingers, yet the answer is profoundly human: to cherish what we

have while striving to extend solace to others.

Joy, after all, is not a betrayal of empathy; it is a celebration of resilience and a call to nurture hope.

As the calendar prepares to unveil a new year, we find ourselves reflecting on the whirlpool that was 2024. This year has been anything but monotonous. Across the globe, monumental decisions, like the United States' defining election, brought to light the ethical dilemmas and societal fractures we collectively face.

At home, nature wielded its might through devastating floods, a sobering reminder of its unyielding authority. Yet, amidst the upheaval, humanity's spirit shone brightly. Communities united, strangers extended kindness, and acts of courage illuminated the darkest of days.

Parallel to these tribulations were moments of triumph. Scientific breakthroughs ignited awe, personal milestones enriched individual narratives and fleeting joys reminded us of life's bittersweet duality. It is in this juxtaposition of sorrow and hope, scarcity and abundance, that we find the essence of our shared existence.

For those fortunate enough to partake in the festivities of Christmas, the privilege is profound. To gather with loved ones, share hearty feasts and exchange laughter over a table adorned



with holiday cheer is a rarity not universally granted.

Recognising this privilege, however, does not mean dampening our joy. Rather, it urges us to embrace gratitude, to let every twinkling light and cheerful melody reaffirm our blessings.

The festive spirit is not merely indulgent, it is an opportunity to foster connection and compassion. In the corporate corridors, year-end celebrations abound, from opulent dinners to light-hearted gatherings.

While these may seem extravagant, they serve as a poignant reminder of the value of relationships. Beyond the spreadsheets and deadlines, the camaraderie forged in shared moments is invaluable. Perhaps this is the heart of Christmas, not the glittering gifts or lavish spreads but the bonds we nurture. In a world so often splintered by discord, these moments of togetherness are treasures beyond compare. They remind us of our shared humanity, the threads that weave us into a collective whole.

As the season's glow bathes us in its comforting light, how do we reconcile our celebration with the world's aching wounds? The answer lies in balance. Revel in the present, yet act with mindfulness.

Indulge in joy but temper it with generosity. By intertwining our festivity with compassion, we can transform our

blessings into catalysts for good.

There are countless avenues to extend this goodwill. Even the smallest actions like a warm meal and a thoughtful word can carry the potential to brighten lives.

Beyond December, let the lessons of Christmas guide us. Gratitude, kindness and love should not be confined to a season. They should shape our days and interactions throughout the year. This enduring spirit of giving and connection is the true essence of the festive season.

As 2024 draws to a close, let us raise a glass to a year that tested our resilience, deepened our empathy and celebrated our capacity for connection. It was a year of contrasts, but also of extraordinary courage and unity. As the bells chime and lights glitter, may our hearts brim with hope for a kinder, brighter tomorrow.

Merry Christmas, and may the spirit of this season inspire you as we embrace the possibilities of a brand-new year.

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Roadblocks to circular economy

COMMENT By Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Ibrahim

THE world is changing from a throwaway economy to a circular one. There are many reasons for this. One, our resources are showing signs of depleting. Two, extracting a fresh new resource can emit GHG (greenhouse gases) and is costly. Not to mention the building up of environmentally hazardous wastes.

The linear economy is no longer tenable. The era of the throwaway convenient lifestyle is unsustainable. Many countries around the world are actively pushing for the circular approach.

However, implementing a circular economy (CE), where materials and resources are reused, recycled or regenerated, faces several significant obstacles. These challenges can be categorised into technical, economic, social and regulatory factors. Clearing the roadblocks calls for strategies.

Many regions lack the necessary infrastructure for efficient recycling, remanufacturing and refurbishing, especially in sectors like electronics and textiles. The e-wastes are a growing concern as the world goes increasingly electronic.

Many products are not designed for reuse, repair or recycling. Components may be hard to disassemble, or materials may not be compatible for recycling.

New technologies are needed to recycle complex materials or to separate and recover materials at an economically viable scale. Tracking materials and ensuring transparency across supply chains is challenging, especially for multinational companies dealing with multiple suppliers.

The shift to circular systems often requires large investments in new technologies, infrastructure, and processes. In many cases, linear business models (take-make-dispose) are still more profitable than circular models. Companies may struggle to make circular practices cost-competitive without government incentives or consumer demand.

Circular economy systems rely heavily on

achieving economies of scale, but many regions or industries lack the volume of waste or resources to make recycling and reuse viable on a large scale.

Globalised supply chains and a focus on mass production can make it difficult to localise production and reprocessing, which is often key to circular practices.

Many consumers still prefer new products over refurbished or second-hand goods, making it difficult to foster demand for circular products.

There is also a lack of awareness about the benefits of a circular economy. Both consumers and businesses can be resistant to changing their consumption or production habits, particularly when circular practices seem less convenient or are perceived as more expensive.

Refurbished or recycled products are sometimes viewed as lower-quality or less reliable than new ones, discouraging consumers and businesses from adopting them.

The absence of standardised regulations on product recycling, extended producer responsibility (EPR) or material reuse makes it difficult for businesses to adopt circular practices consistently.

Many governments still prioritise linear economic growth over circular models and policies that can incentivise circular economy practices.

Paradoxically, some waste management regulations can make circular practices more difficult by classifying reusable materials as waste, complicating their processing and reuse.

The circular economy requires international cooperation, especially for multinational companies and industries. Regulatory differences across borders can hinder the adoption of circular models.

Shifting from linear to circular supply chains is complex and involves rethinking entire processes - from material sourcing to end-of-life recovery. Not all supply chains can be easily



New technologies are needed to recycle complex materials or to separate and recover materials at an economically viable scale. — BERNAMAPIC

adapted to circularity.

In some cases, companies struggle to secure a stable supply of recycled or reused materials to meet production needs.

High levels of contamination in collected waste can make it difficult to recycle materials efficiently. Effective collection systems are crucial to capture products at the end of their life cycle, but many places lack robust take-back systems.

Addressing these challenges will require cooperation between businesses, governments, consumers and NGOs, along with significant investments in infrastructure, education and policy reform.

In Malaysia, the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry has just launched the CE

blueprint for the manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile the Housing and Local Government Ministry is busy implementing the CE for solid wastes. Since both manufacturing and solid wastes cut across many ministries, critics opine it is wiser to have an integrated CE framework.

Such standalone CE plans may not be the best solution to gear up the nation for the shift to circular. It is time for an umbrella CE framework which will galvanise the plans for all sectors of the economy.

The writer is an associate fellow at the Ungku Aziz Centre for Development Studies, Universiti Malaya.
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Collaborative effort to add bite to fight against dengue

➤ Takeda Malaysia, MiCare, leading insurance and takaful players in pact to increase access to vital prevention resources, including vaccination

PETALING JAYA: In a collaborative effort to combat dengue and improve public health, Takeda Malaysia has signed a memorandum of understanding with leading managed care organisation MiCare, along with insurance leaders Great Eastern Life Malaysia, Tokio Marine Life Malaysia, MCIS Life, Hong Leong Assurance and Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Keluarga.

Together, Takeda and its partners will increase access to vital dengue prevention resources while enhancing education on a variety of health topics, with a focus on integrated dengue prevention methods, including vaccination.

Amid the escalating threat of dengue in Malaysia, the partners aim to engage up to 1.7 million policy/certificate holders, providing them with essential knowledge and resources to prevent the spread of the disease.

By raising awareness of the increasing risk of dengue and offering access to dengue vaccination as an additional preventive option, the collaboration takes a com-

prehensive approach to safeguard public health across the country.

Dengue management imposes significant direct and indirect costs, with the estimated economic burden reaching US\$102 million (RM447 million) annually. More than 90% of the budget allocated to combat dengue is spent on vector control measures. However, the more profound impact on the *rakyat* – relating to quality of life and long-term health – is harder to quantify.

The collaboration is driven by a shared commitment to reduce the impact of dengue in Malaysia and improve overall community health, mitigating its effects on both individuals and the nation.

Public health experts suggest that vaccination, when integrated with vector control measures to manage mosquito populations and personal efforts to prevent bites, could help reduce dengue cases and hospitalisations.

A recent analysis projects that a well-planned dengue vaccination programme

could save Malaysia RM4.3 billion over the next three decades.

“At Takeda, we’re committed to building an ecosystem of partnerships to facilitate access to dengue vaccination as one of the methods in an integrated dengue prevention strategy. By collaborating with insurers/takaful operators, healthcare providers, and other key stakeholders, we’re helping to raise dengue awareness and open up new pathways for people to access vaccination as an additional preventive method.

“Our goal is to ensure more people are protected, especially in high-risk areas, while also contributing to the national mission of building healthier, more resilient communities across the country,” said Takeda Malaysia and Singapore country general manager Dr Lynette Moey.

MiCare Group CEO Moses Hee said, “For years, we’ve focused mainly on preventing mosquito bites and controlling breeding sites. These are essential strategies, and it is now so encouraging to have dengue vaccination alongside these methods. We stay true to our vision of making quality healthcare affordable and accessible. We’re proud therefore to unite key stakeholders to strengthen our nationwide efforts in integrating multiple prevention strategies with the strong intent to reduce the cost of dengue management and the overall social burden of dengue.”

Maybank widens scope of net-zero white paper to steel, aluminium

PETALING JAYA: As part of a group-wide strategy to drive transition towards a net zero economy, Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) is expanding its white paper series to the steel and aluminium sectors.

This addition underscores Maybank’s continued responsibility as a signatory of the Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) and dedication to aligning its operations and supporting its clients in their transition journey.



Building on the momentum from its initial decarbonisation efforts announced in its maiden white paper titled, “Banking on a Better Tomorrow: Our Commitment to Net Zero”, Maybank continues to expand its focus to include additional hard-to-abate sectors. The white paper, first released in May this year, outlined Maybank’s science-based interim emissions targets and decarbonisation strategies for the power and palm oil sectors.

The addition of steel and aluminium to the white paper series was announced by Maybank president and group CEO Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli (pic) at a recent briefing for analysts on Maybank’s third-quarter 2024 financial results. He said the expansion is part of Maybank’s continuous advancement in its net zero journey.

“Since our first publication, we have now broadened our scope to decarbonise more hard-to-abate sectors such as steel and aluminium. This expansion reinforces our long-term commitment to reducing emissions in key industries, crucial for meeting our net zero ambitions”, said Khairussaleh.

Maybank’s December 2023 baseline financed emissions intensity for its steel portfolio was at 0.80 tCO₂e/tSteel (a measure of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per tonne of steel produced), which is 32% lower than Southeast Asia’s Mission Possible Partnership (MPP) Tech Moratorium reference scenario benchmark which is at 1.18 tCO₂e/tSteel. This position, being well below Southeast Asia’s average, was driven by Maybank’s focus on industry players that have demonstrated clean practices in steelmaking.

For aluminium, Maybank’s baseline financed emissions intensity as of December 2023 stood at 2.36 tCO₂e/tAluminium, significantly below the MPP Global reference scenario benchmark of 14.83 tCO₂e/tAluminium. This substantial difference shows that Maybank’s starting point is not only well below the global average but also reflects the positive impact of its existing client mix, which has already made significant progress in adopting sustainable practices.

Khairussaleh stated that “our baseline position for these two high-emitting sectors being substantially below the global average highlights the effectiveness of our ongoing efforts to align with industry-leading sustainability standards. That said, we remain steadfast to further support our clients in their decarbonisation efforts”.

Further emphasising Maybank’s leadership in the sustainability space, Maybank has been appointed as a member of the United Nations-convened NZBA Steering Group, effective July 2024, and a co-chair of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero’s Asia Pacific Network SEA Public Policy Workstream for Malaysia.

Maybank also holds a position in the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative Advisory Board. Maybank represents the Asia-Pacific region alongside other esteemed members, dedicated to leading systematic transformation towards a net zero economy, not just in Southeast Asia, but on a global scale.



Takeda, MiCare, leading insurers and takaful operators are teaming up to expand awareness and access to dengue protection in Malaysia.

Tune Protect offers travellers hassle-free claims process via mobile app

PETALING JAYA: Tune Protect Malaysia, the general insurance subsidiary of Tune Protect Group Bhd, has redefined the travel insurance experience with the launch of its Travel Easy Instant Travel Claims Payout feature, now accessible through its mobile app.

This feature simplifies the claims process, offering travellers a fully digital and hassle-free experience with instant payouts via DuitNow upon claim approval.

Travel Easy is a travel insurance product which provides coverage for flights across all airlines. The Instant Travel Claims Payout feature is the latest innovation that is introduced to expedite the claims process, particularly for the travel delay benefit. By eliminating unnecessary documentation such as travel itineraries and confirmations for delays from three hours to under nine hours, the claims submission process is completely paperless and fully digital. Travellers can submit claims via the app, and payouts are

processed on the day of approval through DuitNow, providing instant reimbursement.

Travellers purchasing the individual travel easy policy can receive RM200 for the first complete three hours of delay, followed by an additional RM200 for every subsequent six hours subject to terms and conditions. This feature defines the new norm for convenience and efficiency, delivering a faster and more seamless claims experience.

“Travellers today demand faster, more convenient solutions, and our Instant Travel Claims Payout feature is designed to meet those needs. We have integrated cutting-edge digital solutions to offer the speed, convenience, and security they deserve. By leveraging real-time flight data for claim verification and using DuitNow for instant payments, we ensure that the claims process is as seamless and expedited as possible,” said Tune Protect Malaysia CEO Jubin Mehta.

He added, “Our fully digital and paperless

process allows travellers to submit claims efficiently and easily, from anywhere at any time. This ensures a seamless, stress-free experience, especially when it is needed most. By leveraging advanced technologies like robotic process automation, we have automated the entire claims assessment process, from registration to payment. This not only eliminates tedious paperwork but also significantly accelerates approvals and payouts, delivering an enhanced insurance journey to our customers.”

Tune Protect has a 3:3:3 commitment whereby customers can buy in three minutes, receive a response in three hours, and get their claims paid in three working days. The introduction of the Travel Easy Instant Travel Claims Payout enhances this commitment by reducing the overall turnaround time for those opting for DuitNow as their reimbursement method, shortening the payout to within same day upon approval.





Positive indicators boost confidence in growth outlook: Amir Hamzah

PUTRAJAYA: Various positive indicators have boosted confidence in the national growth outlook, including the recovery of the ringgit, inflation remaining manageable, and unemployment staying low, according to Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

In a social media post on Saturday, he also highlighted Malaysia's solid growth trajectory with the 2024 gross domestic product (GDP) forecast to exceed 5% as well as the declining fiscal deficit, which is projected to be 4.3% of GDP this year.

"(In addition,) total approved investment increased 10.7% to RM254.7 billion for January-September 2024 against the corresponding period in 2023," he said.

Thursday, Dec 12, marked one year since Amir Hamzah's appointment as Finance Minister II.

His main focus in this role, he said, is implementing initiatives in line with the Madani Economy framework, which include restructuring the economy by expanding the national revenue, safeguarding the people's well-being in a fair and inclusive manner, and supporting more robust governance.

"For me, governance is the line separating falsehood and success. It is clear and concrete, but balancing between fiscal expansion and the people's welfare takes all of the experience and knowledge I had gained in the corporate sector over the previous 27 years," he said.

Amir Hamzah expressed gratitude that Budget 2025 is steering the Madani Economy framework which bears a humanitarian agenda.

"More comprehensive and focused aid programmes are being provided to ensure that no one is left behind amid the national development progress," he said. -Bernama

Malaysia-India trade growing at robust pace

BY JOHN GILBERT
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia-India trade relations have strengthened significantly over the years, reaching a value of US\$16.5 billion (RM73.4 billion) a year, and growing at an impressive annual rate of 8.5% over the past two decades.

Frameworks such as the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Asean-India Free Trade Agreement have been pivotal in reducing trade barriers and fostering economic cooperation.

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation chairman (Matrade) Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said Malaysia's exports to India have diversified from predominantly palm oil and petroleum products to include high-value electrical and electronic products, reflecting Malaysia's transition to advanced industries.

India, in turn, has evolved its export portfolio to Malaysia, with petroleum products and engineering goods now leading its exports.

Reezal said Malaysia's trade performance has shown remarkable resilience.

Total trade reached RM2.63 trillion last year, marking the third consecutive year it surpassed the RM2 trillion milestone. Exports exceeded RM1 trillion, reaching RM1.46 trillion, while imports recorded substantial growth,

Value reaches US\$16.5 billion a year, annual expansion rate of 8.5% over past two decades, more diversified range of products

crossing the RM1 trillion mark for the second time at RM1.212 trillion.

Despite global economic challenges, Malaysia maintained a trade surplus of RM240.06 billion, continuing a 26-year trend since 1998.

"The rise of the Global South highlights opportunities for balanced economic growth and equitable trade systems.

"Malaysia remains committed to strengthening Asean mechanisms, aligning regional priorities with broader global initiatives, and enhancing connectivity with key partners like India.

"Strategic measures under Malaysia's National Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the National Trade Blueprint will drive manufacturing sector growth, high-value investments, and global competitiveness," Reezal said at the India-Malaysia Trade KL Conference 2024 on Saturday.

To facilitate trade expansion, he said, Malaysia's international network, including trade offices in Mumbai and Chennai, is ready to assist businesses.

"Malaysian companies are encouraged to engage with Matrade to leverage trade fac-

ilitation services, while foreign companies can rely on Matrade to connect with Malaysian partners. Together, strengthened economic cooperation between Malaysia and India will drive mutual growth and prosperity, ensuring both nations remain key players in the evolving global trade landscape."

Centre for Economic and Sustainable Development Asia Malaysia acting chairman Datuk Lim Sue Beng said India's engagement with Asean has grown steadily over the decades, evolving from a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in 1992 to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.

On the economic front, the Asean-India Free Trade Area, supported by the Trade in Goods Agreement (2009) and subsequent services and investment agreements (2015), has created one of the world's largest trade blocs. It benefits more than two billion people and has combined gross domestic product exceeding US\$5 trillion (RM22.26 trillion).

Lim said Asean remains central to India's regional vision under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Act East Policy.

"Asean is India's fourth-largest trading partner, while India ranks

sixth in the bloc.

"Bilateral trade reached US\$131 billion in 2023, up from US\$77 billion in 2019. However, India has a significant trade deficit of US\$43 billion, which can be attributed to perceived imbalances in trade agreements and its protectionist policies. It further reinforces this by withdrawing from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership," he said.

Lim noted that India's limited integration into the East Asia-centric global value chain and relatively underdeveloped manufacturing base challenge its role as a preferred alternative production hub. "Nevertheless, decentralised globalisation creates opportunities for collaboration."

Improved connectivity, such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, promises to strengthen regional trade and logistics.

"While geopolitical concerns like the South China Sea disputes persist, Asean remains committed to its Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality and prioritises economic cooperation through initiatives such as the Asean Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

"India's ability to align its commitments with Asean's economic aspirations will be key to enhancing its role in the region and solidifying its position as a rising power in the Global South," Lim said.

Economic ties on solid footing but challenges remain

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and India have continued to solidify a strong economic relationship, with India being Malaysia's 10th largest trade partner, while Malaysia is India's 13th largest.

Over the years, bilateral trade has diversified beyond primary commodities such as palm oil and mineral oil, with significant growth in electrical equipment, machinery, copper products and organic chemicals.

This diversification reflects deeper integration into each other's value chains, indicating a positive shift towards intraindustry trade.

Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries India Professor Pankaj Vashisht said bilateral foreign direct investment has also seen progress, with a combined total of about US\$6 billion (RM26.7 billion).

He said Malaysian firms have invested US\$3.3 billion in India, particularly in infrastructure, with commitments of an additional US\$7 billion, while Indian firms have invested about US\$2.7 billion in Malaysia.

"Despite these advancements,



Delegates from India and Malaysia at the India-Malaysia Trade KL Conference 2024.

challenges remain. Trade is still concentrated in a limited number of products, with the top 12 items accounting for over half of exports on both sides. Moreover, trade potential remains underutilised, with actual trade valued at US\$20 billion compared to an estimated potential of US\$34 billion. Issues such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, low free trade agreement utilisation (at 25-30%), and high compliance costs have limited progress.

"Addressing these challenges - especially through digital trade facilitation and interoperability of single-window systems - could significantly improve trade efficiency," he said at the India-Malaysia Trade KL Conference 2024 on Saturday.

