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Health specialist suggests pharmacists play more active role in advising patients on proper storage of drugs and completing regimen.

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Putra Heights resident describes struggle to return to normal life after traumatic experience 'unlike anything ever faced'.



WASTE NOT ... Putra Heights and surrounding area residents receiving food initially meant for a Madani Aidilfitri event that was cancelled by the Selangor government out of respect to those affected by the recent gas pipeline blast. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

US tariff effect fears

Malaysians raise concerns over volatility of ringgit and potential impact on businesses and employment that may lead to increase in cost of living.

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page 2

Economists suggest ways to soften US tariff hike impact

► 'Malaysia should, among others, roll out subsidies for key imports and short-term price controls to curb inflation, cut reliance on America via trade deals with emerging markets'

BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia could soften the blow of the recent United States (US) tariff hike by rolling out subsidies for key imports and short-term price controls to shield households from inflation, say economists.

Universiti Teknologi Mara Academy of SME and Entrepreneurship Development coordinator Dr Mohamad Idham Md Razak said cutting reliance on US demand via fast-tracked trade deals with emerging markets in Asia and Africa could help bolster export resilience.

"Currency interventions and strategic import substitution would ease pressure on the ringgit and curb dependence on dollar-priced goods.

"Targeted investment in high value-added domestic industries would help reshape the economy and build long-term self-reliance," he told *theSun*.

Mohamad Idham said Bank Negara Malaysia might adopt a mix of monetary tightening and strategic forex management to weather current pressures.

He said gradual interest rate hikes could draw in portfolio inflows and help stabilise the

ringgit, but warned they must be implemented cautiously to avoid stifling domestic demand.

"Intervening in currency markets using reserves to manage sharp volatility could steady the exchange rate.

"Tailored credit support for affordable housing and key consumer goods could ease household burdens without triggering broad monetary expansion, striking a balance between inflation control and inclusive growth."

Mohamad Idham also said both businesses and consumers in Malaysia should adopt financial safeguards and agile strategies to navigate shifting trade landscapes.

He advised households to prioritise debt reduction and build emergency savings while shifting spending towards homegrown products less exposed to import-driven inflation.

"For SMEs, they could weather currency swings using hedging tools and forward contracts. Investing in automation and workforce upskilling would lift productivity and allow firms to enter resilient sectors such as renewable energy.

"Retraining programmes could help workers pivot into growth industries, minimising job losses. Trade agencies, in turn,

should help firms tap into less US-dependent markets such as Asean and the Middle East."

Global Labour Organisation Southeast Asia lead and economist Prof Dr Niaz Asadullah said the 24% US tariff could hit Malaysia's semiconductor sector hard, making local chips pricier and less competitive than those from Vietnam, Thailand and India.

"This could undermine Malaysia's standing in the global chip supply chain and stall momentum under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030.

"The US is Malaysia's third-largest export market. Weaker demand from American buyers may dampen manufacturing growth.

"SMEs tied to US contracts face higher costs and job cuts, while a fall in electrical and electronic exports could further drag down the ringgit and push up import prices."

Niaz said companies that had relocated from China to Malaysia to dodge US-China tariffs might now rethink their bets, potentially prompting global electronics firms to redirect supply chains elsewhere.

"Singapore, with its more favourable US trade terms, may snap up more electronics re-exports at Malaysia's expense."

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order slapping reciprocal tariffs on 49 countries, including Thailand (37%), Indonesia (32%), Brunei (24%) and the Philippines (18%), effective April 9.

Trump said the new *ad valorem* duties on imports from US trade partners would start at 10% from Saturday, climbing soon after to country-specific rates.

King grants audience to PM

KUALA LUMPUR: His Majesty the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim granted an audience to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Istana Negara yesterday.

A post on the Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar Facebook page said although Sunday is a rest day, the King continues to perform official duties at His Majesty's office in Istana Negara.

The post added that by 7am, His Majesty had granted an audience to senior officers of Istana Negara, before granting the audience to Anwar. – Bernama

'M'sia could help Asean face trade challenges'

KUALA LUMPUR: As the United States (US) moves to reshape global trade in its favour, Malaysia's 2025 Asean chairmanship will be pivotal in charting the bloc's next phase of economic growth, said Sunway University Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia head Prof Shandre Mugan Thangavelu.

He said Asean stands at a critical juncture to reinforce its commitment to shared growth, regional integration and sustainable development.

He warned that US-imposed reciprocal tariffs – averaging 34% across Asean countries – could prompt a shift towards bilateral negotiations, undermining regional unity.

"This directly challenges Asean centrality and the framework that underpins our regional and global integration.

"Asean centrality is the region's strength. Geo-economic statecraft has long been a cornerstone in managing geopolitical tensions and advancing shared prosperity."

Shandre said Malaysia must use its leadership role to reaffirm Asean's foundational principles and respond strategically to Trump's tariff-driven disruptions.

He added that a united Asean front is essential, particularly through multilateral trade platforms such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Asean Economic Community.

RCEP, the world's largest free trade pact, offers a rules-based framework to support sustainable growth in East Asia. Its flexible, evolving structure allows for the inclusion of pressing issues such as climate action, digitalisation, green transformation and smart urban development.

"The RCEP Secretariat will be vital in coordinating efforts and driving wider trade liberalisation, especially in future negotiations with the US."

He urged Asean to focus on frontier technologies – artificial intelligence, electric and autonomous vehicles, robotics and space tech – areas dominated by the US, where Asean can provide market access and scale.

"These technologies are redefining global value chains (GVC), offering opportunities for SMEs to integrate into both regional and global production networks."

He said Asean must help domestic firms reconfigure production structures to move into higher value-added activities and build more resilient supply chains.

He added that the region's next wave of growth would be powered by digital and green economies, which are also key to addressing the US-Asean trade imbalance.

Shandre said stronger regional cooperation is crucial to help firms adopt environmental, social and corporate governance practices and lower emissions across GVC, Bernama reported.

He also called for the rapid rollout of the Asean Digital Economy Framework and greater investment in upskilling the regional workforce to support this transformation.

Anxiety over economic impact of 24% rate increase

PETALING JAYA: The US tariff hike on Malaysian exports has ignited concerns among the people, with many fearing its long-term effects on businesses, employment and consumer costs.

As Malaysia contemplates the fallout from the tariff increase, the public is calling for a clear and strategic response.

When *theSun* reached out for reactions, the majority of those interviewed expressed anxiety over the potential economic impact.

Yuvanisha Suppiah, a final-year degree student and part-time forex trader, voiced concerns about the 24% tariff on Malaysia's electronics exports.

"Higher tariffs could reduce demand for local electronics such as semiconductors and solar panels, hurting manufacturers and potentially leading to job losses in the electrical and electronic sector."

As a trader, Yuvanisha is worried about the volatility of the ringgit against the US dollar.

She fears the tariff hike would weaken the ringgit further, raising import costs and increasing the cost of living for ordinary Malaysians.

"I'm closely monitoring the ringgit-dollar volatility. While it creates trading opportunities, the risks are high," she said, adding that fresh graduates might also face stiffer competition for jobs in affected industries.

Elvina Lucia, a 25-year-old paralegal, echoed the concerns, emphasising Malaysia's heavy reliance on exports, particularly electronics.

"If demand drops, it could hurt jobs and businesses here. The tariff hike would hit factory revenues, leading to layoffs and job losses, which could directly impact local families.

"If the ringgit weakens and import costs rise, we'll end up paying more for everyday items."

Civil servant Suhirley Arfiza Khalil, 51, highlighted the burden that rising costs would



If the ringgit weakens and import costs rise, Malaysians would end up paying more for everyday items.

– ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THE SUN

place on consumers.

"Even with higher wages, the cost of goods keeps climbing, making salary increases feel irrelevant. The tariff hike would strain household finances, pushing up prices for basic goods and services."

Suhirley suggested that the government

should focus on strengthening local industries through Technical and Vocational Education and Training-produced goods.

"We should harness the expertise and capabilities of our local talent, exporting goods globally and reducing reliance on imports."

– By QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI

Call for strategic solutions to prevent medicine wastage

► Careless disposal hurts environment and increases cost burden on govt: Expert

BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM
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PETALING JAYA: The startling revelation of vast amounts of unused medication has shaken the healthcare community, prompting urgent calls for a coordinated and strategic action plan from experts.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh highlighted the need to strengthen patient education, upgrade healthcare IT systems and empower pharmacists to take a more active role in addressing the issue.

"Patients must understand the importance of completing their treatment and the risks of improper use or storage, which can lead to complications or drug resistance," she told *theSun*.

Sharifa emphasised that pharmacists should play a bigger role in counselling patients, especially during discharge or when prescribed new medications.

The specialist advocated for expanding access to medication drop-off points beyond clinics and hospitals. She proposed setting them up in shopping malls, community pharmacies and even through mobile collection units.

Rather than punitive measures, she suggested incentivising treatment completion and implementing digital tracking systems to identify patterns of "over-prescribing" or "doctor-hopping."

She cited Australia's National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines programme as an example of success, noting the importance of government support and structured funding in driving change.

"Australia's model proves that with the right backing, change is possible. Malaysia has the framework, but we need a clear strategy and commitment."

Unused medication is not only



Participation in the MyMediSAFE initiative is low, despite collection boxes placed at return centres in 149 government hospitals and 739 private facilities. – ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN

wasteful but also presents a significant financial burden and environmental threat, said Sharifa and warned of the risks of improper disposal posed to wildlife and human health. She also said non-adherence to prescribed treatment is a troubling trend.

"The goal isn't for people to return their medications, but to complete their treatment as prescribed."

It was reported that Malaysia's Medication Return Programme (now MyMediSAFE), launched in 2010, aims to safely dispose of unused or expired medications, reducing environmental contamination and combating antimicrobial resistance.

The programme has return centres nationwide at 149 government hospitals and 739 private facilities.

Despite its availability, participation remains low, with many individuals unaware of the

programme or hesitant to return unused medications. Some mistakenly believe expired drugs are still usable, while others fear they may not receive replacements.

From 2015 to 2023, Malaysia spent RM23.25 billion on medicine procurement, underscoring the financial implications of unused medication.

Sharifa said improper disposal, such as flushing medications down toilets or throwing them in bins, further exacerbates environmental risks. Antibiotics entering rivers can disrupt ecosystems, wipe out species and contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

"A 2022 study by CHEM Trust (an NGO that works to protect humans and wildlife from harmful chemicals) revealed pharmaceutical waste in rivers worldwide is harming aquatic life. It not only impacts biodiversity but poses long-term risks

to human health," she said, adding that there are financial consequences to hoarding and improper discarding of medication.

Meanwhile, a study by a Malaysian teaching hospital revealed that over 11,000 units of unused medication worth RM13,594.90 were returned in a single year. Most of these were for cardiovascular, endocrine and musculoskeletal conditions.

Sharifa said if there is an estimated RM100 worth of waste per patient at the return centres, losses would amount to RM88,700 annually.

"That's just returned medicines. The actual loss is far greater." She also emphasised the human cost of non-adherence, which goes beyond wasted medication, adding that patients who fail to complete treatments often face severe health complications that may require expensive interventions later on.

New initiative to empower Indian entrepreneurs

KUALA LUMPUR: The Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Ministry has introduced a new initiative called Empowering Indian Entrepreneurs (EIP), aimed at helping Indian entrepreneurs enhance their business management skills.

Deputy Minister Datuk Seri R Ramanan said the maiden programme offers free business management training in collaboration with Tekun Nasional.

"It is part of the Madani government's commitment to support the community by ensuring

their businesses are managed effectively and sustainably," he said in a statement.

The training will be conducted in stages across the country, targeting Indian entrepreneurs who have received Tekun financing. The first session involving participants from Selangor and Kuala Lumpur is expected to be held soon.

"Among the topics are business and audit management, social media strategies and effective financial management. We want every loan to be used wisely so that more Indian entrepreneurs can

benefit from the programmes."

Ramanan, who is MP for Sungai Buloh, said Tekun Nasional has so far channelled RM8.22 million to over 355 entrepreneurs through the Indian Community Entrepreneur Financing Scheme (SPUMI) and SPUMI Goes Big.

He added that RM100 million has been allocated this year under SPUMI, which is the highest amount since the scheme was introduced in 2007.

Ramanan earlier announced the Vanigham Financing Scheme, a RM50 million initiative through SME

Bank, which is expected to benefit over 250 Indian entrepreneurs.

Other initiatives include the Bank Rakyat Indian Entrepreneur Financing-i and Indian Business Accelerator Programme which focuses on strengthening small businesses.

"In just three months, we've rolled out five initiatives worth RM235 million. It reflects the Madani government's commitment to uplift the socio-economic standing of the Indian community in an inclusive and meaningful way."

– Bernama

M'sia elected to Commission on Population and Development

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia has been elected to the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) for the 2026-2030 term during the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Meeting in New York on April 4, a statement from the Foreign Ministry said.

It said Malaysia's four-year term will commence at the 60th CPD Session in 2026 and conclude in 2030 at the end of the 63rd CPD Session.

"It reflects the international community's recognition of the country's active role in accelerating action towards the implementation of Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as its continued commitment to advance sustainable population policies that promote and safeguard the health and wellbeing of its people," the statement read.

In keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it said Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to working closely with the UN and all international partners to address population related issues through sharing of experiences and capacity building.

The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry plays a key role in supporting Malaysia's engagement in the CPD, particularly in advancing policies related to gender equality, family planning and social development, it added.

CPD is a subsidiary organ to the ECOSOC, which is composed of 47 members elected by the UN ECOSOC. – Bernama

Nibong Tebal MP to contest for chief position

GEORGE TOWN: Wanita PKR chief Fadhlina Sidek has offered to contest as the division head for Nibong Tebal.

The Nibong Tebal MP said the decision was driven by a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility towards party members, the Pakatan Harapan team and the people of Nibong Tebal who have worked tirelessly over the years to support her journey to Parliament.

"My colleagues and I are committing our hearts and energy. Our team, with the strength of diversity and the spirit of the PKR extended family, must embrace every strength we have, leading the commitment to strengthening the party through unity in diversity," she shared in a post on her official Facebook page.

Fadhlina is seeking the mandate of Nibong Tebal division members to allow her the opportunity to serve as the new division head.

PKR will hold its division, women's and youth wing elections from April 11 to April 20, and the Central Leadership Council, Women's Central Leadership and Central Youth Wing elections on May 24. – Bernama



Lingering **fear** and **trauma** for Putra Heights community

► Residents share emotional toll of tragedy as they face journey to rebuild and heal

BY **KIRTINEE RAMESH**
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PETALING JAYA: The recent tragedy in Putra Heights has inflicted not just physical devastation but also deep emotional wounds that will take time to heal.

For 25-year-old programming assistant Muhammad Azril Zool Kapli, the relief of knowing his family is safe is overshadowed by the daunting task of returning to normal life.

"I'm grateful my family members are unharmed, but getting back to work and resuming daily routines is incredibly difficult, especially with the damage to our homes and the ongoing restrictions," he said.

Having lived in the area his entire life, Azril said the experience was unlike anything he had ever faced – one that has left a lasting impact on both him and his neighbours.

"Emotionally, it's been tough for all of us. We are physically and mentally drained.

"I've lived here my whole life and this is the first time something like this has happened. It's

traumatic and something I'll never forget.

"Sometimes, I can't shake off what I saw and what happened. But I'm trying to manage it, even though it's not easy," he added.

Azril also raised concerns about safety practices in the area and called for urgent reforms.

"The safety measures at the site were sloppy and it seems clear that negligence put residents' lives at risk. This needs to change," he said, stressing the need for stricter regulations and greater accountability.

Despite the fear and trauma, Azril remains determined to return home.

"It's my home, the place I've always known. But I hope the responsible parties would take action and ensure something like this never happens again."

When asked about the losses he suffered, Azril estimated that the damage to his home and essential belongings – including work equipment – amounted to about RM20,000.

For housewife Kamisah Khamis, 48, the pain of the fire still feels raw as she has yet to come to terms with the devastation.

"I only got a brief look at my house after the incident. I managed to take a few photos, but we weren't allowed to go back in."

Her house, which had just been renovated for Hari Raya, was badly damaged.

"The roof and the entire back portion of the house were destroyed by the fire. It wasn't a total loss, but the damage is extensive."

She said the emotional toll has been overwhelming.

"I'm terrified at the thought of staying there again. The trauma is still fresh. Even small sounds, such as fireworks, make me anxious."

At the time of the fire, Kamisah had been visiting her husband's village.

"I had planned to return on the second day of Raya. But that morning, I saw the news and everything changed. I couldn't even enjoy the celebration."

Her voice trembled as she spoke of the home she had lovingly prepared for the festive season.

"I had just painted the house and bought new curtains and a new sofa. Now, it's all gone. It breaks my heart to think about it.

"The house, the memories, everything inside – it's difficult to rebuild. Money doesn't come easy."

Kamisah still does not know the full extent of what she has lost as she has not yet been able to enter the house.

"I don't even know what's left. It's hard to estimate the damage without seeing it up close."

Meanwhile, 10-year-old student Ariana Humaira Mohd Azli expressed confusion over the sudden turn of events.

"I didn't know what was happening. It all happened so suddenly. I had just returned from my Hari Raya holidays when I was immediately taken to the temporary relief centre at the mosque."

Ariana, who had been eagerly anticipating her return home, found herself in an overwhelming situation she could not grasp.

"I miss my house, but I'm not sure if I'll ever be able to go back."

Students choose compassion over Raya comforts

KUALA LUMPUR: As most Malaysians celebrated Hari Raya with family and feasts, a group of university students rolled up their sleeves and raced to the frontlines, choosing compassion over festive comforts to support those affected by the devastating gas pipeline fire last Tuesday.

Under the Higher Education Ministry Ihsan Madani initiative, 20 volunteers from the Malaysian Universities Volunteer Council have been on-site since Wednesday, offering both aid and empathy.

Led by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia student council member Ridhwan Syahir, 23, the team has been working around-the-clock to ease the burden on affected families.

"This experience truly opens our eyes. Volunteering during Hari Raya makes it even more meaningful," said Ridhwan, a communications and media student.

With support from peers at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Unimas and University Malaysia Sabah, the relief efforts have run smoothly.

"We helped distribute food, baby kits and lent a hand wherever needed," said UUM's Muhammad Zahid Ahmad Termizi, 22. – Bernama

Private firm provides gas detectors for blast probe

KUALA LUMPUR: A private firm has loaned over 10 gas detectors to aid investigations into the gas pipeline fire in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya.

MSA Safety gas detection trainer Nur Fadhilah Mohd Khalid said the devices include eight Altair 4XR personal detectors and several Altair 5X multi-gas models.

"The Altair 5X uses a pump to sample gas from risk zones and detects leaks within a 10ft radius. It works in both open and confined spaces.

"The 4XR uses diffusion to absorb gas nearby. Both trigger alarms if dangerous gases are detected, prompting immediate evacuation," she said.

The detectors, supplied by US-based MSA Safety, will remain on loan for as long as needed to ensure safe access by investigators.

Fadhilah added that the devices, in use since 2008, were previously deployed during the 2019 Sungai Kim Kim chemical spill in Johor. Their ability to detect gases such as oxygen, carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulphide makes them trusted devices among major operators, including Petronas.

Meanwhile, students from institutions of higher learning affected by the gas pipeline disaster can attend classes online as the academic session begins today.

Higher Education Director-General Datuk Prof Dr Azlinda Azman said the arrangement applies to students at public universities, polytechnics and community colleges. – Bernama



Hussein said the road, which intersects with the Petronas gas pipeline, had been approved for excavation by the contractor. – **ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN**

118 statements recorded in pipeline fire investigation

KUALA LUMPUR: Selangor police have recorded statements from 118 individuals to assist in the investigation into the gas pipeline fire in Putra Heights, Selangor police chief Datuk Hussein Omar Khan confirmed yesterday.

He said 15 of them were contractors, sub-contractors and workers involved in excavation and sewer pipe installation at the explosion site.

"An inquiry paper has been opened to determine whether there are any criminal elements related to the incident," he told

reporters at a press conference held at the Incident Control Post in Putra Heights.

Hussein said police had excavated the sewage pipe built by a contractor and found that it was laid 2.1m below the road surface.

"Further inspection revealed that the contractor's excavation work did not exceed three metres in depth, with a trench width of 1.5m.

"The excavation and installation work spanned more than 30m and is believed to be planned for further extension," he added.

The road, which intersects with the Petronas

gas pipeline, had been approved for excavation by the contractor.

For the purpose of the investigation, police are using three excavators, a bulldozer and a backhoe to carry out the digging works, which are still ongoing, to examine the pipeline believed to be buried at a depth of between six and seven metres.

He said the excavation efforts are being closely monitored by police, Petronas, the Public Works Department, Survey and Mapping Department, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Air

Selangor and the contractor.

"Police found that the gas pipeline is located at a depth of 5.6m beneath the road surface, meaning the distance between the sewage pipe and the gas pipeline is 1.6m.

"The physical condition of the gas pipe does not show any noticeable disturbance.

"At this point, whether the excavation work carried out by the contractor had affected the pipeline cannot be determined until the entire length of the gas pipe in the area is fully exposed and further investigation is completed," he said. – Bernama

Establishment of Children's Commission proposed

➤ Body would monitor protection policies, investigate rights violations and offer advice: Alliance for a Safe Community

KUALA LUMPUR: The time has come for Malaysia to establish an independent Children's Commission, said Alliance for a Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

He stressed that such a commission would play a crucial role in monitoring and evaluating child protection policies, investigating rights violations and offering concrete recommendations for improvement.

"Setting up a Children's Commission would signal the government's unwavering commitment to child welfare and ensure sustained, focused advocacy for children's rights.

"Children are the future of our nation. Failing to protect them is not just a moral failing; it threatens the long-term wellbeing of

our society.

"It is our collective duty to ensure every child grows up in a safe, nurturing and empowering environment," Lee said in a statement yesterday.

He also urged for more robust child protection laws, enhanced digital safeguards and greater coordination across agencies to uphold and protect children's rights and welfare.

He stressed that every child has the right to safety, education, healthcare and a life free from harm and exploitation.

Lee warned that a growing list of threats continues to undermine those rights, ranging from abuse and online exploitation to trafficking and inadequate mental health support.

"Physical and emotional abuse, along with neglect, are on the rise, with many cases slipping through the cracks due to fear, stigma or insufficient protection mechanisms."

He added that the rapid expansion of digital platforms has left children increasingly vulnerable to online grooming, cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content, such as child pornography.

He said another major concern is the persistent issue of child trafficking and

forced labour.

Lee added that these problems continue unabated due to weak enforcement and poor inter-agency coordination.

He called on the government to act decisively in response to these escalating challenges, Bernama reported.

"We need stronger laws and far better enforcement to combat abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Offenders must be dealt with swiftly and firmly."

He also highlighted the shared responsibility of parents, educators and communities in safeguarding children, especially in the digital age.

"Digital literacy programmes and active monitoring of online content are essential steps in keeping our children safe.

"Parents and educators must work hand in hand to protect children from the growing dangers of the online world."

He reiterated that the establishment of an independent Children's Commission would be a landmark move for Malaysia, a step that ensures children's voices are heard, their rights protected and futures secured.

He also said the time to act is now, adding that children in Malaysia deserve nothing less.



Lee said the rapid expansion of digital platforms has left children increasingly vulnerable to online grooming, cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Malaysians among injured in Japan tour bus crash

PETALING JAYA: A tour bus heading to Mount Fuji was rear-ended by another coach on Saturday, injuring 47 tourists, including several Malaysians, on Japan's Chuo Expressway.

According to Kyodo News Agency, none of the injuries are life-threatening.

The collision occurred near the mouth of the Kobotoke Tunnel in Hachioji at 10:15am, one of the drivers reported.

Both buses had departed from JR Tokyo Station and were en route to Lake Kawaguchi in neighbouring Yamanashi Prefecture.

The crash prompted a temporary closure of outbound lanes between Hachioji Junction and Sagamiko Interchange,

according to Central Nippon Expressway Company.

Preliminary police investigations suggested that stop-and-go traffic caused repeated braking and the driver of the rear bus failed to notice the lead vehicle had stopped.

Operated by the same company, the buses were part of a "Mount Fuji Day Tour" run by travel platform KKday. On board were tourists from Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Witnesses described a sudden halt that disrupted what was meant to be a scenic journey.

A Taiwanese passenger recounted

the chaos of stunned travellers helping one another, waiting anxiously for emergency responders.

The Tokyo Fire Department confirmed that most injuries were minor wounds and over ten individuals were taken to local hospitals for further checks.

Emergency services responded swiftly, stabilising the situation and ensuring those injured received prompt medical attention.

In a public statement, KKday expressed regret over the incident and confirmed it is fully cooperating with Japanese authorities.

Authorities are continuing to investigate the sequence of events that led to the collision.

RM700,000 lost to investment scam

KUANTAN: A 47-year-old company manager has lost RM703,000 to a non-existent investment scheme that was promoted via WhatsApp and promised high returns.

Pahang police chief Datuk Seri Yahaya Othman said the victim downloaded an app known as Quantedge Capital Co. Limited in July last year, using a link provided by an individual on WhatsApp.

"The victim made seven transactions in stages to four bank accounts and was shown what appeared to be profit gains. However, she was later told that she could not withdraw any of the money," Yahaya said in a statement.

He added that the victim had used her personal savings, her husband's funds and even a loan from her employer to invest.

"She realised that she had been scammed after being asked to increase her investment capital and lodged a police report."

In a separate case in Johor Bahru, a company manager lost RM651,800 to a fraudulent stock investment scheme advertised on Facebook.

"He became suspicious after being repeatedly asked to make additional payments to claim his supposed profits, despite never receiving any actual returns," he said.

The case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code for cheating, which carries between one and 10 years' jail, caning and a fine upon conviction. — Bernama

Hit-and-run driver surrenders to police

IPOH: The driver of a red four-wheel drive vehicle linked to a fatal crash near the Menora Tunnel at Km264 of the North-South Expressway on March 30 has come forward to assist police investigations.

Ipoh police chief ACP Abang Zainal Abidin Abang Ahmad said the individual's statement was recorded at the Ipoh District Police Headquarters on Saturday.

Earlier, a video of the incident was widely spread online, showing a vehicle crashing into the car of Nur Fatimah Badrul Hisyam, 25, who had been involved in an earlier accident with her husband and child. The vehicle seen in the video did not stop to help and continued driving.

Abang Zainal Abidin said the husband is traumatised and unable to provide a full statement as he is recovering from injuries, including 15 stitches inside his mouth.

Nur Fatimah, who was eight months pregnant, and her daughter Naira Falisyah Abdul Rahman, aged about two, were killed in the incident. — Bernama

Body of motorcyclist found near plantation

KOTA BHARU: The body of a 59-year-old man was found next to a motorcycle at Km65 of Jalan Kota Bharu-Gua Musang, near an oil palm plantation after the Sungai Durian junction in Kuala Krai on Saturday.

