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270 houses safe

Relief centre closed as Putra Heights residents affected by gas pipeline fire allowed to return home.

Report on
page 2

Solar panel waste problem looms large

Long term plan needed for proper policies on management of disposed material to avoid clean energy initiative becoming environmental burden.

Report on
page 4

As adoption of green power systems expands rapidly across Malaysia, there is growing concern about the lack of facilities to deal with the debris generated at the end of their lifespan.
— SUNPIC



M'sia's automotive industry in top gear

Sector registered record-breaking 816,000 new vehicles in 2024, generating RM82 billion in revenue and supporting over 700,000 jobs.

Report on
page 3

Ultra-processed foods feeding silent epidemic

Industrially formulated with additives, emulsifiers and artificial flavouring to enhance taste and prolong shelf life, such products contribute to growing health crisis in Malaysia.

Report on
page 5



INTRICATE WORK ... The Tengku Ampuan of Pahang Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah observing silk weaving during a media conference held in conjunction with the Piala Tunku Azizah competition at Kompleks Kraf Kuala Lumpur yesterday. – **BERNAMAPIC**

Putra Heights blast victims to return home this week

➤ 'Residents whose dwellings have minor damage gone back, further assessment for houses with severe problems'

■ BY **HARITH KAMAL**
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SHAH ALAM: All victims of the gas pipeline explosion in Putra Heights, who were temporarily housed at the Dewan Camelia relief centre, were given the go ahead to return to their homes, with the centre officially closed last night.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari also announced that residents at the Masjid Putra Heights relief centre would be allowed to return home in stages by the end of the week.

"The decision was made to allow residents whose homes sustained minor damage to return, while houses with more severe damage will undergo further assessment," he said at a media conference at the Selangor State Secretariat yesterday.

"A standard aid package will be provided to assist with repair works, as recommended by the Recovery Committee."

Following minor repair works and technical assessments by the Fire and Rescue Department, 270 homes have been declared safe for reoccupation.

"Water and electricity supply will be restored to these homes, and they are now deemed habitable," said Amirudin.

He also announced a large-scale *gotong-royong* event scheduled for this weekend.

The initiative will involve the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation, Persatuan Misi Kemanusiaan Selangor, local councils and volunteer groups including Team Selangor and Selangor Volunteer.

"The cleanup will focus on the 270 affected homes and will take place on Saturday and Sunday."

"Selangor Volunteer and Team Selangor will coordinate the work across two housing areas, with 1,000 volunteers expected to participate in clearing debris and preparing the homes for reoccupation."

He added that recovery efforts also include the disbursement of the first round of rental assistance for families still in temporary accommodation, and this is expected to be completed by next week.

Amiruddin said 16 families have accepted temporary accommodation such as Airbnb units offered by the state.

He said all 56 state assemblymen, including those from the Opposition, will each contribute RM200 for recovery efforts.

He added that all state executive councillors would donate RM1,000 each to the Tabung Prihatin relief fund established for this purpose.

"In addition, Selangor civil servants in Grade 48 positions and above will contribute RM50 each to the fund."

Amiruddin, who is also Gombak MP, estimated that RM102,000 would be raised through these contributions.

The Tabung Prihatin was launched two days after the explosion, which occurred on the second day of Hari Raya.

Amirudin said the Selangor Land and Mines Office would begin offering mobile services starting next Monday to assist residents who lost property documents in the explosion.

"This service will allow affected residents to obtain reprinted land titles free of charge."

He said for homes that sustained more than 40% structural damage, further discussions would be held with the Local Government Development Ministry next Monday to determine appropriate long-term solutions.

On ongoing investigations, Amirudin said 118 individuals have been summoned by police, although details about their identities remain undisclosed.

Data on firms, workers affected being gathered

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has instructed the Human Resources Ministry to obtain a complete list of factories and companies affected by the gas pipeline disaster in Putra Heights, Subang Jaya from the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti).

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the move aims to gather information regarding affected workers and understand the challenges faced by the companies involved.

He said both ministries are dealing directly with the companies and would scrutinise and follow up with several actions.