Pankaj said new opportunities are emerging for bilateral cooperation, namely in digitalisation and e-commerce. There is also financial technology (fintech), in which India's thriving

fintech sector can collaborate with Malaysia's growing fintech landscape.

"Under renewable energy, joint efforts in solar, bioenergy, and green energy projects can accelerate sustainability goals and combat climate change. As for semiconductors and critical minerals, leveraging Malaysia's established semiconductor sector and India's growing initiatives present mutual opportunities."

Asean-India Economic Council

chairman Datuk Ramesh Kodamall said India is poised to strengthen defence cooperation with Asean countries, including Malaysia.

"India has already made strides by supplying defence equipment to the Philippines, marking its growing influence and commitment to regional security. Malaysia, recognising this opportunity, has shown interest in furthering its defence ties with India." - by JOHN GILBERT

Navigating the year-end adjustments

THIS is the final month for many Malaysian companies since the December financial year-end is in alignment with the tax year. Adjustments are needed to correctly reflect the financial position of the company. The common ones include adjustments to accrued income and expenses, recognising deferred revenues, inventory adjustments, transfer pricing adjustments, depreciation and amortisation, etc. The majority of these adjustments have implications from both income tax and indirect tax perspectives. All such adjustments made should be justifiable commercially, supportable legally, and meet the necessary provisions of the tax laws.



TAX MATTERS
BY S. M. THANNEERMALAI

The types of adjustments are:

Transfer pricing
In the majority of transfer pricing methods except the Comparable Uncontrolled Price method, there is always a need to adjust the transfer prices from the budgeted results (costs and billings) to the actual results, or to adjust the margins where the actual margin earned is

at arm's length compared to the comparable companies in the marketplace. These adjustments are usually reflected at the final month of the financial year end, or the first month of the new financial year. These transfer pricing adjustments will also have an impact on the customs duties and sales tax paid on the imported goods, and there are also service tax implications on imported services. If there are additional taxes to be paid due to the increase of the profits or prices of the goods or services, there will be no issues with the tax authorities. However, if the adjustments are on the reverse side, the question the taxpayer needs to examine is whether he will be able to get back the refund, or will it be a sunk cost. If there is a refund situation, the tax authorities will certainly examine whether you have the necessary legal agreements to support such adjustments, whether such adjustments for income tax purposes are wholly and exclusively incurred in the production of income, and whether the transaction meets the arm's length test.

From a customs perspective, such adjustments could be challenged on the grounds that the price declared at the point of importation is the true transaction value, and the subsequent adjustments may not be acceptable.

Other adjustments
Other common adjustments would be adjustments for accruals, stock adjustments, making provisions for deferred expenses and revenues, bad debt adjustments, non-cash adjustments such as amortisation and depreciation, etc. The accounting and tax treatment of income and expenses have diverged. The deductibility of expenses and the taxability of income is very strictly based on the tax legislation. This is similar for customs purposes. Accounting standards and practices are only used as a reference, and it is not the determining factor for tax purposes. For example, bad debt provisions must follow the strict requirements of the law and the public ruling which requires either legal action and follow up reminders to be sent to the debtor, and actions taken to recover the debt will suffice for a tax deduction, whilst the accounting

standards may apply different criteria for accepting such a provision. Similarly, accrual of expenses for tax purposes must be supported with the legal obligation to incur the expense, and the amount is determinable with certainty.

Why extra scrutiny?
The tax authorities will pay greater attention to year-end adjustments because there is a tendency for taxpayers to make such adjustments to reduce their taxes without the necessary legal and commercial basis. Please avoid abusing the year-end adjustments by introducing fees, charges, or fictitious sales to shift profits from profitable companies to loss-making companies within the group, or attempting to defer income to the following year, etc. You must exercise vigilance in making one-off year-end adjustments which are done regularly throughout the year. Evidence to support the tax position taken should be documented and kept in case there is a challenge by the tax authorities.

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

NCT Group partners MEIA to woo investors from Guangdong Province to smart industrial park

PETALING JAYA: NCT Group of Companies, through subsidiary NCT Land Sdn Bhd, has formalised a strategic partnership with the Malaysia Enterprises Investment Association (MEIA) through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The signing was witnessed by Selangor State Executive Council for Investment, Trade, and Mobility Ng Sze Han. The MoU is aimed at attracting investments and fostering collaborations to accelerate NCT Group's NCT Smart Industrial Park (NSIP) in Sepang, Selangor. The partnership focuses on connecting NSIP with stakeholders from China's Guangdong Province through investor relations programmes. This includes promoting its value through targeted marketing initiatives, facilitating knowledge-sharing to integrate cutting-edge innovations, and building business opportunities with Foshan and Guangzhou.



Standing are NCT Group managing director Datuk Seri Yap Ngan Choy (left) and Ng. Seated, from left, are: MEIA secretary-general Chan Kum Chung, Lo, Joe Yap and NCT Group project director Yap Chun Theng.

NCT Group executive director Datuk Joe Yap Fook Choy said, "Our partnership with MEIA is instrumental to the development of NSIP. MEIA's expertise in fostering trade and investment partnerships, particularly with stakeholders in China, makes them the ideal collaborator in strengthening NSIP's position as a global industrial hub. Coupled with our commitment to streamlining business establishment processes, NSIP is fully equipped to attract and accommodate foreign investors, encouraging healthy foreign direct investment into Malaysia via NSIP. By aligning with regional development plans, the partnership ensures that NSIP remains at the forefront of industrial innovation and sustainability while creating a

dynamic ecosystem for business growth and expansion." He added that Ng's continuous support reflects the Selangor state government's commitment to foster partnerships that drive industrial progress, generate quality job opportunities and solidify Selangor's position as a hub for innovation and global investment. MEIA chairman Million Lo Wei Hong said they are happy to partner with NCT Group on the landmark initiative. "NSIP represents the integration of technology, sustainability, and economic opportunity. Through this MoU, we aim to drive growth, foster innovation, and position NSIP as

a model for industrial excellence that attracts investments and fosters economic progress on a global scale." Situated within Selangor's Integrated Development Region in South Selangor, NSIP is a pioneering industrial development that integrates advanced technologies such as Internet of Things and artificial intelligence to create a seamless operational ecosystem. With a long-term commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, NSIP is poised to become a cornerstone of industrial innovation and sustainability in the region, setting new standards for excellence in high-tech industries.

Senheng rolls out solar solutions nationwide

PETALING JAYA: Consumer electronics chain Senheng has launched its solar solutions nationwide, now available in all Senheng and senQ outlets. With more than 100 outlets across Malaysia, Senheng is making it easier for Malaysians to switch to solar energy and enjoy significant savings on energy bills while reducing their carbon footprint. The launch at Grand Senheng Elite Setia Alam was officiated by Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong, who said Senheng's commitment to renewable energy as an important step towards Malaysia's green energy goals. "Senheng's nationwide solar initiative aligns well with our national mission to promote sustainable energy," he said, adding that this effort not only benefits Malaysian households but also drives positive environmental and economic impacts. Senheng chairman Lim Kim Heng said, "At Senheng, we're excited to lead the way in making renewable energy more accessible for Malaysia. We want to help Malaysians save on energy costs while contributing to a more sustainable future. "This isn't just about technology; it's about empowering communities to make choices that positively impact the environment and improve quality of life. With our trusted solutions, Malaysians can confidently take steps towards a greener future."

Senheng's solar solutions are complete, tailored packages designed to bring solar energy into homes. The solutions include high-performance solar panels, inverters and other essential components to generate, store and manage renewable energy effectively. Starting from RM17,000, the solar solutions allow homeowners to save more than 95% on their monthly electricity bills, reduce their carbon footprint and even increase their property value. Customers can expect a return on their investment within five to seven years. The initiative aligns with Senheng's strong commitment to delivering reliable solar solutions that meet environmental, social, and governance principles. Senheng has partnered with solar brands such as Solaroo, Canadian Solar, BSL Eco Energy and Panasonic.

Malaysia Airlines, Uzbekistan Airways reinstate codeshare pact

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia Airlines and Uzbekistan Airways have reinstated their codeshare partnership, enhancing connectivity and unlocking new travel opportunities for passengers across Southeast Asia, Central Asia and beyond. The renewed agreement sees Malaysia Airlines introducing its "MH" flight code on the Tashkent-Kuala Lumpur route operated by Uzbekistan Airways, marking its entry into

Central Asia. This milestone offers Malaysia Airlines' passengers a direct link to the region, further enriching its global network and supporting the growing demand for international travel. Simultaneously, Uzbekistan Airways expands its reach by placing its "HY" flight code on selected routes operated by Malaysia Airlines. Passengers now have convenient access to popular resort destinations such as

Langkawi and Kota Kinabalu via Kuala Lumpur. Through the codeshare partnership, passengers will enjoy enhanced travel convenience, with features including baggage check-in through to their final destination without the need for rechecking at transit airports, optimised flight schedules and minimised layover times, ensuring more seamless connections for passengers.

Datasonic outlines transformation plan

► Company aims to become leader in AI-based digital identity market, proposes name change to 'NEXG Berhad'

PETALING JAYA: Security-based ICT solutions provider Datasonic Group Bhd has outlined a transformation plan that will see the group emerge as a leader in physical and digital identity markets with an artificial intelligence-based and digital-centric identity management ecosystem focusing on data and security, enabling it to deliver complete, secure end-to-end identity and security solutions for governments and enterprises.

This aligns with the government initiatives such as MyDigital ID and the Malaysian Digital Economy Blueprint.

To support the proposed transformation plan, Datasonic intends to make strategic investments that will broaden the group's market presence, increase its portfolio of products and services, and accelerate its internal research and development activities.

This is supported by its proposal to raise up to RM554.95 million through a bonus issue of up to 1.55 billion warrants on the basis of one warrant for every two shares held by shareholders.

"The transformation of our group will align our vision with the growing demands of a digital-first world," said Datasonic executive deputy chairman and CEO Datuk Hanifah Noordin (*pic*).

By leveraging next-generation technologies such as AI, he said, Datasonic is positioning itself to play a key role in national digital transformation

initiatives such as MyDigital ID, ensuring it remains at the forefront of delivering value to its stakeholders and supporting Malaysia's digital economy aspirations.

"The planned transformation will leverage our stellar operating record and expanding range of capabilities to significantly improve the group's growth prospects and create a more competitive, resilient organisation. Ultimately, it will also provide a platform to capitalise on growing demand for digitalisation among international governments, as well as the group's expansion into the commercial sector, unlocking new market opportunities in Malaysia and globally," said Hanifah.

The first step in the transformation of the group is the proposed acquisition of a 51% equity stake in Innov8tif Holdings Sdn Bhd, a pioneer in AI-driven digital identity assurance and customer onboarding solutions, for RM40 million.

Innov8tif's technologies, including e-KYC, liveness facial recognition, document authentication and fraud detection, have been delivered to a broad portfolio of customers across Asean countries including public-listed companies, banks and credit bureaus.

As a result, the planned acquisition will give the group immediate access and penetration of new markets in banking, telecommunications, and credit reporting. It also positions the group to secure new projects related to integrated



identity verification, biometric security and digital onboarding services for enterprises and governments.

As part of the proposed transformation plan, Datasonic has re-designated Independent non-executive director Datuk Puvanesan Subenthiran as executive director with immediate effect.

Puvanesan is the group CEO and co-founder of Privasia Technology Bhd, an information technology company listed on Bursa Malaysia and has over 25 years of experience in strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, and he will oversee the group's technology strategy.

In line with the planned transformation of the group, Datasonic has proposed that the company's name be changed to "NEXG Berhad". This name change will reflect the group's intention to be a leader in the integration of next-generation technologies, such as AI, across government and commercial applications.

Oasis Harvest looking at acquisitions to enhance presence in F&B market

PETALING JAYA: Bursa Malaysia listed food and beverage (F&B) player Oasis Harvest Corporation Bhd, in outlining its strategic direction, said it will focus on targeted acquisitions and innovative operational models to enhance its market presence.

Oasis Harvest executive director Ch'ng Eu Vern (*pic*) shared that the company is fully committed to transitioning from its former operations in palm oil machinery to a dynamic F&B-focused business.

"Our vision is to establish Oasis as a leader in Malaysia's F&B sector. We are actively exploring acquisitions within the F&B space, focusing on brands that will complement and strengthen our existing portfolio," he said.

This shift in focus follows a change in Oasis Harvest's shareholding structure earlier this year, as new major shareholders brought a renewed vision for the company's future in F&B. The company officially rebranded from Dolphin International Bhd to Oasis Harvest Corporation in July, reflected its commitment to reshaping its identity and positioning in line with its new core business.

Oasis Harvest currently operates two brands: the

Uncle Don's chain, which has a solid presence with 20 outlets across the Klang Valley, and Verona, an Italian restaurant in Petaling Jaya. With monthly revenues of RM700,000 to RM800,000 and profit margins of 10% to 15%, these brands have become key contributors to Oasis Harvest's operations.

As part of its growth strategy, Oasis Harvest is considering the efficiencies of a cloud kitchen model to expand its F&B footprint.

"The cloud kitchen concept allows us to operate multiple brands from a single location, streamlining our operations and focusing on delivery services without the need for large physical outlets," Ch'ng explained. "This approach not only reduces operating costs but also provides the flexibility to cater to a wide range of consumer demands, including self-order kiosks, in a cost-effective manner."

With a cloud kitchen model, Oasis Harvest can maintain consistent food quality and reduce its dependency on a large culinary team, ensuring a streamlined, scalable operation that meets today's market expectations. This direction aligns with the company's commitment to building a more efficient, technology-driven F&B business that remains adaptable to both customer needs and industry trends.

Ch'ng said the company's financial performance will now focus solely on its F&B operations, as the palm oil machinery segment has been fully divested. "The new management has restructured our business entirely around F&B, and while previous years' results may not be directly comparable, we are confident in the growth potential of our current focus."



CIMB to support Shanghai Pudong Development Bank clients

PETALING JAYA: CIMB Bank Bhd will provide a comprehensive suite of solutions and services to fast-track expansion of Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Co Ltd (SPDB) clients into the Asean region.

The collaboration will give SPDB clients access to CIMB's localised and cross-border strengths across several main areas, covering trade settlement and

finance, investment consulting services, debt capital markets, treasury and markets, and global payment business.

A letter of intent (LoI) on the collaboration was signed at the launch of SPDB's Cross-Border Financial Services at the headquarters of SPDB in Shanghai, in conjunction with the China International Import Expo. It also demonstrates the commitment of both parties to boost

economic growth and foreign investments into the region.

Representing the respective parties at the signing of the LoI were CIMB Group wholesale banking CEO Chu Kok Wei and SPDB deputy president Kang Jie. The signing ceremony was attended by more than 100 industry leaders from local government, regulatory authorities and multinational companies.

Turnover rises 28%, led by issues over Hang Seng Index

WARRANTS WATCH

OVERALL turnover for the week ended Dec 13 increased 28% to RM606.6 million from RM473.8 million in the previous corresponding period. Trading in Hang Seng Index (HSI) warrants was the main contributor to the week-on-week (w-o-w) increase as it rose 51.4% to RM440.9 million, and made up 72.7% of overall turnover.

On the contrary, trading activity in warrants over local stocks decreased by 8.9% to RM144.9 million. For the week, warrants over 99 Speed Mart were still in demand, followed by warrants over Gamuda and YTL Power International, among others.

The HSI surged above the 20,000 level on Monday and hit a peak of 21,070.05 on Tuesday morning, its

highest level in a month after a readout of China's Politburo meeting stating that China in 2025 will ramp up policy stimulus to spur economic growth (Reuters, Dec 10). However, the index ended Tuesday lower, falling 0.5% to close at 20,311. Simultaneously, the HSI December futures opened higher on Tuesday, before trending lower throughout the day to close 1% lower at 20,436.

The HSI and the index futures continued their decline on Wednesday before advancing on Thursday as investors looked forward to details from a key economic meeting in China that would reveal the measures that Beijing might use to support its economy in 2025 (*South China Morning Post*, Dec 12). The HSI then tumbled 2.1% to close at 19,971 on Friday (0.5% higher w-o-w), while the futures were down 2.2% to

Top HSI warrants by value traded

Warrant name	Value (RM mil)	Issuer	Exercise price	Expiry date
HSI-CWAM	80.9	Kenanga	24,000	27 Jan 2025
HSI-PWB3	77.0	Kenanga	18,000	27 Feb 2025
HSI-CWAO	52.7	Kenanga	26,000	27 Jan 2025
HSI-CY8	52.3	Macquarie	21,000	30 Dec 2024
HSI-PWB1	50.2	Kenanga	16,000	27 Feb 2025

20,022.

For the week, investors focused on both the call warrants, namely HSI-CWAM and HSI-CY8, and the put warrants, namely HSI-PWB1 and HSI-PWB3, among others.

On the local front, warrants over 99 Speed Mart were still in demand despite closing the week 4.2% lower at RM2.50. The call warrants 99SMART-CP, 99SMART-CB and

99SMART-CL were the top three in terms of the highest value traded at RM6.3 million, RM5.7 million and RM3.5 million, respectively.

Further, warrants over Gamuda were also in the limelight as its revenue for the first quarter jumped 5.3% from the previous quarter while its shares notched a record high on Friday. Gamuda's shares closed at RM9.77, an increase of 112.9% year-

to-date. Warrants in focus includes Gamuda-C2T, Gamuda-C2S and Gamuda-CK, among others.

Other notable warrant underlyings include YTL Power, which saw its warrants having the third highest turnover among warrants over local shares.

To view the full list of structured warrants available on Bursa Malaysia, visit malaysiawarrants.com.my.

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

The warrants will not be offered to any US persons.



Malaysia set to shine as leading **tech hub** in Asia

➤ BlackBerry warns of increasing cyber and espionage threats as digital transformation accelerates

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia is poised to strengthen its position as a leading tech hub in Asia, said BlackBerry Cybersecurity Malaysia director Gustav Brunner (pic).

Over recent years, he said, the country has laid a solid foundation and promises to be pivotal in driving further growth and attracting talent and investment.

"We expect to see major progress in three key areas during 2025, security and safety, skills, and scaling for growth," he said, adding that in 2025, as digital transformation accelerates, Malaysia will face increasing cyber and espionage threats that aim to disrupt critical services, compromise sensitive data and secure communications, and erode trust in the digital economy – including online scams that bleed the economy.

"It could also be faced with business disrupting events such as floods, IT outages and even disease outbreaks."

To safeguard its digital future and keep citizens and critical infrastructure safe, Brunner said Malaysia must prioritise advanced cybersecurity solutions and trusted, critical communications.

"This means more local hosting of sovereign communications to prevent metadata being

accessed by foreign authorities via consumer grade apps, like Whatsapp.

"Consider using use of out-of-band networks for critical agencies and industries, which can be relied upon when the usual networks go down in the event of a flood, fire or major IT outage.

"Continue to ramp up measures to combat online fraud and scams, that cost Malaysians billions in losses each year, including tightening laws against scammers to protect victims.

"It is also critical to ensure adequate security measures around the development and use of technologies like 5G, Gen AI and quantum computing. A survey conducted in 2024 by BlackBerry revealed that over 79% of software supply chains in Malaysia have been targeted by cyberattacks.



"Emerging technologies offer immense potential, but also introduce new vulnerabilities that require proactive cyber defence strategies along the digital supply chain," said Brunner.

He also said Malaysia is expected to intensify its focus on secure communications infrastructure, network and data sovereignty.

"Government departments and key industries will increasingly tighten regulation and mandate in-region data hosting to align with national security priorities and protect sensitive information.

"Public cloud services with weak security or foreign jurisdictional exposure (e.g., under the US Cloud Act) are likely to face restrictions."

Brunner said Malaysia will shift towards private, locally hosted solutions and regional data centres that align with the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) and global standards. This

approach enhances control over metadata, protects against unauthorised access, and strengthens cybersecurity resilience.

"An area of opportunity for Malaysia, is to focus on programmes that foster wider diversity and inclusion in the cybersecurity workforce, including providing more support for women in the sector.

"There are just not enough well-trained people to do the work, and there is a vast range of open roles that demand different skills and attributes," he said.

The recent announcement by the Canada government of an investment of C\$4 million (RM12.5 million) in skills and training programmes at the Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, in collaboration with BlackBerry and the Toronto University, is one example of how these partnerships can support Malaysia achieve its goals. This will include scholarships and courses dedicated for women in cybersecurity.