Kuala Krai police chief Supt Mazlan Mamat said police were alerted to the discovery of the body at 2.55pm.

He said the victim is believed to have been riding a motorcycle alone before he skidded and fell into a drain at the scene.

"When found, the deceased was still wearing a helmet and his body had decomposed. Initial investigations show the victim was on his way from Kuala Krai to his home in Kampung Keroh," he said in a statement.

It is understood that the victim could be the man reported missing by his wife on April 1 after he left home on March 30 to visit a friend in Kuala Krai but failed to return.

Anyone with information on the case should contact the Kuala Krai traffic police or investigating officer Insp Mohamad Amirul Izhah Azlan at 09-966 6222. — Bernama



Hair salon that **feels** like home

➤ Stylist creates space with warmth, unity and lasting cross-cultural friendships

KUANTAN: Exploring retail buildings on Lorong Tun Ismail, Sri Dagangan, located near several popular spots in the district, one cannot help but notice the only hair salon among the many outlets there.

Stepping into Cheng Cheng, named after its owner, one immediately feels at home.

The atmosphere is familiar, thanks to the hospitality of the 62-year-old hair stylist, regarded by her customers from diverse backgrounds as a mother, sister and close friend.

Lim Mei Cheng's hair salon, which has been operating for over 25 years, is the preferred choice among her customers, not only because of her fluency in Malay or exceptional hairstyling skills, but because she offers them so much more.

"I consider Aunty Lim my adopted mother in

Kuantan because she has been very supportive and always checked in on me when I moved here from Kuala Lumpur over a year ago. That bond has remained today," said Amirah Othman, 38, when met by Bernama.

Recalling their first meeting, Amirah shared that it all began when she needed a haircut.

Lim showed a genuine interest in getting to know her and asked about her background, which made Amirah feel at ease.

"She asked for my phone number, saying it would be easier to contact me if anything came up. I never expected that she would treat me like family on my first visit to her salon. Despite our different backgrounds, she welcomed me warmly, understanding the challenges of someone new to the area.

"She often messages me and recommends good restaurants and food stalls. She even introduces me to friends for hiking activities," Amirah said.

Having known Lim since the 1980s, when she first opened her salon at Pasar Besar Kuantan, a customer who wished to be known only as Sari, 62, recalled that aside from Lim's skill in styling hair to complement different

facial features, her warm personality also makes customers feel comfortable sharing their personal stories.

"We've known each other since we were young and single. Even though we are from different backgrounds, Lim's fluency in Malay and familiarity with other cultures make me comfortable being friends with her.

"It feels natural sharing my stories with her, whether about work or family. Throughout my years of knowing her, I've seen how she treats all customers equally without discrimination. She even goes the extra mile by offering to send her customers home if they have trouble finding transport," Sari added.

Growing up in multicultural surroundings has made it easy for Lim to assimilate with people of various backgrounds.

Lim also enjoys *nasi kerabu*, *ikan patin tempoyak*, *sambal udang petai*, various salads eaten with *budu* (fermented anchovy sauce) or *tempoyak* (fermented durian paste) as well as Indian-style fish head curry, believing that Malaysia's diverse cultures and traditional foods are a priceless heritage.

"I grew up in a predominantly Malay

community with my grandmother in Kuantan. I often accompanied her to sell drinks in Malay areas and she taught me the importance of respecting other races. I was encouraged to befriend people from different backgrounds from a young age.

"This is where my Malay language skills improved over time. When people ask where I went to school, they are often surprised, assuming I attended a national school, but I studied at a Chinese vernacular school. My friends were Chinese, Malay and Indian, so communicating in Malay became easy," she explained.

Lim shared that her grandmother always emphasised avoiding prejudice and erroneous judgments towards others, advice that she still adheres to today.

"She always said whether someone is Chinese, Malay or Indian, we are all the same - one big family - and she reminded us not to fight. She also said no community can thrive on its own without the help of others. That is the uniqueness of Malaysia - its people live in unity, supporting and helping one another," she added.

Nurse fulfils dream of becoming lecturer

KUALA LUMPUR: When Dr Rashidah Mohd Yusoff first put on a nurse's uniform after obtaining her nursing diploma in 2009, she never imagined that one day she would be standing in front of a classroom, teaching future nurses and healthcare professionals.

Through dedication and a drive to further her studies, the 35-year-old mother of two now holds a PhD in nursing and has taken on the responsibility of training student nurses.

Rashidah is currently a lecturer at the Kulliyah of Nursing, International Islamic University Malaysia's Kuantan campus in Pahang.

She initially believed she would remain a nurse until retirement, unaware that pursuing higher academic qualifications could open new doors for career advancement in the field.

A turning point came in 2017, when she enrolled in a post-basic orthopaedic nursing course.

"One of my tutors then was Norliza Kadir, who was pursuing a master's degree in orthopaedic nursing. That was when I first learned that there are master's and even PhD programmes in nursing," Rashidah said.

"Actually, while growing up, I never thought of

becoming a nurse. Like other children, my childhood ambition was to be a doctor, lawyer or lecturer. So when I found out about the master's and PhD courses for nurses, I saw the opportunity to revive my dream of becoming a lecturer."

Recounting how she first entered the profession, Rashidah said after completing matriculation she received an offer to study at Universiti Malaysia Sabah, but turned it down due to financial constraints as her family was not well off.

To help ease the burden, she opted for a three-year diploma course in nursing at Kolej Damansara Utama in Selangor as it guaranteed employment upon graduation. The course also came with an allowance.

After receiving her diploma in 2009, she worked as a nurse at several hospitals, including Hospital Sultan Ahmad Shah in Temerloh and Hospital Bera in Triang, both in Pahang.

In 2017, she pursued a Bachelor of Nursing at Universiti Teknologi MARA, and in 2020, she continued her studies through a fast-track PhD programme.

Her doctoral thesis focused on hip fractures among the elderly. - Bernama



Rashidah is currently a lecturer at the Kulliyah of Nursing, International Islamic University Malaysia Kuantan campus in Pahang. - **BERNAMAPIC**

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Rains complicate Myanmar quake relief efforts

➤ Coordinated action crucial, says UN

YANGON: Rain is compounding misery and presenting new hurdles for relief efforts in Myanmar, where state media reported the death toll from a devastating earthquake has risen to nearly 3,500 people.

The 7.7-magnitude quake struck on March 28, razing buildings, cutting off power and destroying bridges and roads.

Damage has been severe in the city of Sagaing near the epicentre, as well as in Mandalay, Myanmar's second city and home to more than 1.7 million people.

State media reported yesterday the earthquake has caused 3,471 confirmed deaths and injured 4,671 people, while 214 remain missing.

With people either having lost their homes entirely or reluctant to spend time in cracked and unstable structures, many Mandalay residents have been sleeping outside in tents.

When wind and rain began battering the rudimentary shelters on Saturday evening, victims were forced to choose between passing the night in dry but risky buildings or outdoors in the elements.

"People are trying to rebuild their lives now," said UN aid chief Tom Fletcher in a video.

"They need food. They need



An Indian ship unloading sacks of aid at Thilawa Port on Saturday. – AFP/IC

water. They need the power back on."

Many people in the area are still without shelter, he said, describing the scale of damage in the area as "epic".

"We need to get tents and hope to survivors as they rebuild their shattered lives," Fletcher wrote in another post.

Aid experts warn that rainy conditions and scorching heat increase the risk of disease outbreaks at outdoor camps where victims were in temporary shelter.

International efforts to provide

quake relief in the Southeast Asian country of more than 50 million people have been complicated by unreliable communication networks and infrastructure heavily damaged by four years of civil war.

Even before the recent quake, the humanitarian crisis in the country was severe, with the persistent, multi-sided conflict displacing 3.5 million people, according to the UN.

The UN said on Friday that since the earthquake, the military continued to conduct dozens of attacks against rebels, including at least 16 since Wednesday when the

government announced a temporary ceasefire.

Fletcher held discussions with the foreign ministers of Thailand and Malaysia on Saturday for what he called a "practical meeting" centred on "strong, coordinated, collective action" to save lives in Myanmar.

Aftershocks have also continued as long as a week after the initial tremors, with a 4.7-magnitude quake striking just south of Mandalay late Friday evening, according to the United States Geological Survey. – AFP

Woman in documentary charged with fraud

SINGAPORE: A British woman featured in a hit crime documentary was charged with fraud in a court here on Saturday.

Dionne Marie Hanna, 84, was charged with five counts of fraud involving three people, court documents show.

In the documentary film released on March 25, Hanna upends a celebrity pastry chef's life when she emails him and claims she is his biological mother.

A DNA test at the end of the documentary shows Hanna is indeed the chef's biological mother.

She appeared in court on Saturday via videolink and was seen lying in a bed at Singapore's Tan Tock Seng Hospital, broadcaster Channel News Asia reported.

It was not immediately clear why she was in hospital.

According to court documents, one of the charges involved her allegedly telling a man in Singapore, identified as Paiman bin Supangat, this year that she was from the Brunei royal family.

She had told him she had terminal cancer and wanted to pass her wealth to him and his son.

Singapore police said in a statement on Friday they had received several reports from alleged victims after the documentary was released on March 25.

Police said preliminary investigations showed Hanna was believed to be involved in at least five cases of cheating with losses amounting to more than US\$200,000 (RM887,353).

"As part of the arrangement to receive monies for the investment and inheritance, the victims were asked to transfer money for legal fees and opening of overseas bank accounts," police said.

"The victims believed that her investment and release of inheritance to be genuine and made several transfers to her."

If found guilty of fraud, Hanna could face fines and be imprisoned for up to 20 years.

Her next court hearing is on Friday. – AFP

Cambodian premier hails opening of naval base

REAM: Prime Minister Hun Manet said there was "nothing to hide" as he inaugurated a naval base renovated in recent years by China, after Washington had voiced concern over Beijing's role in the upgrades.

The United States has said the Ream Naval Base, located off Cambodia's southern coast, could give China a key strategic position in the Gulf of Thailand near the disputed South China Sea.

Cambodian senior officials have repeatedly denied that the base is for use by any single foreign power, following US media reports in 2022 saying that the new facilities at Ream were being built for the exclusive use of the Chinese navy.

Military representatives from various nations attended a ceremony on Saturday marking the inauguration of the renovated Ream base, with Cambodia rolling out the

red carpet for a delegation from China's People's Liberation Army.

"We hold the live inauguration today because we want both Cambodians and nations around the world to stop casting doubt about it," Hun Manet said in a speech.

"From today Cambodia will welcome all friends to hold joint exercises in the Ream base. We have nothing to hide."

Hun Manet promised that the

new and improved facility would not be for Beijing's "exclusive" use and that ships from other countries would be allowed to dock.

The ceremony also featured remarks from Cao Qingfeng, a Chinese senior military official, who said the port symbolised the "iron-clad friendship" between the two nations and would "inject new momentum into regional security". – AFP

Artificial glaciers boost water supply in Pakistan

HUSSAINABAD: At the foot of Pakistan's high mountains, farmers grappling with a lack of water have created their own ice towers.

Warmer winters have reduced the snow fall and subsequent seasonal snowmelt that feeds the valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, a remote region and home to K2, the world's second-highest peak.

Farmers in the Skardu valley, at an altitude of up to 2,600m in the shadow of the Karakoram mountain range, searched online for help in how to irrigate their apple and apricot orchards.

"We discovered artificial glaciers on YouTube," said Ghulam Haider Hashmi.

They watched the videos of Sonam Wangchuk, an environmental activist and engineer in the Indian

region of Ladakh, less than 200km away across a heavily patrolled border, who developed the technique about 10 years ago.

Water is piped from streams into the village, and sprayed into the air during the freezing winter temperatures.

"The water must be propelled so that it freezes in the air when temperatures drop below zero, creating ice towers," said Zakir Hussain, a professor at the University of Baltistan.

The ice forms in the shape of cones that resemble Buddhist stupas, and act as a storage system – steadily melting throughout spring when temperatures rise.

Gilgit-Baltistan has 13,000 glaciers, more than any other country outside the polar regions.

Sher Muhammad, a specialist in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan mountain range that stretches from Afghanistan to Myanmar, however said most of the region's water supply comes from snow melt in spring, with a fraction from annual glacial melt in summers.

"From late October until early April, we were receiving heavy snowfall. But in the past few years, it's quite dry," said Muhammad, a researcher at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

The first "ice stupas" in Gilgit-Baltistan were created in 2018.

Now, more than 20 villages make them every winter, and "more than 16,000 residents have access to water without having to build reservoirs or tanks. – AFP



An artificial glacier built by Pakistani villagers during winter to provide water for the summer at Pari village in Kharmang district, Gilgit-Baltistan. – AFP/IC

Protesters turn out against Trump, Musk

➤ Policy opponents voice fears of global recession

FRANKFURT: Hundreds of people protested in major European and US cities on Saturday against US President Donald Trump and his adviser Elon Musk, following a bruising week for financial markets after Trump unveiled sweeping global tariffs.

In the German city of Frankfurt, the "Hands Off!" demonstration was organised by Democrats Abroad, the official organisation of the Democratic Party for US citizens living overseas.

In Berlin, protesting in front of a Tesla showroom, demonstrators held placards calling on fellow Americans living in Germany to protest for "an end to the chaos".

Gathering at Frankfurt's Opernplatz, members of the overseas Democrats group demanded the resignation of the US president, with placard slogans reading "Restore Democracy", "Hands off our personal data" and "The world is tired of your bullshit Donald, be gone!"

In Berlin, slogans directed at Musk read "Shut up Elon, no one voted for you".

In Paris, about 200 people, mostly American, gathered on the Place de la République to protest against Trump.

Some gave speeches to denounce the president, with protesters waving banners ranging from "Resist Tyrant", "Rule of Law" "Feminists for Freedom not fascism" and "Save Democracy". One sang and played the Bob Dylan song *Masters of War*.

Protests against Trump and Musk were also held in other European cities, including London and Lisbon.

In the British capital, a few hundred people gathered in Trafalgar Square, holding signs saying "Proud American Ashamed" and "WTAF America?"

The crowd chanted "Hands off Canada", "Hands off Greenland" and "Hands off Ukraine" while listening to speeches criticising Trump.

In the United States, opponents of the president's policies – from government staffing cuts to trade tariffs and eroding civil liberties – rallied in Washington, New York, Houston, Florida, Colorado and Los Angeles.

"I am so angry, I'm so mad, all the time,

yes. A bunch of privileged ... are controlling our country. It's not great," said New York painter Shaina Kesner, 43, joining a crowd marching through the heart of Manhattan.

In Washington, thousands of demonstrators gathered on the National Mall where dozens of speakers rallied opposition to Trump.

"We have about 100 people who have come down by bus and van from New Hampshire to protest against this outrageous administration (that) is causing us to lose our allies across the world, and causing devastation to people here at home," said Diane Kolifraith, 64, a bike tour guide.

In Denver, Colorado, one man in a large crowd of protesters held up a placard reading "No king for USA".

The rallies even extended to some European capitals, where demonstrators voiced opposition to Trump and his aggressive trade policies.

"What's happening in America is everyone's problem," said Liz Chamberlin, a dual US-British citizen, at a London rally.

"It's economic lunacy. He is going to push us into a global recession." – Reuters/AFP



Demonstrators expressing their concerns at Trafalgar Square in London. – REUTERSPIC

US storms death toll climbs to 16

WASHINGTON: Violent storms battering the central-eastern United States have killed at least 16 people, officials said, with the National Weather Service (NWS) warning of "severe" flash flooding in the coming days.

A line of fierce storms stretching from Arkansas to Ohio has damaged buildings, flooded roadways and produced dozens of tornadoes in recent days.

Tennessee was hardest hit by extreme weather, with state authorities saying on Saturday that 10 people had died across the western part of the state.

Two people were killed due to floods in Kentucky, according to state Governor Andy Beshear, including a child who was "swept away by floodwaters".

Photos shared on social and local media showed widespread damage from the storm across several states, with homes torn apart, toppled trees, downed power lines and overturned cars.

"Severe, widespread flash flooding is expected" in parts of the central-eastern region, NWS said, warning that "lives and property are in great danger".

Two storm-related deaths were recorded in Missouri and one in Indiana, according to local media reports and authorities.

A five-year-old was found dead in a home in Little Rock, Arkansas "in connection with the severe weather", the state's emergency management agency said in a statement.

"Flooding has reached record levels in

many communities," Kentucky's Governor Beshear wrote on social media on Saturday, urging residents in the state to "avoid travel, and never drive through water".

More than 100,000 households were without power in Arkansas and Tennessee yesterday, according to tracking website *PowerOutage.us*.

NWS said moderate to severe tornadoes could form in parts of the Tennessee Valley and Lower Mississippi Valley, along with "severe thunderstorms".

Extreme weather is now more frequent and ferocious. Last year set a record for high temperatures in the United States, with the country also pummelled by a barrage of tornadoes and destructive hurricanes. – AFP

Modi commends close Sri Lanka ties

COLOMBO: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to Sri Lanka's sacred Buddhist tree yesterday before wrapping up a state visit during which he secured defence and energy deals.

Modi offered flowers to the Sri Maha Bodhi, an object of worship and a symbol of sovereignty for the Buddhist-majority island, in the pilgrim city of Anuradhapura.

The tightly-guarded fig tree is believed to have grown from a sapling of the tree in India under which the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment over 2,500 years ago.

The Indian premier also worshipped and offered robes to the tree during a previous visit in 2015, underscoring its religious and cultural importance to both nations.

The tree, botanically named *Ficus religiosa*, is worshipped daily by thousands as a symbol of the "living Buddha", its branches propped up by gold-plated iron supports.

The tree is guarded around the clock by monks, police and armed troops.

"This visit has reaffirmed the deep cultural, spiritual and civilisational ties between our two nations," Modi said on social media, before returning to India. – AFP

A\$2.3b for Aussies to buy solar batteries

SYDNEY: Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese yesterday pledged A\$2.3 billion (RM6.2 billion) to help homeowners buy batteries to store solar power and lower their energy costs, a major issue in the May 3 general election.

Albanese's centre-left Labor runs neck-and-neck in opinion polls with the Liberal-National opposition led by Peter Dutton, who has campaigned on a plan to lower power bills by forcing LNG gas producers to divert some exports for domestic consumption.

Albanese said in a statement that his proposal would save households about A\$4,000, or 30% on the installed cost of a typical energy-storage battery.

"The battery will be installed at home and store power from solar panels for the household to use when needed," the prime minister said.

One in three Australian households now has solar panels but only one in 40 has a battery, according to the government.

Nationals leader David Littleproud told Australian Broadcasting Corp that the measure would aid "only a select few" and do little to help renters and pensioners with their power bills. – Reuters

Man charged over mid-flight ruckus

ANKARA: A Jordanian national was arrested and charged with endangering the safety of a flight from Malaysia to Sydney and assaulting a member of the cabin crew after he attempted to open two emergency exit doors.

The accused, 46, attempted to open the rear emergency exit door of the aircraft during the flight, Australian police said in a statement.

It said the man was subsequently escorted to a seat in the middle of the aircraft by airline staff. However, he then attempted to open the middle emergency exit door.

"The man was then restrained by crew and passengers, during which he allegedly assaulted an airline staff member," the statement said.

Police said the offences each carry a maximum penalty of 10 years' imprisonment.

He was arrested at Sydney Airport upon arrival from Kuala Lumpur and is due to appear in Parramatta Local Court to be charged with two counts of endangering the safety of an aircraft and one count of assaulting cabin crew. – Bernama

EGYPT FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICISES GLOBAL SILENCE

CAIRO: Egypt on Saturday reiterated its rejection of any attempt to displace the Palestinians, warning of consequences of the disgraceful global silence over the events unfolding in the occupied Palestinian territories. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty recently met a delegation from the Fatah Movement over developments in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. He reaffirmed Egypt's rejection of attempts by Israel to undermine the unity of Palestinian territories and separate the Gaza Strip from the West Bank. Abdelatty also condemned Israel's aggression and the use of disproportionate military force in blatant disregard of international humanitarian law. He said it was important to strengthen Palestinian unity and achieve a just and lasting resolution to the Palestinian cause through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. – Bernama

70% OF WATER SUPPLY TO GAZA DISCONNECTED

GAZA CITY: The Israeli army on Saturday halted the flow of water from Israeli company Mekorot to the Gaza Strip, effectively cutting off 70% of the enclave's total water supply. Gaza Municipality spokesperson Hosni Mehanna said the disconnection affects the main pipeline in Shujaiya, eastern Gaza City, where Israeli forces have been conducting a military operation since Thursday. He said the stoppage may have been caused by military activity or a deliberate political decision by Israeli authorities. "If the flow of water from Mekorot is not restored soon, Gaza will face a full-blown water crisis," Mehanna said. The residents of Gaza Strip, already suffering from a chronic shortage of clean water due to years of blockade, infrastructure collapse and contamination of groundwater, are now facing the risk of widespread dehydration. – Bernama

BRITAIN SLAMS TEL AVIV OVER DETENTION OF MPs

LONDON: British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said on Saturday it was "unacceptable" and deeply concerning that Israel had detained two UK lawmakers and denied them entry. Yuan Yang and Abtisam Mohamed, from the governing Labour Party, flew from London to Israel but were blocked from entering the country and deported. "It is unacceptable, counterproductive and deeply concerning that two British MPs on a parliamentary delegation to Israel have been detained and refused entry by the Israeli authorities. I have made clear to my counterparts in the Israeli government that this is no way to treat British parliamentarians, and we have been in contact with both MPs to offer our support. The UK government's focus remains securing a return to the ceasefire and negotiations to stop the bloodshed," Lammy said. – AFP



Palestinians inspecting the damage at the Dar Al-Arqam school in Gaza City, where displaced people shelter, after it was hit in an airstrike. – REUTERS/SPIC

Israeli military changes account of aid worker killings

UN, Red Cross demand independent inquiry

TEL AVIV: The Israeli military has provided new details that changed its initial account of the killing of 15 emergency workers near Rafah last month, but said investigators were still examining the evidence.

The 15 paramedics and emergency responders were shot dead on March 23 and buried in a shallow grave, where their bodies were found a week later by officials from the United Nations and the Palestinian Red Crescent. Another man is still missing.

The military initially said soldiers had opened fire on vehicles that approached their position "suspiciously" in the dark without lights or markings. It said they killed nine gunmen travelling in Palestinian Red Crescent vehicles.

But video recovered from the mobile phone of one of the dead men and published by the Red Crescent showed emergency workers in their uniforms and clearly marked ambulances and fire trucks, with their lights on, being fired on by soldiers.

The only known survivor of the incident, paramedic Munther Abed, said he had seen soldiers opening fire on clearly marked

emergency response vehicles.

An Israeli military official said on Saturday the investigators were examining the video and conclusions were expected to be presented to army commanders.

Israeli media briefed by the military reported that troops had identified at least six of the 15 dead as members of armed groups. However, the official declined to provide any evidence or detail of how the identifications were made, saying he did not want to share classified information.

"According to our information, there were terrorists but this investigation is not over," he told reporters at the briefing on Saturday.

The UN and the Palestinian Red Cross have demanded an independent inquiry.

Red Crescent officials have said 17 paramedics and emergency workers from the Red Crescent, Civil Emergency service and the UN had been dispatched to respond to reports of injuries from Israeli airstrikes.

Apart from Abed, who was detained for several hours before being released, another worker is still missing.

The military official said initial findings from the investigation showed troops had opened fire on a vehicle at about 4am, killing two members of the Hamas internal security forces, and taking another prisoner, who the official said had admitted under interrogation to being in Hamas.

He said several vehicles passed along the road until about 6am, when troops received word from aerial surveillance that a suspicious group of vehicles was approaching.

"They feel this is another incident like what happened at 4am and they opened fire," the official said.

He said aerial surveillance footage showed the troops were at some distance when they opened fire, and he denied reports that the troops handcuffed at least some of the paramedics and shot them at close range.

"It's not from close. They opened fire from afar. There's no mistreatment of the people."

He said the soldiers had approached the group they had shot, identifying at least some of them as gunmen. However he did not explain what evidence had prompted the assessment.

"In their eyes they had an encounter with terrorists, that is a successful encounter with terrorists."

He said the troops had informed the UN of the incident on the same day and initially covered the bodies with camouflage netting until they could be recovered. UN officials did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

"There was no incident where the IDF tried to cover up. On the contrary, they called the UN immediately." – Reuters

Top Iranian diplomat rejects direct talks with US

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi yesterday rejected direct negotiations with the United States as "meaningless," after US President Donald Trump said he would prefer direct talks with the Islamic republic.

Trump had called last month on Tehran to hold negotiations on its nuclear programme with Washington, but threatened to bomb Iran if diplomacy fails.

The US president said on Thursday he would prefer to hold "direct talks" with Iran.

"I think it goes faster and you understand the other side a lot better than if you go through intermediaries," he said.

But Araghchi said yesterday "direct negotiations would be meaningless with a party

that constantly threatens to resort to force in violation of the UN Charter and that expresses contradictory positions from its various officials."

"We remain committed to diplomacy and are ready to try the path of indirect negotiations," he said, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

"Iran keeps itself prepared for all possible or probable events, and just as it is serious in diplomacy and negotiations, it will also be decisive and serious in defending its national interests and sovereignty," Araghchi said.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday his country was willing to engage in dialogue with the US "on equal footing".

He also questioned Washington's sincerity in calling for negotiations, saying "if you want

negotiations, then what is the point of threatening?"

Western countries, led by the United States, have for decades accused Tehran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran rejects the allegation and maintains that its nuclear activities exist solely for civilian purposes.

Hossein Salami, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said: "We are not worried about war. We will not be the initiators of war, but we are ready for any war."

In 2015, Iran reached a landmark deal with the permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely the United States, France, China, Russia and the United Kingdom, as well as Germany, to regulate its nuclear activities.

The 2015 agreement formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme to guarantee that Tehran could not develop a nuclear weapon.

In 2018, during Trump's first term in office, the United States withdrew from the agreement and reinstated biting sanctions on Iran.

A year later, Iran began rolling back on its commitments under the agreement and accelerated its nuclear programme.

Ali Larjani, a close adviser to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned last week that while Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons, it would "have no choice but to do so" in the event of an attack against it. – AFP

True cost of 'free' services

COMMENT by Prof Dr Chiew Thiam Kian

SEVERAL years ago, I developed a chat application for a research project. Due to budget constraints, I turned the development into a bachelor students' final year project and provided the students with little monetary compensation.

To keep costs low in terms of time, money and technical complexity, we only included the basic features necessary for the research.

However, during user testing, participants kept requesting additional features commonly found in "free" chat applications. Some even requested automatic translation of discussion posts, such as converting Malay and Chinese messages into English for non-Malay and non-Chinese speakers, for example, expatriates in Malaysia.