"The Cabinet has also been informed about

gas supply issues faced by a number of companies and factories affected by the closure of the pipeline, and the Energy Commission will hold a meeting with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers regarding the matter."

Fahmi, who is also the spokesman for the Madani government, said this at the post-Cabinet meeting media conference yesterday.

He said it is a priority of the government to ensure the restoration of the gas supply.

"We also understand that the investigation process is still ongoing."

He added that five telecommunications companies, namely CelcomDigi, Maxis, TM

Unifi, U Mobile and YES, would offer aid and recovery support to the victims to ease their financial burden.

He said the assistance and recovery support provided include service fee waivers (for prepaid and postpaid services) for a certain period, free device and SIM card replacement for affected customers, as well as free 5G Wi-Fi services at the temporary evacuation centre in Putra Heights.

"The provision of telecommunications support and recovery assistance to affected customers will be based on needs from time to time and will vary according to the telco company." – **Bernama**

Royal couple offers congratulations

KUANTAN: The Sultan of Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and the Tengku Ampuan of Pahang Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah have congratulated Datuk Nazri Abu Bakar on his appointment as the new Pahang state secretary, effective Tuesday.

Their Majesties said in a statement that the appointment recognises Nazri's experience and dedication in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to him with wisdom and integrity.

"Leadership marked by wisdom, decisiveness and strong commitment is vital to ensuring the continued excellence of the state's public service for the well-being of the people."

"May Allah SWT guide and grant Datuk Nazri the strength to fulfil this responsibility with integrity and blessings," said a post on the official Facebook page of the Royal Family of Pahang.

The royal couple also prayed for the success of all initiatives under Nazri's leadership and that they would bring meaningful progress to the state, further elevating Pahang's standing at the national level.

Nazri previously served as Pahang state financial officer. He succeeds Datuk Seri Zulkifli Yaacob, who retired yesterday after 36 years of service. – **Bernama**

Higher government aid brings relief to families

KUALA LUMPUR: The increase in Sumbangan Asas Rahmah aid to RM200 per month, which took effect this month, has been welcomed by its 5.4 million recipients, especially those with families.

For Rozanawati Mat Salleh, 38, a housewife in Ulu Tiram, Johor, the higher aid amount has eased the financial burden of supporting a family of six, including two school-going children.

"With the increase in assistance to RM200 a month, we are now able to buy more kitchen essentials, even if it only lasts about two weeks."

"So, my husband's salary as a lorry driver can go towards our children's school expenses."

This year, the Madani government raised the total assistance to RM2,100 for households categorised as poor and hardcore poor in the eKasih database, an increase from RM1,200 last year.

The assistance of RM100 per month was credited to recipients' MyKad from January to March this year. Beginning April 1, the rate was increased to RM200 monthly, benefiting 5.4 million recipients, an almost eightfold rise from the previous 700,000.

In addition to Sumbangan Asas Rahmah, the second phase of the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah was disbursed, starting March 24, reaching 8.5 million recipients.

This represents 60% of Malaysian adults, with assistance of up to RM650.

For single mother, Nurul Adila Izhar, 31, from Jelutong, Penang, the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah assistance has significantly impacted how she manages her family's daily expenses.

"It has really helped me cover our basic needs – buying kitchen essentials, paying for my child's education, ensuring that we have nutritious food and covering daily costs like transport and utility bills," said Nurul Adila, who is raising her child alone, following the death of her husband.

Another recipient, Syamim Mansor, 29, from Shah Alam, Selangor, said that the assistance has helped ease the cost of caring for her young child.

"I use the money to buy diapers and formula milk for my baby," said the private sector employee. – **Bernama**

Need to 'power up' automotive sector competitiveness

➤ Govt will continue efforts to position Malaysia as comprehensive hub that excels across all vehicle categories, says ministry

BY QIRANA NABILLA
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's automotive industry continues to power forward, generating RM82 billion in revenue and supporting over 700,000 jobs in 2024.

Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Hanafi Sakri said despite global economic uncertainties, the automotive sector managed to reach a record breaking total industry volume of 816,000 units in 2024, after surpassing the 800,000 unit mark for the first time in 2023.

"This 2.13% year-on-year increase underscores the resilience of the sector, which contributes 5.5% to the GDP.