As it takes the role of chairman of Asean in 2025, Brunner said Malaysia will continue to grow as a regional tech powerhouse, attracting top talent and substantial investment from across the Asia-Pacific region.

"Key sectors, including AI, fintech, and green technology, will drive this growth. Malaysia's continued commitment to cybersecurity and safety will help to build trust in the digital economy locally and internationally."

To support this transformation, he said public-private partnerships will accelerate the development of a robust digital infrastructure, enabling the realisation of smart cities and IoT innovations.

"Strategic investments in 5G rollout, the semiconductor industry, and AI will further solidify Malaysia's position as a leading tech hub," he added.

Commodity sector thrives despite global challenges

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's commodity sector has demonstrated resilience and growth in 2024 despite global headwinds, supported by robust exports and favourable market dynamics.

Palm oil, a key sector for the Malaysian economy, has seen robust growth in 2024. The yield of fresh fruit bunches (FFB) in the estates sector has improved by 8.1%, increasing to 13.94 tonnes per hectare, up from 12.89 tonnes per hectare in 2023.

According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), crude palm oil (CPO) prices increased by 5.5% on average, reaching RM4,047.50 per tonne from January to October 2024, compared to RM3,835.50 per tonne in the same period last year.

The rise was driven by stronger export demand, a weaker ringgit enhancing affordability for buyers, and lower palm oil stock levels, which remained below two million tonnes.

Exports of palm oil and palm-based products rose 11.9% year-on-year (y-o-y) to 22.30 million tonnes in the first 10 months of 2024, generating RM89.39 billion in revenue – a 14.5% increase from RM78.10 billion last year.

Palm oil accounted for the largest export volume, at 14.05 million tonnes, up by 13.7% compared to 12.36 million tonnes recorded in January-October 2023.

India retained its position as Malaysia's largest palm oil market, during the period under review, accounting for 2.67 million tonnes or 19% of total palm oil exports.

Malaysia's victory against the European Union (EU) over the Delegated Act, which discriminated against palm oil biofuels, marks a significant milestone for the nation's palm oil industry.

This win exemplifies a well-coordinated effort by Malaysian ministries, organisations, and agencies.

Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani said the decision vindicated Malaysia's stance and would ensure justice for biodiesel traders and employees.

On Jan 19, 2021, Malaysia initiated World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute consultations with the EU over measures affecting palm oil and palm crop-based biofuels.

In its final report, issued on March 5, 2024, the WTO panel concluded that the EU's Delegated Act restricting palm oil biofuels was discriminatory.

The panel found fault with the EU's use of indirect land use change as a basis for banning palm oil biofuels and criticised the EU's approach to notifying and consulting with other economies before implementing new trade measures.

The EU's decision on Oct 16, 2024, to delay implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) by 12 months provided a much-needed relief for Malaysia's palm oil sector.

The EUDR, which mandates that commodities sold in EU must be deforestation-free, poses significant compliance challenges for palm oil producers.

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council welcomed the postponement, noting that it gives stakeholders more time to meet the complex requirements.

Johari said his ministry will support and help local oil palm smallholders meet the new EUDR deadline on Dec 30, 2025. – Bernama

AirAsia MOVE and Tongcheng Travel forge partnership

KUALA LUMPUR: AirAsia MOVE, an online travel agent (OTA) in Asean, has partnered with Tongcheng Travel, a player in China's travel industry, to achieve resource integration, enrich user experiences and drive innovation in product development.

The collaboration was commemorated with a signing ceremony between AirAsia MOVE CEO Nadia Omer and Tongcheng Travel Assistant Vice-President Gong Xiaolei, witnessed by Capital A CEO Tan Sri Tony Fernandes and Capital A director Datuk Fam Lee Ee.

Both parties will work together on several initiatives aimed at enhancing travel experiences besides focusing on key areas of focus including the development of a cutting-edge B2B platform, innovative duty-free shopping solutions, and integrated rewards programmes in the future.

"This partnership with Tongcheng Travel represents a significant step forward in AirAsia MOVE's mission to bring unparalleled value and convenience to travelers in our respective markets," Nadia said.

"By combining our strengths, we're creating innovative solutions that enhance the travel experience and redefine industry standards.

"We look forward to unlocking new opportunities together and delivering exceptional experiences to our customers," she said.

Gong said they have always valued their partnership with Capital A, and the signing of this agreement with the AirAsia MOVE platform will serve as an important milestone in further strengthening their collaboration.



(From top left) Fam and Fernandes witnessing the signing ceremony between Nadia and Gong in Kuala Lumpur.

AirAsia MOVE, which is the digital travel platform of Capital A, was recently named "Asia's Best Travel Booking App" for the second year in a row by World Travel Tech Awards 2024, and offers a seamless travel experience with options for

flights from over 700 airlines worldwide, including AirAsia, and nearly a million accommodation options, as well as airport-rides, online duty-free shopping, access to live events & activities and more on its platform.

Baidu and Geely EV venture faces uproar after it says needs fresh funds

BEIJING: The CEO of China's Ji Yue Auto was surrounded by people demanding to know how they would be paid, videos posted online showed, after the EV maker said it would streamline operations to cope with fierce market competition.

The Baidu Inc and Geely joint venture said last week it would seek fresh funding and cut projects, becoming one of a number of smaller start-ups to admit to struggles amid a bruising price war in the world's largest auto market.

But in an unusual move, several videos as well as livestreams from its Shanghai headquarters were posted online, showing dozens of people, some wearing employee lanyards, surrounding CEO Xia Yiping demanding to know when they would be paid.

Ji Yue's statement did not mention staff payment issues but asked suppliers for their support.

It also did not mention any job cuts, but said that it was looking to merge departments and positions that had duplicate functions.

Xia, whose face can be seen clearly in videos, was pictured engaging calmly with them and telling them not to be angry.

He also repeatedly answered that he was seeking to solve the problems.

Reuters verified the location of video but could not verify when it was filmed or the identity of the people around Xia.

Sales people managing the livestreaming rooms belonging to Ji Yue stores in Chinese cities from Chengdu to Shenzhen also went on camera to discuss the situation with viewers, saying they would no longer receive their salaries and seeking tips on how to find new jobs.

Media representatives for Ji Yue, which local media reported has a workforce of about 5,000 people, declined to comment when asked about the scenes at the headquarters and stores.

Geely, which has a 65% stake in Ji Yue, and Baidu, which owns the remaining 35% share, did not respond to requests for comment.

The troubles being played out on screens in real time will likely "accelerate the demise of smaller brands being marginalised" in a market with more than 130 active EV and hybrid brands, said John Zeng, head of market forecast for China at London-based consultancy GlobalData.

Consumers would increasingly pivot toward current market leaders, he added.

Baidu and Geely founded the company as Jidu Auto in early 2021 and rebranded it as Ji Yue last year.

It has two models, the Jiyue 01 EV and Jiyue 07 EV, which together as of September accumulated total sales of 9,767 units, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. – Reuters

UK joins trans-Pacific pact as first European member

LONDON: Britain yesterday became the first European nation to join a major Indo-Pacific trading bloc, in what has been hailed as the country's biggest trade deal since Brexit.

The UK is officially now the 12th member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The UK formally signed the accession treaty last year.

Officials hope membership will boost Britain's flagging economy by as much as £2 billion (RM11 billion) a year.

According to government figures, the value of the United Kingdom's total trade in the 12

months to the end of September was £1.7 trillion.

Officials hope country's biggest trade deal since Brexit will boost flagging economy

The alliance comprises fellow G7 members Canada and Japan, plus long-standing allies Australia and New Zealand, alongside

Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Created in 2018, it has been seen as a bulwark against Chinese dominance in the region, although Beijing has applied to join.

The bloc, which accounts for

about 15% of global gross domestic product (GDP), will give British businesses trade access to a market of more than 500 million people.

The previous Conservative government signed Britain up in July 2023, with then business and trade secretary Kemi Badenoch calling it "the biggest trade deal" since the UK left the European Union.

Britain has secured a number

of post-Brexit trade deals, including with Australia, New Zealand and Singapore since it left the EU's single market at the start of 2021.

It is also pursuing one with Gulf countries, and last month Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced that Britain and India are to resume stalled talks to agree a free trade deal.

A much sought-after trade deal with the United States remains elusive and could become even less likely when Donald Trump enters the White House next month.

A deal with Canada has also failed to materialise. – AFP

South Korea vows to keep markets stable after Yoon's impeachment

SEOUL: South Korea's Finance Ministry vowed yesterday to continue to swiftly deploy market stabilising measures as needed to support the economy after President Yoon Suk Yeol was impeached over his brief imposition of martial law.

The ministry said it will actively communicate with the Parliament to keep the economy stable, adding

that it plans to announce its biannual policy plan before the end of this year.

The leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, Lee Jae-myung, called for a National Stability Council for Governance comprising the government and Parliament to discuss finance, economy and public livelihoods.

The Bank of Korea said in a

statement that it would use all available policy instruments in conjunction with the government to respond to and avert any escalation of volatility in financial and foreign exchange markets.

The bank said it is necessary to respond more actively to the economic impact than in past presidential impeachment periods due to heightened challenges in

external conditions, such as increased uncertainty in the trading environment and intensified global competition in key industries.

South Korea's financial regulator said in a statement that financial markets are expected to stabilise as recent political events are considered temporary shocks, but it will expand market-stabilising funds if needed. – Reuters



People celebrating after Parliament passed a second impeachment motion against Yoon. – REUTERS/IC

India's November retail inflation eases, boosts rate cut hopes

NEW DELHI: India's retail inflation eased in November as soaring vegetable prices moderated, boosting expectations of an interest rate cut by the central bank at its next policy review amid concerns around slowing growth.

Retail inflation eased in November to 5.48%, lower than 6.21% in the previous month and below a 5.53% forecast by economists in a Reuters poll.

Food inflation slowed down to 9.04% from 10.87% a month earlier.

Food accounts for nearly half of the consumption basket.

Vegetable prices rose 29.33% in November from a year earlier after rising 42.18% in October.

The decline in inflation, together with a sharp fall in growth in the July to September quarter to a seven-quarter low, supports expectations of a rate cut in February when the monetary policy committee meets next.

The meeting would be the first after the appointment of new

central bank governor Sanjay Malhotra.

"The deflationary trend in food prices, in particular vegetables, along with the lagged impact of softening demand amid food price deflation should aid headline CPI to fall below 5% in December," said Garima Kapoor, an economist at Elara Securities.

The economist said she expects a 25-basis-point cut by the Monetary Policy Committee at the meeting in February.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left interest rates unchanged earlier this month, but reduced the cash reserve ratio that banks are required to hold in order to ease monetary conditions and support growth.

Vegetable prices in November moderated due to a bumper summer crop harvest, aided by a favourable monsoon.

A good monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are also seen boosting winter crop sowing and

production, in turn lowering food inflation in the coming months, according to the government.

The inflation rate for cereals in November was 6.88% in November compared to 6.94% a month earlier, while that for pulses was 5.41% against 7.43% in October.

"Further falls in food inflation will put downward pressure on the headline rate and softer economic growth should keep a lid on core inflation," said economist Harry Chambers from Capital Economics. – Reuters



Oil supply to rise in 2025 despite Opec cuts: IEA

➤ Agency warns market shocks can arrive with little or no warning

PARIS: Oil supply is set to outpace global demand next year even as Opec+ members extended cuts in efforts to prop up prices, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

Eight members of the alliance, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, agreed earlier this month to maintain supply cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) for three more months through March.

But the IEA said global supply was on track to grow by 630,000 bpd this year and 1.9 million bpd in 2025, with the United States, Brazil, Canada, Guyana and Argentina leading the way.

This would bring total supply to 104.8 million bpd for 2025, while demand is forecast to rise to 103.9 million bpd, the IEA said in its monthly oil market report.

"The relatively subdued pace of global oil demand growth is set to continue in 2025, accelerating only modestly," the IEA said.

The IEA said demand from China, the world's biggest importer of oil, has "slowed markedly" as its economic growth has sputtered, while emerging Asian countries would lead gains in 2024 and 2025.

China is seeking to boost the economy and will adopt an "appropriately loose" monetary policy next year, the first easing of its stance in some 14 years, the Politburo was quoted as saying last Monday.

"Persistent overproduction from some Opec+ members, robust supply growth from non-Opec+ countries and relatively modest global oil demand growth leave the market looking comfortably supplied in 2025," the IEA report said.



An oil drilling platform at the giant offshore Johan Sverdrup field near the municipality of Stord in western Norway. — REUTERSPIC

To support the market, Opec+ recently pushed back the start of oil output rises by three months until April and extended the full unwinding of cuts by a year until the end of 2026 due to weak demand and booming production outside the group.

Next year's surplus, as forecast by the IEA, could make it harder for Opec+ to bring back production.

The hike was earlier due to start in October 2024, but Opec+ has delayed it amid falling prices.

Crude oil prices were "largely unchanged" in November, with Brent, the international benchmark contract, at around US\$73 per barrel, according to the IEA.

"As the year draws to a close, oil markets appear relatively calm, with crude oil trading in a US\$70-75/bbl (per barrel) range," the IEA said.

"But, as recent years have shown, market shocks can arrive with little or no warning, making close attention to oil security as important as ever." — Agencies

Canadian province threatens to cut energy exports to US

TORONTO: Canada's largest province would be prepared to cut off energy exports to the US if President-elect Donald Trump imposes his promised tariffs on Canadian goods, Ontario's premier said.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford made the threat after a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who shared details of the federal government's plan to counter Trump's potential tariffs.

Trump, who takes office in January, has threatened to slap 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico, accusing both of allowing the United States to be flooded with illicit drugs, namely fentanyl, and undocumented migrants.

"We will go to the full extent, depending how far this goes, we will go to the extent of cutting off their energy, going down to Michigan, going down to New York State and over to Wisconsin," Ford told reporters.

"I don't want this to happen, but my number one job is to protect Ontario, Ontarians and Canadians as a whole," he added after the meeting that included Trudeau and Canada's provincial and territorial leaders.

Ford's office told AFP that last year Ontario exported 12 tera-watt hours of electricity to Minnesota, New York and Michigan — enough power for about 1.5 million homes.

Trudeau's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether the federal government supports Ford's proposed action.

But briefing reporters in Ottawa after the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said "a number of premiers spoke out strongly in favour of a robust Canadian response to unjustified tariffs".

"This is a serious moment for Canada and we are resolute and determined to meet that moment," she said.

Trudeau said last week that Trump's proposed tariffs would be "devastating" for his country.

He flew to Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, late last month to discuss the issue.

Canadian media have reported that Trudeau's government is preparing a C\$1 billion (RM3.1 billion) border security plan which Ottawa intends to share with Trump's team in the coming weeks. — AFP

German economy expected to remain weak next year

BERLIN: German economic institutes last week issued pessimistic growth forecasts for 2025 as Europe's biggest economy faces political risks at home and abroad.

"We see a critical combination of an economic downturn and structural problems," said the DIW institute's Geraldine Dany-Knedlik.

The DIW said it expected output to fall by 0.2% this year followed by a "gradual revival" of 0.2% growth in the year ahead.

Concern centred on export-oriented manufacturing, the backbone of the German economy.

Higher energy and material costs, as well as stronger international competition, especially from China, were buffeting the key sector,

said Dany-Knedlik, the head of forecasting.

She also pointed to "the threat of tariffs from US President-elect Donald Trump", who has vowed tariffs of at least 10% on all imports, a major issue for German exporters.

Weaker export performance was "likely to dampen German economic growth" in the coming years, the DIW concluded.

The IfW Kiel came to a similar conclusion, revising down its 2025 growth forecast to zero from an increase of 0.5%.

"The reasons for the downward revision are mainly the expected US tariffs and the worsening crisis in German industry," it said.

The Ifo institute meanwhile allowed more optimism in its predictions for the coming 12 months.

"If the right economic policy is put in place, growth of 1.1% could be achieved in 2025," the Munich-based Ifo said, cautioning that the way forward was "not yet clear".

Germany is headed for new elections in late February, with the formation of a new coalition government then likely to take weeks if not months.

Without policies to encourage investment, the German economy would eek out a more modest 0.4% growth in 2025, the Ifo said.

"The decisive factor will be whether the export-oriented German economy can once again benefit from growth in other countries," Ifo head of business cycle analysis and forecasts Timo Wollmershauser said. — AFP

Spain probes 'misleading' holiday flat management firms

MADRID: Spain's leftist government said last week it had launched a probe into companies that manage short-term apartment rentals to tourists for alleged "misleading practices" as visitor numbers surge.

The move comes amidst a growing backlash against overtourism and booming short-term holiday lets, which many locals blame for soaring rents and a shortage of affordable housing.

The investigation "targets companies that manage hundreds of tourist homes" across the

country "that could be engaging in misleading practices" or other consumer law violations, the Consumer Rights Ministry said in a statement.

These companies have been accused of pretending to be private individuals when listing properties on online sites such as Airbnb and Booking.com to attract potential customers.

They "create a different profile" for each flat, often falsely claiming to belong to an "ideal family" to make the property more appealing,

Patricia Suarez, head of consumer rights association Asufin, told Spanish public television TVE.

Consumer Rights Minister Pablo Bustinduy said this could be a case of "misleading commercial practices" that could "undermine the right to housing in Spain".

The latest probe comes after his ministry announced in June that it would investigate listings on online holiday flat platforms to verify if they have licences.

Spain is the world's second-most visited

country after France and estimates point to a record of around 95 million visitors this year, or double Spain's population.

Anti-tourism protests have multiplied in recent months across the country, prompting authorities to try to reconcile the interests of locals and the lucrative sector.

Barcelona has said it will ban all holiday apartments by 2028 while the southern city of Malaga has banned new short-term apartment rentals to tourists in 43 neighbourhoods. — AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: DECEMBER 13

BURSA MALAYSIA

Trade Statistic 13 Dec 2024



SUNBIZ presents a summary of the day's trading activity on Bursa Malaysia and other markets in an easy to digest format.

Sources: Bursa Malaysia, Bernama, shareinvestor.com and websites

DISCLAIMER: The data and reports are provided as a service to investors. Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

Bursa Indices		
INDEX		CHANGE
FBMEMAS	12,356.00	+69.52
FBMKLCI	1,608.75	+6.67
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	548.50	+1.27
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	175.77	+1.08
CONSTRUCTION	307.06	+3.53
FINANCIAL SERVICES	19,117.40	+15.31
ENERGY	820.00	-4.15
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	539.99	+0.08
HEALTH CARE	2,333.66	+65.19
TRANSPORTATION	1,042.31	+4.81
PROPERTY	1,096.62	+6.55
PLANTATION	7,635.05	-19.25
FBMSHA	12,372.10	+104.55
FBMACE	5,310.16	+1.33
TECHNOLOGY	63.70	+1.36

TURNOVER: 2.785 bil **VALUE: RM2.401 bil**

Subdued activity likely as investors await US rate call

TRADING on Bursa Malaysia is expected to be subdued this week as investors adopt a wait-and-see approach ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting tomorrow and Wednesday to decide on US interest rates.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan said as attention shifts to the coming FOMC meeting, moderating inflation, albeit at a slower pace, provides the US Federal Reserve (Fed) with room to continue its interest rate-cutting cycle.

"A 25-basis point cut at the final meeting of the year appears highly probable, though the pace of reductions may slow as the central bank aims for a soft landing. Market expectations currently indicate a 96% likelihood of a 25-basis point rate cut, with less than 4% anticipating rates to remain unchanged," he told Bernama.

Therefore, Mohd Sedek expects the FBM KLCI to trade within the range of 1,615 to 1,625 points this week, supported by optimism surrounding the Fed's rate cut. "This aligns with our year-end 2024 FBM KLCI target of 1,650. By saying this, we expect the Composite Index resistance (to be) around 1,616-1,622."

He said stocks linked to the data centre supply chain, technology, and banking sectors are expected to trend upwards if the Fed proceeds with a rate cut. "However, if the Fed opts to maintain rates at 4.5-4.75%, equity markets could react negatively, likely leading to heightened volatility on Wall Street, with potential spillovers into regional markets," he added.