However, does "free" truly exist? Users may not pay money upfront but that does not mean it comes at no cost.

Someone is always footing the bill – whether it is advertisers, paying subscribers or users themselves, who unknowingly trade their personal data and time in exchange for these "free" services. Both personal data and time are difficult to quantify but they are certainly not free.

Today's powerful AI systems thrive on publicly available data, which has grown exponentially due to the internet's expansion into commercial and social spheres. The rise of social media has

pushed vast amounts of personal data into the public domain, enabling AI to leverage the four Vs of big data: volume (the sheer amount of data), velocity (the speed at which data is generated and processed), variety (the diverse sources and formats of data) and veracity (the accuracy and reliability of the data). This, in turn, has created a fifth V – value.

Simply put, today's AI companies derive their value from the personal data that millions of individuals willingly provided in the past. This is essentially a massive global crowdsourcing project – not of money but of information.

Many may perceive their personal data as free but that is only because they fail to see its value.

Traditionally, collecting data from the public has been challenging. A clear example is the scepticism surrounding Malaysia's Padu system, where the government sought to compile citizens' personal data, facing resistance from the public. Researchers also often struggle to gather data from individuals.

Yet, when tech companies, including lesser-known entities, package data collection as entertaining social media activities, people readily hand over their personal information. For instance, photo-filter apps that modify images or turn them into artistic renditions are, in reality, data-harvesting tools in disguise.

People hesitate to share their data with governments due to concerns over

"Someone is always footing the bill – whether it is advertisers, paying subscribers or users themselves, who unknowingly trade their personal data and time in exchange for these 'free' services."



The rise of social media has pushed vast amounts of personal data into the public domain, enabling AI to leverage big data.
– AFPIC

surveillance. However, they tend to be less cautious about corporate surveillance. The 2018 Cambridge Analytica scandal, in which the company misused data from 50 million Facebook users for political purposes, served as a stark warning about surveillance capitalism, where corporate data collection can be exploited for political and ideological influence.

Today, we see a growing overlap between political and corporate power. US President Donald Trump's administration aims to run the government like a business, while Elon Musk's companies, which hold vast amounts of personal data, are now closely involved in shaping public policy through government efficiency initiatives.

This convergence of political and

corporate influence could escalate surveillance capitalism, leading to greater reliance on AI-generated content, recommendations and even decision-making processes.

In essence, it paves the way for the kind of societal control that authoritarian regimes have long pursued – only now, it is being done through commercial means rather than direct governmental coercion.

Perhaps, it is time we reconsider the meaning of "free" and the hidden costs we continue to pay for it.

Prof Dr Chiew Thiam Kian is from the Department of Software Engineering, Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Malaya.
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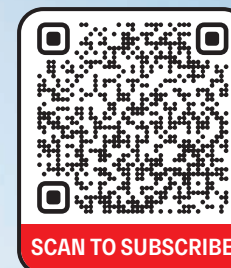
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Power of support when words fail

NO words can truly capture the agony of watching our lives unravel in the wake of disaster. The devastation is not just physical, it is emotional, mental and personal. Coming to terms with such catastrophe feels almost impossible.

Yet, in Putra Heights, hundreds of families have found themselves thrust into this nightmare, grappling with the same haunting question: "Why me?"

My sibling and his family in Puchong Utama endured a distressing ordeal. My sister-in-law, exhausted from scrubbing away the thick soot and oil, spoke of the sheer physical and emotional toll it took.

The weight of the damage was unbearable and the exhaustion etched on her face spoke volumes. Reading the despair of those affected, my heart ached for those who had to endure such hardship, made even more painful by the timing, right in the midst of the *Eid* celebrations.

Just days before, as I watched the destruction from an earthquake in Myanmar unfold, toppling homes, crushing buildings and claiming thousands of lives, I felt a momentary sense of relief.

I had often told myself that Malaysia was fortunate to be spared such large-scale disasters, thanks to its geographical alignment. But how quickly reality humbled me. The tragic earthquake in Mount Kinabalu should have reminded me that no place is truly immune. Disaster does not discriminate and neither does grief.

Despite the irreversible nature of such tragedies, how we choose to manage the aftermath defines our path forward. Losing a home to disaster is more than just the destruction of walls and roofs; it is the loss of comfort, security and the memories built within those spaces.

The despair can feel suffocating, making it difficult to see a way ahead. But while grief is unavoidable, healing, though slow, is possible. Grief is not a condition to be cured but a process to be honoured.

The emotions that accompany loss, sadness, anger, confusion and even numbness are valid. It is natural to feel as if part of one's identity has



JUST DIFFERENT
BY BHAVANI KRISHNA IYER



Despite the irreversible nature of such tragedies, how we choose to manage the aftermath defines our path forward.
— ADAM AMIR
HAMZAH/THE SUN

been stripped away. A home is not just bricks and mortar, it holds the echoes of laughter, the warmth of family gatherings and the sanctuary of quiet moments.

Losing it feels like losing a piece of oneself. Expressing these feelings, whether through journaling, confiding in loved ones or seeking professional support can help ease the weight of despair.

Holding onto grief in silence will only deepen the pain but sharing it can be a step towards healing. One of the most powerful tools in recovery is connection. The aftermath of the disaster can feel isolating, yet countless others are experiencing the same struggles.

Seeking support from those who understand, whether through community groups or informal gatherings, can foster resilience and solidarity.

Neighbours helping one another clean, providing temporary shelter or simply offering a listening ear can be lifelines during difficult times. No one should have to bear the weight of loss alone.

In the face of overwhelming loss, the future can feel like an insurmountable mountain. However, healing does not happen in giant leaps. It begins with small, deliberate steps.

Even seemingly minor actions like sorting through salvaged belongings, drafting a list of recovery steps or seeking financial aid can create a sense of stability amid the chaos.

It is easy to feel like a victim when disaster takes everything away. However, individuals can reclaim control by redefining their story. Instead of focusing solely on what has been lost, consider what survived.

Every step forward, no matter how small, is a testament to resilience. Even in the darkest moments, hope can be found in perseverance. Suffering often prompts existential questions: Why did this happen? What now? While no answer can undo the pain, finding meaning can be a path to healing.

Purpose can emerge even from deep loss. It may come through helping a struggling neighbour, volunteering for relief efforts or even redefining personal priorities. Sometimes, the act of giving, no matter how minor can also be a source of renewal. Rebuilding a life after disaster is not just an emotional journey as practical help is often needed too.

Seeking financial assistance, temporary housing or counselling is not a sign of weakness but a necessary step towards recovery. Numerous organisations are offering aid, and

leaning on family and friends for support can make an immense difference.

Asking for help can be difficult but it creates opportunities for connection and healing. No one should suffer in silence when support is within reach. It is easy to lose sight of hope when surrounded by destruction but remember, you are not defined by what has happened but by how you respond to it.

Recovery may be slow and healing may feel distant but both are within reach - one step, one day at a time. A survivor once said: "I thought I had lost everything but I found a strength I never knew I had. Even in the ruins, hope can take root."

If you are struggling, reach out. Support is there - you do not have to endure this alone. Together, communities can rebuild not just homes but lives filled with strength, compassion and resilience.

Dr Bhavani Krishna Iyer holds a doctorate in English literature. Her professional background encompasses teaching, journalism and public relations. She is currently pursuing a second master's degree in counselling. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

How US tariff shock will rewrite Malaysia's future

COMMENT
by Ashraff Hussni

THE recent 24% US tariff on Malaysian goods is more than a trade decision; it signals a shift in global trade dynamics.

Triggered by Malaysia's 47% tariffs on American imports, this escalation now threatens some of our most vital industries, especially semiconductors and electrical goods, which account for nearly 40% of our total exports.

Despite the pressure, Malaysia has chosen not to retaliate. Instead, the government plans to engage in dialogue, leaning on diplomacy and strategic planning rather than short-term political theatre. It is a mature approach, though not without consequence.

This development should be a wake-up call. Our export reliance on sectors and markets, especially the US, leaves us economically vulnerable.

The electrical and electronics industry will face headwinds but Malaysia's robust ecosystem and strong free trade agreements with Japan, Asean and others may still position us as a strategic destination under the "China+1"

strategy, especially as firms diversify supply chains away from China.

These tariffs are not just Malaysia's problem, they reverberate across Southeast Asia. Regional supply chains may be disrupted, pushing companies to re-evaluate production bases.

While some Asean neighbours may benefit in the short-term, the broader region could face slowed growth due to declining export competitiveness.

Meanwhile, the US has slapped a total of a staggering 60% tariff on Chinese goods, effectively reshuffling the global supply chain map. Yet, China is far from stepping back. Instead, it is likely to double down and deepen investments in countries like Indonesia, Laos and Cambodia, boosting its Belt and Road 2.0 initiative and leveraging regional trade frameworks such as the RCEP to cement its presence.

China may evolve from being just a manufacturing giant to a regional supply chain orchestrator, with Southeast Asia playing a crucial role in that transition.

For Malaysia, this moment is both a challenge and an opportunity. Now is the time to diversify our trade partners, accelerate digital and industrial transformation, and localise more of our

"The tariffs may seem like a setback but they also present an opportunity. This is not the time for knee-jerk retaliation but a time for strategy and regional collaboration."

production. National initiatives like the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the National Energy Transition Roadmap must not remain glossy PDFs buried in government portals but must be actualised with industry collaboration, incentives and performance benchmarks.

Consumers too have a role. Choosing Malaysian products and supporting local industries is a meaningful way to counter external shocks. Economic patriotism, paired with strategic policy and business foresight, can strengthen resilience.

For Asean, this moment demands unity. Regional governments must enhance intra-Asean trade, renegotiate trade terms and streamline regulations to attract capital fleeing tariff-heavy zones.

Malaysia should lead in fostering regional value chains and co-developing a competitive bloc that reduces reliance on superpowers.

Many fear Southeast Asia will be caught in the crossfire of a global trade war, but beyond the inevitable inflationary pressure, there is little reason to panic.

Neither Washington nor Beijing can afford to disengage from Asean. Donald Trump, for all his tough talk, has repeatedly acknowledged Asean's

strategic importance, sending top envoys like Mike Pompeo during his first term and pledging bilateral trade deals with key Asean nations.

China, meanwhile, continues to champion Asean through its Belt and Road Initiative and RCEP framework. Since 2022, Asean has been China's largest trading partner. Contrary to fears about China's slowing economy, Beijing is doubling down on its Asean strategy to diversify economic dependencies.

Dr Chad Bown of the Peterson Institute noted that "tariffs are ultimately a tax on consumers", adding that prolonged trade wars will likely hurt the US and China more than their rivals. In this context, Asean is no longer just a passive bystander; it is a strategic alternative.

The tariffs may seem like a setback but they also present an opportunity. This is not the time for knee-jerk retaliation but a time for strategy and regional collaboration. If we navigate wisely, Malaysia can emerge not as collateral in a trade war but as a resilient and indispensable player in the evolving global economy.

Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

Asean insurers must **upskill** agents amid new demands

► Institute's CEO says traditional way of selling policies outdated, highlights importance of digitalisation

■ BY JOHN GILBERT
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: As Malaysia assumes the chairmanship of Asean this year, opportunities for regional collaboration in the insurance industry, particularly in education and training, are expanding.

The Asean Insurance Training & Research Institute CEO Paul Low said the institute has already actively facilitated such initiatives by sourcing expert speakers to train regulators across Asean.

"In 2025 alone, the institute has plans to conduct six programmes, including a recent session on health insurance.

"Additionally, there is growing demand for specialised training, such as an upcoming programme on electric vehicles," Low, who is also CEO of the Asian Institute of Insurance (Aii), said. And Aii will be providing this specialised training to the industry.

"Indonesia, for example, has expressed interest in hosting the programme locally. Similarly, the institute's professional certification programme has drawn requests from Indonesia to be conducted on-site to reduce travel costs.

"Aii is also seeing strong participation from Cambodia, with many professionals enrolling in its certification programme through various formats, including e-learning, in-person sessions, and hybrid models," he told *SunBiz*.

Meanwhile, Low highlighted a declining trend in the number of insurance agents within the industry.

He said the life insurance industry is experiencing a decline in the number of agents, a trend driven by the availability of more attractive career options.

"For example, in China, the number of agents has dropped from around 10 million five years ago to just 2 million today. This decline is largely due to a lack of professional skills and the inability to sustain quality business practices."

Low noted a similar trend emerging in Malaysia, though not as severe. He said the number of agents in life and general in-



Low says digitalisation presents opportunities to agencies that are willing to evolve.

surance is also decreasing.

To build a sustainable business, companies must equip their agency force with professional and digital skills, Low said.

"The traditional way of selling insurance is becoming outdated, especially among younger generations who rely on digital tools to conduct business."

He pointed out that digitalisation plays an even greater role in general insurance.

Products such as car and travel insurance can easily be sold online now if companies develop efficient portals and claims systems.

Low said with a well-designed digital platform, businesses can reduce costs, which will ultimately benefit the consumers.

"This shift mirrors the rise of e-commerce platforms like Shopee and Lazada - while physical shopping still exists, many consumers prefer online options for convenience.

"To stay competitive, insurance agents must adapt by embracing digital tools and new business models. While digitalisation poses challenges for traditional agencies, it also presents opportunities for those willing to evolve," Low said.

Elaborating on adapting digital transformation and insurtech innovation, he said companies are adopting digitalisation, but the extent varies.

Smaller or newer firms tend to embrace it more readily, while larger, established companies - especially those with a strong agency force - face greater challenges.

"Agents often perceive digitalisation as a threat to their livelihood. However, regardless of size, all companies must embark on this digital transformation. It is no longer an option but a necessity," Low said.

He also said it is encouraging to see that regulators and industry stakeholders are now involved in collaborative discussions, recognising that meaningful solutions often require contributions from all sides.

"For example, reforming the healthcare model is a complex challenge, but the growing focus on affordability and keeping medical inflation at bay is a step in the right direction."

As for advancing the insurance profession, Low said Aii plays a crucial role in equipping professionals with the skills needed to meet the industry's constantly evolving demands.

CIMB unveils six-year Forward30 to accelerate growth, future proof group

PETALING JAYA: CIMB Group Holdings Bhd has launched Forward30, a new six-year roadmap designed to accelerate growth and future proof the organisation while reinforcing its core purpose of advancing customers and society.

Following the successful completion of its Forward23+ (F23+) strategic plan, in which the group improved return on equity (ROE) from 2.1% in 2020 to 11.2% and delivered annualised total shareholders return of 34.6% from 2020 to 2024, CIMB is well positioned for its next phase of growth.

The realisation of F23+ was mainly attributed to the successful reshaping of portfolios in the respective markets, hard wiring of a new corporate culture, an unwavering focus on improving asset quality, and improving efficiencies and resiliencies.

CIMB Group CEO Novan Amirudin said, "Our Forward30 strategic plan will be our guiding principle on how we will compete and lead in the market, leveraging our endowment and strong Asean network to optimise capital and resources, drive sustainable financial performance and create long-term shareholder value.

Predicated on global megatrends such as geopolitical shifts, cyclical economic policies, as well as the rapid advancement of Gen AI, Forward30 ensures that the group remains nimble in navigating an increasingly complex operating environment while being focused on accelerating growth in areas we are winning, as well as keeping our customers at the heart of everything we do."

Forward30 is anchored on four strategic growth levers:

➔ **Capital:** Optimise and reallocate the group's capital to strengthen overall portfolio.

➔ **Cash:** Build a leading deposit franchise to reduce cost of funds by 10 to 20 bps by 2030.

➔ **Cross-sell:** Unlock value through the "one-bank" approach to offer clients from all segments with integrated financial solutions to unlock new income streams.

➔ **Capabilities:** Deliver best-in-class services and propositions by embracing the "Simpler, Better, Faster" approach to increase productivity and efficiency.

By 2030, CIMB aims to achieve a Top 3 in net promoters score, top quartile ROE among regional peers, current account savings account ratio of 45%, non-interest income ratio of between 33% and 34%, and cost-to-income ratio in the low 40s.

"With Forward30, the group aims to continue enhancing our position as the leading focused Asean bank, driving meaningful and lasting impact for customers, employees and societies. We will actively pursue opportunities to reimagine our operating model, unlock new areas of growth while generating long-term sustainable value," said Novan.

AmBank grants RM1b financing to Worldwide Stainless for Bahru Stainless deal

PETALING JAYA: AmBank Group has granted RM1.06 billion financing facilities to Worldwide Stainless Sdn Bhd, an affiliate of Yankong Group, for the acquisition of Bahru Stainless Sdn Bhd from Acerinox SA, a stainless-steel manufacturer based in Spain.

The acquisition was completed in November 2024, with AmBank having financed 80% of the deal between Worldwide Stainless and Acerinox.

The acquisition of Bahru Stainless puts Malaysia back in the global stainless-steel space, and makes them the nation's sole producer of cold-rolled stainless steel, meeting both domestic and international demand.

In line with Malaysia's New Industrial Master Plan to steer industrial growth and sustainability, the acquisition marks a significant step in revitalising Malaysia's stainless-steel industry

and to accelerate its global expansion.

Bahru Stainless ceased operations in May 2024 but have resumed them since December.

The group is implementing a streamlined production process to enhance efficiency and sustainability with its plant's annual capacity of 300,000 tonnes is set to be increased gradually, ensuring operational stability and quality consistency. It is also investing in workforce upskilling and adopting innovative technologies to secure long-term growth and this includes but is not limited to rehiring 90% of its retrenched workforce, reinstating skilled professionals with decades of expertise.

Yankong Group, established in 2006, represents one of Malaysia's largest stainless steel traders serving key industries and global players, with Worldwide Stainless, which was established

in 2024, operating in affiliation with the group.

AmBank Group business banking managing director, Christopher Yap said: "We are honoured to be the group's main banker as we support them through this commendable milestone. This is not just a turning point for both organisations; it also represents a bold step forward that will benefit the Malaysian economy and our nation's stainless-steel industry.

"The stainless steel industry in Malaysia is poised for growth, and with Bahru Stainless' expertise combined with our financial support, we are ready to capture new opportunities in local and global markets. Through this we hope to support local industries, foster job creation, and economic growth in Malaysia, positioning ourselves to make a significant impact in the Malaysian marketplace."

Worldwide Stainless and Yankong Group CEO Danny Tan Wei Beoh said: "This signing marks a significant step for Worldwide Stainless with the successful acquisition of Bahru Stainless Sdn Bhd, which is the only stainless-steel mill in Malaysia, from Acerinox SA, at a purchase consideration of US\$95 million (RM421.3 million). This milestone transaction would not have been possible without the strong support and commitment from our financial partner, AmBank.

"AmBank's confidence in our vision and capabilities was demonstrated through their pivotal role in financing 80% of the deal. The faith they have placed in us reflects not only our company's standing within the stainless-steel industry but also the enduring trust we have built together over the years."



NCCIM calls for proactive steps to mitigate impact

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) has urged the government to take proactive measures to mitigate the impact on Malaysian industries following the US reciprocal tariffs announcement on April 2.

The NCCIM outlined a strategic framework to counteract the challenges posed by these tariffs and enhance Malaysia's trade resilience.

Given Malaysia's deep trade ties with the United States, NCCIM underscored the importance of trade diversification and market expansion to reduce reliance on any single market.

The chamber recommended leveraging Asean free trade agreements, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership to expand Malaysia's export footprint, particularly in China, India the Middle East, and Africa.

In a statement, NCCIM president Datuk Seri N Gobalakrishnan said to protect key industries such as automotive, electronics, and palm oil, NCCIM calls for diplomatic negotiations with US trade representatives to seek tariff exemptions.

"The chamber also urges the government to explore a Malaysia-US bilateral trade agreement that ensures long-term trade stability and strengthens bilateral economic cooperation," he said.

Further, NCCIM advocated for tax incentives, subsidies, and financial assistance to help Malaysian businesses cope with potential tariff burdens.

It highlighted the need for upskilling and automation initiatives to enhance industry competitiveness through adoption of Industry 4.0 and strengthening local supply chains, reducing reliance on foreign imports and bolstering domestic industries. It called for enhanced export promotion via improved digital trade infrastructure and streamlined customs processes.

In addition, NCCIM urged the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to strengthen Malaysia's trade diplomacy efforts through active engagement with the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Asean and key global trade allies.

Verdant Solar sees healthy market growth on horizon

BY JOHN GILBERT
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Verdant Solar Sdn Bhd anticipates healthy double-digit year-on-year growth in the residential and commercial solar markets, boosted by continuous government support through stronger incentives for adoption of the renewable energy source.

The company sees this growth driven by a significantly shorter return-on-investment period, making solar an increasingly attractive investment for both segment markets.

CEO Zeth Lim (*pic*) said tax incentives for commercial and industrial sectors and the Solaris rebate for homeowners have significantly accelerated solar adoption.

"Government initiatives such as the Net Energy Metering

Company projects double-digit expansion in both residential and commercial segments, boosted by government support through incentives



Scheme, Selco (self-consumption), Corporate Green Power Agreement and the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme further support the industry's growth. Additional improvements – such as faster approval processes, consistent policy frameworks, enhanced incentives

and increased quotas – could propel industry adoption further," he told *SunBiz*.

When asked about the most effective strategies driving adoption, Lim said the company

continues to expand its dedicated team, customers and banks on strong partnerships.

"We continuously invest in our people, technology, and processes to make solar adoption simple and accessible. As we expand, we strive to source talent and resources from local communities, directly creating employment and enhancing workforce skills in renewable energy.

"Additionally, we are committed to forming meaningful local partnerships to cultivate greener, sustainable cities in Malaysia."

Verdant Solar recently launched the Verdant Home App, which streamlines customer communication, speeds up processes and provides clarity at every step. "Moving forward, we plan to expand into new regions to sustain and accelerate this positive momentum," Lim said.

According to Modor Intelligence, the Malaysian solar energy market is expected to register a compound annual growth rate greater than 9% during the 2025-2030 forecast period.

The report noted that factors such as the increasing investments in the renewable energy sector and the country's efforts to shift from fossil fuel-based power generation are expected to drive the market during the forecast period.

However, high initial invest-

ment costs associated with solar projects are expected to hinder market growth during the study period.

Nevertheless, Malaysia aims to install 9GW of solar energy capacity by 2050. Therefore, the country's ambitious solar energy targets and business models, such as solar leasing, are expected to create many opportunities in the near future.

While Verdant Solar remains primarily focused on residential solar solutions, Lim said the company has expanded into the commercial and industrial market since 2024, aligning with the increasing corporate demand for sustainability.

"We constantly explore opportunities to contribute to Malaysia's clean energy transition actively. Currently, our primary focus remains on expanding solar adoption, as there's still significant growth potential in this area."

Replying to a question on Verdant Solar's upcoming battery energy storage system (BESS) to enhance energy reliability and affordability for Malaysian consumers, Lim said the company's BESS will significantly enhance energy reliability by allowing homeowners to store excess solar power for peak usage or during outages.

"This reduces dependency on the grid, lowers electricity bills, and shields consumers from rising energy costs.

"Our long-term vision is to see solar panels installed on every rooftop in Malaysia. We also aim to expand regionally starting in 2026 and welcome collaboration with global renewable energy players who share our goal of creating a greener and more sustainable future," he said.



Verdant Solar continuously invests in its people, technology and processes to make solar adoption simple and accessible. – VERDANT SOLAR PIC

US tariffs a negotiation tool, not long-term measure: Phillip Capital Research

KUALA LUMPUR: The recent implementation of US tariffs appears to be more of a strategic negotiation tool than a definitive long-term measure, leaving room for potential recalibration based on future trade agreements.

Phillip Capital Research sees a limited likelihood of changes for those subject to the 10% base tariff.

The research firm said that should these measures become enduring, China's elevated tariff burden could weigh on Malaysia's economic growth, posing downside risks to our projected 2025 gross domestic product growth of 5.1%.

"That said, Malaysia's relatively lower tariff exposure within Asean suggests that overall impact remains

manageable, allowing it to maintain export competitiveness and reinforcing our view of trade diversion opportunities," the research firm said in a note.

To recap, US President Donald Trump announced comprehensive reciprocal tariffs on April 2, imposing a baseline 10% levy on all trading partners (effective last Saturday), with significantly higher rates targeting specific countries (effective Wednesday).

China faces a 34% tariff, the European Union 20%, Taiwan 32% and Japan 24%, among others. Malaysia's 24% tariff rate is among the least affected Asean countries, behind Singapore and the Philippines. Additionally, a 25% tariff was imposed on all foreign-made automobiles.

Phillip Capital Research said that, for now, the reciprocal tariffs exempt certain critical goods, steel, aluminium and autos/auto parts subject to existing duties. Other exemptions include copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber, bullion, energy and select minerals unavailable in the United States.

Further, Phillip Capital Research said Chinese gloves entering the US now face a total tariff of 104%, comprising a 50% tariff under Joe Biden's administration, Trump's 34% reciprocal tariff, and a pre-existing 20% tariff.

The firm said this has widened the tariff gap between Chinese and Malaysian gloves to 80% from 50% in early 2025, creating a more favourable landscape for Malaysian glove makers.

"The sharp increase in costs for Chinese imports is expected to shift demand towards alternative suppliers, particularly those in Malaysia. With the US accounting for 24-50% of total sales for local glove manufacturers, we foresee stronger demand benefiting the domestic glove industry," the research firm said.

Touching on the technology sector, Phillip Capital Research said the temporary exclusion of semiconductors from new US tariffs alleviates immediate concerns.

"However, we remain vigilant for potential future tariff risks. The 25% year-to-date decline in the KL Technology index, which has returned to 2020 levels, has brought valuations down to 28x PE, or -1.5SD below the

sector's historical average PE.

"For sector exposure, we prefer Frontken (buy with a target price of RM4.68), underpinned by its unique front-end value chain proposition and direct access to a leading wafer fab customer, which benefits from growing AI adoption," it said.

The research firm further said that the lingering uncertainty over potential sector-specific tariffs on semiconductors may continue to weigh on investor sentiment.

"With earnings recovery expectations repeatedly deferred, valuation multiples could stay derated for longer. Meanwhile, tariff risks may prompt global MNCs to delay or scale back capex spending, increasing the risk of further order slowdowns."



Black Group prioritises M'sian talent

► S'pore-based company's S\$100m medical and hospitality facility in Kuala Lumpur to collaborate with institutions on training and upskilling

BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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PETALING JAYA: Singapore-based Black Group Investment Holding's S\$100 million (RM331 million) medical and hospitality facility in Kuala Lumpur will prioritise Malaysian talent and collaborate with local higher institutions for training and upskilling programmes.

The new medical facility is expected to create 1,000 direct and indirect jobs, from medical professionals and hospitality experts to administrative and technical staff, for Malaysians across the healthcare, hospitality, real estate and biotechnology sectors.