"The industry has long been the

cornerstone of the nation's industrial development strategy and continues to be significant to our economy.

"With almost 40 producers and more than 700 component manufacturers, the Malaysian automotive industry is also among the largest in Asia," he said during the launching ceremony of Jetour's SUV themed "All New Dashing" yesterday.

Hanafi said the extraordinary growth demonstrates the resilience and determination of the automotive market even amid global economic uncertainties, and efforts are still needed to boost exports.

He added that the automotive sector has been facing a threat deficit for over 40 years.

"In 2024, the sector recorded a total value of RM70 billion, of which

RM54 billion was imported and RM15.9 billion for export of motor vehicles, motorcycles, cars and components.

"I think it's very important for our industry to look into that, and to assist the government in terms of how we can improve our export performance."

Hanafi said the US has positioned Malaysia more favourably in terms of tariffs, imposing a 24% rate on Malaysian automotive products, compared with Thailand and Indonesia.

He highlighted that Malaysia's strong diplomatic ties and robust trade relations, evidenced by 16 active free trade agreements, has further enhanced the country's market accessibility.

"The Malaysian automotive landscape is undergoing a significant transformation driven by technological enhancement, changing consumer preferences and our national commitment to sustainability.

"The National Automotive Policy provides a comprehensive framework to enhance the

competitiveness of our automotive industry and position Malaysia as a regional hub for next-generation vehicles," he said.

Hanafi added that while the country continues to see growth in the conventional vehicle segment, there is also a gradual shift as the market begins to embrace newer and more sustainable vehicle technologies.

He said the internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle that dominates our roads is becoming more fuel-efficient and technologically advanced, offering consumers greater value, comfort and performance.

Hanafi also said the government will continue its efforts to position Malaysia as a comprehensive automotive hub that excels across all vehicle categories and technologies, from ICE to hybrid and fully electric vehicles.

"Through our agency, Malaysia Automotive, Robotics and IoT Institute, we continue to offer technical assistance and research facilities to support the industry growth," he said.

Sophisticated, stylish SUV model launched

KUALA LUMPUR: Jetour Malaysia has officially entered the local SUV market with the launch of its first model, the all-new Dashing, marking a bold step by the brand into Malaysia's competitive automotive scene.

The brand's first SUV combines sophisticated design and desirable looks, showcasing a stylish and modern design aimed at capturing attention.

As a key highlight of the launch, Berjaya Corporation Bhd Founder and Advisor Tan Sri Vincent Tan, who is also a major shareholder of Berjaya Assets Bhd, officiated at the exchange of the agreement between Berjaya Assembly Sdn Bhd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Berjaya Assets Bhd) and Jetour Malaysia Sdn Bhd.

This marks a significant milestone in their collaboration on Completely Knocked Down projects and the introduction of Jetour vehicle models to the Malaysian market.

Jetour Auto vice-president Ke Chuandeng said the Dashing is not only the brand's first SUV in Malaysia but also represents a redefinition of consumer expectations in today's SUV market.

He emphasised the importance of modern-day vehicles incorporating technologically advanced features as a proactive way to progress the local automotive landscape.

"Jetour's expansion into service operations marks a major milestone in our journey to becoming more than just an automaker. We emphasise a user-centric design approach and aim to redefine travel by merging intelligent manufacturing with insights from the tourism industry.



From left: Hanafi, Tan and Ke at the launch yesterday.
- ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

"With a vision to create not just vehicles but complete travel experiences, Jetour is positioning itself as a lifestyle brand that connects people to culture, exploration and meaningful journeys," he said.

Ke added that the launch aligns with Jetour's Travel+ strategy, which focuses on creating exceptional travel experiences through innovative mobility solutions.

He also highlighted that 2025 marks Jetour's seventh anniversary, a significant milestone in its global expansion journey.

The brand now operates in 65 countries with over 2,000 sales and service networks worldwide, and has recorded global sales

exceeding 1.6 million units.

"The rapid development ensures Jetour's presence in strategic locations across both Peninsular and East Malaysia, including Selangor, Penang, Ipoh, Seremban, Malacca, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak, creating unprecedented accessibility to sales and service facilities.