Last week, on a Friday-to-Friday basis, the FBM KLCI fell 4.5 points to 1,608.75 from 1,613.25 in the previous week. Turnover narrowed to 14.46 billion units worth RM12.43 billion compared with 16.18 billion units worth RM14.54 billion previously.

Top 20 Actives				
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWAM	0.115	-0.040	-25.81	2,055,594
HSI-PWB3	0.255	0.035	15.91	1,745,268
TOPGLOV	1.410	0.090	6.82	699,455
JFTECH-WA	0.170	0.030	21.43	614,429
MYEG	0.945	-	-	400,475
DSOINIC	0.430	-	-	396,462
HSI-CY8	0.140	-0.090	-39.13	380,631
HSI-PWB1	0.170	0.020	13.33	349,156
JFTECH	0.795	0.090	12.77	315,516
SUPERMX	1.100	0.070	6.80	312,273
99SMART-CP	0.090	-	-	252,590
HSI-CWA0	0.080	-0.025	-23.81	231,145
ARMADA	0.635	0.010	1.60	218,650
YTLPOWR-C64	0.050	0.005	11.11	210,348
JFTECH-CD	0.075	0.030	66.67	208,965
INARI	3.170	0.170	5.67	208,409
99SMART-CQ	0.060	-	-	201,006
MBSB	0.740	-0.005	-0.67	198,511
BYD-C32	0.155	-0.020	-11.43	195,518
TANCO	1.690	0.030	1.81	193,761



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	100.000	1.220	360
DIN045801028	102.200	0.700	2
MPI	25.940	0.360	1,122
VITROX	3.810	0.270	18,902
CARLSBG	20.660	0.220	803
PETGAS	17.320	0.220	16,427
BURSA	8.920	0.200	14,093
KESM	3.680	0.180	467
FCW	1.670	0.170	190
GAMUDA	9.770	0.170	81,515
INARI	3.170	0.170	208,409
TENAGA	13.720	0.160	31,195
ATECH	3.530	0.150	5,511
SUNCON	4.500	0.150	28,571
HLFG	18.360	0.140	2,886
SANICHI	0.150	0.135	46,617
GCB	3.950	0.130	27,242
TM	6.750	0.130	32,723
ALLIANZ	20.480	0.120	166
PETDAG	20.640	0.120	1,159

Top 20 Gainers (By %)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
SANICHI	0.150	900.00	46,617
EDGENTA-CR	0.025	150.00	82,772
TOPGLOV-C4K	0.050	150.00	40,407
DIALOG-C10	0.010	100.00	1
HSI-HZA	0.010	100.00	5,370
IJM-C89	0.060	100.00	201
SUNCON-C22	0.020	100.00	15,006
WEGMANS-WC	0.010	100.00	1,402
AJECH-C1	0.060	71.43	2,000
JFTECH-CD	0.075	66.67	208,965
DUFU-CX	0.050	50.00	4,150
FBMKLIC-CQH	0.015	50.00	400
HARTA-C2F	0.015	50.00	1,567
RENEUCO-WA	0.015	50.00	578
SAPNRC-WA	0.015	50.00	73
SUPERMX-CAE	0.075	50.00	28,166
YTLPOWR-C61	0.015	50.00	10,001
ARMADA-C91	0.035	40.00	10,455
HSI-PWB4	0.140	40.00	11,915
KPJ-C17	0.070	40.00	1,212

World Stocks/Commodities			
INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	43,828.06	-86.06	-0.20
S&P 500 (US)	6,051.09	-0.16	0.00
NASDAQ (US)	19,926.72	+23.88	+0.12
NYSE (US)	19,729.37	-39.72	-0.20
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	4,967.95	+2.42	+0.05
FTSE 100 (UK)	8,300.33	-11.43	-0.14
DAX (GER)	20,405.92	-20.35	-0.10
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	39,470.44	-378.70	-0.95
TOPIX (JPN)	2,746.56	-26.47	-0.95
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	19,971.24	-425.81	-2.09
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,933.18	-95.32	-2.37
SH SE COM (CHN)	3,391.88	-69.62	-2.01
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	2,494.46	+12.34	+0.50
ASX 200 (AUS)	8,295.96	-34.30	-0.41
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	8,550.33	-36.56	-0.43
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	82,133.12	+843.16	+1.04
FBM KLCI	1,608.75	+6.67	+0.42
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	3,810.35	+1.08	+0.03
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	185.55	-1.98	-1.06
WTI (US\$/BBL)	71.29	+1.27	+1.81
BRENT (US\$/BBL)	74.49	+1.08	+1.47
GOLD (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	2,675.80	-33.60	-1.24
SILVER (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	31.03	-0.59	-1.87
PLATINUM (US\$/T OZ)	926.91	-6.27	-0.67
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	419.70	-4.75	-1.12
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US\$/MT)	9,052.50	-39.00	-0.43
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	442.00	-1.50	-0.34
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	552.25	-6.25	-1.12
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	42.99	-0.01	-0.02
COCOA (ICE) (US\$/MT)	11,300.00	+479.00	+4.43
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	203.70	-2.40	-1.16

Closing, Dec 13

Top 20 Losers (By RM)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
DLADY	30.320	-0.380	7
CHINTEK	8.010	-0.330	20
HEIM	23.760	-0.220	639
NSOP	3.910	-0.210	60
CHINAETF-MYR	4.720	-0.160	74
F&N	27.840	-0.140	506
HSI-CWA7	0.600	-0.135	60
HSTECH-C14	0.600	-0.130	102
SP500-C44	0.255	-0.130	220
HSI-CWAK	0.480	-0.125	460
HSI-CYR	0.300	-0.125	200
HSI-CY9	0.500	-0.120	5631
PPB	12.580	-0.120	4100
WARISAN	1.360	-0.110	1510
BAUTO	1.940	-0.100	100,412
DRBHCOC3K	0.050	-0.100	980
FAREAST	3.600	-0.100	20
HSI-CWAW	0.345	-0.100	60
HSI-CWAW	0.485	-0.100	14,700
KSENG	5.620	-0.100	991

Top 20 Losers (By %)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
DRBHCOC3K	0.050	-66.67	980
LHI-C25	0.050	-66.67	500
BAUTO-C42	0.010	-60.00	21,400
HSI-CYC	0.015	-57.14	98,980
HSI-PWDF	0.070	-53.33	380
HIBISCS-C65	0.005	-50.00	495
HSI-HWZ	0.005	-50.00	2,101
HSI-PWDB	0.075	-50.00	200
IJM-C83	0.005	-50.00	988
KGROUP	0.005	-50.00	9,486
MRDIY-C28	0.005	-50.00	899
OCR-WE	0.005	-50.00	2,500
OMESTI-WC	0.005	-50.00	74,280
PENTA-C44	0.005	-50.00	90
YTLPOWR-C56	0.005	-50.00	2,700
A50CHIN-CG	0.050	-47.37	3,668
HSI-CY8	0.140	-39.13	380,631
HSI-CYK	0.080	-38.46	15,532
SP500-C44	0.255	-33.77	220
E&O-C19	0.010	-33.33	1,000

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by SunBiz Team

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Asia-Pacific corporate sector outlook neutral in 2025: Fitch

KUALA LUMPUR: Fitch Ratings has a neutral outlook on Asia-Pacific (APAC) corporates in 2025, reflecting the strength of their balance sheets and steady growth prospects, and largely offsetting global volatility and uncertainty over economic and geopolitical development.

In an *APAC Corporates Outlook 2025* report released on Friday, the credit rating agency said its projections include resilient credit fundamentals for many sectors, supported by robust domestic demand and lower input costs and commodity prices.

"Our forecasts include steady revenue rises over the coming years for most APAC sectors. The main negative outliers are oil and gas companies, largely mirroring our price deck developments and Chinese homebuilders."

It expects the earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (Ebitda) margin of Fitch-rated corporates to increase further in 2025 to 15%, from just above 14.5%.

"The chemicals, diversified manufacturing and utilities sectors are likely to improve more, while we expect the real estate and oil and gas sectors to underperform," it said.

Fitch also anticipates capital expenditures (capex) requirements to differ by sector, with telecommunication's capex intensity to ease on 5G rollout, ultimately bolstering cash generation.

"We also expect a moderation in capex in chemicals and diversified manufacturing. We project capex to increase in the oil and gas sector to finance refinery expansion and production growth; and in the utilities sector, to support the energy transition.

"This will help boost profitability as renewables generate higher margins than thermal power, but it will weigh on free cash flow," it said. — Bernama

Ringgit expected to trade in cautious mode this week

THE ringgit is expected to be traded in a cautious mode against the US dollar this week ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on Dec 17 and 18.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan sees a subdued market tone ahead as investors adopt a wait-and-see approach.

"Market expectations currently indicate a 96% likelihood of a 25-basis-point rate cut, with less than 4% anticipating rates to remain unchanged," he told Bernama.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said: "US economic data thus far has been pointing for a gradual monetary easing."

Mohd Afzanizam said other central banks, such as the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Swiss National Bank, have also cut their interest rate, with the ECB being seen to be inclined to cut the policy rates further.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit slid against the US dollar to 4.4475/4525 from 4.4170/4220 a week ago.

The local note strengthened versus the euro to 4.6632/6684 against 4.6719/6771, gained against the British pound to 5.6203/6266 versus 5.6352/6416 and rose against the Japanese yen to 2.8987/9022 from 2.9329/9364 at last week's close.

It traded mixed against Asean currencies, dipping against the Singapore dollar to 3.2971/3011 from 3.2963/3002 and easing against the Thai baht to 13.0261/0472 from 12.9576/9784 last Friday.

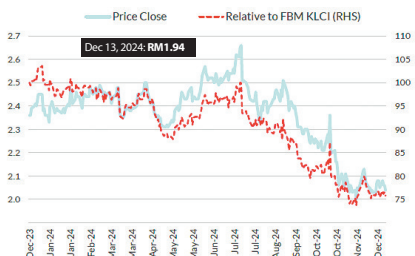
The local note climbed vis-a-vis the Indonesian rupiah to 277.7/278.2 from 278.7/279.2 and was higher against the Philippine peso at 7.60/7.62 from 7.65/7.66. — Bernama

Exchange Rates			
FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.5135	4.3795	4.3695
1 Australian Dollar	2.8900	2.7730	2.7570
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3490	3.2510	3.2430
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1680	3.0840	3.0720
1 Euro	4.7320	4.5790	4.5590
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.6120	2.5160	2.5000
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3490	3.2510	3.2430
1 Sterling Pound	5.7270	5.5440	5.5240
1 Swiss Franc	5.0940	4.8760	4.8610
100 UAE Dirham	124.3100	117.9000	117.7000
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.8560	3.5900	3.3900
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.5100	59.8600	N/A
100 Danish Krone	65.0400	59.8600	59.6600
100 Hongkong Dollar	58.6600	55.7500	55.5500
100 Indian Rupee	5.4100	5.0700	4.8700
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0293	0.0265	0.0215
100 Japanese Yen	2.9580	2.8630	2.8530
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	41.4700	38.1400	37.9400
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6500	1.5500	1.3500
100 Philippine Peso	7.8500	7.4000	7.2000
100 Qatar Riyal	125.2000	118.8500	118.6500
100 Saudi Riyal	121.4600	115.3000	115.1000
100 South Africa Rand	26.2900	23.7500	23.5500
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.6000	1.4700	1.2700
100 Swedish Krona	42.2400	38.4700	38.2700
100 Thai Baht	13.8800	12.3100	11.9100

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Bermaz Auto Bhd

BUY. TARGET PRICE: RM2.65



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

BERMAZ Auto's 1HFY25 core earnings of MYR110m missed our and Street's expectations. Regardless, we think valuations remain attractive, with the stock trading at 8x CY25 P/E, below its historical mean of 9.1x. Its above-sector-average yield of 10% also remains a plus point.

2QFY25 revenue fell 36% YoY (-24% QoQ) as sales volumes fell 41% YoY. The drop in sales was mainly due to increased competition in the local auto market, especially among non-national marques, due to the influx of Chinese carmakers. Due to less favourable sales mix, operating profit fell 49% YoY. As a result, 2QFY25 core net profit slipped 54% YoY, bringing 1HFY25 earnings to MYR110m (-42% YoY).

Management is cognisant of the challenging auto market due to the influx of Chinese carmakers. As heavy price discounting seems to be a popular strategy among the new entrants, we believe some consumers may postpone their purchases in anticipation of lower prices, and this would further destabilise the non-national marque segment.

Regardless, we think BAUTO's volumes will still be mainly supported by its volume-heavy CKD models (CX5, CX30, and CX8), as well as the newly launched Kia Sportage. BAUTO's EV brands Xpeng and Deepal should also establish a stronger presence in the local EV market. However, we do not expect these EV marques to contribute significantly to BAUTO's overall sales volumes.

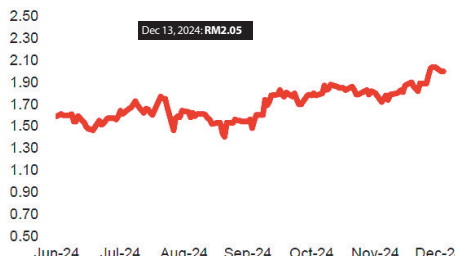
We cut FY25, FY26, and FY27 earnings forecasts by 14%, 12%, and 10% as we lower our Mazda and KIA volume forecasts to better reflect its current sales performance in view of the intense competition.

Given the share price correction (-13% YTD), we believe BAUTO is undervalued, as it is currently trading at 8x CY25F EPS, below its 9.1x historical mean.

Keep BUY with new RM2.65 TP. — RHB Research, Dec 13

Eco World Development Bhd

NEUTRAL. TARGET PRICE: RM1.90



Source: PublicInvest Research

ECO World Development (ECW) ended FY24 with a quarterly net profit of RM83.4m (>100% YoY, +3.7% QoQ). Again, the results were dragged by impairments on investments amounting to RM38m in the absence of which, group core net profit would have come in at about RM341.5m, surpassing our and consensus FY24 net profit estimates by about 12%.

Total pre-sales clinched breached the RM4bn (RM4.07bn, specifically) mark which is a record high for the Group. Unbilled sales were down slightly to RM3.96bn (from RM4.49bn a quarter ago) but we believe the group should not have problems maintaining it at the RM4bn levels with more launches impending.

Group sales in FY24 were mainly contributed by its projects in Iskandar Malaysia (57% of total sales or RM2.3bn) and in the Klang Valley (31% of total sales or RM1.27bn). Meanwhile, the remaining 12% of the total pre-sales were from projects in Penang which netted about RM470m.

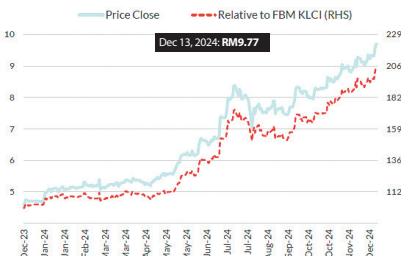
We understand that sales under the Eco Rise pillar recorded the highest growth in FY24 with RM1.08bn secured, more than double the RM509m in FY23.

On the commercial front, its Eco Hubs pillar contributed RM656m (+27% YoY) in sales for FY24 while its industrial pillars, namely Eco Business Parks and QUANTUM, achieved total sales of RM1.11bn (+6% YoY), bolstered by strong data centre demand with two parcels of industrial land at its first QUANTUM Edge park being sold to Microsoft Payments (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and Princeton Digital Group for a combined sales value of RM626m.

Maintain Neutral with new TP of RM1.90. — PublicInvest Research, Dec 13

Gamuda Bhd

BUY. TARGET PRICE: RM11.67



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

GAMUDA'S 1QFY25 (Jul) core net profit of MYR200m (+6.5% YoY) made up 19% and 17% of our and Street's estimates. We deem results to be in line as we envisage stronger quarters ahead supported by higher progress billings of jobs in Australia and also overseas property projects in Vietnam. We continue to favour GAM for its steady flow of job wins of at least MYR15bn annually for FY24-27 and a better portion of higher-margin domestic jobs ahead. This backs our three-year earnings CAGR (FY24-27F) of 21%.

GAM's 1QFY25 construction PAT of MYR141.5m (+21% YoY) came from higher earnings contribution from overseas projects - especially Australia - and some domestic projects. While the net margin of the construction arm was lower at 4.6% in 1QFY25 (1QFY24: 5.2%), this was higher than 4QFY24's net margin of 4% due to higher mix of domestic earnings at 49% in 1QFY25 vs 38% in 4QFY24. Higher contribution of upcoming higher-margin local jobs should improve construction margins in the coming quarters.

The property segment saw a 17% YoY drop in PAT for 1QFY25, mainly due to the completion of Celadon City in Vietnam while newly-launched quick turnaround projects (QTP) such as Eaton Park (GDV: MYR4bn) and The Meadow (GDV: MYR254m) (also in Vietnam) are still in early stages of contribution. Other QTP projects in Vietnam (Springville and Hai Phong with total GDV of MYR2.9bn) and maturing townships like Gamuda Gardens may propel the segment's growth in addition to the unbilled sales of MYR6.9bn (end-1QFY25) vs MYR6.7bn (end-1QFY24).

Orderbook. With an outstanding orderbook of MYR30bn as of end-October and YTD FY25 new job wins of MYR6.7bn, we expect GAM to clinch another MYR18bn worth of new jobs for the remainder of FY25.

Keep BUY with RM11.67 TP. — RHB Research, Dec 13



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Trending searches

What Malaysians look for on Google in 2024
- P22

WEEKLY FOCUS

MONDAY

Technology and social media

TUESDAY

Travel and leisure

WEDNESDAY

Fashion and beauty

THURSDAY

Home and living

FRIDAY

Food and beverage



- PEXELSPIC

INSIDE **p23** Inspiring fitness journey **p24** Festive cheer at Quill City Mall KL **p25** Christmas albums for holly jolly mood **p26** Papuan culture celebrated in dance



Sports events such as the Copa America and famous athletes got many Malaysians' attention. - PIC FROM FACEBOOK @THELIVERPOOLWAY

Popular search trends in 2024

Malaysians mostly looked up sports, famous figures

Top Trending Searches for Malaysia



- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 UEFA Euro 2024 | 6 Copa América |
| 2 Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah 2024 | 7 Character AI |
| 3 Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) | 8 DELIMa |
| 4 AFC Asian Cup | 9 T20 World Cup |
| 5 Olympics 2024 | 10 Malaysia Vs Oman |

2024

#YearInSearch



Sports events were dominant for the top 10 trending searches in Malaysia.

Top Trending Searches for People



Malaysia

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Ruhainies | 6 Donald Trump |
| 2 Azizulhasni Awang | 7 Shah Rukh Khan |
| 3 Aliff Aziz | 8 Pearly Tan |
| 4 Kunlavut Vitidsarn | 9 Kamala Harris |
| 5 Faisal Halim | 10 Viktor Axelsen |

2024

#YearInSearch



Trump and Harris were among the most searched people on Google for 2024.

Top Trending Searches for Sports



Malaysia

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 UEFA Euro 2024 | 6 Malaysia Vs Oman |
| 2 AFC Asian Cup | 7 RTM |
| 3 Olympics 2024 | 8 Indian Premier League |
| 4 Copa América | 9 Paralympics 2024 |
| 5 T20 World Cup | 10 Malaysia Vs Jordan |

2024

#YearInSearch



Locals were keen to follow team Malaysia at major sports events.

Top Trending Searches for News



Malaysia

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah 2024 | 6 MyKasih |
| 2 Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) | 7 AINS |
| 3 DELIMa | 8 KWSP Akaun |
| 4 US Election 2024 | 9 Program Bantuan Subsidi Madani |
| 5 Excessive Heat | 10 Sumbangan Asas Rahmah |

2024

#YearInSearch



Interest in news ranged from Malaysian monetary aids to the US elections.

AS 2024 has entered its final month, various internet platforms have taken Spotify's cue and have begun to get wrapped up, with Google's Year in Search breaking down what Malaysians collectively have been searching throughout the year, from obsessing over the Olympics to more surprising fascinations such as Kamala Harris. However, the dominant trend in Google Search trends in Malaysia were focused on sports and athletes.

Sports craze

This was a year when sports had Malaysians glued to their screens and cheering with passion, with six out of the top 10 trending searches reflecting the nation's deep-seated love for sports. Whether it was friends huddled around screens at mamak stalls, enthusiastically watching the UEFA Euro 2024 (#1 Searches, #1 Sports), or families gathering at home to catch the AFC Asian Cup (#4 Searches, #2 Sports) and the Copa America (#6 Searches, #4 Sports), the excitement resonated deeply with Malaysians.