Black Group chief investment

officer Datuk Seri Alan Lee (*pic*) said the company will collaborate with local educational institutions to provide training and upskilling programmes. "This will ensure that Malaysians are equipped with the skills needed to thrive in this dynamic industry," he told *SunBiz*.

Beyond job creation, Lee anticipates a multiplier effect on the local economy, benefiting SMEs in construction, retail and supply chain services.

"Our goal is not just to create jobs but to foster long-term career growth and economic empowerment for the Malaysian community," he said.

Black Group announced its plan to develop the facility, named

Meditel, in Kuala Lumpur last month and it is expected to begin operations in September.

Lee said several factors drove the decision to invest in the project.

"Firstly, Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle is not only the heart of Malaysia's economic and cultural life but also a strategic hub for regional and global connectivity. This location offers unparalleled access to world-class infrastructure, a thriving business ecosystem, and a diverse talent pool."

He added that Malaysia's medical tourism industry is one of the fastest-growing in the region, and it is already recognised as a global leader in healthcare services.

"The government's proactive policies, such as the National

Medical Tourism Strategic Plan, have created a conducive environment for investment. We see immense potential in combining medical excellence with luxury hospitality to cater to local and international patients seeking premium healthcare experiences," said Lee.

Additionally, the post-pandemic world has underscored the importance of robust healthcare infrastructure and wellness-focused hospitality, he noted. "By investing in this integrated facility, we aim to contribute to Malaysia's vision of becoming a global healthcare destination while addressing the growing demand for high-quality medical and wellness services."

Lee envisioned Black Group as a key player in Malaysia's healthcare, hospitality and real estate sectors in five years.

"Our medical and hospitality facility in the Golden Triangle will be a flagship project, setting new standards for integrated health-

care and luxury wellness services," he said.

Lee said Black Group aims to expand the footprint by developing additional facilities in other strategic locations across Malaysia, creating a network of world-class medical and hospitality hubs. "Beyond real estate, we plan to establish strong partnerships with local biotech firms and research institutions, positioning Black Group at the forefront of medical innovation in the region."

The goal is to contribute to Malaysia's economic growth while addressing critical healthcare needs and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens, Lee said.

"Ultimately, we see Black Group as a trusted partner in Malaysia's journey towards becoming a global leader in healthcare, biotechnology, and sustainable urban development. This is not just an investment in infrastructure; it is an investment in the future of Malaysia and its people," he added.



Both buyer and seller are obligated to submit Real Property Gains Tax returns, and any failure to do so will result in penalties. — BERNAMAPIC

Local rubber market expected to trade lower

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian rubber market is expected to trade on a downward bias this week as the aftermath of the US tariff announcements has dampened the global demand outlook, coupled with the ongoing trade war that has also contributed to a slowdown in the global economy, said the Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association (Margma).

The association noted that the tariff announcement has affected industries worldwide, resulting in losses in regional futures markets, fluctuations in oil prices, and a decline in market sentiment.

However, it viewed that rubber prices may find some support due to adverse weather conditions, which have negatively impacted natural rubber production and limited supply.

"This, in addition to expectations that the Chinese government will introduce further stimulus measures to mitigate the effects of the US tariffs, could help stabilise prices," Margma said.

It added that the performance of regional rubber futures markets, along with the strengthening of the ringgit, oil prices, and any further developments regarding the tariffs, will also influence prices," it told Bernama.

Meanwhile, industry expert Denis Low stated that the local rubber market is expected to be volatile this week, primarily due to the US tariff situation. He noted that it will take some time to fully assess the impact on individual industries and countries.

"In such an environment, there will likely be caution in stocking activities, as commodities may experience an immediate downturn, leading the rubber market to trend sideways or lower (this week)," he said.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's reference price for Standard Malaysian Rubber 20 decreased by 38 sen to 836.5 sen per kg, while latex in bulk declined by 3 sen to 668 sen per kg.

Are you paying the right RPGT under self-assessment?

FROM January 2025, it is mandatory for taxpayers to self-assess Real Property Gains Tax (RPGT) on disposal of any real property and submit returns electronically to the Inland Revenue Board (IRB). There is no avenue to submit the RPGT returns manually.

The RPGT returns should be submitted within 60 days from the date of disposal which will usually be the date of the sale and purchase agreement, and the tax thereon will be payable within 90 days from the date of disposal.

Both buyer and seller are obligated to submit RPGT returns, and any failure to do so will result in penalties. Normally, the buyer will be expected to withhold 3%, 5% or 7% of the sale consideration, and hand it over to the IRB within 60 days from the date of disposal. The exception is where the disposer furnishes a notification to the IRB indicating that the disposal is not subject to tax or exempt from tax under the RPGT Act.

Be careful in calculating the RPGT liability

In a self-assessment regime, there is no opportunity for the taxpayer to engage with the IRB before you file your RPGT return. In the event your calculation is incorrect which results in an underpayment of RPGT, you will face additional taxes and penalties.

You must exercise diligence when filing your

tax returns. The key items where errors can occur are the acquisition date, the disposal date, the acquisition price and disposal price, which will have a consequential effect on the rate of

tax payable. For example, if the disposal date was determined to be in the sixth year instead of the fifth year after the date of acquisition, the rate of tax can change from 0% to 15%.

If there are condition precedents in your sale and purchase agreements, and if these conditions are subject to approval from government or state government authorities, the date of disposal can move until the when the last of such conditions are satisfied.

There are also specific rules that should be understood in cases involving gift of assets on death, or devolving assets to legatees, and transactions involving the executor of the estate. These rules should be carefully understood before you file your tax returns.

Particular attention should be paid in determining the acquisition price and the disposal price. In determining the acquisition price, the disposer needs to take into account any compensation he has received in relation to the asset, or any insurance proceeds received for damage to the property, or any forfeited amounts received in connection with the transfer of the property prior to the disposal.

Similarly, when determining the disposal



TAX MATTERS
BY S. M. THANNEERMALAI

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Reshaping talent development in M'sia

➤ Yayasan Peneraju's new financing scheme empowers trainees by providing funds directly to them

BY JOHN GILBERT
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KUALA LUMPUR: Yayasan Peneraju's ambitious plans to train more than 100,000 Bumiputera professionals in the realms of business services and technology are highly lauded, and are responsive to today's rapidly evolving job market, driven by technological advancements and shifting industry needs.

CEO Ibrahim Sani said that unlike traditional models where funding is directed to learning and training institutions (LTIs), Yayasan Peneraju's new financing scheme directly empowers the talents themselves by giving the training funds directly to them and not to the LTIs. This allows the talents to have greater control over how they want to build skills and shape their careers themselves.

"This approach goes beyond preparing individuals to simply be just hired hands or employees forever; the goal is to develop them to be future business owners, professional leaders, and community impact drivers.

"Through platforms like Peneraju Alumni, YPX (Yayasan Peneraju Exchange) events and other engagement channels, talents actively shape the training and learn to allocate resources they receive, to ensure they get what they think they deserve the best.

"This adaptive model ensures Yayasan Peneraju remains aligned with industry demands while fostering the growth of dynamic, multifaceted leaders," he told *SunBiz*.

Ibrahim said that in a world where technological advancements are reshaping industries at an unprecedented pace, aligning skill development with real industry demands is crucial.

Yayasan Peneraju is actively addressing this challenge, particularly in rapidly evolving fields such as artificial intelligence, semi-

conductor design and cybersecurity.

Ibrahim said this monumental shift was instructed by Economy Minister Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli, who is also the chairman of Yayasan Peneraju, as it is the CEO's mission is to make professional training more accessible, and to be able to scale up enrolments manifold.

Additionally, Ibrahim said cross-ministerial partnerships with the Future Skills Talent Council under TalentCorp and the Johor Talent Development Council further enhance their efforts.

"Engaging directly with over 300 employers across various sectors allows Yayasan Peneraju to gain valuable insights into the skills that are truly needed in the marketplace. This strategic approach not only prepares talents for current opportunities but also equips them for future challenges," Ibrahim said.

He noted that as Yayasan Peneraju's ambitious journey of tripling graduate outputs and expanding total talent enrolments to 7,200, comprising 5,000 in technology and 2,200 in professional fields, the agency faces significant challenges.

This is just a start, as Rafizi has also announced that Yayasan Peneraju will start enrolling over 10,000 talents per year from 2026 onwards.

"In mid-March 2025, we marked 2,000 registrations just weeks after our launch. However, if the current enrolment rate persists, we anticipate reaching our goal well before June 2025. This surge in interest may even prompt us to reconsider our capacity, potentially increasing our target from 7,200 to 10,000 or even 15,000," Ibrahim said.

Last month, Rafizi, through Yayasan Peneraju, which comes under the Economy Ministry, introduced a structured financing programme, with Silver, Gold and Platinum packages, offering up to RM150,000 per



Rafizi (right) announcing the new financing scheme with Silver, Gold and Platinum packages as Ibrahim looks on.

individual starting in 2025.

The minister said the new tiered scheme aims to accelerate Bumiputera talent development with RM150 million in annual allocations.

"We need to further increase Bumiputera participation in professional fields while fulfilling the country's economic needs, and we have to do this by scaling up enrolments aggressively in the years to come.

"That is why we have completely transformed not only the financing model but also the development of the local training and upskilling industry, making it more competitive and accessible to a larger number of people," Rafizi told reporters at the announcement of the new financing scheme.

When asked if the annual RM150 million allocation is sufficient to meet rising demand, Ibrahim said the allocation for talent development is

significant, but questions remain about whether it will be enough to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals.

"Interestingly, we believe that this amount might even be too high. Yayasan Peneraju has managed to lower training costs by encouraging competition among LTIs, which are eager to attract talents. LTIs now have to compete to get our talents, and the best way to do this is to make their training costs more competitive and optimal.

"With the new financing scheme, talents can take loans, prompting them to choose the most affordable and optimise their training options. This shift means that LTIs must keep their prices competitive to remain appealing.

"Instead of focusing solely on increasing funding through private partnerships or international collaborations, Yayasan Peneraju aims to create a more efficient training and

upskilling marketplace. This approach is designed to make the best use of resources and effectively meet the changing needs of the industry," Ibrahim said.

He said while talent in underserved regions or those lacking digital access is addressed by different agencies, Yayasan Peneraju has seen a significant shift in enrolment from Sabah and Sarawak.

Before 2022, he added, these regions accounted for just under 5% of the total talent pool.

However, following the leadership of Rafizi and Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Hanifah Taib, enrolments from Sabah and Sarawak have increased twentyfold, and now make up about 15% of the total talents financed by Yayasan Peneraju.

"This dramatic rise indicates that issues related to digital access are not a primary concern for Yayasan Peneraju," Ibrahim said.

WARRANTS WATCH

Subdued trading activity amid holidays in Malaysia, Hong Kong

WARRANTS turnover last week came in at RM237.7 million, which represented a 76% week-on-week (w-o-w) decrease, in conjunction with the reduction in trading days amid the Hari Raya Aidilfitri holiday which spanned two days in Malaysia. Further, the Hong Kong market was shut on Friday in observance of the Qing Ming festival. With the holidays last week, trading activity in Hang Seng Index (HSI) warrants was subdued, with turnover coming in 78% lower w-o-w, at RM193.1 million.

Despite the reduced trading activity, turnover for HSI warrants came in at 81% of the overall turnover. Meanwhile, trading on warrants over Malaysian stocks came in at RM6.1mil.

The Hong Kong market extended its decline to a fourth consecutive week, with the HSI and the HSTECH closing 2.5% and 3.5% lower w-o-w

respectively. The HSI tumbled by 1.5% on Thursday, following a selloff on Wall Street as US President Donald Trump announced retaliatory tariffs on many global trading partners. The tariffs announced were worse than expected and brought about fears of a global trade war and recessions. The US stock markets on Thursday posted their single worst-day performance since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 as the S&P 500 Index tumbled by 5%, alongside the Nasdaq-100 (NDX) which plunged 5.5%.

With the global market moves, investors were seen actively trading HSI calls, namely HSI-CWCM, HSI-CWEJ and HSI-CWCY, which notched in a combined 500 million units traded for the week. By value traded, HSI warrants HSI-PWD1, HSI-CWEJ and HSI-PWFR took the top positions in

Top NIKKEI warrants by value traded

Warrant name	Value traded	Issuer	Exercise level	Expiry date
NIKKEI-CN	326k	Macquarie	40,000.00	13 June 2025
NIKKEI-HK	252k	Macquarie	35,000.00	13 June 2025
NIKKEI-CO	44k	Macquarie	36,000.00	13 June 2025
NIKKEI-HM	52k	Macquarie	43,000.00	13 June 2025
NIKKEI-HL	22k	Macquarie	39,000.00	13 June 2025

the leaderboard. In addition, call and put warrants over the SP500 and NDX attracted investors' attention as their trading activity increased w-o-w despite the shortened week.

Regionally, the SGX Nikkei225 Index (Nikkei) futures also saw notable moves, with the futures extending its decline to a third consecutive week. The futures saw a 3% decline as of Friday's close,

following Wall Street's overnight bloodbath. Warrants over the Nikkei were actively traded, with NIKKEI-CN, NIKKEI-HK, and NIKKEI-CO recording the greatest weekly value traded. On a w-o-w basis, NIKKEI-HK notched in a 89% gain, as its price moves in the opposite direction to the futures, increasing in value as the futures decline, and vice versa.

On the local scene, activity was

rather light, with warrants over Supermax Corporation notching over 87 million units traded as the underlying gained 6% w-o-w following the tariff announcements. Other warrants which saw notable trading activity throughout the week included Gamuda, YTL Power and YTL Corporation.

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

Provided for Malaysian residents' information only. It is not an offer or recommendation to trade and is not research material. You should make your own assessment and seek professional advice. The warrants will not be offered to any US persons.

Musk wants Europe-America free trade zone

ROME: Billionaire US presidential adviser Elon Musk said on Saturday he hoped Europe and the United States would agree to join in a free-trade zone, after US leader Donald Trump unleashed heavy global trade tariffs.

Trump's sweeping tariffs announced earlier last week sent global stocks tumbling, worried allies and raised the prospect of others – including potentially the European Union – raising tariffs themselves.

The European Union, which faces a 20% tariff, has already vowed to retaliate in "a calm, carefully phased, unified way", EU trade commissioner Maros Sefcovic said.

"I hope that the United States and Europe can establish a very close partnership," Musk said in a video address to a gathering of the Italian hard-right party La Liga.

"I hope it is agreed that both Europe and the United States should move ideally, in my view, to a zero-tariff situation, effectively creating a free-trade zone between Europe and North America," he added in the video, posted on Musk's social media platform X by La Liga's leader, Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini.

The billionaire said he was in favour of "more freedom of people to move between Europe and North America" for work.

"That has certainly been my advice to the president," he added.

But the Tesla CEO reiterated his condemnation of what he saw as mass immigration. – AFP

US duties could cost France 0.5% of GDP: French PM

PARIS: French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou said US President Donald Trump's global trade tariffs could cost France more than 0.5% of its GDP, in an interview released on Saturday.

Trump's tariffs against numerous countries raised fears of a general trade war and recession, sending stock markets plunging after they were unleashed last Wednesday.

In the case of France, the duties could shave off a whole half-point of output, the centrist premier was quoted as saying in yesterday's edition of the newspaper *Le Parisien*.

"The risk of job losses is absolutely major, as is that of an economic slowdown, or a halt in investment," he said.

A 10% "baseline" tariff came into force on Saturday and on April 9 around 60 trading partners, including the European Union, are set to face even higher rates.

"The destabilisation he has caused will weaken the global economy for a long time to come," Bayrou said, adding that such economic uncertainty could threaten France's efforts to lower its deficit.

Bayrou said he will share on April 15 the "general framework" of the choices to be made for the 2026 budget.

"The French must be involved in two necessities – finding the means for our independence, our security, our defence, and first of all our production capacity," he said.

Earlier on Saturday, French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed that "a trade war was in nobody's interests" but that "nothing was off the table" regarding their response to the tariffs. – AFP

US starts collecting 10% tariff, smashing global trade norms

Hang tough, it will not be easy, Trump tells Americans

WASHINGTON: US customs agents began collecting President Donald Trump's unilateral 10% tariff on all imports from many countries on Saturday, with higher levies on goods from 57 larger trading partners due to start this week.

The initial 10% "baseline" tariff paid by American importers took effect at US seaports, airports and customs warehouses at 12.01am ET (12pm in Malaysia), ushering in Trump's full rejection of the post-World War II system of mutually agreed tariff rates.

"This is the single biggest trade action of our lifetime," said Kelly Ann Shaw, a trade lawyer at Hogan Lovells and former White House trade adviser during Trump's first term.

Shaw told a Brookings Institution event on Thursday that she expected the tariffs to evolve over time as countries seek to negotiate lower rates.

"This is a pretty seismic and significant shift in the way that we trade with every country on earth," she said.

Trump's Wednesday tariff announcement shook global stock markets, wiping out US\$5 trillion in value for S&P 500 index companies by Friday's close, a record two-day decline.

Driven by recession fears, prices for oil and commodities plunged, while investors fled to the safety of government bonds.

Among the countries first hit with the 10% tariff were Australia, Britain, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina and Saudi Arabia despite their having goods trade deficits with the US last year.

White House officials have said many countries would run larger deficits with the US if their policies were fairer.

A US Customs and Border Protection bulletin provided a 51-day grace period for cargoes loaded or in transit to the US before 12.01am ET on Saturday.

These cargoes need to arrive by May 27 to avoid the 10% duty.

Higher "reciprocal" tariff rates of 11% to 50% are due to take effect on Wednesday at 12.01am ET.

European Union imports will face a 20% tariff, while Chinese goods will be hit with a 34% tariff, bringing Trump's total new levies on China to 54%.

China applied a slew of countermeasures, including extra levies of 34% on all US goods and export curbs on some rare earth minerals.

"China has been hit much harder than the USA, not even close," Trump said on Saturday on social media.

"THIS IS AN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION, AND WE WILL WIN. HANG TOUGH, it won't be easy, but the end result will be historic."

Shortly after posting the comment, Trump was spotted arriving at his Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida, reading a *New York Post* article covering China's retaliation to US tariffs and the stock market fall.

"A trade war is in no one's interest. We must stand united and resolute to protect our citizens and our businesses," French President Emmanuel Macron said in a post on X.

Some world leaders hoped to strike a deal with Trump and avert economic fallout while others weighed countermeasures.

Canada and Mexico were exempt from Trump's latest duties but still face a 25% tariff imposed recently on goods that do not comply with rules of origin under a North American trade accord.

While Trump's order exempted 1,000 product categories from the new tariffs such as pharmaceuticals, uranium and semiconductors, the administration is considering new duties on some of them. – Reuters



New Land Rover cars are seen in a parking lot at the Jaguar Land Rover plant in Liverpool. – REUTERS/SPIC

Starmer ready to 'shelter' British businesses

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Saturday he was ready to step in to help "shelter" the country's businesses from the fallout from US President Donald Trump's new tariff policies, mooting state intervention for the worst-affected industries.

"We stand ready to use industrial policy to help shelter British business from the storm."

"Some people may feel uncomfortable about this – the idea the state should intervene directly to shape the market has often been derided," the prime

minister wrote in *The Telegraph* newspaper.

"But we simply cannot cling on to old sentiments when the world is turning this fast."

While Starmer said the government's priority remains to try and secure a trade deal with the US which could include tariff exemptions, he said he will do "everything necessary" to protect the national interest.

Britain was spared the most punitive treatment in Trump's tariff announcement on Wednesday when it was hit with the lowest

import duty rate of 10%, but a global trade war will hurt its open economy.

"This week, we will turbocharge plans that will improve our domestic competitiveness, so we're less exposed to these kinds of global shocks," he said, adding the government also wanted to strengthen alliances and reduce barriers to trade.

The Telegraph said that Starmer's government could bring in emergency reforms to reduce red tape around regulation and raised the prospect of targeted tax breaks to help affected sectors.

British car maker Jaguar Land Rover said on Saturday it would pause shipments of cars to the US for a month due to the tariffs, adding to fears about the impact on an industry which employs 200,000 people in the UK.

In *The Telegraph*, Starmer reiterated he would take a "cool-headed" approach to the tariffs rather than immediately retaliating, but he added: "All options remain on the table."

Britain on Wednesday published a 400-page list of US goods it could include in any possible retaliatory tariff response. – Reuters

Vietnam GDP growth slows in first quarter

► Incoming American levies to hit garments, footwear and electronics hardest: Statistics office

HANOI: Vietnam's economic growth slowed in the first quarter of the year, data showed yesterday, ahead of challenges the export-reliant economy will face in coming months from hefty US trade tariffs.

The Southeast Asian country's gross domestic product rose 6.93% in the first three months from the same period last year, slowing from 7.55% in the quarter ending in December, the National Statistics Office said in a report.

Exports and foreign investment in manufacturing are key drivers of Vietnam's economy, but that model may come under pressure after President Donald Trump announced a 46% tariff on Vietnam's exports to the US.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said

Trump's tariffs did not change the government's target of at least 8% growth this year.

To hit the target, growth for the remaining quarters will need to rise by between 8.2% and 8.4%, but if Trump's tariff on Vietnamese goods causes a 10% drop in the country's shipments to the US, that could cut GDP growth by 0.84 percentage points, the statistics office estimated.

Hardest hit would be the garment, footwear, electronics and smartphone sectors, it said.

"Export to the US is one of Vietnam's main drivers, the tariff may lower foreign investments into Vietnam, especially from American, South Korean and Chinese partners, which may lead to a decrease in jobs and income," said Nguyen Thi Mai Hanh, a senior official at the statistics office.

America remained Vietnam's largest importer in the first quarter, and Vietnam's trade surplus with the US rose 22.1% from a year earlier to US\$27.3 billion (RM121 billion).

Industrial production increased 7.8% in the first quarter year-on-year, slowing from 11.5% in the December quarter.

The statistics office warned that industrial production in the second quarter may face challenges due to the tariffs and global uncertainty.

Exports rose an annual 10.6% in the March quarter, accelerating from 7.9% in the final quarter of 2024.

In a note published last Thursday, research firm BMI said the US tariff rate on Vietnam was harsher than expected, and could see GDP growth miss its forecast for this year of 7.4% by up to 3 percentage points.

"This will significantly damage Vietnam's current (foreign direct investment)/ export-based growth model, which heavily relies on exports to the US," BMI said.

Economic activity in Vietnam usually slows in the first quarter of the year because of disruption from week-long celebrations for the Lunar New Year.

Investment consultants have said growth may have been impacted this year as companies delayed investment decisions ahead of the tariff announcement.

A survey of US manufacturers in Vietnam in February showed that most expected layoffs and disruption to their local operations in the event of tariffs.

Vietnam's consumer prices rose 3.13% in March from a year earlier, the statistics office said. – Reuters

Bangladesh holds textile crisis talks

DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim leader called an emergency meeting on Saturday after textile leaders in the world's second-largest garment manufacturing nation said US tariffs were a "massive blow" to the key industry.

Textile and garment production accounts for about 80% of exports in the South Asian country, and the industry has been rebuilding after it was hard hit in a revolution that toppled the government last year.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday slapped punishing new tariffs of 37% on Bangladesh, hiking duties from the previous 16% on cotton and 32% on polyester products.

Bangladesh exports US\$8.4 billion (RM37 billion) of garments annually to the United States, according to data from the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the national trade body.

That totals around 20% of Bangladesh's total ready-made garments exports.

Interim leader Muhammad Yunus "convened an emergency meeting... to discuss the US tariff issue", the government said in a statement.

Sheikh Bashiruddin, who holds the commerce portfolio in the government, told reporters after the meeting that Yunus "will raise the issue with the US administration".

Bashiruddin said he believed Bangladesh would "not be severely affected", adding that some other competitors faced "much higher than those on us".

Bangladesh, the second-largest producer after China, manufactures garments for global brands – including for American firms such as Gap Inc, Tommy Hilfiger and Levi Strauss. – AFP

Taiwan leader meets tech executives to discuss tariff response

TAIPEI: Taiwan President Lai Ching-te met tech executives on Saturday to discuss how to respond to new US tariffs, promising to ensure Taiwan's global competitiveness and safeguard the island's interests.

President Donald Trump announced across-the-board import tariffs on Wednesday with much higher duties for dozens of trading partners, including Taiwan, which runs a large trade surplus with the United States and faces a 32% duty on its products.

The US tariffs, however, do not apply to semiconductors, a major Taiwanese export.

Lai met the executives at his official residence to discuss the response to "the global economic and trade challenges brought about by the reciprocal tariff policy", his spokesperson Karen Kuo said in a statement.

She did not say which companies were present, only that there were several representatives from the information and communications technology, or ICT, industry.

Lai "hopes to give industry the greatest support, stabilise the economic situation, ensure Taiwan's industry's global competitiveness, and safeguard our country's national interests and the continued steady progress of our economy", Kuo said.

Taiwan is home to TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker and an important supplier to companies including Apple and Nvidia.

Taiwan media reported that attendees at the Lai meeting included TSMC's deputy co-chief operating officer Cliff Hou, who is also chairman of the Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association, and Young Liu, the chairman of major Apple supplier Foxconn.

On Friday, Taiwan's government said it would provide T\$88 billion (RM11.8 billion) in financial help for companies and industries to deal with the impact of the American tariffs. – Reuters



Labourers working at Hung Viet garment export factory in Hung Yen province, Vietnam. – REUTERS/SPIC

Market has spoken, Beijing tells Washington

BEIJING: China said on Saturday "the market has spoken" in rejecting US President Donald Trump's tariffs, and called on Washington for "equal-footed consultation" after global markets plunged in reaction to the trade levies that drew Chinese retaliation.

State-run Xinhua news agency also published the Chinese government's stance, saying the United States should "stop using tariffs as a weapon to suppress China's economy and trade".

Hong Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan told public broadcaster RTHK, however, Hong Kong would not impose separate countermeasures, citing the need for the city to remain "free and open".

"The market has spoken," Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said in a post on Facebook on Saturday.

He also posted a picture capturing Friday's falls on US markets.

Trump introduced additional 34% tariffs on Chinese goods as part of steep levies imposed on most US trade partners, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%.

Trump also closed a trade loophole that had allowed low-value packages from China to enter the US duty-free.

This prompted retaliation from China on Friday, including extra levies of 34% on all US goods and export curbs on some rare earths, escalating the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Global stock markets plummeted following

China's retaliation and Trump's comments on Friday that he would not change course, extending sharp losses that followed Trump's initial tariff announcement earlier in the week and marking the biggest losses since the pandemic.

For the week, the S&P 500 was down 9%.

"Now is the time for the US to stop doing the wrong things and resolve the differences with trading partners through equal-footed consultation," Guo wrote in English on Facebook.