"The company has secured comprehensive spare parts inventory nationwide, demonstrating its long-term commitment to the Malaysian market," he said.

Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Hanafi Sakri lauded Jetour's growing presence in Malaysia's automotive landscape, saying the brand's entry aligns well with

national aspirations to become a regional automotive hub.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, he highlighted the company's commitment to delivering advanced design and technology that caters to local lifestyles and aspirations.

"I am encouraged by Jetour's commitment in achieving 40% localisation in the manufacturing processes, which will strengthen our local supply chain and create opportunities for Malaysian vendors and suppliers.

"The launch is more than just the introduction of a new model. It represents another step in the Malaysian journey towards becoming a leading automotive nation in the region." - **By Qirana Nabilla Mohd Rashidi**

Cable thefts disrupt KLIA rail services

PUTRAJAYA: Express Rail Link Sdn Bhd (ERL) has confirmed a significant disruption to both KLIA Ekspres and KLIA Transit train services due to acts of vandalism involving a series of cable thefts followed by disruption to the signalling system at the Bandar Tasik Selatan station yesterday.

In a statement yesterday, ERL said the first cable cut took place at Km48.5 between the Salak Tinggi station and KLIA Terminal 1 (T1) at 6.20am and the combined service for KLIA Ekspres and KLIA Transit was activated at 6.58am from KLIA Terminal 2 (T2) and 7am from KL Sentral.

"Train shuttle services were also provided from the Salak Tinggi station to KL Sentral at 7.40am to address the morning rush hour crowd. Normal train services resumed at 10am from KL Sentral and 9.48am from KLIA T2."

The second cable cut happened at Km43.1 at 5.52pm between the Putrajaya and Cyberjaya and Salak Tinggi stations, resulting in all trains experiencing delays. Another incident involving disruption to the signalling system at the Bandar Tasik Selatan station resulted in all train services being suspended at 9.57pm.

ERL said it initiated train shuttle services between the Putrajaya and Cyberjaya stations to KLIA T2, which started at 10.20pm, with a frequency of 20 minutes.

Passengers heading to KL Sentral from Putrajaya and Cyberjaya were advised to seek alternative transport.

The third cable cut occurred at 4.47am yesterday at Km47.2 between the Salak Tinggi station and KLIA T1, and a fourth cable cut was reported at Km40.6 at 5.20am between the Salak Tinggi station and the Putrajaya and Cyberjaya stations. - Bernama

Navy chief attends ship keel laying event in Türkiye

KUALA LUMPUR: Navy Chief Admiral Datuk Zulhelmy Ithnain yesterday officiated at the keel laying ceremony for the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) Littoral Mission Ship Batch 2 (LMSB2) project at Istanbul Shipyard in Türkiye.

According to an RMN Facebook post, the keel laying ceremony - a key phase in the construction of a ship's main structure - was witnessed by Defence Ministry secretary-general Datuk Lokman Hakim Ali.

The ceremony, held in conjunction with the Defence Ministry delegation visit to Türkiye, is a longstanding tradition in the shipbuilding industry that marks the start of joining the main blocks of a ship at a shipyard.

"This ceremony also signifies continuity from the steel cutting event held on Dec 4, 2024, and marks the transition from the construction phase to the assembly phase of the ship's structure," RMN said.

It added that during the visit to Türkiye, a Project Monitoring Committee meeting was held on April 7 and chaired by Lokman.

"The company presented updates on the progress of all three ships involved, which showed highly encouraging development," the post said. - Bernama



Plan needed to address solar panel waste challenge

➤ Considering lifespan of about 25 years and current rapid adoption, problem could peak within next decade

■ BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia aims to generate 70% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, with solar power expected to contribute more than half under the National Energy Transition Roadmap.

However, as solar installations expand rapidly across the country, a new concern is gaining traction – disposal of solar panels once they reach the end of their lifespan.

Senior lecturer at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment Dr Muhammad Ammirul Atiqi Mohd Zainuri said the issue of solar panel waste is approaching faster than many anticipate.

“Most solar panels last about 25 to 30 years. Given the rapid growth of installations in Malaysia, the first wave of such waste could begin to surface within the next decade,” he said.