The Paris Olympics 2024 (#3 Sports) also saw Malaysians keeping up with the updates from our athletes competing on the world stage. The "Malaysia Boleh" spirit carried on with the Paralympics 2024 (#9 Sports), adding an emotional layer to the year's sporting achievements. Back home, local broadcaster RTM (#7 Sports) kept Malaysians connected to all the action with seamless live coverage.

From politicians to stars

Malaysians' love for sports also translated into the personalities they were searching for, with athletes taking half of the spots in the Trending Searches for People category, which included cyclist Azizulhasni Awang (#2 People), badminton player Pearly Tan (#8 People), footballer Faisal Halim (#5 People) also garnered attention with his impressive comeback to the national team. Internationally, badminton enthusiasts followed the journeys of Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn (#4 People) and Denmark's Viktor Axelsen (#10 People) at the Olympics.

Sports aside, Malaysians were keeping a close watch of the US election campaigns of Donald Trump (#6 People) and Kamala Harris (#9 People).

News that mattered

With the rising costs of living, Malaysians turned to search for financial assistance programmes and ways to manage their budgets. Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (#1 News), the government's cash assistance for the low and middle income groups, topped the trending searches for News list.

Complementing these efforts was the Program Bantuan Subsidi Madani (#9 News) and Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (#10 News), which provided targeted subsidies, collectively offering much-needed relief during challenging economic times.

Malaysians have also embraced the digital evolution in education and welfare, with platforms such as Delima (#8 Searches, #3 News) and Ains (#7 News) making their way into the

trending searches list.

Social welfare programmes such as MyKasih (#6 News) that support vulnerable communities were high on Malaysians' search behaviour. Additionally, the KWSP Akaun (#8 News) remained a focal point for Malaysians planning their financial futures.

Dramas to blockbusters

The love Malaysians have for films translated into a colourful array of trending searches for Films and TV Shows.

On the film front, top trending searches include rooted-in-nostalgia films such as *Inside Out 2* (#1 Movies), *Kung Fu Panda 4* (#6 Movies) and *Alien: Romulus* - while comic book characters such as *Deadpool* (#2 Movies), *Madame Web* (#5 Movies) and *Venom* (#7 Movies) were also searched for due to their standalone films that were released this year.

Back at home, TV dramas became a source of comfort and connection for Malaysians. Global hits such as *Queen of Tears* (#1 TV Shows), *Marry My Husband* (#2 TV Shows) and *The Heir to the Throne* (#3 TV Shows) brought emotionally charged narratives to the forefront, offering a blend of love, loss and resilience that kept viewers hooked week after week.

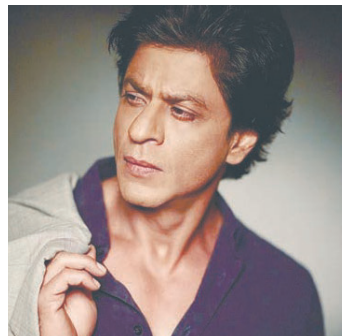
Series such as *Aku Bukan Ustazah* (#4 TV Shows) and *Lovely Runner* (#5 TV Shows) also garnered top searches in Malaysia.

Morbidity trends

For trending searches for the "Passing" category, it showed Malaysians were drawn to look up some of the biggest losses this year, such as former One Direction member Liam Payne (#1 Passing), the passing of Sarawak's former governor and chief minister Taib Mahmud as well as *Dragon Ball* creator Akira Toriyama.

AI-enthused

From chatbots to creative tools, artificial intelligence (AI) has seamlessly become part of Malaysians' daily routines, leading to a variety of trending searches for Gemini (#3 AI), Viggie AI (#7 AI) and Vidu Studio (#8 AI).



Popular celebrities, such as Shah Rukh Khan, are also featured on the list.

- PIC FROM FACEBOOK @SHAHRUKHKHAN



The Paris Olympics ranked high in the search list. - PEXELSPIC

TikToker's wholesome fitness journey

► Syidi Kurus inspires movement, positivity through humour

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

WITH a hearty laugh and a cheeky sense of humour, Muhammad Rusyaidi, better known as Syidi Kurus has become a beacon of positivity and health on TikTok. Through his funny, relatable and heartfelt content, Syidi has transformed personal challenges into a powerful message: no matter where you are in life, it is never too late to take that first step towards a healthier, happier you.

Building community through TikTok

When Syidi first began sharing his fitness journey on TikTok, he had no idea his videos would go viral. What started as a playful outlet quickly turned into a platform for inspiration.

"TikTok was just fun for me. I did not expect my content to blow up the way it did," shared Syidi.

In just one week, his follower count skyrocketed from a few hundred to over 10,000 and today, he continues to grow his audience with content that is as motivational as it is entertaining.

His humorous take on workouts struggles with dieting and hiking adventures make his followers laugh while delivering a serious message: movement matters. Whether it is showing that anyone, regardless of size, can do push-ups or sharing tips on creating sustainable fitness habits, Syidi's account is a safe space where anyone can feel encouraged to start their health journey.

Laughter meets determination

Known for his comedic flair, Syidi's most viral videos often show the lighter side of his fitness routine. From hiking up Bukit Bendera while joking about his frequent breaks to poking fun at his struggles during intense workouts, he makes fitness approachable.

"People underestimate the power of just moving your body. Even a little movement can go a long way toward improving your health," he said.

But it is not all laughs. Behind the humour lies a man deeply committed to building a healthier life, for himself and others. Through candid updates, Syidi has been open about the ups and downs of weight loss, showing his audience that progress is not linear.

"I have learnt that losing weight is not a straight line. There are setbacks but as long as you keep moving, you are making progress. That is what matters," he admitted.

Adventurer at heart

Hiking has always been Syidi's favourite way to stay active. His

Many of his followers credit him for inspiring them to take their first steps towards a healthier lifestyle.



From joking about his frequent breaks to poking fun at his struggles during intense workouts, he makes fitness approachable.



Syidi aims to climb Gunung Chamah, one of the G7 mountains in Malaysia.

TikTok account is filled with snippets of his outdoor escapades, from leisurely hill climbs to more intense mountain treks. One of his proudest achievements was a five-day hike up Gunung Tahan, one of Malaysia's toughest climbs.

"I have conquered all but one of the G7 mountains in Malaysia," said Syidi, referring to the country's seven

tallest peaks.

"There is only one left, Gunung Chamah and I am determined to get there."

His adventures serve as a reminder that fitness is about finding activities that bring joy and keep you moving.

Inspiring change through relatable content

What sets Syidi apart from other fitness influencers is his relatability. He does not pretend to have it all figured out and he is honest about his struggles. From discussing the difficulties of maintaining a healthy diet to sharing the challenges of starting over after setbacks, Syidi's transparency makes him approachable.

"I have been through it all, the fad diets, the unsustainable methods, the burnout. But I have learnt that the key is balance. It is not about being perfect, it is about being consistent."

His authenticity has resonated with thousands of followers, many of whom credit him for inspiring them to take their first steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

Mission to keep moving

Syidi's message goes beyond weight loss. He is on a mission to promote the importance of movement in preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and heart disease.

"A sedentary lifestyle is one of the biggest risk factors for NCDs. I do not want anyone to go through what I have experienced, losing loved ones to preventable illnesses. That is why I encourage everyone to move, even if it is just a little."

Often, his best ideas for videos

come during long motorcycle rides to the hospital. These trips, though exhausting, fuel his creativity and his determination to keep spreading his message.

Beyond fitness journey

What makes Syidi's story so compelling is that it is about resilience, family and the power of community. Despite the challenges life has thrown his way, he continues to move forward, using his platform to inspire others to do the same.

"Movement is not just physical, it is mental and emotional too. It is about taking that first step, no matter how small and believing in yourself," said Syidi.

Through his humour, honesty and determination, Syidi has shown that the journey to better health is one worth taking, even when the path is filled with obstacles. Whether he is climbing mountains, cracking jokes, or simply reminding his followers to move, Syidi's message is clear: you can always start again.



What makes Syidi's story so compelling is that it is about resilience, family and the power of community.



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SCAN ME



Book Xcess's Book Rush' allows shoppers to explore a range of books.



Shoppers can purchase a range of Funko pop figures, accessories and toys for Christmas.



Rafa Pickleball Club will be another highlight next year. - PIC FROM FACEBOOK @RAFAPICKLEBALLCLUB

QUILL City Mall KL has transformed into a "Violet Dreamland" this Christmas, allowing shoppers to experience a magical festive wonderland with a colourful display that brightens up surroundings.

The mall will feature vibrant Christmas decorations until Jan 5 next year. Shoppers will be delighted as the decorations provide a dreamlike setting for holiday memories, allowing shoppers picture-perfect moments.

Other attractions for this season include workshops, bazaars and various fun activities.

Design your Christmas

To ignite the spirit of Christmas, the mall is organising a series of interactive workshops for crafting Christmas wreaths, building festive crystal balls and designing other seasonal treasures.

In collaboration with We Post We Care, the mall is allowing shoppers to get hold of Christmas postcards. Shoppers can get these at the Concierge Counter and collect stamps at various mall stations.

With the postcards, shoppers may share heartfelt holiday greetings with loved ones near and far, capturing the season's essence of love and generosity.

Shopping for festive season

Further enriching the holiday experience is the mall's bazaars. BookXcess's bazaar is among the many to look forward to. In partnership with Quill City Mall KL, shoppers will be introduced to "Book Rush", in which they can explore a selection of books.

Holiday-themed titles and bestselling novels are among the offerings. While searching for books, shoppers can also indulge in some storytelling sessions, catered for all age groups.

As for collectors and gift-givers, the Sheldonet Pop-Up store would be an ideal shopping destination. Here, they can get their hands on a range of

Quill City Mall KL ups ante for Christmas season

➤ Premier shopping destination transforms into 'Violet Dreamland'



Shoppers will get to experience A Violet Dreamland Christmas at Quill City Mall KL. - PICS BY ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Campaign will run until Jan 5 next year.

exclusive memorabilia and trending collectables, adding a personal touch to their Christmas gifts.

For seasonal treats and accessories, shoppers can head to the Frosty Bazaar. This section provides shoppers with an array of festive treats, crafts, toys and accessories.

Fun holiday movies

Quill City Mall KL extends the holiday magic, organising various activities throughout the festive season. The mall, for instance, will be



Shoppers can catch Disney holiday films during the campaign.



GameOn Sport Hubs is slated to launch next year. - PIC FROM FACEBOOK @GAMEONSPORTHUBS

holding movie screenings.

On selected dates, the mall will be screening Disney's holiday movies, such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Frozen*, *The Nutcracker* and *The Four Realms* and *Frozen 2*, from 4pm to 6pm.

Fit for holidays

In addition to its festive offerings, Quill City Mall KL will carry out its "Fit & Fun" initiative, redefining wellness as an exciting and integral part of daily life.

It is introducing new attractions that are slated to join the mall's growing portfolio in the first and second quarters of 2025. Among the newcomers is GameOn Sport Hubs, an interactive sports playground that presents virtual challenges with hands-on activities for shoppers to stay fit, offering a stimulating and entertaining fitness experience.

The upcoming Maze Escape Room is another future offering, set to be the largest of its kind in Malaysia. The facility promises an exciting experience for team building or individual challenges.

Adding to the fitness offerings, The Rally Padel Club will introduce padel tennis courts, inviting guests to experience this dynamic sport that blends the best of tennis and squash. With its fast-paced and engaging gameplay, padel tennis offers a thrilling way to stay active and have fun.

Meanwhile, Rafa Pickleball Club will bring dedicated pickleball courts to Quill City Mall KL, allowing shoppers to play this enjoyable and fast-growing sport. Suitable for all ages, pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, providing an accessible yet exciting activity for everyone.

Complementing the "Fit & Fun" experience is Qpocket, a new retail brand that aims to bring happiness to shoppers. Offering diverse and exclusive items, Qpocket makes for an ideal shopping destination for youngsters.

Through A Violet Dreamland Christmas and the "Fit & Fun" initiative, Quill City Mall KL offers shoppers a destination for joy, connection and renewal that is ideal for family outings.

BY JOHN TAN

CHRISTMAS albums are among the many joys to come with the festive season. Whether they are classics or contemporary, these records never fail to bring cheer and happiness.

Here are six Christmas musical companions to get you in the spirit of the holiday.

Andy Williams – *The Andy Williams Christmas Album* (1963)

The first of Andy Williams's eight Christmas albums, this is a holiday classic, consisting of popular and timeless Christmas tunes. The singer breathes new life into each song, honouring its roots while making it his own.

Side one of the record consists of secular Christmas tunes, whereas side two offers listeners traditional spirituals and carols.

Its highlights include Williams's rendition of *White Christmas*, *O' Holy Night* and an original recording *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, which has established itself as a seasonal staple.

Jackson 5 – *Jackson 5 Christmas Album* (1970)

Listeners seeking a more soulful seasonal fare can opt for *Jackson 5 Christmas Album*. Featuring 11 tunes, Jackson 5 brought a Motown spin to classics such as *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*.

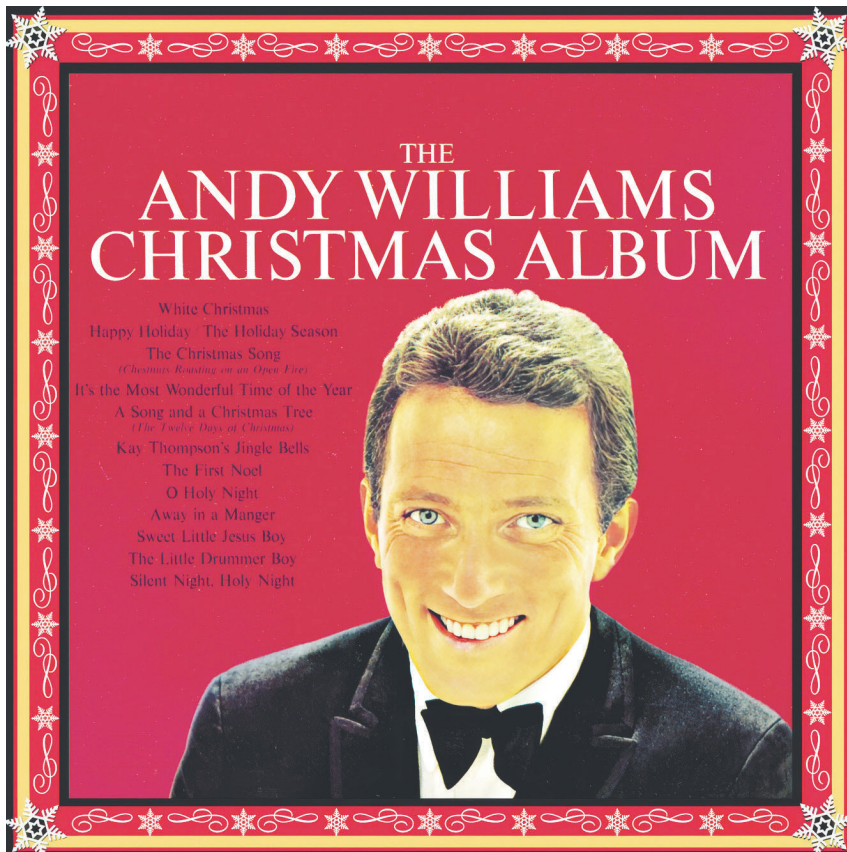
Upon its release, the album was well-received among the general public. So much so it became the best-selling Christmas album in 1970 and was re-released in 2003 and 2009, both reissued versions featuring remixes and bonus tracks.

Kenny G – *Miracles: The Holiday Album* (1994)

This album is made for a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. Produced by saxophonist Kenny G, *Miracles: The Holiday Album* is made up of smooth jazz instrumental versions of Christmas classics.

Each tune on the album is cleverly arranged and produced. The Grammy-winning saxophonist tries to create a chilled ambience, making it easy for listeners to relax and unwind to the tunes.

The album's background music nature makes it the ideal album for



The Andy Williams Christmas album is an evergreen classic – AMAZONPIC

Christmas jingles

➤ Six albums to set mood for festive season

Christmas family gatherings.

Justin Bieber – *Under the Mistletoe* (2011)

The year 2011 was a merry one for

Justin Bieber as he released his first Christmas album *Under the Mistletoe*. Similarly to the previous artistes, the Canadian singer gave his touch to Christmas classics, releasing evergreen tracks such as *Silent Night* and *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*.

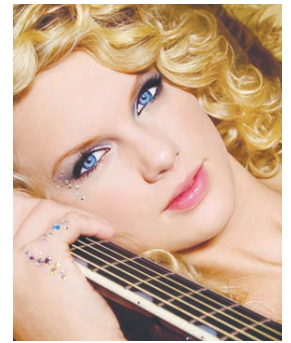
But Bieber took time to feature original tracks too, co-writing seven original tunes on the album.

He collaborated with several

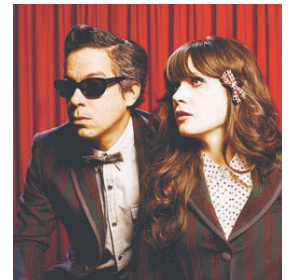
prominent artistes such as Usher, Boyz II Men and Mariah Carey to achieve his desired sound. The album's standouts include *Mistletoe* and *Fa La La*.

Taylor Swift – *The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection* (2007)

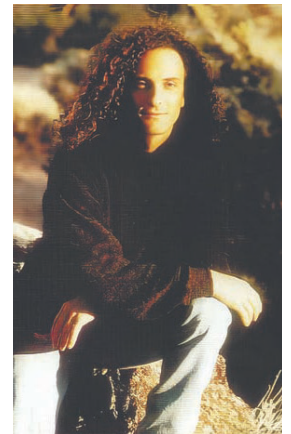
Before penning her 2019 Christmas hit *Christmas Tree Farm*, Taylor Swift had dedicated an EP to the festive



Swift was 18 when she released *The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection*.



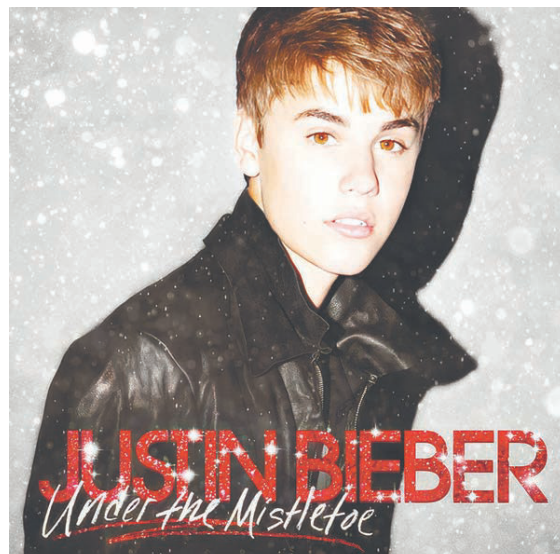
Indie band She & Him offers listeners a Christmas album that is a little different. – BANDCAMPPIIC



Kenny G's *Miracles: The Holiday Album* sold over two million copies in 1994. – DISCOGSPIC



Jackson 5 gives Christmas a Motown spin. – PIC FROM FACEBOOK @BRYAN HIGGINS



Bieber co-wrote seven original tracks in *Under the Mistletoe*. – PICS FROM SPOTIFY

season with the release of *The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection* in 2007, giving Christmas a country makeover.

The songstress injects a country pop sheen into classics such as *Last Christmas*, *Santa Baby*, *Silent Night* and *White Christmas*.

She further gives Christmas a country twang with two original tracks, showcasing her songwriting chops in *Christmases When You Were Mine* and *Christmas Must Be Something More*.

She & Him – *A Very She & Him Christmas* (2011)

Many know Zoëy Deschanel as an actress, recognising her from *New Girl*. But in 2011, Deschanel showcased her musical side, teaming up with musician M. Ward for *A Very She & Him Christmas*.

The album featured several classics such as *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, *Silver Bells* and *Blue Christmas*. The duo were praised for this seasonal record, receiving plenty of favourable reviews.