In a separate statement published by Xinhua, the Chinese government urged the US: "Stop using tariffs as a weapon to suppress China's economy and trade, and stop undermining the legitimate development rights of the Chinese people." – Reuters



India, UAE to develop Sri Lanka energy hub

COLOMBO: India and the United Arab Emirates agreed to develop an energy hub in Sri Lanka, India's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, as New Delhi's competition with China grows in the Indian Ocean island nation.

The three nations signed the pact for the hub during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka, the first by a global leader since Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake took office in September.

New Delhi and Colombo have worked to deepen ties as India's southern neighbour recovers from a severe financial crisis triggered in 2022, during which India provided US\$4 billion in financial assistance.

Saturday's agreement boosts New Delhi's competition with China, whose state energy firm Sinopec has signed a deal to build a US\$3.2 billion oil refinery in Sri Lanka's southern port city of Hambantota.

The energy hub in the strategically important city of Trincomalee, a natural harbour in the Sri Lanka's east, will involve construction of a multi-product pipeline and may include using a World War II tank farm partly held by the Sri Lankan subsidiary of Indian Oil Corp, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters in Colombo.

"The UAE is a strategic partner for India in the energy space and therefore was an ideal partner for this exercise that is being done for the first time in the region," Misri said.

"The exact contours of UAE's role will be elaborated once the business to business discussions kick off." – Reuters

Meta releases new AI model

SAN FRANCISCO: Meta Platforms on Saturday released the latest version of its large language model (LLM) Llama, called the Llama 4 Scout and Llama 4 Maverick.

Meta said Llama is a multimodal AI system. Multimodal systems are capable of processing and integrating various types of data including text, video, images and audio, and can convert content across these formats.

Meta said the Llama 4 Scout and Llama 4 Maverick are its "most advanced models yet" and "the best in their class for multimodality".

Meta added that Llama 4 Maverick and Llama 4 Scout will be open source software.

It also said it was previewing Llama 4 Behemoth, which it called "one of the smartest LLMs in the world and our most powerful yet to serve as a teacher for our new models".

Big technology firms have been investing aggressively in AI infrastructure following the success of OpenAI's ChatGPT, which altered the tech landscape and drove investment into machine learning.

The *Information* reported on Friday that Meta had delayed the launch of its LLM's latest version because during development, Llama 4 did not meet Meta's expectations on technical benchmarks. – Reuters

Opec+ calls for compliance with oil output targets

➤ Brent crude prices crash after group's surprise decision to raise production

LONDON: Top Opec+ ministers stressed the need for full compliance with oil output targets and plans to compensate for pumping too much, after the group's surprise decision last week to raise output further helped send prices crashing to pandemic-level lows.

Several ministers from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led

by Russia, or Opec+ as the group is known, held an online joint ministerial monitoring committee meeting on Saturday.

Record output in Kazakhstan has angered several other members of the group, including top producer Saudi Arabia, sources have told Reuters.

Opec+ is urging the Central Asian country, among other members, to make further cuts to compensate for excess production.

"The committee noted the countries that did not achieve full conformity and compensation and reiterated the critical importance of achieving full conformity and compensation," Opec said in a statement.

The meeting, which groups the oil ministers from Saudi Arabia,

Russia and other leading producers, usually is held every two months and can make recommendations to change policy.

Kazakhstan's energy minister told the meeting that he would work with companies that produce the country's oil to make the additional cuts pledged to Opec+, a person who attended the meeting said.

Countries are to submit new plans for their compensation cuts by April 15, Opec said.

Last Thursday, eight Opec+ nation unexpectedly agreed to speed up their plan to phase out oil output cuts by increasing production by 411,000 barrels per day in May instead of 135,000 bpd, a decision that prompted oil prices to extend sharp losses.

Brent crude prices closed 7%

lower at US\$65.58 a barrel on Friday, their lowest since August 2021, pressured by the Opec+ decision and trade war fears after US President Donald Trump's announcement of sweeping new tariffs.

The May hike is the next increment of a plan agreed by Russia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Oman to gradually unwind their most recent output cut of 2.2 million bpd, which came into effect this month.

Opec+ also has 3.65 million bpd of other output cuts in place until the end of 2026 to support the market.

The next joint ministerial monitoring committee meeting is scheduled for May 28, when the full Opec+ group also plans to gather next to set policy. – Reuters



Demonstrators taking part in a protest to demand lower housing rental prices and better living conditions in Barcelona. – REUTERSPIC

Protesters rally across Spain against housing crisis

MADRID: Hundreds of thousands marched across 40 Spanish cities on Saturday to protest against soaring rents and a lack of affordable homes in a country that enjoys Europe's fastest economic growth and yet suffers from a severe housing shortage exacerbated by a tourism boom.

Spain's centre-left government has struggled to find a balance between attracting tourists and migrants to fill job gaps and keeping rents affordable for average citizens, as short-term rentals have mushroomed in major cities and coastal destinations alike.

"No matter who governs, we must

defend housing rights," activists shouted as they rattled keychains in Madrid, where more than 150,000 protesters marched through the capital's centre, according to the local tenants' union.

Average Spanish rents have doubled and house prices swelled by 44% over the past decade, data from property website *Idealista* showed, far outpacing salary growth.

Meanwhile, the supply of rentals has halved since the 2020 pandemic. "They're kicking all of us out to make tourist flats," said Margarita Aizpuru, a 65-year-old resident of the

popular Lavapiés neighbourhood.

Nearly 100 families living in her block were told by the building's owners that their rental contracts would not be renewed, she said.

Homeowners associations and experts say that current regulations discourage long-term rentals, and landlords find that renting to tourists or foreigners for days or a couple of months is more profitable and safer.

Spain received a record 94 million tourists in 2024, making it the second most-visited country in the world, as well as an influx of thousands of migrants, both of which are

widening a housing deficit of 500,000 homes, the Bank of Spain has said.

According to official data, only about 120,000 new homes are built in Spain every year – a sixth of the levels before the 2008 financial crisis – worsening the already acute supply shortage.

Wendy Davila, 26, said that the problem was not just in the city centre, since rents were too high "everywhere".

"It cannot be that to live in Madrid you need to share a flat with four others." – Reuters

MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 4

Bursa Trade Statistic

4 APRIL 2025

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

Participation

Retail (20.20%) Institution (38.29%) Foreign (41.51%)

Net (in RM mil.)

+68.94

Bought (in RM mil.)
416.74 Sold (in RM mil.)
347.81

+260.92

Bought (in RM mil.)
855.12 Sold (in RM mil.)
594.21

-329.86

Bought (in RM mil.)
620.57 Sold (in RM mil.)
950.43

Preliminary status (Excluding Trade Amendments) | Final data, refer to Bursa website



Need Some Ideas?

Our Monthly Trader's Talk will be held Every 1st Monday of the Month Live webinar with Q&A

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

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

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	11,195.65 -141.91
FBMKLCI	1,504.14 -14.77
CONSUMER PRODUCTS & SERVICES	478.84 -2.36
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES	147.20 -2.59
CONSTRUCTION	257.13 -7.23
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,306.51 -192.40
ENERGY	719.27 -15.87
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA	479.94 -4.21
HEALTH CARE	1,860.08 -14.91
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	999.64 -7.28
PROPERTY	975.08 -19.29
PLANTATION	7,332.19 -73.34
FBMSHA	10,923.18 -145.27
FBMACE	4,632.60 -75.71
TECHNOLOGY	46.67 -1.85

TURNOVER: 1.812 bil VALUE: RM1.892 bil

Bargain hunting, cautious sentiment expected on Bursa

BARGAIN-HUNTING activities are likely to emerge this week on Bursa Malaysia, with selling pressure expectation to ease as investors absorb the US tariff impact.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said buying opportunities would emerge, particularly for fundamentally strong blue chips with attractive dividend yields to hedge against prevailing market weakness.

Furthermore, he noted that the US tariff on Malaysia was relatively low compared with other regional countries.

"As such, we anticipate the FBM KLCI to trend within the 1,500-1,530 range (this week)," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, SPI Asset Management managing partner Stephen Innes said the 1,500-1,490 range could be tested, and this could weigh heavily on sentiment.

"If 1,500 gives way convincingly, we could see momentum accelerate to the downside. For now, I'm framing (this week's) range somewhere between 1,490 and 1,515, with risk skewed to the downside unless we get a clear catalyst like tariff rollbacks or coordinated central bank easing.

"Until then, traders should stay nimble – this is still a market running on nerves, not conviction," he told Bernama.

Bursa Malaysia was traded on the downside bias for the holiday-shortened week due to the Hari Raya Aidilfitri holidays. The sell-off followed US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs, with Malaysia's at 24%.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the key index declined 9.51 points to 1,504.14 from 1,513.65 a week earlier.

Turnover was lower at 6.70 billion units valued at RM5.74 billion against 14.0 billion units valued at RM11.43 billion in the preceding week.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
SAPNRG	0.045	-	-	438,622
CIMB	7.010	-0.120	-1.68	260,539
NEXG	0.235	-0.015	-6.00	256,063
PERTAMA	0.080	-0.010	-11.11	251,594
VS	0.800	-0.020	-2.44	245,119
MYEG	0.920	-0.010	-1.08	237,218
PERMAJU	0.035	-	-	231,353
VELOCITY-WB	0.045	-	-	230,208
GAMUDA	4.050	-0.190	-4.48	223,291
TRIVE	0.040	+0.005	+14.29	215,458
NATGATE	1.250	-0.077	-5.80	206,794
INARI	1.880	-0.120	-6.00	195,372
PBBANK	4.370	-0.030	-0.68	188,083
TANCO	0.855	-0.003	-0.35	186,097
JADI	0.030	+0.010	+50.00	176,578
YEWLEE-WA	0.250	-0.005	-1.96	173,124
RL	0.350	-	-	169,412
T7GLOBAL	0.310	-0.015	-4.62	167,367
OVERSEA	0.050	-	-	166,800
BPURI	0.330	-	-	163,457



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	73.000	+2.900	1,290
NIKKEI-HL	1.430	+0.360	120
NIKKEI-HM	2.430	+0.300	75
SP500-H53	1.360	+0.230	965
NIKKEI-HK	0.775	+0.150	1,610
HEIM	26.500	+0.140	3,609
NDX-HK	0.800	+0.135	8,134
KLCC	8.640	+0.120	892
AMEREIT	1.620	+0.070	1,839
GESHEN	4.350	+0.070	1,562
HTPADU	2.100	+0.070	4,196
GASMSIA	4.200	+0.066	8,535
EUROSP	2.400	+0.060	559
HSI-PWD7	0.325	+0.055	1,871
XIAOMI-C36	0.190	+0.055	5
BOXPAK	0.550	+0.050	8
EMICO	0.260	+0.050	3
SEM	2.000	+0.040	834
CDB	3.620	+0.040	8,194
IHH	6.790	+0.040	51,769

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
GENTINGC3K	0.015	+200.00	602
JADI-WB	0.010	+100.00	71,904
MAXLAND-WB	0.010	+100.00	297
OCR-WE	0.010	+100.00	13,137
S&FCAP-WC	0.010	+100.00	2,393
SAPNRG-WA	0.010	+100.00	5,755
EIB-WA	0.015	+50.00	900
ITRONIC-WA	0.015	+50.00	685
JADI	0.030	+50.00	176,578
MNC-WC	0.015	+50.00	1
SUPERMX-C4Q	0.015	+50.00	1,851
TECHBASE-WB	0.015	+50.00	216
XIAOMI-C36	0.190	+40.74	5
NIKKEI-HL	1.430	+33.65	120
G3	0.020	+33.33	41,989
NIKKEI-HK	0.775	+24.00	1,610
EMICO	0.260	+23.81	3
HSI-PWD7	0.325	+20.37	1,871
SP500-H53	1.360	+20.35	965
NDX-HK	0.800	+20.30	8,134

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	38,314.86	-2,231.07	-5.5
S&P 500 (US)	5,074.08	-322.44	-5.97
NASDAQ (US)	15,587.79	-962.82	-5.82
NYSE (US)	17,618.61	-1,148.58	-6.12
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	4,878.31	-234.97	-4.6
FTSE 100 (UK)	8,054.98	-419.76	-4.95
DAX (GER)	20,641.72	-1,075.67	-4.95
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	33,780.58	-955.35	-2.75
TOPIX (JPN)	2,482.06	-86.55	-3.37
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	22,849.81	-352.72	-1.52
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,861.50	-22.89	-0.59
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	178.24	-4.06	-2.23
SH SE COM (CHN)	3,342.01	-8.12	-0.24
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	2,465.42	-21.28	-0.86
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	75,364.69	-930.67	-1.22
ASX 200 (AUS)	7,667.85	-191.88	-2.44
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	7,847.59	-205.1	-2.55
FBM KLCI	1,504.14	-14.77	-0.97
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	3,825.86	-116.37	-2.95
WTI (US\$/BBL.)	61.99	-4.96	-7.41
BRENT (US\$/BBL.)	65.58	-4.56	-6.5
GOLD (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	3,035.40	-86.3	-2.76
SILVER (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	29.23	-2.74	-8.57
PLATINUM (US\$/T OZ)	923.14	-28.61	-3.01
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	440.2	-42.65	-8.83
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US\$/MT)	8,780.00	-586.5	-6.26
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	460.25	2.75	0.6
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	529	-7	-1.31
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	45.84	-1.22	-2.59
COCOA (ICE) (US\$/MT)	8,512.00	-779	-8.38
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	181.8	-4.4	-2.36

As at 5pm, April 4

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
TANCO-WC	0.710	-0.990	58,208
UTDPLT	21.420	-0.500	5,641
ALLIANZ-PA	18.140	-0.360	22
HLBANK	19.880	-0.360	3,619
MPI	17.160	-0.360	7,262
PETDAG	18.200	-0.320	1,437
F&N	23.620	-0.280	295
PENTA	2.500	-0.280	73,534
AMWAY	4.850	-0.260	4,718
FRONTKN	3.300	-0.250	78,616
ARKA	1.450	-0.240	10
HLFG	16.940	-0.220	1,092
HLIND	13.780	-0.220	543
HIBISCS	1.630	-0.210	121,014
PCHEM	3.280	-0.200	74,245
GAMUDA	4.050	-0.190	223,291
DLADY	29.700	-0.180	3
PANAMY	13.500	-0.160	159
KLUANG	5.500	-0.150	15
UWC	1.990	-0.150	16,158

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
PMETAL-C1K	0.005	-80.00	1,500
DIALOG-C2A	0.035	-76.67	1,000
ARMADA-C1B	0.040	-73.33	250
SIME-C92	0.040	-73.33	500
DIALOG-C1X	0.005	-66.67	500
GAMUDA-C2P	0.005	-66.67	1,200
ANCOMNY-CR	0.010	-60.00	7,940
MAXIS-C47	0.010	-60.00	100
TANCO-WC	0.710	-58.24	58,208
NIKKEI-CM	0.015	-57.14	1,950
GAMUDA-C2W	0.055	-52.17	50
BIOHLDG-WB	0.005	-50.00	167
JCY-C18	0.005	-50.00	3,600
PARLO-WA	0.005	-50.00	751
SNTORIA	0.005	-50.00	30
SLVEST-CJ	0.010	-50.00	1,200
TAKAFUL-CZ	0.005	-50.00	1
TENAGA-C2R	0.005	-50.00	1,000
UWC-C9	0.010	-50.00	7,449
WCT-C30	0.005	-50.00	566



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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Local bond yields seen rangebound amid volatility

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) and Government Investment Issues (GI) yields declined last week, falling between 1.6 and 5.1 basis points (bps).

The 10-year MGS dropped 4.2 bps to 3.730%, while the 10-year GI fell 2.4 bps to 3.746%.

Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd said domestic bond gained as Malaysia appeared relatively insulated from US President Donald Trump's tariff blow, drawing RM2.1 billion in foreign inflows.

Softer-than-expected US data added to the downward pressure on yields.

However, renewed global trade tensions and subdued domestic PMI readings limited further yield declines, Kenanga said.

Kenanga said local bond yields are expected to stay rangebound between 3.700% and 3.750% this week amid rising market volatility.

"Though ongoing tariff negotiations with the US may stir jitters, stronger domestic data could offer some support," it said.

Touching on the United States Treasuries (UST), Kenanga said yields fell sharply, moving between 24.9 to 36.1 bps.

The 10-year UST sank 33.1 bps to 4.029%, its lowest since October, while the 2-year UST dropped 30.8 bps to 3.682%.

The research firm said a broad risk-off shift drove the rally, triggered by Trump's sweeping tariff announcement, which reignited recession fears and sent US equities into retreat.

"Weaker labour market data and soft ISM prints in across manufacturing and services added momentum," it said.

On outlook, Kenanga said the 10-year yield is testing the 4% floor and may fall further if reciprocal tariffs take effect after April 9, increasing safe-haven demand.

"A deeper rally would likely require clearer signs of recession."

Ringgit to trade between 4.41 and 4.42 against dollar: Analyst

THE ringgit is projected to trade between 4.41 and 4.42 against the US dollar this week, according to an analyst.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the US tariff shock would continue to reverberate, leading traders and investors to adopt a defensive stance.

"I sense that market participants will be searching for more clues on whether the US Federal Reserve would ease the monetary policy beyond half a point cut as indicated in their March projection.

"Against such a backdrop, the US Consumer Price Index for March will be closely scrutinised on Thursday. At the current juncture, the current support and resistant level lies at 4.3634 and 4.4463 for the ringgit-US dollar," he told Bernama.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes expects the ringgit to move around 4.42 to 4.45 versus the greenback this week. He said China's deflation pressures would take centre stage, with CPI and Producer Price Index releases due.

"If the numbers confirm sluggish domestic demand, that could sour regional risk sentiment and spill over to the ringgit.

"I would also keep a close eye on the Bank of Japan, they are expected to hold, but if they sound more dovish on the global outlook, it could have ripple effects across Asia. Markets would read that as a potential green light for regional interest rate cuts, which would weigh on local currencies," said Innes.

On the ringgit, he said if Malaysia could extract some trade concessions, that could stabilise sentiment quickly.

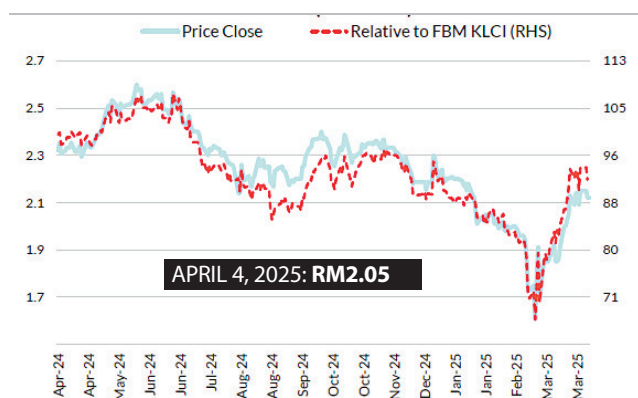
"But make no mistake, the elephant in the room is China. What the People's Bank of China does with the yuan will be the regional anchor, and if they start nudging it weaker, the ringgit and others will likely take their cue from there," he added.

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.4910	4.3560	4.3460
1 Australian Dollar	2.8590	2.7420	2.7260
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3660	3.2660	3.2580
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1890	3.1030	3.0910
1 Euro	4.9730	4.8120	4.7920
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.6120	2.5150	2.4990
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3660	3.2660	3.2580
1 Sterling Pound	5.8930	5.7030	5.6830
1 Swiss Franc	5.2730	5.0480	5.0330
100 UAE Dirham	123.6800	117.2700	117.0700
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.7730	3.5130	3.3130
100 Chinese Renminbi	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Danish Krone	68.3200	62.8600	62.6600
100 Hongkong Dollar	58.3500	55.4400	55.2400
100 Indian Rupee	5.3500	5.0300	4.8300
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0281	0.0254	0.0204
100 Japanese Yen	3.0820	2.9830	2.9730
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	44.7100	41.1200	40.9200
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6300	1.5300	1.3300
100 Philippine Peso	7.9900	7.5300	7.3300
100 Qatar Riyal	124.5500	118.2300	118.0300
100 Saudi Riyal	121.0100	114.8800	114.6800
100 South Africa Rand	24.8500	22.4400	22.2400
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5500	1.4300	1.2300
100 Swedish Krona	47.3800	43.1500	42.9500
100 Thai Baht	13.7300	12.1700	11.7700

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Padini Bhd Neutral. Target price: RM2.20



Source: Bloomberg

WE believe Padini is well positioned to capture the improved consumer spending supported by higher wages, but current valuation may have priced in the said prospects. We see a lack of catalysts to drive a valuation rerating at this point considering the conservative expansion approach as a matured brand, heightened operating costs to offer competitive wages and modest dividend payout despite the sizeable cash pile.

We believe Padini will remain cautious with its store expansion (we assume new store openings of five stores annually in FY25F-27F from 163 stores as of 1HFY25) whilst we understand that the company has no plans to introduce new brands. Instead, management's focus is on operational efficiencies ie product quality enhancements, SKU refinement and tighter inventory control, unlikely to drive significant growth.

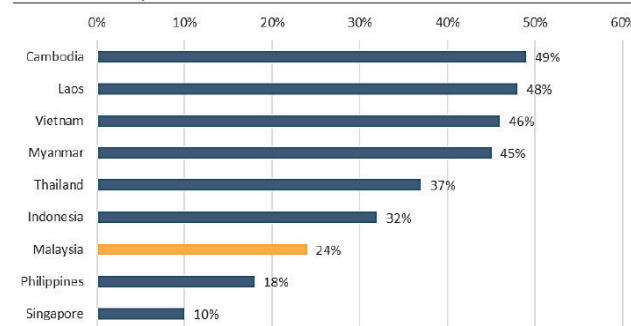
Padini recorded 5.1% topline growth (SSSG: -3%) in 2QFY25, underperforming Malaysia's fashion retail sales growth of 5.6%, according to Retail Group Malaysia. We believe this could be due to the intense competition within the industry amidst subdued consumer sentiment. In addition, higher staff costs (+24% YoY in 1HFY25) have crimped Padini's operating margin (1HFY25: -0.7ppt) as it had to offer more competitive wages to retain talents.

Padini has allocated MYR50m for capex annually, primarily for the expansion of <10 new stores and warehouse automation. That said, management is not looking to raise its dividend payout despite the sizeable net cash of MYR781m or MYR0.79/share as of 1HFY25 and strong free cash flow generation (MYR33m-137m in FY25F-27F). We forecast a dividend payout ratio of 45%, in line with its five-year historical average.

Downgrade to NEUTRAL, with RM2.20 TP. - RHB Research, April 4

Malaysia Strategy Neutral

Table 3: List of reciprocal tariffs on ASEAN countries



Source: Phillip Research

ON April 2, President Donald Trump announced a comprehensive reciprocal tariff, imposing a baseline 10% tariff on all trading partners, with significantly higher rates targeting specific countries. For now, tariff exemptions include copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber, bullion, energy and select minerals.

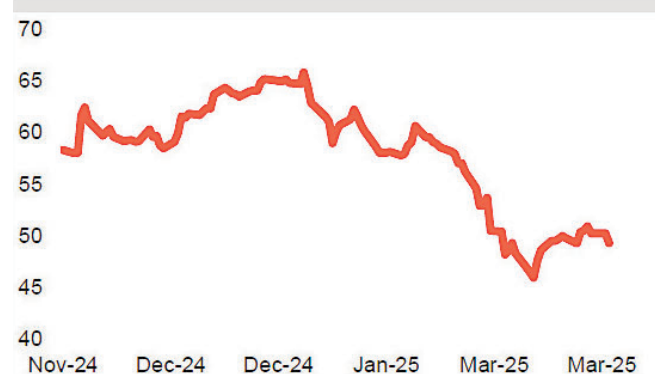
The implementation of these tariffs appears to be more of a strategic negotiation tool than a definitive long-term measure, leaving room for potential recalibration based on future trade deals. However, we see a limited likelihood of changes for those subject to the 10% base tariff. Should these measures become enduring, China's elevated tariff burden of 34% could weigh on Malaysia's economic growth, posing downside risks to our projected 2025E GDP growth of 5.1%. That said, Malaysia's relatively lower tariff exposure of 24% within Asean suggests that overall impact remains manageable, allowing it to maintain export competitiveness and reinforcing our view of trade diversion opportunities.

Chinese gloves entering the US now face a total tariff of 104%, comprising of a 50% tariff under Biden's administration, Trump's 34% reciprocal tariff, and a pre-existing 20% tariff. This has widened the tariff gap between China and Malaysia gloves to 80%, from 50% in the early 20s, creating a more favorable landscape for Malaysian glovemakers. The sharp increase in costs for Chinese imports is expected to shift demand towards alternative suppliers, particularly those in Malaysia. With the US accounting for 24-50% of total sales for local glove manufacturers, we foresee stronger demand benefiting the domestic glove industry.

As for the broader market, YTD foreign outflows of RM10bn and the FBMKLCI trading at -1.5SD of its 10-year mean suggest limited downside risk. Maintain NEUTRAL with KLCI year-end target at 1,700 based on target 16x PE multiple. - Phillip Research, April 4

Technology Overweight

KL TECHNOLOGY INDEX



Source: PublicInvest Research

MALAYSIA'S semiconductors' exemption from US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs appears to blunt any direct impact on chip production costs. Still, uncertainties persist around potential cost increases for non-semiconductor systems and components sourced from other regional countries. Though the tariff is only imposed on the US importers, we believe the additional costs derived from the reciprocal tariffs would be absorbed by all players in the supply chain. Malaysia, which is taxed at 24%, has a cost advantage over its regional peers in the manufacturing space. The potential retaliation from China could see more technology-related investment diversion to Malaysia due to the moderate tariff level on Malaysia and our friendly diplomatic ties with both economic powerhouses.

We think the US reciprocal tariff policy would have different implications in a few areas. Firstly, semiconductor manufacturers, who plan to set up a new footprint, might hold back their decisions pending further negotiations between governments. Secondly, the latest US tariff move could trigger more retaliatory moves from China and EU, which may not bode well for the global economy. Thirdly, manufacturers might divert away from high-tariff countries like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Under the worst-case scenario, we see weaker demand from US market while manufacturers are unable to pass on the additional costs by raising the prices.

Cloudpoint Technology is our top pick given its domestically driven exposure and zero exposure to the US market. Overall, we see limited downside risk on the majority of the technology companies under our coverage, as we believe it has priced in the reciprocal tariffs. Maintain Overweight on the sector. - PublicInvest Research, April 4



the Sun **LIFE**

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Machines with **Seoul**

South Korea's capital rises as innovation hub - P22

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Can Michael Clifford be Cool apart from 5SOS?

-FREEPIKPIC

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR



AT the heart of South Korea, Seoul has evolved into one of the world's most dynamic technology hubs, drawing global attention for its cutting-edge innovations.