Ammirul, who specialises in solar panel lifecycle management and sustainability, said the material cannot be handled in the same way as typical electronic waste.

“They are large, heavy and mostly made of

glass, aluminium and silicon. But they also contain small amounts of hazardous substances such as lead and cadmium. If dumped in landfills, these materials can leach into the environment.”

He stressed the urgency for Malaysia to develop solar waste management policies before the issue becomes unmanageable.

“We cannot wait until we're overwhelmed. We need proper regulations, incentives and investment in local recycling capabilities. Otherwise, we risk turning a clean energy solution into an environmental burden.”

Currently, Malaysia has few specialised facilities capable of handling disposed solar panels.

One company addressing the issue is Zenviro Solar Panel Recycling, based in Kuala Lumpur.

Its general manager Austin Kuok said many recyclers are reluctant to enter the solar waste sector due to high startup costs and market uncertainty.

“The technology is extremely capital intensive. The potential volume of solar waste is huge in theory, but the business model remains niche. It's a peculiar industry – most recyclers can only process solar waste and nothing else,” he said.

Zenviro uses a fully mechanical process that can recover about 85% of a panel's weight, primarily glass and aluminium.

Although full recovery is not yet achievable, Kuok said the company is making progress through a research partnership with the Solar Energy Research Institute at UKM.

“Most panels can be dismantled into basic

materials, but the real challenge lies in handling the remaining components, the solar cells and encapsulants. These require advanced methods to extract valuable materials such as silicon and silver. Without the proper technology, they end up in landfills,” he said.

Kuok added that recycling technology alone is insufficient.

Stronger regulation and clearer roles within the industry are also essential.

“Right now, many decommissioned panels from large-scale projects are sold for reuse and often exported to developing countries. These reused panels are already aged and will likely end up in landfills there, where recycling facilities may not exist.”

Kuok said even in Malaysia, there is often confusion over responsibility for solar panel waste management.

“Responsibility tends to shift from asset owners to contractors. In the end, panels are often disposed as regular construction waste.”

Both Ammirul and Kuok agreed that Malaysia should follow the example of countries that have introduced dedicated categories for solar panel waste, rather than grouping it with general e-waste.

They also called for greater public awareness and robust policy support for a circular economy, in which old solar panels are recycled into raw materials for new ones.

“The country must ensure that its green transition is also sustainable,” Kuok said.

“We shouldn't stop caring about the environment just because a solar panel stops working. There's still a lot we can do after its life span as an energy producer is over.”

BNM children's activity corner a hit with families

KUALA LUMPUR: The Children's Activity Corner set up by Bank Negara Malaysia at the Malaysia Open House @ Asean 2025 exhibition has proven a hit with families, particularly one father who commended its effectiveness in introducing young children to financial management.

Mohd Amirul Mohd Rosli, 43, a researcher from Universiti Sultan Azlan Shah in Kuala Kangsar, Perak, said the programme content at the activity zone was well-suited for building financial literacy in children, especially around the concept of saving.

“In the past, children were often underestimated when it came to handling money. But now, my young children – Zuyyin Adlina, nine, and Mohd Kazim Haris, six – are already learning how to manage money.”

He emphasised the value of interactive, age-appropriate activities such as the creative DIY wallet-making session using recycled materials, which he described as a fun yet impactful way to teach money management skills.

“My daughter was thrilled to make her own wallet and couldn't wait to start saving money in it. There's a clear message behind the fun. Unlike in the past, children today have more opportunities to engage in activities that teach them the value of money,” he added.

Another visitor, Shagul Firdaus, 47, also welcomed the inclusion of children-focused content at such a prominent international event.

“I'm glad there's a dedicated segment for children's participation. It's important to nurture these values from a young age, and it's great to see them included in a high-profile event,” he said.

Meanwhile, exhibitor Nurul Hidayah Norul Azman of Usaha Jana Sdn Bhd said the activities were open to participants of all ages.