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

THE dimly lit hall of Pangung Bandaraya set the tone for the premiere of *Kase Seka* by Indonesian choreographer Eko Supriyanto. As part of the Kreatif KL Festival, this ritualistic dance performance, inspired by the Seka tradition of West Papua, captivated its audience with an intricate interplay of movement, sound and symbolism. Though devoid of dialogue, the performance conveyed messages about humanity's intrinsic relationship with nature, the essence of purification and collective unity.

Kase Seka invites its audience to go on a profound spiritual and ecological journey. It emphasises the concept of *gotong royong*, a spirit of cooperation and balance, reflecting Papuan culture's harmonious way of life. The performance oscillated between intimate gestures of cleansing and powerful communal exchanges, compelling viewers to pay attention and interpret its nuanced storytelling.

Storyline that speaks without words

What stood out in *Kase Seka* was its ability to tell a story that was apparent and elusive. The absence of dialogue did not hinder comprehension but instead, it demanded a level of focus and openness from the audience. The dancers moved with precision and purpose, portraying rituals of cleansing, welcoming and unity.

The storyline unfolded through these gestures, layered with meaning that invited interpretation. At times, the narrative seemed clear, a collective ritual signifying environmental and spiritual renewal. At other moments, it veered into the abstract, encouraging viewers to connect the dots through their perspectives.

This deliberate ambiguity gave the performance its strength as it prompted reflection and



Mesmerising journey of ritual, nature

➤ *Kase Seka* redefines storytelling through language of movement



Lighting designer Alim played with shadows and hues, creating an atmosphere that shifted between serenity and urgency.



The dancers' synchronised movements and moments of introspective solitude mirrored the duality of community and self.

engagement on a deeply personal level. The hauntingly minimal yet evocative soundscape heightened the performance's impact. From the distant echoes of nature to the rhythmic chants and beats, the music complemented the dancers' movements, creating a multisensory experience that resonated long after the final bow.

Dancers as storytellers

The dancers of *Kase Seka* were the heart of the performance, each bringing a unique energy and presence to the stage. Their movements, inspired by the traditional Seka dance and enriched by Eko's contemporary sensibilities, were fluid yet deliberate, grounding yet transcendent.

Galang Putra Ramadan, Muklis Akbar Sasefa, Putri Agnes Situs, Santina Sabuku and Henni Mery Wanasira performed as an ensemble that embodied unity while allowing individual brilliance to shine. Their synchronised movements and moments of introspective solitude mirrored the duality of community and self, key themes in Papuan culture.

One of the performance's most striking moments occurred during a sequence of collective cleansing gestures.

The dancers' movements, mimicking the act of purifying water and land, felt almost ritualistic, evoking a sense of reverence for nature and the environment.



Kase Seka invites its audience to go on a profound spiritual and ecological journey.
— ALL PICS COURTESY OF THINK CITY / SUNLEE KHAN



By emphasising themes of cleansing and renewal, the performance serves as a timely reminder of the escalating climate crisis.

Visual and auditory feast

The lighting and costumes in *Kase Seka* added depth to the performance, transforming the stage into a living, breathing canvas. Lighting designer Alim Jeni played with shadows and hues, creating an atmosphere that shifted between serenity and urgency. The warm, earthy tones of their costumes complemented the dance's organic themes, grounding the performance in the natural world.

Composer Sigit Pratomu's score played an equally vital role, blending traditional sounds with contemporary elements. The music underscored the dancers' movements, adding emotional layers to their performance and enveloping the audience in an auditory embrace.

Call to open minds and hearts

Kase Seka is not a performance to be passively consumed, it demands active participation, not in the physical sense but through intellectual and emotional openness. Its narrative and execution encourage the audience to step out of their comfort zones and experience a world vastly different from their own. The performance

exemplified the idea that art is best understood when approached with curiosity and a willingness to learn. Those who let go of preconceived notions and immersed themselves in the experience found themselves transported into the heart of Papuan culture, in which the line between art and ritual blurs.

Environmental and spiritual reminder

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, *Kase Seka* carries a poignant message about humanity's responsibility towards the environment. By emphasising themes of cleansing and renewal, the performance serves as a timely reminder of the escalating climate crisis. It invites the audience to reflect on their relationship with nature and consider their actions' impact on the planet.

Kase Seka by Eko is a masterpiece that transcends cultural and artistic boundaries. Its profound exploration of humanity's connection with nature and its emphasis on unity and renewal make it a performance that lingers in the mind and soul. A mesmerising journey, indeed.



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322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYSIA DI JOHOR BAHRU
DALAM NEGERI JOHOR DARUL TAKZIM, MALAYSIA
PENGHULUNGAN STERIK NO. JA-2896C-174-11/2024

Dalam perkara Sakayan 465 (1/e) dan 468(1/e) Aktas Syarikat, 2016

Dan

Dalam perkara GAA WOOD SON BHD (No. Syarikat: 201801002190 [1264203-H])

Antara

SIN JOO LEE TIMBER PTE LTD
(No. Pendaftaran Syarikat Singapura: 2003118182) ...PEMPETISYEN

Dan

GAA WOOD SON BHD
(No. Syarikat: 201801002190 [1264203-H]) ...RESPONDEN

PENGHULUNGAN STERIK

NOTIS ADALAH DENGAN IN DIBERI bahawa suatu Petisyen untuk Penghulungan Syarikat yang dimajukan di atas oleh Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di Johor Bahru telah pada 10th November 2024 dibenarkan oleh SU JOO LEE TIMBER PTE. DAN bahawa Petisyen dibenarkan di hadapan Mahkamah Tinggi yang berstatus di Johor Bahru pada jam 9:00 pagi pada 20th Jan 2025 hari Isnin, DAN mahu-mana pihak peminjang dan penyumbang Syarikat tersebut yang ingin menyokong atau menentang satu Perintah mengikut Petisyen tersebut boleh hadir dengan tujuan itu secara peribadi atau melalui Peguamcaranya pada masa perbicaraan. Salinan Petisyen tersebut akan dibekalkan oleh pihak yang berbanding dengan di bawah ini kepada mana-mana peminjang atau penyumbang Syarikat tersebut yang memintanya dengan membuat bayaran yang ditetapkan.

Alamat Pempetisyen adalah di No. 75A, Jalan Mutiara 1/9, Taman Mutiara Mas, 81300 Skudai, Johor.

Peguamcara Pempetisyen ialah S. K. SONG ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS yang beralamat di No. 75A, Jalan Mutiara 1/9, Taman Mutiara Mas, 81300 Skudai, Johor.

Bertarikh pada 9 DESEMBER 2024.

LI
TETIAN H. K. SONG
Pegambrola & Peguamcara
Peguamcara Pempetisyen

PENGHANTAR
Sebarang yang ingin hadir pada perbicaraan Petisyen tersebut hendaklah menyerahkan kepada pihak pengantar dengan pos kepada Peguamcara Pempetisyen yang dimajukan di atas suatu nota bertulis tentang matanya sebagai Nota tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat pihak atau firma berkenaan atau alamat firma dan mestilah diandatangani oleh pihak atau firma berkenaan atau Peguamcaranya sekiranya ada. Nota hendaklah diserahkan jika dibenarkan dengan pos, hendaklah dihantar dalam jangka masa mencukupi supaya sampai kepada pihak yang dimajukan di atas sebelum pukul 12.00 tengah hari pada 19th Jan 2025. (Ruj. Kami : SCS/MLM/391/23/25)

"THAT pursuant to Section 518 (3) (b) of the Companies Act 2016, the books of accounts, documents and records of the Company and of the Liquidator, shall be kept for a period of three months from 15th January 2025 to 14th April 2025 and thereafter such books of accounts, documents and records be destroyed."

Dated this 16th December 2024

Lim Beng Tiut
Liquidator

322 Notices

"PUBLIC APOLOGY"

I, VOO HONG LEONG (NRIC 791017-08-6327) on behalf of myself and my agency, SPECIAL CONSULTANCY SDN BHD (Company No.: 202101026245 [1426545-W]) sincerely and unreservedly apologize to ZURICH LIFE INSURANCE MALAYSIA BERHAD, ZURICH VERSICHERUNGS-GESELLSCHAFT AG (collectively, "ZURICH") for:-

a) Publishing and/or circulating a certificate and circular, which bears the "ZURICH" and "ZURICH" marks belonging to ZURICH, without the knowledge, consent and authorization of ZURICH, which resulted in the product stated in the certificate and circular being misconstrued as a product that was offered, authorised, endorsed and/or licensed by ZURICH, when it was not; and

b) Causing damages to ZURICH.

I regret my actions and acknowledge that ZURICH's intellectual property rights are protected in Malaysia and that my conduct have breached such laws. I undertake not to further infringe ZURICH's intellectual property rights and/or interfere with ZURICH's business and trade.

Dated this 16 December 2024

CHAI MIN YEAW
Liquidator,
23, Jalan Sulaim,
Taman Sentosa,
80150 Johor Bahru, Johor

322 Notices

NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF DELUXE RANGE (M) SDN. BHD. (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

Registration No. 199301024532 (279270-A) (Incorporated in Malaysia)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, the Final Meeting of the member of the abovementioned Company will be held at 17.01, Menara Boustead Penang, 39, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050 George Town, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia on Wednesday, 15th January 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purpose:-

1. To receive the accounts of the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to hear any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.

2. To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as Ordinary Resolution:-

"THAT pursuant to Section 518 (3) (b) of the Companies Act 2016, the books of accounts, documents and records of the Company and of the Liquidator, shall be kept for a period of three months from 15th January 2025 to 14th April 2025 and thereafter such books of accounts, documents and records be destroyed."

Dated this 16th December 2024

Lim Beng Tiut
Liquidator

322 Notices

NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND

IN THE MATTER OF DELUXE RANGE (M) SDN. BHD. (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

Registration No. 199301024532 (279270-A) (Incorporated in Malaysia)

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Dated this 16th December 2024

Lim Beng Tiut
Liquidator

302 Jobs

theSun WE ARE HIRING!

HR & ADMIN EXECUTIVE

Job Description:

- Maintain HR records, including employee files, salaries and benefits information.
- Handle employee attendance records, payroll and claims.
- Handle employee relations and resolve any workplace conflicts or issues.
- Provide HR support and guidance to managers and employees.
- Ensure compliance with all employment laws and regulations.
- Stay updated on changes in work legislation and industry standards.
- Handle employee training and development programs.
- Manage employee benefits programs and ensure compliance with regulations.
- Stay updated on current industry trends and best practices in HR management.
- Handle Recruitment matters.
- Handle General Admin and other HR works.

Requirement:

- Diploma / Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- 1+ years of experience in HR & Admin or a related field.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply for Assistant Executive Post.
- Basic HR knowledge and proficiency in Microsoft Office.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND

IN THE MATTER OF DELUXE RANGE (M) SDN. BHD. (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

Registration No. 199301024532 (279270-A) (Incorporated in Malaysia)

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Dated this 16th December 2024

Lim Beng Tiut
Liquidator

322 Notices

FOCAL PARK SDN BHD (358698-H)

NOTIS LELONG AWAM KENDERAAN UNTUK DILELONG SEPERTI SEDIA ADA TEMPAT & TARIKH LELONG: Northern Region (Akor Satar, Butterworth & Ipoh) 16-12-2024 (Khamis) (Pukul 11.00pagi)

TARIKH MELIHAT: SEBELUM TIGA HARI LELONG (Pukul 9.00pagi - 4.00petang)

PERITAHAN (Tel): Butterworth 04-3567972, Akor Satar 04-787 7972, Ipoh 05-5293971

PKAC - PELELONG BERLESEN: a) Mr. Chew Wook Kok, b) Mr. Steven Lim Peng Sang (01795).

Alamat : 352, Pematang Tok Jaya Maklom Sg Dua 13000 Butterworth.

Lot 138-A, Batu 5, Jalan Langgar 05460 Akor Satar

PT51683, Jalan Jelapang, Kws Perindustrian Tim Meru 30000 Ipoh

SILA LAYARI LAMAN WEB KAMI : <http://www.focalpark.com.my>

Item	Reg No	Jenis & Model	Tahun
AM1	TBL2534	CHEVY EASTAR 2.0	2016
AM2	G1M1380	CHEVROLET CAPTIVA (A) 2.0	2010
AM3	AKN9342	BMW M4 1.5 AMT	2016
AM4	AKM7986	HONDA HRV 1.8	2016
AM5	BPK2706	NISSAN ALMERA (A) 1.5	2017
AM6	ALE932	PROTON PERONA 1.6	2018
AM7	AKU7085	PROTON SAGA 1.3	2017
AM8	AKS5104	PROTON SAGA 1.3	2017
AM9	AKR2840	PROTON SAGA FL 1.3 (A)	2017
AM10	PK1925	PERODUA VIVA	2011
AM11	AKR6465	PROTON PERONA 1.6	2010
AM12	AJ5557	TOYOTA CAMRY 2.5IVA ADVISOR-ETORKE	2012
AM13	PKS2701	PROTON PERONA 1.6	2012
AM14	CKB2935	PROTON PREVE 1.6	2012
AM15	TC4033	PROTON PERONA 1.6	2021

(Perhatian: Kenderaan-kenderaan diatas yang tidak dibida dalam perolehan akan dilelong semula pada 23-12-2024)

322 Notices

"PUBLIC APOLOGY"

I, VOO HONG LEONG (NRIC 791017-08-6327) on behalf of myself and my agency, SPECIAL CONSULTANCY SDN BHD (Company No.: 202101026245 [1426545-W]) sincerely and unreservedly apologize to ZURICH LIFE INSURANCE MALAYSIA BERHAD, ZURICH VERSICHERUNGS-GESELLSCHAFT AG (collectively, "ZURICH") for:-

a) Publishing and/or circulating a certificate and circular, which bears the "ZURICH" and "ZURICH" marks belonging to ZURICH, without the knowledge, consent and authorization of ZURICH, which resulted in the product stated in the certificate and circular being misconstrued as a product that was offered, authorised, endorsed and/or licensed by ZURICH, when it was not; and

b) Causing damages to ZURICH.

I regret my actions and acknowledge that ZURICH's intellectual property rights are protected in Malaysia and that my conduct have breached such laws. I undertake not to further infringe ZURICH's intellectual property rights and/or interfere with ZURICH's business and trade.

Dated this 16 December 2024

CHAI MIN YEAW
Liquidator,
23, Jalan Sulaim,
Taman Sentosa,
80150 Johor Bahru, Johor

302 Jobs

theSun WE ARE HIRING!

1 MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE / ACCOUNT MANAGER

Job Description:

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualize, plan, and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

Requirement:

- SPM Level with at least 2 years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

2 MEDIA SALES REPRESENTATIVE / AGENT (FREELANCE)

Requirement:

- Minimum 1 year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge can apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentive.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND

IN THE MATTER OF TEXTILE CORPORATION (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD. (Company No. 198801005666 [173022-W]) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

At a meeting of the Members of the Textile Corporation (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD. duly convened at No. 23, Jalan Sulaim, Taman Sentosa, 80150 Johor Bahru, Johor on 12 December 2024, the following Special Resolution was duly passed:-

1) That the Company will be liquidated by way of members' voluntary winding up;

2) That Chai Min Yeaw (NRIC No. 720112-01-5385) of No. 23, Jalan Sulaim, Taman Sentosa, 80150 Johor Bahru, Johor be appointed as Liquidator to act for the purpose of winding-up of the Company's affairs and distributing its assets.

Dated this: 16 December 2024

WONG CHUN KHEAN
Company Director

TEXTILE CORPORATION (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD. (Company No. 198801005666 [173022-W]) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of TEXTILE CORPORATION (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD. which is being voluntarily wound up, are being invited to submit their claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, the liquidator of the Company, and, if so required in writing from the liquidator, are by their solicitors or personally to come in 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 benefit of any distribution made before such debts and claims are proved.

Dated this: 16 December 2024

CHAI MIN YEAW
Liquidator,
23, Jalan Sulaim,
Taman Sentosa,
80150 Johor Bahru, Johor

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND

IN THE MATTER OF UPTOWN AVENUE (M) SDN. BHD. (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

Registration No. 199301024377 (279115-K) (Incorporated in Malaysia)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, the Final Meeting of the member of the abovementioned Company will be held at 17.01, Menara Boustead Penang, 39, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050 George Town, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia on Wednesday, 15th January 2025 at 11.00 a.m. for the following purpose:-

1. To receive the accounts of the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to hear any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.

2. To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as Ordinary Resolution:-

"THAT pursuant to Section 518 (3) (b) of the Companies Act 2016, the books of accounts, documents and records of the Company and of the Liquidator, shall be kept for a period of three months from 15th January 2025 to 14th April 2025 and thereafter such books of accounts, documents and records be destroyed."

Dated this 16th December 2024

Lim Beng Tiut
Liquidator

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYSIA DI PULAU PINANG

DALAM NEGERI PULAU PINANG

PENGHULUNGAN STERIK NO. PA-33-278-09/2024

Dalam perkara Sakayan 53, 54(1) (b) (c) (d), 61(1) Aktas Mahkamah Undang-Undang (Perkewahwinan & Perkahwinan), 1976

DAN

Dalam perkara Kaedah-Kaedah Prosiding Perbicaraan dan Hal Ehwal Perkahwinan 1980

ANTARA

YEO PECK SUAN
(No. K/P: 60522-66-5018) ...Pempetisyen

DAN

LIM CHIN TEONG
(No. K/P: 63109-02-5039) ... Responden

NOTIS PENYAMPILAN GANTI

Kepada:

LIM CHIN TEONG
388-A-1 WAYTON COURT
JALAN BUKAN
10350 GEORGETOWN
PULAU PINANG

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Nota Perbicaraan dan Aduan Sokongan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah Tinggi Pulau Pinang oleh YEO PECK SUAN (No. K/P: 60522-66-5018) yang mempunyai alamat di 2-13-11 The Summer Place, Jalan Sungai Pinang 5, Bandar Sri Pinang, 11600 Jelutong, Pulau Pinang dan Mahkamah telah memintakan kamu dengan mengemukakan dokumen-dokumen tersebut kepada kamu dengan mengemukakan salinan-salinannya sebagai satu salinan yang dimeterai bagi perintah untuk penyampaian ganti ("dokumen-dokumen tersebut") di alamat terakhir Responden yang diketahui di 388-1 Wayton Court, Jalan BUKAN, 10350 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang dan pada papan kenyataan Mahkamah Tinggi Pulau Pinang dan dengan mengemukakan Nota ini sekali dalam akhbar tempatan "The Sun" dan bahawa pampanan dan pengiklanan sedemikian diwajibkan sebagai pampanan yang wajar dan mencukupi akan dokumen-dokumen tersebut ke atas kamu selaras dengan perintah tajuk (7) hari daripada perubahan terakhir pampanan dan pengiklanan tersebut.

DAN AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa tarikh pengumuman Saman Pemula (Ex-Parte) tersebut secara e-review dibenarkan Pengadun Kanan Pendaftar di Mahkamah Tinggi Pulau Pinang pada 16.12.2024 pada pukul 8.00 pagi.

Jika kamu bersetia untuk menentang dan/atau membatalkan, kamu mestilah datang masa empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh pampanan dan pengiklanan tersebut menjadi sempurna, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk memasukkan kehadiran di Mahkamah ini. Jika tidak suatu perintah boleh dikeluarkan terhadap kamu.

Petisyen Perbicaraan tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu dengan membuat permohonan kepada Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 16.12.24

.....
Pegambrola & Peguamcara
Mahkamah Tinggi
Pulau Pinang

NOTIS PENYAMPILAN GANTI

ini disediakan dan diiklan oleh Tetian Chow Tai Sang & Low, Peguambrola dan Peguamcara yang beralamat di No. 30, Jalan Jones, 10250 Pulau Pinang, Peguambrola bagi Pempetisyen yang dimajukan di atas.

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Feeble England blown away

Batting collapse puts visitors on the back foot against New Zealand

PACE bowler Will O'Rourke ripped out three key wickets as England crumbled to 143 all out yesterday and leave New Zealand in command of the third Test in Hamilton.

The tourists lost their last eight wickets for 66 runs to trail by 204 runs in response to the home side's first-innings 347.

New Zealand chose not to enforce the follow-on.

O'Rourke (3-33) ignited the rout, prising out the ICC ranked first and second-best Test batters - Harry Brook and Joe Root - in a ferocious post-lunch spell.