Known for its deep-rooted history, bustling markets and world-famous entertainment industry, the city is now firmly positioned as a leader in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, semiconductor manufacturing and smart city development.

With tech giants such as Samsung, LG and Hyundai leading the charge, alongside a booming start-up ecosystem, Seoul has grown into a formidable rival to US' Silicon Valley.

Seoul at glance

Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is not only the political and economic centre of the country but also its innovation hub. Covering an area of 605.2 sq km and home to nearly 10 million residents, the city serves as the beating heart of South Korea's tech-driven economy. The broader Seoul metropolitan area, which includes cities like Incheon and Suwon, hosts over 25 million people, making it one of the largest urban centres in the world.

As a global city, Seoul seamlessly blends tradition with cutting-edge technology. While historic sites such as Gyeongbokgung Palace, Bukchon Hanok Village and the vibrant Namdaemun Market attract millions of tourists, the city's digital transformation is visible everywhere. From 5G-powered smart transportation to AI-driven customer service, Seoul has embraced technology like few others.

According to the Seoul metropolitan government, in 2023, the city welcomed over 14 million visitors, marking a 12% increase from the previous year. Of these, more than 2.3 million were international tourists, contributing to a tourism industry worth over 20 trillion won (RM66.5 billion). Seoul's rising reputation as a tech hub has also attracted business travellers and entrepreneurs seeking to engage with the city's thriving start-up scene.

Tech titans, rising stars

Seoul's tech dominance is fuelled by a combination of global tech giants and



One of Seoul's greatest advantages is its internet infrastructure, which enables ultra-high data transfer speeds. – PEXELSPIC

Seoul's tech revolution

➤ South Korea's capital leads charge in AI, robotics, smart cities with thriving start-ups

emerging start-ups. Samsung, headquartered in the city, is among the world's largest semiconductor and smartphone manufacturers, shaping the global electronics industry. LG, another Seoul-based powerhouse, leads in consumer electronics, AI research and automotive technology. Hyundai,

though known for its automobiles, has heavily invested in robotics and autonomous vehicles, positioning itself at the forefront of mobility innovation.

Beyond these corporate giants, Seoul's start-up ecosystem is flourishing. The city has been the birthplace of several innovative

companies making waves in AI, biotechnology, fintech and gaming. Among the most notable start-ups are:

- ➔ Naver Labs: A subsidiary of Naver, Korea's leading search engine, focusing on AI, robotics and autonomous mobility solutions.
- ➔ Coupang: Often referred to as South Korea's Amazon, the e-commerce giant revolutionised logistics and delivery with AI-driven fulfilment centres.
- ➔ DeepBrain AI: A leading innovator in AI, known for its advanced deep-learning virtual humans, AI-driven conversational agents and real-time interactive AI solutions for industries such as media, education and customer service.
- ➔ Viva Republica: A fintech unicorn and operator of the financial super-app Toss that transformed South Korea's digital banking and payment landscape.
- ➔ Rebellions: A semiconductor start-up developing next-generation AI chips to compete with global players such as Nvidia.

These companies, along with hundreds of others, have benefited from Seoul's emphasis on fostering innovation through financial incentives, research grants and world-class infrastructure.

Driving forces behind tech boom

Seoul's meteoric rise as a technology hub is no accident. It is the result of strategic government policies, world-class infrastructure and a highly skilled workforce. The South Korean government actively promotes technological innovation through initiatives such as the Digital New

Deal, a multi-billion dollar programme aimed at boosting AI, cloud computing and smart city technology.

One of the most significant advantages that Seoul offers tech companies is its unparalleled internet infrastructure. South Korea consistently ranks among the top countries in terms of internet speed, with near-universal 5G coverage. This robust digital backbone has made Seoul an ideal testing ground for emerging technologies, from autonomous vehicles to AI-powered healthcare solutions.

The government has also established start-up-friendly policies to encourage entrepreneurship. The Seoul Start-up Hub, Pangyo Techno Valley and COEX are just a few of the city's innovation centres that provide funding, office space and mentorship programmes for emerging businesses. These incubators have played a crucial role in nurturing start-ups, allowing them to scale up and compete on the global stage.

Culture of innovation, support

What sets Seoul apart from other tech cities is its culture of innovation and long-term commitment to technological progress. The South Korean education system places a strong emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, producing a highly skilled workforce that fuels the country's tech industry.

Leading universities such as Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Pohang University of Science and Technology and Seoul National University continue to produce top-tier engineers, AI researchers and entrepreneurs who drive innovation forward.

Seoul's government also actively collaborates with tech companies, providing tailored support to help them thrive. For instance, Naver Labs has been testing its autonomous delivery robots within controlled environments, such as its headquarters and select commercial areas, as part of broader smart city initiatives.

Similarly, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Seoul rapidly deployed AI-driven contact tracing and smart quarantine management systems, showcasing its ability to integrate technology into public policy effectively.

Beyond government support, Seoul's private sector has embraced risk-taking and experimentation. The city's gaming industry, led by companies such as Nexon and NCSoft, has pushed the boundaries of virtual reality and AI-driven gaming experiences. Fintech firms have disrupted traditional banking models, with digital-only banks such as KakaoBank gaining massive adoption.

Future outlook

Seoul's transformation into a global tech hub is far from over. The city has set its sights on becoming a leader in AI, blockchain, biotechnology and smart mobility. Investments in green technology and sustainable innovation are also on the rise, with ambitious goals to become a carbon-neutral city by 2050.

With its blend of government support, corporate innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Seoul is poised to shape the future of global technology as it continues to push the boundaries of what is possible.



Naver Labs focuses on AI, robotics and autonomous mobility solutions. – NAVERPIC

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR

Is your phone spying on you?

➤ How ads seem to know what you say, do

IT is a common experience: You are chatting with a friend about planning a trip to Thailand, and suddenly, your phone starts showing you ads for flights to the country. It feels like your smartphone is eavesdropping on you, but is it really?

Many have reported being bombarded with eerily relevant ads, with social media platforms being able to predict their plans and uncover their interests with uncanny accuracy.

This phenomenon has fuelled the widespread belief that our phones are actively listening to us, recording conversations to unleash targeted ads.

Educated guesses

Technology and privacy experts said phones are unlikely to be eavesdropping on us - at least, not in the way we think. Apple, Google and Facebook (now Meta) have all denied using audio recordings from phone microphones for targeted advertising. Even a 2018 study by Northeastern University in the US found no evidence of phones secretly recording conversations for that purpose.

Instead, social media companies emphasise that their advertising algorithms rely on other data points, such as:

➔ **Search history:** If you recently Googled "best Italian restaurants," ad networks can infer your interest in Italy.

➔ **Location tracking:** Your phone knows where you are and may suggest ads based on nearby businesses or travel plans.

➔ **Social media activity:** What you like, comment on, or engage with can be used to build a consumer profile.

➔ **Friends' activity:** If someone in your social circle is searching for a topic, you might get related ads due to shared interests or demographic similarities.

Rather than eavesdropping on live conversations, ad networks actually leverage the vast amounts of data they have stored based on every internet user's search history. Now with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-driven analytics, targeted ads are becoming

even more precise and granular.

This cumulative predictive technology can make it seem like our phones are listening in when in reality, they are simply making highly educated guesses based on our online behaviour.

Not out of woods

While tech companies deny active surveillance for ad targeting, everyone's smartphone microphone can still be accessed by apps with the right permissions.

For example, apps such as Google Assistant and Siri are always in a passive listening mode, waiting for wake words like "Hey Google" or "Hey Siri".

However, according to Apple and Google, the data from these assistants is processed locally unless explicitly authorised otherwise by the user.

The Northeastern University study tested over 17,000 apps and found no evidence of constant eavesdropping. However, the study still highlighted concerns over apps collecting screen activity and location data, sometimes without users' knowledge.

If the idea of being constantly watched (or listened to) makes you uneasy - a fair concern - here are some steps to take control of your digital footprint:

➔ **Review app permissions:** Check which apps have access to your microphone, camera and location.

➔ **Limit voice assistant usage:** Disable or restrict access to voice assistants when not in use.

➔ **Use privacy settings:** Opt out of personalised ads in the phone's settings.

➔ **Clear cookies and history:** Regularly deleting browsing data can

reduce ad tracking.

The belief that our phones are secretly listening to us may stem from how eerily precise modern ad targeting has become. However, the evidence suggests that rather than covertly spying, companies rely on legal yet invasive data collection methods. In other words, your phone might not be listening, but it definitely knows you.

The next time you open Instagram and are immediately carpet-bombed by several back-to-back sponsored posts of a product, it is probably not because your iPhone has been listening to you, but rather because it already understands you better than you think.



Almost everything you do online will leave a digital footprint that allows companies to create a profile of you.



The idea that phones are listening in to everyday conversations is more conspiracy than reality. - ALL PICS FROM FREEPIK



Review which apps have access to your microphone, camera and location to better protect your privacy.

Watch out for online Captcha scams

NOT content with deceiving internet users through phishing campaigns and the creation of increasingly convincing fake websites, cybercriminals are now deploying fake Captchas, the automated tests designed to verify that you are "not a robot" when you visit a website.

Typically, a Captcha involves copying numbers and letters, or solving small, simple tasks such as selecting specific images. Unfortunately, this technology is increasingly being hijacked by hackers, who are now using fake Captchas to deceive internet users and compromise the security of their devices or steal personal information.

It has become relatively easy to encounter these fake Captchas, notably by clicking on a compromised advertisement or link. The user is then directed to a page displaying a fake test, at the end of

which a malicious script can be executed, leading to the installation of harmful software on the user's device.

Malwarebytes warns of this new tactic of luring users to websites offering popular content, such as news articles, but also music or movies. Once redirected, users are faced with a Captcha prompting them to follow instructions that copy and paste information. Without realising it, the user then unwittingly executes a command that downloads and installs malicious software onto their device.

Fortunately, it is still fairly easy to recognise a fake Captcha. This is the case, for example, if the test seems much more complex than usual, or if you are asked to perform unusual actions, such as executing commands or copying and pasting text. In the meantime, do not forget to update your web browser. - ETX Studio

GADGET REVIEW

BY SEBASTIAN LOH

LET us assume you have dumped a ton of money on a shiny new gaming desktop. How much are you willing to pay for a keyboard to complete the setup of your dreams?

That is the central question as we consider the Keychron Q1 HE QMK Wireless Custom Keyboard. Built primarily for intense, fast-paced gaming, this premium beast should also easily delete any professional workload you throw at it.

The first thing we noticed about the Q1 HE is its hefty build and weight. The keyboard has a full-metal body made from high-grade aluminium, which should unequivocally lay to rest any concerns about durability or stability. You are getting a tank.

However, with a 75% layout, it is only three-fourths of the size of your "regular" full-sized keyboard. This means less keys, which can be jarring to normies (yours truly), who grew up with the numpad. But some hardcore gamers prefer this truncated format for its minimalism and efficiency – easier to press different keys when they are closer together. As with most things, it is ultimately up to personal taste.

What should interest gamers more is the Q1 HE's Gateron Double-Rail Magnetic Hall Effect switches. Magnetic switches do away with physical contact between internal components, resulting in lightning-fast responsiveness, accurate and smoother key presses as well as incredible durability.

Most importantly, you can customise the sensitivity of each key and/or take certain actions in a game (say, running or walking) based on how deeply you press. The Q1 HE provides an insanely impressive amount of customisability and will undoubtedly satisfy competitive gamers looking to wring out every bit of advantage in *Call of Duty* or *League of Legends*.

But what if you do not need a Formula One (F1) car, but just want a tasteful sedan for a pleasant drive in the single-player countryside? Then the Q1 HE's appeal

Key to your gaming success?

➤ Endless customisation comes with steep price



The Keychron Q1 HE's build, weight and compact design harken back to typewriters of old.

dims a bit.

Despite the full RGB backlighting, the key legends (alphabets, numbers, symbols) are opaque and do not let light shine through. So, you often cannot see what you are pressing in pitch black or low-light conditions. This may not be a dealbreaker for most, but consider the target clientele of a premium product such as this:

Someone with this much money to splurge on a keyboard has probably snagged himself a gorgeous OLED monitor or TV that does not perform so well under bright lights. They plan to play games or watch movies in the dark, and are understandably shocked to discover their

premium keyboard does not have a basic feature (shine-through legends) that other far cheaper models possess.

At least it types better than average. Word processing on the Q1 HE is wonderfully pleasant, with a satisfying tactile feel. This is further enhanced by its build, weight and compact design, which harken back to the typewriters of old. Every key press is accurately registered and stealthily quiet – no need to worry about annoying

colleagues or even a spouse, if you are working from home.

Of course, paying this much for a professional workhorse or even gaming centrepiece may seem a bit of an overkill. The Q1 HE comes with a hefty pricetag of RM999, and this is aptly reflected in its top-tier build and raft of customisation options for competitive gamers. Whether that is worth it boils down to your use case.

Those who fancy frantic multiplayer games may celebrate the Q1 HE as a technical, gamechanging marvel. But most will likely prefer to spend more of their hard-earned cash on a better GPU, CPU, monitor, pair of headphones or mouse. Not everyone needs an F1 car.

Rating: 6/10

The keyboard's switches use magnets to detect key presses and are easily swapped out.



AI developments threaten anime, raise copyright debate

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) risks taking Japanese anime artists' jobs but nothing can replicate Hayao Miyazaki, the creative lifeblood of the studio behind classics such as *Spirited Away*, his son Goro Miyazaki has said.

Thanks to ChatGPT's new image generator, the internet is awash with pictures imitating Studio Ghibli's whimsical style, raising fresh debate over potential copyright infringements.

Movies such as *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Howl's Moving Castle* are famous for their lush nature and fantastical machinery, painstakingly drawn by hand.

While the studio has not commented directly on the image trend, Goro, 58, predicted AI could one day replace animators.

"It would not be surprising if, in two years' time, there was a film made completely through AI," he said in an interview.

But whether audiences would want to watch a fully AI-generated animation is another matter, he added.

Despite the rapid changes, new technology also brings "great potential for unexpected talent to emerge", added Goro, Studio Ghibli's managing director.

He was speaking at the Ghibli atelier in western Tokyo, days before the San Francisco-based ChatGPT maker OpenAI released its latest image generator.

OpenAI, which is already facing a barrage of copyright lawsuits, said generating images in the style of individual living artists is banned, but "we do permit broader studio styles".

"Our goal is to give users as much creative freedom as possible," the US company said.

Japan is grappling with a shortage of skilled animators, partly because most spend years in low-paid jobs to learn the ropes.

Digitally savvy Gen Z may be also less



Goro is Studio Ghibli's managing director. – AFPIC

enthusiastic about the manual labour involved, Goro said.

"Nowadays, the world is full of opportunities to watch anything, anytime, anywhere," making it harder to imagine making a living from the physical act of drawing, he added.

Irreplaceable talent

Goro's father founded Studio Ghibli with Isao Takahata in 1985, a year after directing the post-apocalyptic *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*.

After Takahata's death in 2018, Hayao – now 84 and a heavy smoker – continued to create films with 76-year-old producer Toshio Suzuki.

"That is actually what makes the work so deep."

For younger people who grew up in peacetime, "it is impossible to create something with the same sense, approach and attitude that my father's generation had," Goro said.

Even *Totoro*, with its cuddly forest spirit creatures, is in some ways a "scary" movie that explores the fear of losing a sick mother, he explained.

Disdain for technology

As the Ghibli-style AI images proliferated, a 2016 video of Hayao resurfaced that many said showed his disdain for the technology.

"I strongly feel this is an insult to life itself," the director said in the short clip, taken from a documentary.

However, he was in fact reacting to an AI-assisted computer graphic of a zombie-like creature, which he calls "extremely unpleasant" in the full footage.

Goro joined Studio Ghibli in 1998 and directed animations including the 2006 feature *Tales from Earthsea* and 2011's *From Up on Poppy Hill*.

He also oversaw the development of the Ghibli Museum and newly opened Ghibli Park in Japan.

Goro enjoyed drawing as a boy and said he learned a lot watching his father's and Takahata's work, although he did not think he could live up to their talent.

"My mother, who was also an animator, told me not to pursue this career because it is a tough and busy job," Goro said, adding his father was rarely at home.

"But I always wanted to do something creative." – AFP

5SOS's Michael Clifford drops debut solo single

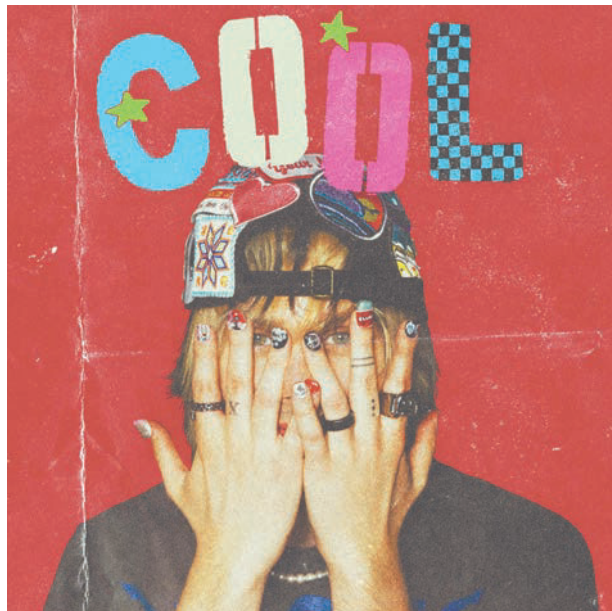
➤ *Cool* explores self-doubt, insecurity

SINGER-SONGWRITER Michael Clifford of 5 Seconds of Summer (5SOS) released his debut solo single *Cool* along with an official video via Hopeless Records. The release coincides with the announcement of his debut solo album *Sidequest*, coming soon.

Co-produced by Clifford alongside JT Daly (Demi Lovato, Benson Boone, Alex Warren) and Andrew Goldstein (Tate McRae, Machine Gun Kelly, Travis Barker) as well as co-written with his 5SOS bandmate and best man Calum Hood, *Cool* marks the beginning of Clifford's solo career as he steps out on his own and reintroduces himself to the world as an artiste with his own unique sound and perspective.

Cool explores self-doubt and the often uncomfortable process of navigating insecurity, capturing the uncertainty of trying to fit in, questioning whether you belong and feeling out of place in unfamiliar spaces.

Clifford shared: "This song speaks for itself and my hope is that when fans hear the lyrics, they will understand me and hopefully themselves a little better. I have been deliberating on this music long enough, so I



Clifford is the lead guitarist of pop-rock band 5SOS.

cannot wait for everybody to hear it and *Cool* is just the beginning of what is to come. I want this project to make people smile. I am just out here doing a bunch of sidequests. Now that I am a dad, everything other than that feels like a sidequest!"

The music video, directed by Bobby Hanaford, brings this sentiment to life.

Hanaford said: "It is rare you get to work with an artiste who is willing to play a bit of the fool and turn a mirror on themselves. The moment I heard *Cool*, I realised Michael was already there and really letting his guard down. He

was using the critic in his head to take us on this journey of insecurity that every person can relate to.

"It was a quick process seeing a video that matched it and it was a good collaboration with Michael going deeper into that idea and bringing it to life. The whole project is a breath of fresh air, especially in an industry that is often more concerned with looking 'cool' than being authentic."

With its playful pop-punk energy, *Cool* highlights Clifford's fresh sound, marking an evolution in his music.



(From left) Takashi Nikaido, Toshiya Miyata, Taisuke Fujigaya, Yuta Tamamori, Wataru Yokoo and Hiromitsu Kitayama.

Kis-My-Ft2 releases all its songs for streaming

JAPANESE boy band Kis-My-Ft2 has released its entire music discography for streaming, marking a new milestone in its music career.

The extensive release will feature a complete collection of singles, albums and tracks from before the band's debut, giving fans a comprehensive listening experience.

Fans can stream the band's 372

tracks, including 355 hits from Kis-My-Ft2 and 17 memorable songs from the band's subunit BUsaiKu.

Unique solo and unit songs are available for streaming too, offering fans a deeper dive into the individual members' musical talents.

Kis-My-Ft2 has built a strong legacy since debuting in August

2011, having 32 number-one singles and 10 number-one albums on Japan's music chart Oricon.

Additionally, the band was a favourite for live performances, drawing in a record-breaking Tokyo Dome concert just days after its debut.

As of last month, Kis-My-Ft2 has drawn over 5.3 million attendees to its live performances.



Swee says Red Box aims to reignite the public's passion for singing.

Red Box launches Artiste Member Club Card

RED Box Karaoke has rolled out the Artistes Club RedPay Visa Card for local artistes – a membership wallet aimed at enhancing Malaysian artistes' journey with privileges and seamless Visa card payment integration.

The card's introduction is Red Box's foray into the digital payment landscape, offering members, alliances and artistes a unified platform for entertainment and financial convenience.

"Our goal is to provide a seamless and rewarding experience for our members, blending entertainment with cutting-edge financial solutions and convenience," said Red Box Karaoke Malaysia general manager Terry Swee.

The RedPay card provides artistes and music industry players with many benefits at Red Box outlets, encouraging talents to refine and showcase their craft.

Red Box aims to be an incubator for emerging artistes, helping them launch their singing careers while fostering a deeper connection between singers and the public.

It also wants to be a venue where recording labels can host their initiatives, including artistes' meet-and-greets, fan parties and album launches.

As part of Red Box's 25th anniversary celebrations, the company has unveiled the top 50 hit songs for the Malay, Chinese and international categories, aiming to foster public engagement and enthusiasm for karaoke entertainment as well as appreciation of music while showcasing the diverse talents within Malaysia's music industry.

Additionally, these hit songs will offer premium exposure for the top 50 artistes, giving them a chance to be featured on the Bukit Bintang digital billboard, thus maximising their visibility.

"By connecting singers with the public through the joy of karaoke and our top 50 hit songs, we aim to

reignite the nation's passion for singing, deepen appreciation for local artistes and provide a unique way for fans to engage with and support their favourite performers," added Swee.

Celebrating 25 years of music with JomNyanyi

In conjunction with its 25th anniversary, Red Box also introduced the *JomNyanyi* campaign, inviting Malaysians to come together and celebrate the joy of singing. *JomNyanyi* embodies the spirit of unity, fun and passion for music, encouraging everyone – from casual singers to music enthusiasts – to join in and make memories through music.

To mark this milestone, Red Box will host a series of events, promotions and gatherings throughout the year, including:

- Anniversary specials with exclusive discounts for karaoke sessions
- "Sing & Win" competitions with attractive prizes
- Themed singing nights featuring different music genres
- Special guest performances by local artistes and influencers

The RedPay Visa Card offers a suite of exclusive benefits, including priority booking, birthday rewards and special discounts on room rates and food and beverages. Through the RedPay app, members can manage rewards, promotions and loyalty points for a seamless entertainment experience.

Some exclusive benefits include:

- Digital membership card: Instant access to exclusive member rewards and promotions.
- Seamless payments: Cashless transactions at Red Box outlets and worldwide via Visa.
- Rewards and cashback: Earn loyalty points and cashback on Red Box services and partner merchants.
- Special promotions: Early access to Red Box events, VIP privileges and seasonal offers.



Singer Harissa Adlynn at Red Box's *JomNyanyi* event.

BADMINTON in Malaysia is more than just a sport – it is a national passion. A common challenge that many badminton athletes face is hand and wrist injuries. These injuries, which account for 25% of sports-related injuries, can significantly threaten performance. As more Malaysians embrace various physical activities, addressing and preventing these injuries is crucial to safeguarding athletes' longevity and success.

Sports such as badminton, football, volleyball and squash – where gripping, twisting and contact are frequent – can increase the risk of hand and wrist injuries.

Beyond the demands of the sport, individual predispositions, such as joint laxity, can further raise injury risk, particularly in women. Everyone, including athletes, needs to be aware of their vulnerabilities and take proactive steps to protect themselves.

Common injuries

Hand and wrist injuries are common among athletes and active individuals in Malaysia. Common issues include sprains, fractures, ligament tears, tendon injuries and conditions such as carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS). Studies show that CTS, caused by pressure on the median nerve in the wrist, affects 20% to 60% of Malaysians. This often results in symptoms such as tingling, numbness and weakness in the hand.

Another common injury is ligament tear of the wrist, such as triangular fibrocartilage complex tear. This injury is often seen in sports involving repetitive wrist movements

Caring for hands, wrists

➤ Avoiding, treating sports-related injuries

such as badminton and basketball. This injury can lead to pain, reduced mobility and, in severe cases, long-term complications.

Hand and wrist injuries can be career-threatening if not addressed promptly and effectively. These injuries can lead to decreased grip strength, limited range of motion and chronic pain, all of which can severely impact an athlete's ability to perform.

Importance of early diagnosis, treatment

Early diagnosis and treatment are vital to prevent long-term damage and help ensure a swift recovery. Delayed treatment can lead to chronic issues and prolong recovery time. It is important to note that not every hand or wrist injury requires surgery. If diagnosed early, many can be effectively treated with a splint for a few weeks followed by physiotherapy.

A rule of thumb: If an injury does not improve within three weeks, it could be a sign of something more serious and you should see an orthopaedic specialist.

One of the main reasons for delayed diagnosis is many people ignore the pain or attempt self-treatment until the damage

worsens, complicating treatment and extending recovery time.

Advanced treatment options

Thanks to advancements in medical technology, hand and wrist injuries can be treated more effectively. Minimally invasive surgeries are increasingly common, offering shorter hospital stays in which patient can return home within one or two days, quicker recovery periods, less pain and reduced scarring so they can return to normal activities. Recovery typically takes a few weeks, and athletes are able to return to sports after three months.

In contrast, traditional hand surgeries require larger incisions and longer hospital stays, with recovery sometimes stretching to more than three months.

However, even with cutting-edge treatments, a patient's commitment to rehabilitation is key to a successful recovery. Sports enthusiasts and athletes who diligently follow their physiotherapy regimen often regain full strength and similar to their pre-injury performance levels.

With the right approach and support, patients can regain their full range of motion and strength surpassing their pre-surgery performance levels.



Badminton can result in hand and wrist injuries.

Tips for preventing injuries

Prevention is always better than cure. Athletes and the general public can incorporate exercises to strengthen their hands and wrists. Regular stretching, strength training and proper technique can significantly reduce the risk of injuries.

As Malaysia's sports and fitness landscape continues to evolve, the importance of hand and wrist health cannot be overstated. Early diagnosis, effective treatment and preventive measures are key to ensuring long-term health and performance. By prioritising prevention, seeking prompt medical attention and embracing a collaborative approach to rehabilitation, athletes and active individuals can keep their hands in shape and continue pursuing their

passions on their athletic journey.