The four-day exhibition, which began on Tuesday, is free to the public and held in conjunction with the 12th Asean Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting and related events at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. – Bernama

FRIM marks 40 years of forestry research

KUALA LUMPUR: As the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) approaches its 40th anniversary this October, the institute remains committed to spearheading tropical forestry research and innovation grounded in natural resources.

Its director-general Datuk Dr Ismail Parlan said the anniversary is not only a celebration of FRIM achievements but also a symbol of its continued resolve to move forward with a global outlook and a focus on environmental sustainability.

“FRIM hopes to gain the support of all Malaysians in its bid for Unesco World Heritage Site status for the sake of future generations and the preservation of nature.”

“This 40th anniversary reflects FRIM's illustrious legacy and its future direction as a credible, sustainable and internationally recognised institution,” he told Bernama.

A series of activities will be held throughout the year from March to December, with the main celebration scheduled for Oct 4 at the FRIM premises on Jalan Jelutong in Kepong.

“This celebration aims to highlight FRIM's contributions to the nation and the environment, raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation and strengthen FRIM's identity as a global research institution.”

“The year-long programme includes biodiversity talks on wild orchids, the FRIM Merdeka Run in August and the 100-Year Heritage Site Celebration in December. On the main day, the public, students, researchers and NGOs will be invited to join pocket talks, trail tours and exhibitions,” he said.

Ismail added that the institute, formerly known as the Forest Research Institute, was established in 1926 and renamed FRIM on Oct 1, 1985.

It has since earned various accolades in



A series of activities will be held throughout the year from March to December, with the main celebration scheduled for Oct 4 at the FRIM premises in Kepong. – AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

recognition of its contributions to research, development, commercialisation and innovation.

“Our most prestigious honour was the Mahathir Science Award in 2009, for our contributions to research and development in Malaysia's rubber industry. We also received the Unesco Sultan Qaboos Prize on Nov 17, 2021, during the 41st Unesco general conference in Paris. That award acknowledged FRIM's initiatives in monitoring and conserving threatened species vital to the country, publishing resources such as the ‘Malaysia Red List: Plants of Peninsular Malaysia’ and

documenting traditional knowledge from the Orang Asli and local communities,” he said.

FRIM is also known for key research projects, including the Documentation Project on Traditional Knowledge of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Among the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia.

“The project, which began under the Ninth Malaysia Plan in 2007, goes beyond documenting traditional plant uses. It includes bioprospecting activities to verify traditional applications and identify the therapeutic potential of selected plant species,” he added.

Squatters resettlement project ahead of schedule

KAPIT: The Selirik Resettlement Scheme Project in Kapit, aimed at relocating squatters and low-income residents, has achieved 53.55% physical progress, surpassing its original schedule by 1.87%, according to Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

He expressed satisfaction with the achievement and voiced optimism that the project would bring significant benefits to the local community once completed.

“I am very pleased and proud of the progress of the Selirik Resettlement Scheme Project in Kapit, which I visited during a site inspection on Monday.”

“Once completed, this scheme will provide a more conducive living environment, along with comprehensive infrastructure facilities such as electricity supply, clean water and well-planned telecommunication services,” he said in a statement posted on Facebook yesterday.

The first phase of the project involves the construction of 50 individual housing lots, forming part of a total of 130 planned lots.

Valued at over RM17 million, the development spans 24.7ha and includes residential plots, access roads, drainage systems and a treated water supply system. – Bernama

'You are what you eat'

► **Dangerous to consume unhealthy foods daily as core component of diet, says expert**

BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM
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PETALING JAYA: That steaming cup of instant noodles, colourful fizzy drink or the snack you grabbed at the petrol station are all fast, cheap and tasty foods. But they may also be fuelling a slow, silent epidemic in Malaysia.

Information on the Health Ministry Institute for Public Health website indicates that millions of adults are living with chronic conditions.

The data indicates that 15.6% of the adult population (one in every six individuals) have diabetes, with two in five unaware of their condition. Nearly one in three adults (29.2%) live with hypertension and over 33% have high cholesterol, half of whom remain undiagnosed.

More than 2.3 million adults suffer from a combination of three major non-communicable diseases (NCD), while over half a million are managing all four – diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol and obesity.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Food Technology Programme lecturer Assoc Prof Dr Mohamad Khairi Mohd Zainol said the convenience of modern food is contributing to a growing health crisis, one that is deeply connected to our everyday diet.