It handed New Zealand a rare position of ascendancy in a series they have already lost following heavy defeats in Christchurch and Wellington.

Seamer Matthew Potts said the efforts of captain Ben Stokes were an inspiration to the England team on the first day of the third Test against New Zealand.

All-rounder Stokes bowled 23 overs in Hamilton, his most in an innings since the

summer of 2022.

The skipper took one wicket as New Zealand were pegged back from 105-0 to 315-9.

"He can be really proud of his efforts," Potts told *BBC Sport*. "He leads the team by example."

"He probably won't want to take the credit, but when we see him doing special things like that, it motivates you to put in that extra 1% for the team."

Stokes, 33, has had his bowling curtailed by injuries in recent years. Last year he had surgery on a long-term left knee problem and, just as he returned to full fitness, suffered a hamstring injury in August.

In the three-Test series in New Zealand, which England have an unassailable 2-0 lead, Stokes has been able to play a full role as a fourth seamer.

His spell in Hamilton equals the 23 overs he bowled in the first innings of the second Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge more than two years ago.

"Massive plaudits to the skipper," said

Durham teammate Potts. "He bowled three long spells there and one of them was eight overs of bouncers."

Potts returned to the England side for his first appearance of the tour in place of Chris Woakes.

Potts, 26, has been in and out of the side since making his debut in 2022. This is his 10th cap and second of the winter.

He claimed 3-75, including having Kane Williamson play on to his own stumps for 44. Potts has now dismissed the Kiwi talisman four times in the five innings he has bowled to him.

Asked if it is frustrating having to wait for opportunities in the England side, Potts said: "I wouldn't say it's frustrating, no. I enjoy every single moment being part of this squad. There's always jobs I can be doing, helping out."

"The competition for places is really high and that's a great thing from the team stand point. These things happen. You travel around a little bit and don't play, then you get an opportunity." - AFP/Agencies

BRIEFS

Nabi takes Afghanistan to victory

VETERAN Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi scored seven off three balls in the final over at Harare Sports Club to deliver a three-wicket Twenty20 win over Zimbabwe on Saturday, and a 2-1 series victory. Nabi struck a four off the first ball, followed by a two and a single in a tense finish as the tourists followed up a 50-run triumph on Friday. Nabi finished unbeaten on 24 - the second best Afghan batter after another all-rounder, Azmatullah Omarzai, who made 34 after taking two wickets. Zimbabwe posted 127 in 19.5 overs and Afghanistan 128-7 with three balls to spare as they won a sixth consecutive T20 series against the southern African nation. "In the middle of our innings we lost some wickets cheaply which put pressure on us," Nabi told reporters. "But I managed to control my nerves and that gave me the confidence to go on and score the series-winning runs. Next up is the one-day international series and this wicket is not easy to judge. The pitch for the first two games was better - today it was up and down."

Amir retires from international cricket

PAKISTAN fast bowler Mohammad Amir on Saturday announced his retirement from international cricket, ending a controversial career which saw him jailed on spot-fixing charges. The 32-year-old came out of retirement earlier this year to play in the Twenty20 World Cup in the United States and West Indies. "After careful consideration I have taken the difficult decision to retire from international cricket," Amir said in a post on X. "These decisions are never easy, but are inevitable. I feel this is the right time for the next generation to take the baton and elevate Pakistan cricket to new heights." He retired from all forms of international cricket in December 2021 after being dropped from a tour of New Zealand, but continued to feature in franchise T20 leagues across the world. Amir is currently playing in a T10 league in Sri Lanka.

Lee wins promotions

CHIEF-PO LEE won the 36-hole LIV Golf Promotions event in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday, cementing his spot on the league roster in 2025. Lee, who also goes by the English name Max Lee, mixed nine birdies and two bogeys in the opening round with five birdies and two bogeys in the second to finish 10-under-par for the event. Lee, 30, will be the first player from Chinese Taipei to compete fulltime in the LIV Golf league. Lee said he hoped his win would inspire other golfers in Chinese Taipei. "It means a lot for our players," Lee said. "LIV Golf, I think it's many players' dream. I go there and they will come." He topped fellow Asian Tour player Taichi Kho and Brandon Grace, who was relegated by LIV Golf after his 2024 performance, by two strokes.

Kinkult lead at Leopard Creek

SWEDEN'S Marcus Kinkult remained in the lead at the DP World Tour's Alfred Dunhill Golf Championship and will take a two-shot advantage into Sunday's final round at the Leopard Creek Golf Club. The 28-year-old Kinkult was three shots ahead after Friday's second round and while his lead was cut by one, a 69 in the third round saw him to a 14-under-par total of 202. He had three bogeys but also hit six birdies in a topsy-turvy round. South African Ryan van Velzen moved into second place after hitting an eagle and five birdies in a blemish-free 65. Darius van Driel of the Netherlands is third with an 11-under-par total of 205.

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI GEORGETOWN
DALAM NEGERI PULAU PINANG, MALAYSIA
DALAM PENKARA KESUKRAPAN
NO. PA-28/2024-32-31/2024

ANTARA

Per: 1) LEONG CHUN KEE
(NO. KP: 752022-07-5151)
2) LEONG POH LIN
(NO. KP: 820508-08-5492)
... PENGIHUTANG-PENGIHUTANG
PENGAJIKAN

DAN

Ex parte:
IVORY PROPERTIES GROUP BERHAD
(NO. STRABIKAT: 673211-M)
... PEMUTANGAN PENGAJIKAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI

Kepada:
LEONG CHUN KEE
NO. 60, JALAN PENKALAN BARAT 18
TAMAN PENKALAN BARAT
31650 IPOH
PERAK

LEONG POH LIN
NO. 38, JALAN DAMAI PERDANA 2/5
BANDAR DAMAI PERDANA
CHERAS
56000 KUALA LUMPUR
WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Petyaian Pemutangan dan Pengiklanan Kebenaran Pernyataan Dalam Petyaian telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah Tinggi Pulau Pinang oleh IVORY PROPERTIES GROUP BERHAD (SYKRAKAT : 673211-M) yang mempunyai alamat di Ivory Tower @ Penang Times Square, 61-1-1, Jalan Dato Keramat, 10150 George Town, Penang dan Mahkamah telah membolehkan supaya Petyaian Pemutangan tersebut disampaikan kepada kamu dengan menampal salinan-salinannya beserta satu salinan yang ditandatangani oleh pegawai penyampaian ganti ("dokumen-dokumen tersebut") di alamat terakhir Penghujung Penghiklanan Pertama yang diketahui di No. 60, Jalan Penkalan Barat 18, Taman Penkalan Barat, 31650 Ipoh, Perak, alamat terakhir Penghujung Penghiklanan Kedua yang diketahui di No. 38, Jalan Damai Perdana 2/5, Bandar Damai Perdana, Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan dan pada papan kenyataan Mahkamah Tinggi Pulau Pinang dan dengan mengiklankan Notis ini sekali dalam akaar tempat "The Sun Daily" dan bahawa penyampaian dan pengiklanan sedemikian dianggap sebagai penyampaian yang wajar dan mencukupi akan dokumen-dokumen tersebut ke atas kamu selajupa tamat tempoh tujuh (7) hari daripada perbuatan terakhir penyampaian dan pengiklanan tersebut.

DAN AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa tarikh penguasaan Petyaian Pemutangan tersebut secara rasmi diadukan Penolong Kanan Pendaftar di Mahkamah Tinggi Pulau Pinang (Bahagian Kebekkrapan) pada 23.12.2024 pada pukul 9.00 pagi.

Jika kamu bersetia untuk menentang dan/atau membela diri, kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh penyampaian dan pengiklanan tersebut menjadi sempurna, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk memusnahkan salinan-salinan di Mahkamah ini. Jika tidak suatu Pengiklanan tersebut dikeluarkan terhadap kamu.

Petyaian Pemutangan tersebut boleh diperkasa oleh kamu dengan melalui permohonan kepada Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikah pada
.....
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi
Pulau Pinang

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI ini disediakan dan ditalkan oleh Titian Chow Tat Seng & Low, Peguambela dan Peguamcara yang beralamat peneraannya di No. 30, Jalan Jones, 10250 Pulau Pinang, Penguasaan bagi Pemidang Pengiklanan yang dinamakan di atas.

Australia's Head blazes century

TRAVIS HEAD (pic) blasted a brilliant 103 not out and Steve Smith made an unbeaten half-century to propel Australia to 234-3 at tea on the second day of the third Test against India yesterday.

After all but 13.2 overs of the first day were washed out on Saturday in Brisbane, Head and Smith batted through the middle session to put Australia firmly in charge with their unbeaten 159-run partnership.

Smith, after struggling for much of his innings, reached 65 for his first half-century since he made 91 not out against the West Indies in January, again at the Gabba.

Head was simply superb and took the attack right up to the Indians, who had troubled all the other Australian batsmen in the hot and humid conditions.

The Indian attack bowled a lot straighter than they did in Adelaide - where he hit a sparkling 140 in a big Australia win - but he was watchful early and punished any loose deliveries.

As his scoring rate increased, the Indian bowlers began to flounder and Head took full advantage, smashing 13 fours and taking just 115 deliveries on



his way to his ninth Test century.

He was particularly harsh on recalled spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who bowled nine fruitless overs for 35 runs.

Australia resumed the day at 28-0 and lost the wickets of Usman Khawaja, Nathan McSweeney and Marnus Labuschagne in the extended first session.

The Indian bowlers, who were wasteful in their brief outing on Saturday, were much tighter yesterday.

Khawaja has been struggling for runs at the top of the order and he had a torrid time playing and missing at the dangerous Jasprit Bumrah.

He added just two to his overnight 19 before Bumrah finally drew the faintest of edges through to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant to leave Australia 31-1.

The five-match series is level at 1-1. - AFP

Tavatanakit, Knapp double their lead in Naples

PATTY TAVATANAKIT of Thailand and Jake Knapp recorded seven birdies to extend their lead under windy and wet conditions at the Grant Thornton Invitational on Saturday at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Fla.

The mixed team event featuring PGA and LPGA Tour stars employs three different formats over three rounds. In Saturday's foursomes format - where each player alternates hitting shots with the same ball and the players alternate teeing off - Tavatanakit and Knapp started things off with birdies on two of their first three holes in putting together a 6-under-par 66, a score good enough to double their one-shot lead on the field from Friday.

The team is finding a rare synergy

so far, and that stems from similar approaches to the game of golf.

"It's kind of fun that we both have similar strategies or similar issues on some courses and stuff like that," Knapp said. "I feel like we just see eye to eye on a lot of different things."

After birdies on 1 and 3, the duo suffered their only bogey of the day on the par-4 No. 4, then rebounded to hit birdies on three of four holes (7, 8, 10). They closed their day with birdies on 16 and 17 and now sit at 20 under for the event.

Thailand's Jeeno Thitikul and South Korea's Tom Kim had by far the best round of the day to vault into second place at 18 under. Previously in sixth, the pair managed nine birdies against a single bogey to score an 8-

under 64.

"We really had fun today," Thitikul said. "When I want to play a team format, I am really, really serious about picking the partner."

"Alternate shot is a very, very tricky format," Kim said. "You can go low as we did today but also can go the other way, too. You just have to - you've just got to rely on putting your partner in a good spot."

New Zealand's Lydia Ko and Australia's Jason Day, who won last year's event, are in fourth place (15 under) after their 5-under 67.

The other duos tied for fifth are Andrea Lee and Max Greyserman (66) and France's Celine Boutier and Matthieu Pavon (67). - Field Level Media

Sheffield Utd beat Plymouth as Championship rivals Leeds draw

SHEFFIELD UNITED extended their lead at the top of the Championship on Saturday with a hard-fought 2-0 win over Wayne Rooney's struggling Plymouth as Leeds dropped points.

Chris Wilder's side took the lead in the 19th minute via a brilliant volley by Gustavo Hamer and Kieffer Moore converted a late penalty.

"Plymouth were undoubtedly the better side in the first half. They moved us about, pressed us better and had the better chances," said Sheffield United boss Wilder.

"Our quality wasn't very good and we kept giving the ball away cheaply. No excuses, we weren't great in that first half.

"We felt a lot more comfortable in the second half. There wasn't any complacency or arrogance from us – I feel we had the better moments without being totally over the line until we got the penalty."

The Blades are three points clear of Leeds, who had earlier struck a stoppage-time equaliser to draw 1-1 at Preston.

Brad Potts put Preston ahead in the first half but Leeds' pressure eventually told when Mateo Joseph went to turn in a low cross, with the final touch coming off Preston defender Jack Whatmough for an own goal in the 93rd minute.

"To score the goal in added time, also in this way, after we took so much risk and made so many changes in the game feels like a valuable and priceless point, especially in an away game," said Leeds boss Daniel Farke.

"It's a good point on the board in a tough place. I think Preston defended really well."

Sunderland fought back from 2-0 down to win 3-2 at Swansea to go third, with Jobe Bellingham completing the turnaround.

Blackburn kept themselves in the playoff chase with a 2-0 win over Luton, who ended the game with 10 men.

Neil Harris's final match as Millwall manager end with a 1-0 defeat at Middlesbrough, who are up to sixth after an early goal from Emmanuel Latte Lath.

QPR's recovery continued with a 1-1 draw at Bristol City while Frank Lampard's Coventry side come from behind to beat Hull 2-1.

Stoke drew 2-2 against Cardiff and Sheffield Wednesday fought back to win 3-1 at Oxford. – AFP

Atalanta maintain league lead

... as Juventus held by lowly Venezia

ATALANTA'S bid for a first Serie A title continued on Saturday with a club-record 10th straight league win, 1-0 at Cagliari, as Dusan Vlahovic saved Juventus with a last-gasp penalty in a 2-2 draw with bottom club Venezia.

Nicolo Zaniolo made sure Atalanta stayed top of Serie A this weekend with the goal which decided a hard-fought encounter in Sardinia, the Italy international forward stroking home the winner from Raoul Bellanova's cut-back in the 66th minute.

Atalanta, guided by veteran coach Gian Piero Gasperini, have emerged as genuine Scudetto challengers for the first time in their history and stay two points clear at the top of the league with closest challengers Napoli on their heels following a 3-1 win at Udinese.

Napoli are four points ahead of Lazio and third-placed Inter.

"I said after we lost to Lazio (last weekend) that we're on the right track," said Conte to DAZN.

"The team needs to keep playing this kind of football, dictate the game, keep the ball and press

when we don't have it."

Gasperini was not happy with his players' performances as, after impressing in Tuesday's 3-2 defeat to Real Madrid, they struggled against Cagliari who are 15th and only two points above the relegation zone.

Atalanta, who also struck the post through Ademola Lookman almost straight after Zaniolo's winner, only came away with all three points thanks to a brilliant performance between the sticks from Marco Carnesecchi who made at least six great saves including one from Leonardo Pavoletti in stoppage time.

"A good chunk of this team, not everyone, needs to grow up a bit and get the same mentality as the core group of the squad," said Gasperini, whose decision to make three substitutions at half-time was a sign of his dissatisfaction.

Zaniolo's strike was his third of the season and a

further sign of new life after a difficult last few years, but Gasperini later criticised him for being booked while celebrating his goal, calling "intolerable" him whipping his shirt as it fired up the home crowd.

"We cannot afford that every time he scores a goal he fires up the crowd and turns our advantage into a disadvantage... it's already the second time that he's done it," Gasperini told reporters.

Juventus are nine points behind Atalanta in sixth. Juve avoided a first league defeat of the season but a draw does nothing for Thiago Motta's team who look miles behind Atalanta not just in points but also in play.

"When we play teams that leave us space we can attack well but when we play against teams that leave little space we have problems like you saw tonight," said Motta.

"We can't stay where we are because we have the quality to be higher at the table." – AFP



TWO goals from Jae-sung Lee lifted Mainz to a shock 2-1 home win over Bayern Munich on Saturday, handing coach Vincent Kompany his first league loss.

Lee scored in each half against an uncharacteristically poor Bayern, who are now just four points clear after Bayer Leverkusen's 2-0 win at Augsburg.

"We played against a team with a lot of life and spirit and who was prepared to fight for every moment. Today we weren't at our best," Kompany said.

"We'll use the defeat today to build fire into the game on Friday (at home to RB Leipzig) because that's

the only way we can provide an answer."

Injuries meant Kompany was unable to call on several first team regulars including Harry Kane, Manuel Neuer, Alphonso Davies, Kingsley Coman, Serge Gnabry and Joao Palhinha.

Kane's absence was particularly telling in the first half, with the league leaders dominating possession but unable to convert any of their half chances into a goal.

Mainz boasted a better-than-expected home record against the German giants, having won three of their past four home league games over Bayern.

Union Berlin drew 1-1 at home against last-placed Bochum in a game suspended by around half an hour after the visiting goalkeeper Patrick Drewes was hit by an object thrown from the crowd.

Drewes was hit by what appeared to be a cigarette lighter, with the referee ordering the players off the pitch.

When they returned, both sides kicked the ball between themselves until the clock wound down, apparently in agreement not to attack after the incident.

Bochum striker Philipp Hofmann, who replaced Drewes between the sticks, said the incident was "a shame

on an otherwise likeable club".

Bochum have launched an appeal to be awarded three points after match.

In Saturday's late game, goals from Derrick Koehn and Marvin Ducksch took Werder Bremen to a 2-0 win at St Pauli, taking them up to seventh in the table.

A double from Alassane Plea and goals to Robin Hack and Tim Kleindienst took Borussia Monchengladbach to a 4-1 win over Holstein Kiel.

Gladbach have now lost just one of their past eight league games while Kiel, playing their first season in the top flight, sit second last. – AFP

BRIEFS

Rayo block Real from topping La Liga

RAYO VALLECANO prevented Real Madrid from taking provisional control of La Liga by holding the European champions to a pulsating 3-3 draw yesterday. Rayo, on the back of a win last time out, stunned the visiting giants when Unai Lopez headed in Jorge de Frutos's pin-perfect cross with the game only four minutes old. That unexpected scoreline only lasted three minutes as Fede Valverde pulled one back for Real with a tremendous 25-yard strike for his fourth goal of the season. Just as Rayo might have been thinking of going into the break in the lead, Jude Bellingham bagged the leveller in the first minute of first half stoppage time. Real's next

assignment is on Wednesday, in the Intercontinental Cup final in Qatar against Mexican side Pachuca with Mbappe set to be on the plane to Doha.

Pachuca set up Madrid Cup final

MEXICAN side Pachuca won the Fifa Challenger Cup match on penalties in Qatar on Saturday by edging Egyptian side Al Ahly 6-5 after a dour goalless draw following extra time and will face Real Madrid in next week's Intercontinental Cup final. Pachuca won the shootout after missing their first two penalties to become only the second Concacaf team to reach the final of the competition against European champions Real, which takes place at the Lusail Stadium on Wednesday. It is the Mexican side's fifth

appearance at a Fifa competition. Their best performance came at the 2017 Club World Cup when they finished third. Champions League holders Real are the most prolific Intercontinental Cup winners with five titles. Last year's trophy went to Manchester City.

Marseille, Monaco drop points

THE three Ligue 1 teams jostling behind leaders Paris Saint-Germain all dropped points yesterday on a day of draws. Marseille and Lille cancelled each other out, 1-1, at the Velodrome. Marseille remained second, on goal difference, when third-place Monaco drew 0-0 at Reims in the late game. The pair are four points behind PSG and three ahead of Lille. Lens moved up to sixth after coming from behind twice to draw 2-2 at Auxerre.

Enrique having 'best season' of his career

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN coach Luis Enrique insisted Saturday the statistics indicate "the best season" of his career as he brushed aside talk of tensions with some of his players. "Statistically, it's my best as a coach. Even if you (the media) criticise, that there are lies invented, it's my best in terms of numbers, chances generated by us, by the opponents, it's the best," the Spaniard said. "I look at everything the team does, the players, and we don't depend on any particular player, only on the team. And I see that the level of training is rising, that the players are getting better every day," he said. PSG play Monaco in Ligue 1 next Wednesday followed by a French Cup tie against Lens on Dec 22.

Arteta praises 'unbelievable' Arsenal

MIKEL ARTETA praised his "unbelievable" Arsenal team despite the frustration of a 0-0 draw against Everton on a day when Premier League leaders Liverpool dropped points.

A week after they failed to win at Fulham, Arsenal could again manage just one point as Sean Dyche's side held on for a goalless draw at the Emirates on Saturday.