There are specialised rehabilitation programmes for athletes recovering from hand and wrist injuries. They are also treated with a wide range of services tailored to their needs, from diagnosis to rehabilitation, with advanced facilities under specialist care. This includes rehabilitation to restore hand and upper limb function, using advanced techniques such as fluidotherapy, therapeutic ultrasound, electrical stimulation and custom splinting.

This article is contributed by Sunway Medical Centre, Sunway City consultant hand & microsurgery specialist Dr Ravindran Thuraisingham.

Do not use toothpaste, creams for burns: doctor

SELF-TREATMENT for burns sustained in a fire by applying creams, lotions or toothpaste to the affected area is not advisable as it can lead to complications or delayed healing.

Columbia Asia Hospital, Setapak Emergency Department head Dr D. Suhash said such substances are not safe for the treatment of burns.

"I strongly advise against self-treatment without proper knowledge. Applying such substances to a burn can make wound cleaning more difficult and increase the risk of infection," he said when discussing the importance of basic emergency aid.

He recommended that burn victims wash or run tap water at room temperature on the affected part for 15 to 30 minutes to help dissipate



Self-treatment of burn wounds without proper knowledge is inadvisable.

– ALL PICS FROM BERNAMA

the heat.

For first- and second-degree burns, he advised wrapping the affected area in a clean, damp cloth before seeking medical attention at the nearest healthcare facility. – Bernama

New Covid-19 variant rising in Australia

AUSTRALIA is experiencing the regular emergence of new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, more than five years after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, Anadolu Ajansi reported.

The latest variant – LP8.1 – is on the rise, accounting for nearly one in five Covid-19 cases in New South Wales, local broadcaster SBS News reported last Wednesday.

It has become the third most dominant strain in the state.

First detected in July 2024, LP8.1 is a descendant of Omicron, specifically KP.1.1.3, which itself stems from JN.1 – a subvariant that triggered large waves of Covid-19 infections globally in late 2023 and early 2024.

The World Health Organisation designated LP8.1 as a variant under monitoring in January, following its significant global growth.

The global health agency has assessed the additional public health risk posed by LP8.1 at a global level to be low.

The symptoms associated with LP8.1 do not appear to be any more severe than those of other circulating strains, meaning the variant is unlikely to significantly alter the trajectory of the pandemic.

So far this year, Australia has recorded nearly 45,000 new Covid-19 cases, with around 260 people currently hospitalised with the virus. – Bernama-Anadolu

Low public awareness on returning unused medicines

PUBLIC awareness on returning medicines obtained from public clinics or government hospitals remains low. When no longer using them, many opt for the easier albeit improper option of discarding them in the trash even though this is not recommended.

Perhaps because the medicines are given free, patients feel no obligation to return them to a health facility. But in fact, even used inhalers or cardboard packaging can be recycled.

The government has spent RM23.25 billion to purchase medicines from 2015 to 2023, according to the Pharmacy Services Programme Statistics Report, and throwing away medicines amounts to wastage.

Occupational health and general medicine specialist Dr Hanafiah Bashirun said any patient who receives medication from a government clinic or hospital but does not use it, should return the medicine to the health facility (via drop-off boxes).

"Currently, the awareness of returning medicines among patients is still low to the point that some choose to just throw medicines in the bin or sink or flush them in the toilet resulting in annual losses of thousands of ringgit," he said.

Hanafiah said Malaysia is among countries with a high rate of non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, high-blood pressure and obesity, with patients being supplied with medicines for a period of three to six months depending on their health status.

"However, when patients do

not comply with taking their medicines or are prescribed a new type of medicine, most of them just keep the old supply until the expiry date and dispose of it indiscriminately, which is detrimental since the medicines involve significant costs," he said.

He explained that in the event of death, the patient's next of kin must be responsible for returning the unexpired medication to allow the clinic or hospital to provide it to other patients to address the national medication shortage.

Hanafiah said returning medicines could also prevent them from being misused by others or posing a risk to children if accidentally ingested.

He urged the Health Ministry to increase awareness campaigns on returning prescribed medication by publicising the availability of medicine drop-off (return) boxes placed at pharmacy counters.

"Many are still unaware that the government has provided a special box to make it easier for patients to return medicine at the nearby (Health Ministry) pharmacy, but with parking constraints, it is difficult for patients to go to a clinic just to return medication.

"So, perhaps the medicine return box could be placed outside the health facility, which makes it easier for patients to return medicines on a drive-through basis, in addition to placing a notice on returning unused medication on each medication supplied to a patient," he said.

According to the National Security Council's website, it is

estimated that the value of medicine supplied for acute or mild diseases is between RM5 to RM40 per week, while for specialist clinic treatment or chronic diseases, the cost of medicine can reach RM400 per month depending on the level of care and type of medication given.

Since 2011, the Health Ministry has labelled every medicine provided at its facilities with the price to raise awareness about the costs borne by government subsidies.

Meanwhile, public health physician Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar is concerned that improper disposal of medicines by patients, such as throwing them into waterways, could lead to long-term environmental pollution.

He said medication disposal should not be taken lightly even though pharmaceutical waste is not the only cause of environmental pollution at the moment.

"Maybe this problem seems quite small, but pollution due to the disposal of medicines and pharmaceutical products that do not follow procedure can pose a threat to environmental health as well as endanger aquatic life if not controlled as early as possible," he said.

Zainal, who is also Public Health Organisation Malaysia adviser, said the Health Ministry has special procedures for disposing of medicines depending on the type, including the use of incinerators for burning or isolating hazardous substances to reduce the environmental impact. – Bernama



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AM2	AKJ3714	HYUNDAI SONATA 2.0	2013
AM3	RNS5656	HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0i	2015
AM4	AH7829	PERODUA MYVI 1.3	2012
AM5	PATRIOT6825	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2017
AM6	AKT7904	PROTON PREVE 1.6 (A)	2017
AM7	AMM4029	PROTON SAGA 1.3(A)	2022
AM8	JSY9721	TOYOTA CHR 1.8 (A)	2018
AM9	AJV4973	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2014
AM10	WYS1446	PERODUA MYVI 1.5	2013
AM11	PNQ1140	PROTON SAGA 1.3	2018
AM12	RAC6783	MITSUBISHI TRITON 2.4	2019

(Perhatian: Kenderaan-kenderaan diatas yang tidak dibida dalam perolehan akan dilelong semula pada 17-04-2025)

theSun Malaysian Paper

WE ARE HIRING

1 MEDIA SALES - Specialist

Job Description

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

Requirements

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

2 MEDIA SALES - Representative/Agent (Freelance)

Requirement

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

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Send in your CV with your photo via email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com
(Closing Date: April 30, 2025)

302 Jobs

theSun Malaysian Paper

WE ARE HIRING!

1) EXECUTIVE / SENIOR - HR & Admin
2) ASST MANAGER / MANAGER - HR & Admin

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 programmes.
- Manage employee benefits programmes and ensure compliance with regulations.
- Stay updated on current industry trends and best practices in HR management.
- For Senior/Assistant Manager – with supervisor skills.
- Handle staff training and recruitment matters.
- Experience in payroll system would be advantageous.
- Handle General Admin and other HR duties.

Requirements

- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- Executive: 1+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Senior: 3+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Asst Manager: 5+ years of experience in HR & Admin or 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.

3) EXECUTIVE - Safety & Building Maintenance

Job Description

- Perform routine and preventive maintenance on factory & office building systems, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems.
- Conduct regular inspections of the factory & office building to identify and address maintenance issues.
- Respond promptly to maintenance requests and ensure timely resolution.
- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities, including work orders, inspections and repairs.
- Ensure all maintenance activities comply with relevant health, safety and environmental regulations.
- Coordinate with external contractors and vendors for specialised maintenance and repair works.
- Monitor and optimise energy usage to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- Assist in preparation and management of maintenance budget.
- Assist in any ad-hoc operations and admin tasks assigned by Management from time to time.

Requirements

- Diploma/Degree in Building or Facilities Management, Safety & Health or related field.
- Additional certificate: Electrical Chageman, preferably A4 or minimum A1 would be an added advantage.
- Minimum of one year of experience in Building Maintenance or Safety & Health.
- Adequate technical knowledge of building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing etc).
- Excellent problem-solving and troubleshooting skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work flexi hours.
- Able to handle urgent and last-minute job request.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com
(Closing Date: April 30, 2025)

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANIES WINDING-UP PETITION NO.: PA-28NCC-02/2025

In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

And

In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]

And

In the matter of Pulau Pinang High Court Civil Appeal No. PA-12ANCVC-4-01/2023

BETWEEN

1. CHEN HOOI SIE (NRIC NO.: 840510-07-5734)

2. CHEN HOOI LI (NRIC NO.: 820602-07-5434)

...PETITIONERS

AND

NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]

...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 21st day of February 2025, presented by Chen Hooi Sie (NRIC No.: 840510-07-5734) and Chen Hooi Li (NRIC No.: 820602-07-5434). And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at Georgetown High Court (Commercial Division) OCVC 2, Lebuh Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 23rd April 2025; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charges for the same.

The Petitioners address is at 60-Z, Jalan Matang Kuching, 11500 Ayer Itam, Penang and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.

The Petitioners Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.

.....sgd.....
MESSRS. OTHMAN HASHIM & CO.
Solicitors for the Petitioners

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovesigned Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm or his or their Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovesigned not later than 12.00 o'clock noon on Tuesday, the 22nd April 2025 (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition).
Tel: 03-6257 3399 | Fax: 03-6257 3393
Ref: LT/PG/MISC-0140/2021/TR/YSY

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA COMPANY WINDING-UP PETITION NO.: PA-28NCC-34-03/2025

In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

And

In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]

And

In the matter of Penang High Court Appeal No. PA-12ANCVC-6-01/2024

BETWEEN

NG SIEW BEE (NRIC NO.: 621006-01-6508)

... PETITIONER

AND

NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]

...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 6th day of March 2025, presented by Ng Siew Bee (NRIC No.: 621006-01-6508). And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at Georgetown High Court OCVC 2, Lebuh Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 15th May 2025; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charges for the same.

The Petitioner address is at Block A-14-12, Zefer Hill Residence Condo, Jalan Pipit 4, Bandar Puchong Jaya, 47170 Puchong, Selangor and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.

The Petitioner Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.

.....sgd.....
MESSRS. OTHMAN HASHIM & CO.
Solicitors for the Petitioners

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovesigned Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm or his or their Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovesigned not later than 12.00 o'clock noon on Wednesday, the 14th May 2025 (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition).
Tel: 03-6257 3399 | Fax: 03-6257 3393
Ref: LT/IM-70300/OHC/2023/TKH/TR/LZY/LEONG

Pegula rallies past Alexandrova

World No. 4 sets up all-American Charleston final against Kenin

TOP SEED Jessica Pegula survived a tough test to beat Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 in a topsy-turvy Charleston Open semifinal yesterday.

Pegula had looked as though she would roll through the match as she won the first five games but had to find another level after Alexandrova fought back and the American clinched it with a superb backhand winner down the line.

"That was a tough match," Pegula told the *Tennis Channel*. "It wasn't the prettiest at times, it was really windy, there were some awkward shots, we were both very uncomfortable, I feel like, on some short balls, some low balls, it was kind of swirling in the wind so it was just trying not to get frustrated, having to move your feet a lot and just competing."

Pegula broke her opponent in the first game with a backhand winner before Alexandrova helped the American to another break in the third game with a double fault and a clumsy shot that sailed past the baseline.

They traded breaks



Jessica Pegula. - AFP/IC

in the fifth and sixth games before the 26th-ranked Russian improved her form across the board in the second set, as she broke Pegula with a fine forehand shot in the sixth game and again with a forehand winner on set point.

They traded breaks three times in the final set before Pegula forced her opponent into an error on break point with a perfectly placed backhand at the net in the 11th game to close out the two-hour 21-minute-long marathon match.

It was Pegula's 24th match win this year, the most in the WTA.

Pegula has enjoyed a decent start to the year and won the seventh WTA title of her career in March.

- Reuters/Express Newspapers

'Mr Motivator' wins in Suzuka

FOUR-TIME world champion Max Verstappen led from pole to chequered flag to win the Japanese Grand Prix yesterday, his first victory of the 2025 season, with McLaren's Lando Norris second.

The Dutch Red Bull driver crossed the finish line almost 1.5 seconds in front of Briton Norris, who held off his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri of Australia in third.

The win on a damp but drying track at Suzuka was Verstappen's fourth straight victory in Japan and closed the gap on Norris at the top of the drivers' championship to one point.

Norris now has 62 points after three races, with Verstappen on 61 and Piastri third on 49. "It was tough. The McLarens were pushing me very hard," said Verstappen. It was a lot of fun but not easy pushing the tyres. I am incredibly happy. Starting on pole made it possible to win."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished fourth ahead of the Mercedes pair of George Russell and Kimi Antonelli.

Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton was seventh, with RB's Isack Hadjar next ahead of Williams' Alex Albon and Haas's Oliver Bearman.

Yuki Tsunoda finished 12th in his first race

Norris misses out after pit-stop clash with Verstappen

for Red Bull since replacing Liam Lawson, having started from 14th on the grid in his home grand prix. Lawson was 17th for RB.

Norris said the race was won and lost in qualifying, where Verstappen pulled off a lap for the ages to claim his first pole of the season with a new lap record.

"Max drove a good race today, made no mistakes," said Norris, who started from second on the grid.

"A flat-out race from start to finish, so it was tough but there was nothing we could get Max on."

Verstappen and Norris were involved in a flashpoint midway through the race as the two front-runners emerged from a pit stop.

Norris drew alongside Verstappen but the Dutchman refused to budge and Norris was forced onto the grass before sliding back onto the track.

Stewards reviewed the incident and decided not to investigate further and Norris admitted later it was just part of racing.

"Max is the last guy I expect to give me any space, in a good way, in a racing way," he said. Verstappen has struggled to get to grips

with his Red Bull this season but he set a stunning pole lap and Red Bull team principal Christian Horner hailed the way Verstappen has kept the team in the title race.

"There's no better tonic for motivation than winning," said Horner.

"Verstappen is like Mr Motivator. It was a flat-out race, there was no tyre saving.

"For us all priority is on the drivers' championship, for us the constructors' will be harder."

McLaren's double podium extended their lead in the constructors' title race to 36 points over Mercedes. McLaren have 111 points, Mercedes are second on 75 with Red Bull third on 61, all scored by Verstappen. - AFP



Verstappen. - AFP/IC

RESULTS & STANDINGS

JAPAN GP: 1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull), 2. Lando Norris (McLaren), 3. Oscar Piastri (McLaren), 4. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), 5. George Russell (Mercedes), 6. Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes), 7. Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari), 8. Isack Hadjar (RB), 9. Alexander Albon (Williams), 10. Oliver Bearman (Haas), 11. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), 12. Yuki Tsunoda (Red Bull), 13. Pierre Gasly (Alpine), 14. Carlos Sainz (Williams), 15. Jack Doohan (Alpine), 16. Nico Hulkenberg (Sauber), 17. Liam Lawson (RB), 18. Esteban Ocon (Haas), 19. Gabriel Bortoleto (Sauber), 20. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin).

DRIVERS STANDINGS: 1. Lando Norris (GBR) 62 pts, 2. Max Verstappen (NED) 61, 3. Oscar Piastri (AUS) 49, 4. George Russell (GBR) 45, 5. Kimi Antonelli (ITA) 30, 6. Charles Leclerc (MON) 20, 7. Alexander Albon (THA) 18, 8. Lewis Hamilton (GBR) 15, 9. Esteban Ocon (FRA) 10, 10. Lance Stroll (CAN) 10, 11. Nico Hulkenberg (GER) 6, 12. Oliver Bearman (GBR) 5, 13. Isack Hadjar (FRA) 4, 14. Yuki Tsunoda (JPN) 3, 15. Carlos Sainz (ESP) 1.

CONSTRUCTORS STANDINGS: 1. McLaren 111 pts, 2. Mercedes 75, 3. Red Bull 61, 4. Ferrari 35, 5. Williams 19, 6. Haas 15, 7. Aston Martin 10, 8. RB 7, 9. Sauber 6.

Rajasthan's Jaiswal, Archer shine in IPL win

RAJASTHAN ROYALS handed Punjab Kings their first defeat of the Indian Premier League season, securing a thumping 50-run win on Saturday courtesy of stellar performances from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jofra Archer.

Chasing 206, Punjab faltered against Rajasthan's attack at the New International Cricket Stadium, with Archer's bowling performance proving pivotal in the visitor's win alongside fellow pacer Sandeep Sharma.

Archer took two wickets in the first over, dismissing impact player Priyansh Arya on the first delivery and then rounded off the over by sending Punjab skipper Shreyas Iyer back to the pavilion.

"When there are days like this, you got to make sure you cash in because equally, you can have some bad days. Enjoy the good ones, take the bad ones in your stride," said Archer, named Player of the Match.

Glenn Maxwell and Nehal Wadhwa, however, showed resilience in their 88-run partnership but the rest of the Punjab batters failed to rise to the

occasion, scoring a total of only 155-9.

Put into bat, Rajasthan skipper Sanju Samson and his fellow opener Yashasvi Jaiswal gave the team a robust start, posting 85-0 at the end of 10 overs.

Yashasvi was Rajasthan's top scorer with 67 off 45 balls, including three fours and five sixes, while Riyan Parag carried Rajasthan through the death overs with his unbeaten 43-run knock, taking the visitors to 205/4 in 20 overs.

"The way we started in the powerplay, I felt we were running a bit short," Samson said as Rajasthan posted the first-ever 200 plus score at this venue in the IPL.

"But with the quality of batsmanship which we have and because the way it was getting a bit hard to hit those boundaries, I thought, they would also feel the same. I felt 205 was a really good score on board."

Punjab will play their next home game tomorrow against Chennai Super Kings while Rajasthan will look to extend their winning lead against Gujarat Titans on Wednesday. - Reuters

322 Notices

PicklesAuctions

Bank Repossessed bikes and cars for sale by auction. Auctions are conducted via eBidding on **Wednesday - 9th April** from 9.35am onwards. All are invited to join our **PUBLIC AUCTION**. Viewing inspection on **Tuesday - 8th April** at 9.30am - 5.30pm. All unsold bank repossessed vehicles will be re-auctioned on the following Wednesday until the vehicles are sold. Download Pickles Auctions app to view all auction listings or visit www.pickles.my

Reg no	Description	Reg no	Description
VHD3771	HONDA RS-X FS150FA	CDE4035	PROTON SAGA FL 1.3
DEN4122	YAMAHA Y15ZR	JNP3162	PERODUA VIVA
VMR1089	YAMAHA Y15ZR	VEV5024	2020 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 X (A)
SWJ7095	YAMAHA Y15ZR	PMP2713	2016 PERODUA MYVI 1.5 SE (A)
BRD6179	HONDA RS-X FS150FA	W206V	2014 KIA RIO UB
AMN9861	YAMAHA Y15ZR	NCQ7318	2012 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 EZI
VHE9351	YAMAHA Y15ZR	CDH6469	2013 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E
DEL8010	YAMAHA NVX STANDARD	W7285S	2014 PERODUA MYVI
VGD3689	YAMAHA 135LC AUTO CLUTCH	WC7821Q	2016 PERODUA AXIA 1.0 G
VMS1403	YAMAHA Y15ZR	VHU4290	2016 PROTON EXORA FL 1.6L CVT
JWJ1466	YAMAHA Y15ZR	JRV4941	2016 PERODUA MYVI
DEQ3208	YAMAHA EGO AVANTIZ	NDH2746	2017 PERODUA AXIA 1.0 G
RAC2748	MODENAS DINAMIK AS120C	WD9603A	2016 PERODUA BEZZA 1.0 G (A)
JWX8936	YAMAHA Y15ZR SE	WA5400X	2014 KIA CERATO YD
VHC2571	HONDA RS-X FS150FA	TCL1433	2022 PERODUA MYVI
SYT1522	AVETA RX110	VGV3811	2021 BMW X1 SDRIVE20I
QMG3673H	YAMAHA 135LC-AUTO CLUTCH	WC9986P	MERCEDES-BENZ C200-W205A
BRB 6582	YAMAHA LEGENDA 115Z	WB700R	2014 JAGUAR XF
VBG9433	YAMAHA 135LC AUTO CLUTCH	WC3567W	2016 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)
SK3244C	HONDA A-DASH 125	VK1716	2016 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
QJB8087	YAMAHA 135 LC HAND CLUTCH	WD3051A	2016 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
POB6419	HONDA WAVE 125I	WC9487A	2015 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)
PPU2097	HONDA DASH 125	BPG6887	2017 NISSAN GRAND LIVINA 1.6L (A)
TCH2565	GPX POPZ 110 (SPECIAL EDT)	SAB7520K	2012 NISSAN GRAND LIVINA 1.6L (A)
DDV8471	HONDA RS150R REPSOL	PLE3937	2013 PROTON PERSONA 1.6L (A)
ALP7389	2020 YAMAHA Y15ZR	JPG6309	2013 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
BOQ4969	2021 HONDA RS-X FS150FA	WYD7014	2013 PROTON PREVE 1.6L CVT
POB1855	2021 HONDA DASH 125	WXF414	2012 PROTON INSPIRA 2.0 (CVT)
VJK2977	2022 HONDA DASH 125	WXV5701	2012 PROTON EXORA FL 1.6L (A)
JVU790	2022 YAMAHA 135LC AUTO CLUTCH	VAH9235	2017 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
AMK2665	2022 YAMAHA Y15ZR	RP9667	2016 PERODUA BEZZA 1.3 X (A)
DEP468	2022 YAMAHA Y16ZR	BMD 8536	2013 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
VJU7518	2022 HONDA BEAT	BPY1689	2019 HONDA CITY 1.5L V
JWH1285	2023 YAMAHA EGO AVANTIZ 125	VAL8791	2017 NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0L CVT
VKC5361	2023 YAMAHA 135LC FL STD	JQY753	2015 PROTON EXORA FL 1.6L CVT
VLD578	2023 HONDA VARIO 125	W3571C	2013 PROTON PREVE 1.6L CVT
JWM3985	2023 YAMAHA 135LC FL STD	KEB8576	2015 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
RAR3705	2023 HONDA ADV160	JPD2919	2013 PROTON EXORA FL 1.6L CVT
SJF1271	2024 YAMAHA 135LC FL STD	NCQ216	2011 PROTON PERSONA 1.6
VME5610	2024 YAMAHA NVX ABS	WYF9469	2013 NISSAN GRAND LIVINA 1.6L (A)
V4679L	2013 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE	BLD5009	2011 NISSAN SYLPHY 2.0 CVT
VAT6288	2017 PEUGEOT 3008 P84 A	CCF7888	2008 HONDA CITY 1.5I-D (A)
QCE7722	2014 NISSAN SYLPHY	PKB9971	2011 FORD FIESTA 1.6L SPORT (A)
WXP450	2012 FORD FOCUS	WVB6897	2011 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 EZI (A)
VBF8468	2018 BMW X5 XDRIVE40E	AJG9330	2013 PROTON PREVE 1.6L CVT
BRL6583	2023 PROTON SAGA	VBJ1400	2018 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 X (A)
ST9005X	2016 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 VTL	ABY8182	2019 PROTON PERSONA 1.6L CVT
WXY850	2013 BMW 328I SPORT	BLH3893	2011 TOYOTA PRIUS 1.8L (A)

For more information
Call **016-6999170**, (WhatsApp) **012-5553727** or email info@pickles.my

PICKLES ASIA SDN BHD
Lot 19391, Batu 8 1/2, Jalan Klang Lama, Taman Desaria, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Download Pickles Auctions App



322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA COMPANY WINDING-UP PETITION NO. PA-28NCC-24-02/2025

In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016

And
In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

And
In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]

And
In the matter of Penang High Court Execution Suit No. PA-37J-17-11/2023 ('Execution 17')

And
In the matter of Penang High Court Execution Suit No. PA-37J-18-12/2023 ('Execution 18')

BETWEEN

ULRIC CHONG N DEE (NRIC NO.: 661219-07-5305) ... PETITIONER

AND

NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)] ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 21st day of February 2025, presented by Ulric Chong N Dee (NRIC No.: 661219-07-5305). And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at **Georgetown High Court OCVC 2, Labuh Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 23rd April 2025**; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charges for the same.

The Petitioner address is at No.6, Lengkok Merbah 1, Taman Bayan, Bayan Lepas, 11900 Pulau Pinang and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.

The Petitioner Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.

.....sgd.....
MESSRS. OTHMAN HASHIM & CO.
Solicitors for the Petitioners

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm or his or their Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than **12.00 o'clock noon on Tuesday, the 22nd April 2025** (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition).
Tel: 03-6257 3399 | Fax: 03-6257 3393
Ref: L7/M/UCND-68758/OHC/2022/TKH/TR/LZY/LEONG

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT GEORGETOWN IN THE STATE OF PENANG, MALAYSIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANIES WINDING UP PETITION NO. PA-28NCC-20-02/2025

In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016

And
In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

And
In the matter of Nova Mulia Development Sdn. Bhd. [Company No.: 200501002019 (679065-U)]

And
In the matter of Georgetown Sessions Court Writ of Summons No. PA-AS2NCC-43-04/2022 ('Suit 43')

BETWEEN

1. LEE HOCK LEONG (NRIC NO.: 761009-02-5973)

2. LIM PING (NRIC NO.: 771025-07-6200) ...PETITIONERS

AND

NOVA MULIA DEVELOPMENT SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO.: 200501002019 (679065-U)] ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was, on 18th day of February 2025, presented by Lee Hock Leong (NRIC No.: 761009-02-5973) and Lim Ping (NRIC No.: 771025-07-6200). And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at **Georgetown High Court (Commercial Division) OCVC 2, Labuh Light, 10200 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang at 9.00 o'clock in the morning, on the 12th June 2025**; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charges for the same.

The Petitioners address is at 2169, Lorong Selasih 9E/4, Taman Selasih, 09000 Kulim, Kedah and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Pulau Pinang.

The Petitioners Solicitor is Messrs. Othman Hashim & Co. of 6th Floor, Wisma Kah Motor, 566 BT 3 1/2, Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur.

.....sgd.....
MESSRS. OTHMAN HASHIM & CO.
Solicitors for the Petitioners

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed Messrs Othman Hashim & Co. notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm or his or their Solicitors (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than **12.00 o'clock noon on Wednesday, the 11th June 2025** (the day before the date appointed for the hearing of the Petition).
Tel: 03-6257 3399 | Fax: 03-6257 3393
Ref: L7/M/68761/OHC/2022/TKH/TR/SBRN



Leverkusen keep Bundesliga title hopes alive

EMILIANO BUENDIA snatched a stoppage-time winner to give Bayer Leverkusen a 1-0 win at Heidenheim on Saturday, keeping their slim hopes of defending their league title alive.

Eliminated from the German Cup by third-division Arminia Bielefeld on Tuesday, Leverkusen needed a win to stay six points behind league leaders Bayern Munich, who won 3-1 at Augsburg on Friday.