Mikel Arteta's side remain six points behind Liverpool having played a game more, with the 10-

... but bemoans a lack of an end product in stalemate

man Reds twice coming from behind in a 2-2 draw at Anfield.

Arsenal enjoyed 76 percent of possession and a total of 13 shots, but could not find the breakthrough against an Everton side that defended resolutely and had only two shots in the entire game.

Arteta admitted the magic was missing as Arsenal missed a golden opportunity to edge closer to Liverpool at the summit of the Premier League following a "very disappointing" goalless draw with Everton. "We're very disappointed not to win the game because if there was a team obviously that deserved to win it that was Arsenal," said Arteta.

"We did everything that was necessary overall apart from the fact that we didn't score a goal. We conceded absolutely nothing, dominated all the direct play, didn't allow them to run and conceded no set pieces.

"But we go there in so many occasions, we created three or four

big chances, didn't score from there... at the end you want to be rewarded for what you've done and the difficulty is that we haven't tonight.

"It's all the moments that we need to have a little more composure and more quality in those moments, that's normal. That's it.

"Tracking back? Unbelievable. Putting in the high press? Unbelievable. Dominating a lot of things? Unbelievable, but the disappointing thing is that you want to come away winning after what you've done on the pitch."

Asked if he was concerned by the lack of goals from open play in the Premier League, Arteta replied: "In the Premier League. We scored three (in the Champions League against Monaco) from open play three days ago.

"It won't continue. We will score goals. If we have the chances like we had today again, I am sure we will score. The problem is that we didn't."



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka (below) in action with Everton's Vitaliy Mykolenko. - REUTERS/SPIC

Forest fightback sinks Villa

NUNO ESPIRITO SANTO saluted Nottingham Forest's "heart" and "desire" after they climbed to fourth place in the Premier League with a stirring fightback to beat Aston Villa 2-1 on Saturday.

With just three minutes left at the City Ground, Forest were trailing to Jhon Duran's 63rd minute header for top-four rivals Villa.

But Nuno's team levelled with three minutes left when Nikola Milenkovic's header crept past Emiliano Martinez's weak attempted save.

And Anthony Elanga's composed close-range finish in stoppage-time sealed Forest's third victory in their last four games.

"It is a huge moment. After the team went down, the reaction was good. This match was incredible. The players gave everything and had a desire to go beyond football," Nuno said.

"The ending was amazing, the belief and the desire. I was not calm. I was nervous as hell.

"It's not football anymore. It's about belief. It's about bouncing back from a

hard moment and go again when you are not full of energy but you have the heart."

They are the only team to beat leaders Liverpool in the Premier League this season and sixth-placed Villa were no match for the spirited group put together by former Tottenham boss Nuno.

The former European champions might not be back to the glory days of Brian Clough's reign just yet, but Nuno urged them to soak up their time near the top.

"We try and try every day to build something nice that we can identify with the club, the city," he said.

"It is an important moment that we feel when things go against you and you react, that is what I appreciate the most.

"I think it is about enjoying. We are working very hard. We are working with clear plans of improvement and build the team.

"We are competing with all the clubs. Our way is about organisation and belief. It is about taking advantage of the moment we have." - AFP

Arteta was also forced to defend his surprising decision to withdraw captain Martin Odegaard shortly after the hour mark. Arsenal's hot prospect, Ethan Nwaneri, 17, replaced the club's most creative player, but he could not unlock an Everton backline which has kept four clean sheets from their last five outings.

"If Ethan comes on and he scores a goal, it's a great sub, but if he doesn't, you have taken your captain out, and that's football," said Arteta.

At the other end of the table, Everton have lost just one of their five matches, and a delighted Dyche said: "It is highly unlikely that you come here and dominate the ball, so what you do without the ball is important, and we were excellent at that today. I am very pleased with how we performed." - AFP/The Independent

TOTO SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 5897/2024 DATE: 15/12/2024 (SUN)
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19691000990 (84208)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	2531
2nd Prize	2766
3rd Prize	5259

Special		Consolation	
1903	2030	8566	3684
1337	0992	4635	9430
5812	6204	3879	3426
9467	5952	2712	7387
1848	7721	9234	7358

4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 **RM 4,423,486.74**

2531	2766	2766	2531
2531	5259	5259	2531
2766	5259	5259	2766

Jackpot 2 **RM 149,393.97**
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	2531	+	
2nd Prize	2766	+	
3rd Prize	5259	+	GOAT
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	+	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D

1ST	0 9 4 4 7
2ND	4 9 0 2 9
3RD	3 3 8 5 8
4TH	9 4 4 7
5TH	4 4 7
6TH	4 7

6D

1ST	2 1 7 7 6 9
2ND	2 1 7 7 6 or 1 7 7 6 9
3RD	2 1 7 7 or 7 7 6 9
4TH	2 1 7 or 7 6 9
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Draw Date: 15/12/24 (Sun) Draw No: 5844/24 Venue: PERAK TURF CLUB

1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	8216
2nd Prize	0399
3rd Prize	8384

Starters	Consolation
2807 4874	4944 7527
6510 6602	1946 2480
5476 3447	8683 3124
1119 0564	5878 5759
9874 7087	1271 5829

1+3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM3,591,166.40**

8216 + 0399	0399 + 8216
8216 + 8384	8384 + 8216
0399 + 8384	8384 + 0399

Jackpot 2 **RM275,086.00**
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
428 216 +	RABBIT	RM1,011,146.80
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
630 399 +	DRAGON	RM1,075,532.30
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
508 384 +	SNAKE	RM1,616,188.40

Starters	Consolation
382 807 244 874	264 944 627 527
566 510 826 602	241 946 312 480
875 476 333 447	138 683 873 124
821 119 960 564	195 878 955 759
559 874 017 087	171 271 925 829

3D

1st Prize	216
2nd Prize	399
3rd Prize	384

3D Jackpot

Jackpot **RM805,681.30**

216 + 399 + 384	399 + 384 + 216
216 + 384 + 399	384 + 216 + 399
399 + 216 + 384	384 + 399 + 216

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Vicente upbeat despite loss

MALYSIAN national football coach Pau Marti Vicente is optimistic that his team can still advance to the semi-finals of the 2024 ASEAN Championship despite a narrow 1-0 Group A loss to Thailand on Saturday.

Vicente expressed pride in his players' performance, especially as they were playing away against the defending champions of the tournament.

"We didn't deserve tonight's result, but this is football. We defended and attacked quite well, but a single goalkeeper error was punished by our opponents," he said during the post-match press conference.

The coach emphasised that mistakes are part and parcel of the game and refrained from blaming goalkeeper Muhammad Haziq Nadzli for the costly error.

"We're all humans and mistakes happen. Unfortunately, a goalkeeper's error often leads to a goal, whereas errors in other positions may go unpunished. We need to support Haziq to ensure he doesn't dwell on this and is ready for the next match," Vicente added.

Looking ahead, Vicente said his team still have a chance to qualify (for the last four) if they deliver a strong performance and beat Singapore in their final group match at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil on Dec 20.

Malaysia suffered their first defeat of the tournament in their third Group A match at the Rajamangala National Stadium.

Thai forward Patrik Gustavsson netted the decisive goal in the 57th minute after a misplaced pass by Haziq.

Meanwhile, Thailand head coach Masatada Ishii was pleased with his team's hard-fought victory.

"Tactically, we didn't play as well as we could, especially in attack. I hope the players will improve in the next game," Ishii said.

Thailand's attacking midfielder, Suphanat Mueanta was named the Man of the Match after providing the assist for the only goal of the match.

Malaysia have four points from three outings to be placed third in the five-team Group A standings, behind Thailand and Singapore, who both have six points from two matches. - Bernama

Fearless Tang Jie-Ee Wei

National pair go down fighting in mixed doubles title showdown

NATIONAL mixed doubles pair Chen Tang Jie-Toh Ee Wei can hold their heads up high after going down fighting 18-21, 21-14, 17-21 to China's Zheng Si Wei-Huang Ya Qiong in the title showdown of the 2024 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals in Hangzhou, China yesterday.

The Malaysian pair deserve praise for showing no fear against the 2024 Paris Olympic gold medalists, stretching the Chinese pair to a rubber game before succumbing after a fierce 75-minute battle at the Hangzhou Olympic Gymnasium.

As runners-up, Tang Jie-Ee Wei pocketed US\$100,000 (RM445,089) while champions Si Wei-Ya Qiong took home US\$210,000 (RM934,688).

Tang Jie and Ee Wei hope this (runner-up finish) will spur them to taste success at the World Tour Finals one day.

"It's a breakthrough. Although we did not win the final, I think it's a positive sign for our future. I hope we can take our game to a higher level," Ee Wei said in an audio clip shared by BWF.

Tang Jie described it as a memorable moment as they got to share the stage one last time with the China pair following Siwei's recent announcement about calling it a day.

"I think it's a special memory for us also. Because, as we all know, they are legends. We are really happy and proud that their last match was against us," he said.

In the men's doubles Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani failed to end Malaysia's wait for a maiden World Tour Finals (WTF) crown in Hangzhou yesterday.

World No. 7 Sze Fei-Izzuddin were beaten 21-17, 17-21, 21-11 by world No. 3 Kim Astrup-Anders Skaarup Rasmussen of Denmark in 65 minutes.

The Malaysian independent pair had also lost to the Danes in the group stage and currently trail 8-3 in their head-to-head record.

Sze Fei-Izzuddin had to settle for the runners-up prize of US\$100,000 (RM445,000) while Astrup-Rasmussen won US\$210,000. - Bernama

TFC gear up for decisive semis berth despite two-goal lead

A two-goal cushion from their 2-0 victory over Negeri Sembilan FC (NSFC) yesterday isn't enough for the Terengganu FC (TFC) to book their Malaysia Cup semifinal ticket just yet, insists 'Turtles' squad head coach Badrul Afzan Razali.

Determined to keep their momentum, Badrul has called on his players to deliver another solid performance and stay sharp for the full 90 minutes in the decisive second-leg showdown against the 'Jang' squad at the Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium in Kuala Terengganu on Dec 21.

"Having a two-goal lead doesn't mean we'll park the bus at Gong Badak (Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium). We'll keep pressing forward and play attacking football. I hope the players can add to the scoreline. "There's still 90

minutes to play in Kuala Terengganu. We'll use this week to fine-tune every aspect of our game," he told reporters after yesterday's match.

Badrul also commended his team for their impressive display, including an early goal in the first half, despite grappling with the scorching weather that slightly disrupted their match tempo.

"The heat here was a challenge, but in Kuala Terengganu, I anticipate we'll be playing in the rain. With the two-goal advantage we're taking home, I hope it will fuel the players with even greater motivation," he said.

NSFC head coach K. Nanthakumar remained optimistic despite his team's struggles, noting they have yet to register a win at home this season, but stressed that they were not ready to throw in the towel.

"We go into every match aiming to win, but the results haven't gone our way so far. Nevertheless, we'll keep pushing for our next home fixture," he said. - Bernama



Terengganu FC's Muhammad Safawi Rasid celebrates after scoring a goal. - BERNAMAPIC

RESULTS & STANDINGS

2024 ASEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Group A: Thailand 1 Malaysia 0, Timor-Leste 0 Singapore 3.

MALAYSIA CUP (quarterfinals, 1st leg): Negeri Sembilan 0 Terengganu 2.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Arsenal 0 Everton 0, Liverpool 2 (Gakpo 47, Jota 86) Fulham 2 (Pereira 11, Muniz 76), Newcastle 4 (Murphy 30, 60, Guimaraes 47, Isak 50) Leicester 0, Wolves 1 (Cunha 72) Ipswich 2 (Doherty 15-og, Taylor 90+4), Nottingham Forest 2 (Milenkovic 87, Elanga 90+3) Aston Villa 1 (Duran 63).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	15	11	3	1	31	13	36
Chelsea	15	9	4	2	35	18	31
Arsenal	16	8	6	2	29	15	30
Nottm Forest	16	8	4	4	21	19	28
Man City	15	8	3	4	27	21	27
Aston Villa	16	7	4	5	24	25	25
Brighton	15	6	6	3	25	22	24
Bournemouth	15	7	3	5	23	20	24
Fulham	16	6	6	4	24	22	24
Brentford	15	7	2	6	31	28	23
Newcastle	16	6	5	5	23	21	23
Tottenham	15	6	2	7	31	19	20
Man Utd	15	5	4	6	19	18	19
West Ham	15	5	3	7	20	28	18
Everton	15	3	6	6	14	21	15
Leicester	16	3	5	8	21	34	14
Crystal Palace	15	2	7	6	14	20	13

Ipswich	16	2	6	8	16	28	12
Wolves	16	2	3	11	24	40	9
Southampton	15	1	2	12	11	31	5

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Bristol City 1 QPR 1, Coventry 2 Hull 1, Preston 1 Leeds 1, Blackburn 2 Luton 0, Middlesbrough 1 Millwall 0, Oxford 1 Sheff Wed 3, Sheffield Utd 2 Plymouth 0, Stoke 2 Cardiff 2, Swansea 2 Sunderland 3, Derby 4 Portsmouth 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	21	14	5	2	30	11	45
Leeds	21	12	6	3	37	15	42
Sunderland	21	11	7	3	32	17	40
Burnley	20	10	8	2	24	7	38
Blackburn	20	11	4	5	25	17	37
Mid'boro	21	10	4	7	35	25	34

LA LIGA: Espanyol 0 Osasuna 0, Mallorca 2 (Larin 20, 51) Girona 1 (Van de Beek 7), Sevilla 1 (Bueno 64) Celta Vigo 0, Rayo Vallecano 3 (Lopez 4, Munin 36, Palazon 64) Real Madrid 3 (Valverde 39, Bellingham 45, Rodrygo 56), Valladolid 1 (Tuhami 20) Valencia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	17	12	2	3	50	19	38
Real Madrid	17	11	4	2	37	16	37
Atletico	16	10	5	1	30	11	35
Bilbao	17	9	5	3	26	15	32
Mallorca	18	8	3	7	18	21	27
Villarreal	15	7	5	3	27	25	26

SERIE A: Cagliari 0 Atalanta 1 (Zaniolo 66), Juventus 2 (Gatti 19, Vlahovic 90+5-pen) Venezia

2 (Ellertsson 61, Idzes 83), Udinese 1 (Thauvin 22) Napoli 3 (Lukaku 50, Giannetti 76-og, Anguissa 81), Empoli 1 Torino 1 (Adams 70).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atalanta	16	12	1	3	39	17	37
Napoli	16	11	2	3	24	11	35
Inter Milan	14	9	4	1	34	15	31
Fiorentina	14	9	4	1	28	10	31
Lazio	15	10	1	4	30	17	31
Juventus	16	6	10	0	26	12	28

BUNDESLIGA: St Pauli 0 Werder Bremen 2, Augsburg 0 Bayer Leverkusen 2, Mainz 2 Bayern Munich 1, Borussia Moenchengladbach 4 Holstein Kiel 1, Union Berlin 1 VfL Bochum 1, Freiburg 3 Wolfsburg 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B.Munich	14	10	3	1	42	12	33
Leverkusen	14	8	5	1	32	20	29
Frankfurt	13	8	3	2	33	18	27
RB Leipzig	13	7	3	3	21	14	24
SC Freiburg	14	7	3	4	20	19	24
Mainz	14	6	4	4	25	19	22

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Marseille 1 Lille 1, Auxerre 2 Lens 2, Reims 0 Monaco 0, Toulouse 2 Saint-Etienne 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	14	10	4	0	37	11	34
Marseille	15	9	3	3	32	18	30
Monaco	15	9	3	3	24	12	30
Lille	15	7	6	2	25	15	27
Lyon	14	7	4	3	26	17	25
Lens	15	6	6	3	19	14	24

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4D Classic			
1st Prize	8430		
2nd Prize	6514		
3rd Prize	5689		
SPECIAL	1508	0607	CONSOLATION
5748	1508	0607	5712
4970	7593	2880	6063
4048	2707	9089	2237
7447	0240	4282	5741
7942	8502	9835	6230

4D Jackpot			
Jackpot 1	RM22,306,793.41		
WON			
8430 + 6514	8430 + 5689		
6514 + 8430	6514 + 5689		
5689 + 8430	5689 + 6514		

Jackpot 2 RM443,659.44			
PARTIALLY WON			
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.			

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Jackpot Gold									
Jackpot 1	RM11,560,648.67								
Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number									
Jackpot 2	RM175,041.18								
Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number									
GROUP 1	3 0 1 4 8 9								
GROUP 2	30148			OR			01489		
GROUP 3	3014			OR			1489		
GROUP 4	301			OR			489		
GROUP 5	30			OR			89		
OR 14									
GOLDEN NUMBER	14								

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FEARLESS...
 Malaysia's Chen Tang Jie (left) and Toh Ee Wei (2nd left) celebrate with their trophies after losing to China's Zheng Siwei (right) and Huang Yaqiong (2nd right) in the mixed doubles final at the BWF Badminton World Tour Finals. - AFP/ICC

Story on page 31

Frantic game at Anfield

Jota salvages point for 10-man Liverpool against Fulham

LIVERPOOL manager Arne Slot said he could not have asked for more from the Premier League leaders after they twice fought back with 10 men to salvage a 2-2 draw with Fulham on Saturday.

The home side were staring at just their second defeat in all competitions this season before the returning Diogo Jota rescued a point at Anfield.

Andreas Pereira put the visitors ahead early but the complexion of the contest changed dramatically soon afterwards when Liverpool defender Andy Robertson was sent off.

Slot's men came out strongly after halftime and were level in the 47th minute when Cody Gakpo headed home Mohamed Salah's inswinging cross.

Rodrigo Muniz appeared to have won the game for Fulham in the 76th

minute but the returning Jota, playing his first match since October, levelled 10 minutes later.

"I don't think I could have asked for more from my players, especially after going down to 10 men," Slot told *Sky Sports*.

"I couldn't have asked for more in terms of performance and results... At the start of the game, you always want to start intense.

"After 30 seconds, one of ours was on the floor and needed treatment for a while so we couldn't get the intensity more."

Slot has enjoyed a sensational start to his managerial reign at Anfield, with his side topping the Premier League and the Champions League.

But in their previous top-flight outing they conceded a late equaliser to draw 3-3 at Newcastle and they have now dropped more points.

Enzo Maresca's in-form Chelsea

will hope to take full advantage when they host Brentford, though Liverpool will have a game in hand at the end of the weekend.

Former Manchester United midfielder Pereira opened the scoring at the Kop end in the 11th minute, meeting Antonee Robinson's cross on the stretch to beat goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

Robertson had been culpable for the opener and his attempt to recover from a poor touch succeeded only in bringing down Harry Wilson, which referee Tony Harrington deemed to be a denial of a goalscoring opportunity.

Liverpool failed to get back on level terms in the first half despite their bold approach but two minutes into the second period they were level when Salah cut in from the right and curled a cross to the far post, with Gakpo producing a diving header for his seventh goal in 10 matches.

Salah drove wide in a four-on-two attack and that miss looked pivotal when substitute Muniz deflected in Robinson's cross in the 76th minute.

But after Harvey Elliott and Darwin Nunez had both sent efforts wide, Jota, who had only been on the pitch for a few minutes, proved his long injury lay-off had dulled none of his predatory instincts by beating Bernd Lenno from the middle of the penalty area.

Meanwhile, Slot apportioned no blame to Andy Robertson for his early red card against Fulham. In fact, the Dutchman said the Scotland leftback epitomised the team's fighting spirit having played on after a knee-high challenge from Issa Diop in the opening seconds which he felt compromised his ability.

"The character the team showed, that is what Robbo showed," said Slot.

"If you get a kick like this, two studs on a knee, that can hurt for a few minutes. If you keep running and it gets better and better, that is what we were hoping for.

"I only had one defender on the bench, who is not a left fullback, so you are hoping he was managing to come through it and did quite well.

"But the moment I noticed he wasn't completely himself was the one time they put the ball in behind and he started running and was just able to head back to Ali (Alisson Becker)."

"I felt 'Hmm, OK, let's see how this continues' and I think it was quite soon afterwards he conceded the red card.

"Nothing to blame him, the character showed in wanting to continue because he got quite a hard knock with two studs. Unfortunately, it led to a deserved red card." - AFP/Express Newspapers