Xabi Alonso's side looked out of ideas in attack against the relegation candidates, missing the creative spark of injured playmaker Florian Wirtz.

However, as they have done so often under the Spaniard, Leverkusen scored in injury time to grab all three points, Buendia curling home from outside the box on 91 minutes.

Leverkusen's Jonathan Tah said: "We didn't play a good game at all... It was difficult today – at the end we needed a bit of luck."

"We needed to win today, we did it, job done – and now we're still in with a shot," Leverkusen's Granit Xhaka told *Sky Germany*.

Third-placed Eintracht Frankfurt missed a chance to shore up a first top-four finish in the Champions League era with a 2-0 loss at Werder Bremen.

Elsewhere, goals from Karim Adeyemi, Carney Chukwuemeka, Serhou Guirassy and Jamie Gittens took Borussia Dortmund to a dominant 4-1 win at Freiburg, days out from their Champions League trip to Barcelona.

"It'll be a difficult week, but every game is winnable," Dortmund's Pascal Gross said of the Barcelona challenge.

The win moved Dortmund to eighth, one spot behind Freiburg and five points behind fourth-placed Mainz, who drew 1-1 at home with lowly Holstein Kiel.

RB Leipzig came from behind to beat a 10-man Hoffenheim at home 3-1. Leipzig jumped up to fifth, a point behind fourth, while Hoffenheim are five points clear of Heidenheim in the relegation playoff spot. Stuttgart kept within sight of the European placings with a dominant 4-0 win at Bochum. – AFP



Barca extend Liga lead

... as Real stumble at home to Valencia

BARCELONA failed to break down a frantic Real Betis defence as they were held to a 1-1 draw in La Liga yesterday but still gained ground on Real Madrid who earlier conceded deep into added time to lose 2-1 at home to Valencia.

Barcelona moved four points ahead of Real Madrid atop La Liga. Both teams face Champions League first leg ties this week, Real visit Arsenal on Wednesday (3am Malaysian time) and Barcelona play in Dortmund on Thursday (am).

Barcelona cut open Betis in the seventh minute and Gavi slid the ball past goalkeeper Adrian from inside the six-yard box.

But the hosts were unable to turn a series of lively attacks into goals. Instead the visitors hit back after 16 minutes when centreback Natan Souza escaped the clutches of his defender to head home a Giovani Lo Celso corner.

Barcelona besieged the Betis goal in the second half but were denied by a combination of dogged defending, strong goalkeeping from Adrian and some agonising near misses.

Wojciech Szczesny did not have to make a save until the 88th minute when he turned away a long-range drive by Natan.

With Betis playing for time, Barcelona did not leave themselves exposed to a late counterattack as they played out a draw that bolstered their lead at the top.

"If we had won we would be further clear, but in the end it's football," Gavi told *Movistar*. "The draw leaves a bitter taste, because we were unable to take advantage of the chances we had."

At the Santiago Bernabeu, Barcelona forward Hugo Duro headed a winner in added time to give Valencia a 2-1 win and dealt a blow to the *Los Blancos'* Spanish title hopes. Duro, a former Real Madrid youth

player, who came on as a second half replacement, finished off a counterattack to head the winner five minutes into added time.

"La Liga is more complicated, but we have to fight until the last game," said Real coach Carlo Ancelotti.

The victory lifted Valencia to 15th, seven points clear of the bottom three.

"They didn't need to do much to score two goals," said Ancelotti. "We took risks at the end and found ourselves hit on the counter-attack."

"We've had deserved defeats this season, but I don't think we lacked attitude today," he added. "It's not a deserved defeat. We created lots of chances but lacked a little effectiveness." – AFP



Real Betis' Aitor Ruibal in action with FC Barcelona's Alejandro Balde. – REUTERS/SPIC

Inter's title charge stalls after 2-2 draw with Parma

INTER MILAN stumbled in their bid to retain the Serie A title after throwing away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Parma yesterday, giving Napoli a chance to cut the champions' league lead to a single point.

Goals in the first half from Matteo Darmian and Marcus Thuram appeared to have sent Inter on their way to moving six points clear at the top of the division ahead of their Champions League quarterfinal with Bayern Munich.

But Adrian Bernabe halved the deficit for Parma on the hour mark with a daisy cutter from distance, and the hosts were level nine minutes later when Jacob Ondrejka's strike was deflected past Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer.

Inter have a packed April and came into Saturday's match in the wake of Wednesday's 1-1 derby draw with AC Milan in the first leg of their Italian Cup semifinal.

"We've had a lot of commitments, we'd just played a derby, and you can't always find the right spirit to get the three points," said Inter's assistant coach Massimiliano Farris to *DAZN*.

"The team couldn't find the mental or physical energy to contain Parma. We shouldn't

Inter take on injury-ravaged Bayern in Germany on Wednesday (3am Malaysian time) with Inzaghi's side bidding to repeat the Serie A, Champions League and Italian Cup treble achieved 15 years ago under Jose Mourinho.

"With the number of games we're playing, an ice pack is the minimum you'd expect. It doesn't appear to be anything worrying," said Farris.

AC Milan came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 an entertaining match with Fiorentina but a point was not enough to boost their hopes of European football next season.

Milan, in ninth, are eight points away from the Champions League spots and four behind Fiorentina, Lazio and Roma, the latter of whom sit sixth and in the Conference League spot.

Earlier, Como took a big step towards Serie A safety by winning 3-1 at regional rivals Monza and pulling 10 points clear of the bottom three. – AFP

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN clinched the Ligue 1 title on Saturday with a 1-0 win at home against Angers as they prepare for a Champions League quarterfinal showdown with Aston Villa.

PSG needed just a draw in front of their own fans to be confirmed as champions again, having started the day a huge 21 points clear of nearest challengers Monaco with seven matches left.

Desire Doue's strike early in the second half decided the game in PSG's favour, allowing Luis Enrique's team to take the title with six matches still to play.

It is a fourth consecutive Ligue 1 title for the club from the French capital and their 11th in the last 13 seasons, highlighting the extent to which they have

dominated domestically since being taken over by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011.

"Our ambition is to win everything," said captain Marquinhos, who has now won 10 titles since joining the club in 2013, to broadcaster *beIN Sports*.

"It is a nice feeling. It is the reward for the work we have put in throughout the season, for our consistency, and the team deserves it," added the Brazilian centreback, who will be suspended for the first leg against Villa.

PSG's overall tally of 13 French league titles is three more than Saint-Etienne, who are the next most successful club with 10 but have not been champions since 1981.

Marseille have won nine titles, while Nantes and Monaco have each been champions on eight occasions.

Celebrations were far from excessive on a beautiful spring day in the city. However, Luis Enrique was raised aloft by members of his coaching staff while

the PSG players undertook a lap of honour of the Parc des Princes pitch.

The trophy ceremony will take place at a later date, with PSG maintaining their focus on the European clash with Villa for the first leg of their quarterfinal on Thursday (3am Malaysian time).

The Parisians remain undefeated after 28 matches, with 23 wins and just five draws, and are on course to become the first team to complete a Ligue 1 campaign without losing a game.

Elsewhere, Brest scored in injury time to beat Monaco 2-1 and Lyon came from behind to beat Lille 2-1. – AFP



Paris St Germain's Marquinhos (centre) celebrate with teammates and fans after winning Ligue 1. – REUTERS/SPIC

ASTON VILLA survived a stirring Nottingham Forest comeback to boost their Champions League hopes.

Villa looked in total control against Forest, lying third in the Premier League, when quick-fire goals from Morgan Rogers and Donyell Malen gave them a 2-0 lead after only 15 minutes.

Rogers ran clear to score with a composed finish before Malen timed his arrival in the six-yard area perfectly to turn in Ian Maatsen's inviting cross two minutes later.

Forest - with their own Champions League qualification ambitions - cleared their heads after a dreadful start to play their way into the game and both Anthony Elanga and Callum Hudson-Odoi were only inches away before the break.

This season's Premier League surprise package

Villa boost Euro bid

Wolves clinch 2-1 comeback win, Ipswich closer to relegation

continued their improvement after the interval, getting their reward when substitute Jota Silva scored on the turn after 57 minutes.

Forest came close again as efforts from Elliot Anderson and Neco Williams were just wide, while Rogers almost put Villa out of sight after a superb solo run forced a fine save from keeper Matz Sels.

There was drama right to the end, as Forest's Murillo crashed a long-range effort against the crossbar, then Sels denied substitute Marcus

Rashford when he was clean through.

Villa's win moved them to within one point of Chelsea in fourth place, while Forest remain in third despite this setback.

Meanwhile, Wolverhampton Wanderers effectively sealed their survival and left Ipswich Town on the brink of relegation with a 2-1 win at Portman Road.

Crystal Palace beat Brighton 2-1 despite finishing with nine men in a bruising battle featuring three red cards at Selhurst Park.

FA Cup semifinalists Palace went ahead thanks to Jean-Philippe Mateta's third minute curler, before Danny Welbeck's

close-range effort in the 31st minute dragged Brighton level.

Daniel Munoz blasted Palace's winner in the 55th minute, but the Eagles had to dig deep for the win.

Evanilson scored twice as Bournemouth drew 2-2 with West Ham at the London Stadium.

The Brazilian opened the scoring in the 38th minute and bagged Bournemouth's equaliser with 11 minutes left after Niclas Fullkrug and Jarrod Bowen had put West Ham ahead.

Aston Villa host third-placed Nottingham Forest in Saturday's late game, with both teams pushing to secure qualification for next season's Champions League. - AFP



Nottingham Forest's Ramon Sosa (below) in action with Aston Villa's Marcus Rashford. - REUTERS/SPIC

Burnley move to top as rivals stumble

BURNLEY moved to the top of the Championship with a 2-1 win at Coventry as promotion rivals Sheffield United and Leeds both stumbled on Saturday.

Scott Parker's side fell behind when Haji Wright netted for Coventry after five minutes.

But Jaidon Anthony scored either side of halftime to make it 2-1 league games unbeaten for the Claret.

"Immensely proud, a tough place to come, we knew that coming into the game," Parker said.

"You just need to roll sleeves up and you need to go to places and dig. For the majority of this year these players have got that."

Third-placed Leeds' 1-1 draw at struggling Luton was another blow to their hopes of an immediate return to the Premier League.

Daniel Farke's men have taken just seven points from their last six games and sit one point outside the automatic promotion places with six matches left.

Second-placed Sheffield United were knocked out of first place after a 1-0 loss at Oxford - their first defeat since

February. Siriki Dembele's goal in the 38th minute moved Oxford four points clear of the relegation zone.

Fourth-placed Sunderland's 1-0 win at West Bromwich Albion was a blow to the hosts' hopes of making the playoffs. Trai Hume's goal left Albion three points outside the top six.

Bristol City leap-frogged Coventry into sixth place with a 2-1 win over Watford at Ashton Gate.

Mihailo Ivanovic netted an 87th-minute winner as his brace helped Millwall to a 2-1 win over Portsmouth at the Den.

Ryan Hardie's double saw bottom of the table Plymouth keep their survival hopes alive with a 2-1 win against Norwich.

Lewis Baker's late penalty gave Stoke a 1-1 draw at Preston after Kaine Kesler-Hayden's tap-in for the hosts.

Charlie Hughes' stoppage-time winner fired lowly Hull to a 1-0 win at Sheffield Wednesday.

Eom Ji-Sung's 79th-minute strike was enough for Swansea to beat struggling Derby 1-0, while QPR and Cardiff shared a goalless draw. - AFP

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS
DRAW NO: 5949/2025 **DATE:** 06/04/2025 (SUN)
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
 196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

4D
 1st Prize **0127**
 2nd Prize **2613**
 3rd Prize **9913**

Special	Consolation
3223 9272	8737 6481
0844 6563	8140 0076
3254 1692	2201 9411
6371 6062	2329 6550
4248 0518	0067 6810

4D JACKPOT
 Jackpot 1 **RM 5,307,897.41**

0127 2613	2613 0127
0127 9913	9913 0127
2613 9913	9913 2613

Jackpot 2 **RM 433,736.63**
 Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize 0127	+	ROOSTER
2nd Prize 2613	+	
3rd Prize 9913	+	
4th Prize Special Prize	+	
5th Prize Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize Any 4D drawn number	+	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D
 1ST **6 7 3 0 5**
 2ND **7 6 7 0 1**
 3RD **6 5 1 0 0**
 4TH **7 3 0 5**
 5TH **3 0 5**
 6TH **0 5**

6D
 1ST **7 7 3 1 1 5**
 2ND **7 7 3 1 1** or **7 3 1 1 5**
 3RD **7 7 3 1** or **3 1 1 5**
 4TH **7 7 3** or **1 1 5**
 5TH **7 7** or **1 5**

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SUPREME 6/58 **4 11 21 23 24 32**
 Jackpot **RM 31,151,375.14**

POWER 6/55 **10 16 19 24 46 51**
 Jackpot **RM 11,122,582.77**

STAR 6/50 **2 7 30 43 46 50 + 25**
 Jackpot 1 **RM 4,798,276.20**
 Jackpot 2 **RM 177,073.26**

Visit www.sportstoto.com.my for e-Results and more info.



WINNING NUMBERS **damacai**
 PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL
 Draw Date: 06/04/25 (Sun) Draw No: 5896/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	3547
2nd Prize	1898
3rd Prize	2826

Starters	Consolation
1035 2806	2819 5524
1933 0932	3756 0944
4460 6298	4242 6630
4926 3178	2792 7541
3432 9895	6094 9004

1-3D Jackpot
 Jackpot 1 **RM14,934,313.20**

3547 + 1898	1898 + 3547
3547 + 2826	2826 + 3547
1898 + 2826	2826 + 1898

Jackpot 2 **RM183,281.60**
 Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
113 547 +	RAT	RM50,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
981 898 +	OX	RM892,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
482 826 +	RABBIT	RM1,961,506.00

Starters	Consolation
461 035 762 806	272 819 755 524
601 933 380 932	583 756 920 944
584 460 386 298	564 242 146 630
124 926 543 178	962 792 867 541
093 432 149 895	486 094 399 004

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
547	898	826

3D Jackpot
 Jackpot **RM1,020,686.50**

547 + 898 + 826	898 + 826 + 547
547 + 826 + 898	826 + 547 + 898
898 + 547 + 826	826 + 898 + 547

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

1+3D J2 RM488k & 3+3D 1st Prize Bonus RM440k won on 5/4/25!

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RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 2 (Rogers 13, Malen 15) Nottingham Forest 1 (Jota 57), Crystal Palace 2 (Mateta 3, Munoz 55) Brighton 1 (Welbeck 31), Everton 1 (Ndiaye 49-pen) Arsenal 1 (Trossard 34), Ipswich 1 (Delap 16) Wolves 2 (Sarabia 72, Strand Larsen 84), West Ham 2 (Fullkrug 61, Bowen 68) Bournemouth 2 (Evanilson 38, 79).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	30	22	7	1	70	27	73
Arsenal	31	17	11	3	56	26	62
Nottm Forest	31	17	6	8	51	37	57
Chelsea	30	15	7	8	54	37	52
Man City	30	15	6	9	57	40	51
Aston Villa	31	14	9	8	46	46	51
Newcastle	29	15	5	9	49	39	50
Brighton	31	12	11	8	49	47	47
Bournemouth	31	12	9	10	51	40	45
Fulham	30	12	9	9	44	40	45
Crystal Palace	30	11	10	9	39	35	43
Brentford	30	12	5	13	51	47	41
Man Utd	30	10	7	13	37	41	37
Everton	31	7	14	10	33	38	35
West Ham	31	9	8	14	35	52	35
Tottenham	30	10	4	16	55	44	34
Wolves	31	9	5	17	43	59	32
Ipswich	31	4	8	19	31	65	20
Leicester	30	4	5	21	25	67	17
Southampton	30	2	4	24	22	71	10

CHAMPIONSHIP: Bristol City 2 Watford 1, Coventry 1 Burnley 2, Luton 1 Leeds 1, Millwall 2 Portsmouth 1, Oxford 1 Sheffield United 0, Plymouth 2 Norwich 1, Preston 1 Stoke 1, QPR 0 Cardiff 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0 Hull 1, Swansea 1 Derby 0, West Brom 0 Sunderland 1.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnley	40	23	15	2	55	12	84
Sheff Utd	40	26	7	7	56	30	83
Leeds	40	23	13	4	79	28	82
Sunderland	40	21	12	7	57	37	75
Mid'boro	40	17	9	14	61	49	60
Bristol City	40	15	15	10	51	43	60

LA LIGA: Girona 0 Alaves 1 (Vicente 61), Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 50) Valencia 2 (Diakhaby 15, Duro 90+5), Mallorca 1 (Valjent 17) Celta Vigo 2 (Alfon 53, Fer Lopez 72), Barcelona 1 (Gavi 7) Real Betis 1 (Natan 17).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	30	21	4	5	83	29	67
Real Madrid	30	19	6	5	63	31	63
A. Madrid	29	16	9	4	47	23	57
A. Bilbao	29	14	11	4	46	24	53
Real Betis	30	13	9	8	41	37	48
Villarreal	28	13	8	7	51	39	47

SERIE A: AC Milan 2 (Abraham 23, Jovic 64) Fiorentina 2 (Thiaw 7-og, Kean 10), Monza 1 (Mota 5) Como 3 (Ikone 16, Diaio 39, Vojvoda 51), Parma 2 (Bernabe 60, Ondrejka 69) Inter Milan 2 (Darmian 15, Thuram 45).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	31	20	8	3	69	30	68
Napoli	30	19	7	4	47	24	64
Atalanta	30	17	7	6	63	29	58
Bologna	30	15	11	4	50	34	56
Juventus	30	14	13	3	46	28	55
Roma	30	15	7	8	45	30	52

BUNDESLIGA: Werder Bremen 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, RB Leipzig 3 Hoffenheim 1, Heidenheim 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1, Freiburg 1 Borussia Dortmund 4, Mainz 1 Holstein Kiel 1, Bochum 0 Stuttgart 4.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich	28	21	5	2	81	27	68
B. Leverkusen	28	18	8	2	63	34	62
E. Frankfurt	28	14	6	8	55	42	48
Mainz	28	13	7	8	46	32	46
RB Leipzig	28	12	9	7	44	35	45
B. M'gladbach	27	13	4	10	44	40	43

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Paris Saint-Germain 1 Angers 0, Brest 2 Monaco 1, Lyon 2 Lille 1.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	28	23	5	0	80	26	74
Monaco	28	15	5	8	54	35	50
Marseille	27	15	4	8	54	36	49
Lyon	28	14	6	8	54	38	48
Nice	28	13	8	7	52	35	47
Lille	28	13	8	7	42	30	47

CHAMPIONS

Sarawak ready to host boxing at SG27: Minister

SARAWAK, the co-host of the 2027 SEA Games (SG27), is prepared to stage the boxing event in the state.

State Minister of Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development, Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, said the Sri Aman Unity Stadium is among the main venues proposed for boxing, citing the tremendous support shown by spectators for athletes there.

"I definitely want it (to be held) in Sri Aman because I saw during the last Malaysia Games (Sukma) that when boxing was held there, the supporters were extremely enthusiastic, especially when Sarawak athletes competed against other states," he told reporters after his ministry's Hari Raya Aidilfitri open

house yesterday.

Abdul Karim, who is also Sarawak Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts, said the construction project for the cycling velodrome is still in the planning stage and that it is highly likely that cycling events cannot be held in Sarawak for this edition and may need to be hosted by Selangor.

"Nevertheless, the plan to build the first velodrome in Borneo will continue and be located in Kuching. "I also want the



Abdul Karim

venue to be multi-purpose - apart from cycling events, it should also be for meetings or other events. We do not want sports facilities to be built for just one function," he said.

So far, 36 sports events have been identified. Eighteen will be held in Sarawak, 15 in Kuala Lumpur, four in Penang, and one in Johor. - Bernama



Negeri Sembilan's Che Rashid Che Halim (top) in action with Penang's Rafael Vitor during their Super League match on Saturday. - BERNAMAPIC

SELANGOR FC head coach Katushito Kinoshi expressed pride in his players' performance after they secured a 1-0 victory over Terengganu FC (TFC) in their Malaysia Super League match on Saturday.

According to Kinoshi, the Selangor players demonstrated a high fighting spirit and did not give up until the final moments to score the winning goal, thus ensuring the Red Giants collected the full three points.

"Today's (yesterday's) match was very big for me and I'm very satisfied because of their job as professional football players and as Selangor team players.

"They fought as a team and got three points. I am so glad to see this kind of football," he told the post-match press conference.

In the match held at the Petaling Jaya City Council Stadium (MBPJ), Selangor winger Alvin Fortes emerged as the hero for the Red Giants by scoring the only goal in the dying minutes.

The 30-year-old player met Faisal Halim's lofted pass before unleashing a powerful shot past Terengganu goalkeeper Rahadiazli Rahalim to seal the 1-0 win for

Selangor, Penang secure three points in Saturday's Super League matches

Selangor.

Meanwhile, TFC head coach Badrul Afzan Razali expressed disappointment with his team's performance after they failed to convert the chances they created into goals.

However, he acknowledged that his players had given their best in the match and hoped they would bounce back to collect three points against The Cops next Saturday.

At the Paroi Stadium, Penang FC beat Negeri Sembilan FC 2-0 courtesy of two goals from Rahmat Makasuf in the 13th minute and a 87th minute penalty by Rafael Vitor.

Penang remains ninth with 23 points after the win, while Negeri Sembilan languishes in second last place with 13 points. - Bernama

Shereen strikes 400m gold

MALAYSIA'S Shereen Samson Vallabuoy clinched her first title of the year by dominating the women's 400 metres at the Embry-Riddle Running Elements Classic 2025 in Florida, United States on Saturday.

Malaysia Athletics, in a Facebook post yesterday, announced that the 26-year-old athlete, representing Life Speed, clocked 53.72 seconds to secure the gold medal.

The silver medal went to Gabby Johnson from the North Florida team, who clocked a time of 55.17s, while Nevaeh Lorjuste from Rowan took bronze with 56.91s.

"According to Shereen, the first 200m was quite challenging due to the windy conditions and headwind.

"However, overall, she felt very good technically and ran with full strength," the post read. - Bernama

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Draw No: 186/25 Date: 06/04/2025

4D Classic

1st Prize **3006**
 2nd Prize **4583**
 3rd Prize **4159**

SPECIAL	CONSOLATION
5728 4062	4019 8829
3633 8699	0057 5018
9531 2125	7842 9525
5060 0459	9491 2615
7466 2248	1194 1953

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM2,777,156.99**

3006 + 4583	3006 + 4159
4583 + 3006	4583 + 4159
4159 + 3006	4159 + 4583

Jackpot 2 **RM141,301.27**
PARTIALLY WON
 Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

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8 14 15 18 20 21 29 36
 +
 4 16
Grand Prize
 RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 20 years
2nd Prize
 RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days

Jackpot Gold

Jackpot 1 **RM12,522,325.02**
 Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 **RM161,275.34** **PARTIALLY WON**
 Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	0 6 8 3 5 9
GROUP 2	06835 OR 68359
GROUP 3	0683 OR 8359
GROUP 4	068 OR 359
GROUP 5	06 OR 59
	OR 83
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SCAN ME

Plenty to ponder

Looming shadow of Madrid leaves Arsenal with more questions after frustrating draw with Everton

BY RICHARD JOLLY

FOR one of the more stylish midfielders to grace Goodison Park in recent decades, a farewell to the venue came in the form of a warm-up for a very different test. There was a time when it seemed as though Mikel Arteta may return to Everton as manager.

Instead, as Arsenal targeted the unproven Arteta, they were seduced by the glamour of Carlo Ancelotti, meaning a swift volte-face when they withdrew the offer of the job to a certain David Moyes. Now, it is Ancelotti and Real Madrid for Arteta.

His Goodison goodbye contained preparation, frustration and a bit more of Myles Lewis-Skelly's education.

A draw renders it still likelier the Premier League title will return to Merseyside, with Liverpool now only requiring another 11 points to make it mathematically certain.

But if Arteta's team selection, with Martin Odegaard and Gabriel Martinelli only substitutes, indicated he has the Champions League in mind, he has plenty to consider.

Real are unlikely to be petrified when they study the

footage of a stop-start affair, often lacking in intensity, at times without some of Arteta's premier personnel. But they would surely note the introduction of Bukayo Saka at halftime: after 24 minutes against Fulham, he played 45 at Everton. Will he start against Madrid?

"He is in a much better place," said Arteta. "We have built that up."

Will Jakub Kiwior start against the European champions? He got the chance to deputise for the injured Gabriel Magalhaes and, perhaps flatteringly, he was given the man-of-the-match award.

Was Kiwior's selection a case of Arteta revealing his hand or concealing it? Ben White made his first league start since November, lasted an hour at rightback and could play in the middle. "We have alternatives there," said Arteta.

The safe assumption is that Lewis-Skelly is primed to begin the biggest game of his club career. It continues to be ridiculously

eventful. The teenager's debut campaign has shown huge talent and a propensity to attract the attention of referees.

His latest indiscretion cost them a valedictory victory even if, not for the first time, Arsenal thought he was wronged. "I have seen it 15 times and in my opinion, there is no way that is a penalty," said Arteta.

But a rashness felt apparent when Lewis-Skelly hauled down Jack Harrison just inside the box and with little danger the Leeds loanee would score. Instead, Iliman Ndiaye did, marking his first start since February by rolling in the spot kick.

It was transformative. Until then, Everton's chances had been limited to two Jake O'Brien efforts from set-pieces.

Raheem Sterling, making just a fifth Premier League start, looked busier than most but was nevertheless hauled off at halftime as Saka and Martinelli came on.

Leandro Trossard was lively. He offered Arsenal a different option in attack. Mikel Merino, back in midfield, almost won it with a late header.

"We started slowly and sluggishly and made mistakes," said Moyes. "But the players have shown great resilience."

Arteta said: "We had two big chances to win the game." But Arsenal got their 11th draw of the season, Everton their fifth in six matches.

With a lone defeat in 11, Moyes has made them fearsomely hard to beat. He has now earned 18 points this season, beating Sean Dyche's tally of 17. Everton's 35 should render them safe.

"I want to get to 60 or 70 but when I came in, if you had given me 40, I would have taken you out for a drink," smiled Moyes.

He has made Goodison a fortress again, one that Arteta will miss. "The Premier League has a reputation all over the world for places like Goodison Park," said the former Everton midfielder. Going to Bramley-Moore Dock, he said, is "going to be very strange".

But first, Real Madrid. "One of the most beautiful games that you can play in football, in the highest European competition, against the team that has dominated that competition in the last 20, 25 years.

"So, yeah, really looking forward to it," Arteta said. - The Independent



Everton's Jake O'Brien (left) vies with Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli during their Premier League match. - AFPIC

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