"Processed foods are no longer just occasional additions to our meals. They have become the core diet for many Malaysians and this

shift is dangerous."

He said while not all processed foods are harmful, as canned vegetables, yogurt and packaged bread can retain much of their original nutritional value, ultra-processed foods (UPF) are a different matter.

This category includes instant noodles, sugary drinks, processed meats and colourful snacks, which are industrially formulated with additives, emulsifiers and artificial flavouring to enhance taste and prolong shelf life.

"These foods are calorie-dense but nutritionally poor. They are high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, yet low in fibre, protein and essential vitamins."

Excessive consumption of UPF has been linked to obesity, diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers and even depression.

"Even when people think they're making harmless food choices, they may be unknowingly consuming a cocktail of chemicals that carry long-term health risks," Mohamad Khairi said.

He highlighted several concerns, including MSG, which is said to trigger headaches or palpitations and has been linked to hypertension and metabolic disorders.

Nitrates and nitrites in processed meats can convert into nitrosamines, which are classified by the World

Health Organisation as probable carcinogens.

Artificial sweeteners such as aspartame and sucralose, commonly found in "sugar-free" products, have been linked to gut disruption and heart disease risks.

Synthetic food colouring, such as Tartrazine and Allura Red, have raised concerns for their potential link to hyperactivity in children.

Preservatives that include sodium benzoate and BHA/BHT, although legal, are flagged for potential cancer and hormone-related issues.

"These additives are allowed under Malaysian food regulations, but the concern lies in cumulative exposure. Just because it is permitted does not mean it is safe in the amounts people consume daily," Mohamad Khairi added.

"There is strong scientific evidence linking frequent consumption of processed meats, sugary drinks and refined carbs to NCD. Yet, these are everyday staples in many homes."

He cited global studies showing that just one or two sugary drinks a day could increase the risk of diabetes by 26%, while eating 50g of processed meat daily can raise the risk of

heart disease by 42%.

He said continued reliance on unhealthy foods stems from "convenience, affordability and aggressive marketing."

With over 78% of Malaysians living in urban areas, fast-paced lifestyles make ready-to-eat and instant options the default, especially for time-starved B40 and M40 families.

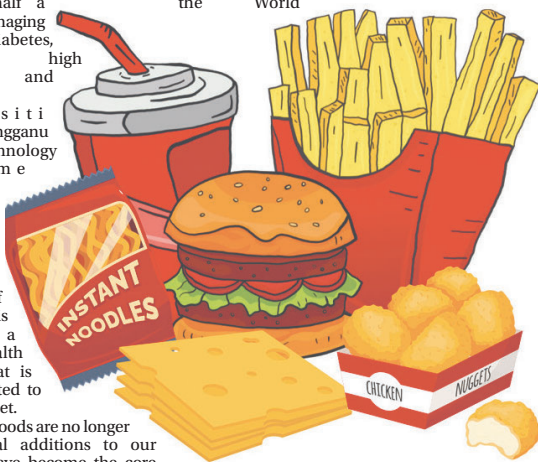
According to Mohamad Khairi, marketing plays a significant role, particularly among children.

"Colourful packaging, mascots and jingles condition kids to crave these foods."

While the Health Ministry regulates food additives under the Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985, Khairi stressed that enforcement alone would not change public behaviour.

"What we need is awareness. Reading food labels, understanding what goes into our meals and choosing whole, fresh ingredients whenever possible can protect us from a future burdened by disease."

"Eat real food, not food-like products. Your future self will thank you," he added, urging Malaysians to be more mindful of their food choices.



Quick Tips to Cut Back on Ultra-Processed Foods

- Swap **instant noodles** for rice or pasta with fresh veggies.
- Replace **sugary drinks** with infused water or unsweetened teas.
- Choose **wholegrain bread** over white bread.
- Snack on **fruits and nuts** instead of chips and biscuits.
- Always check food labels for **preservatives, colouring and artificial sweeteners**.

Duo arrested over fraud case

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kuala Lumpur Police Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Department has arrested two men for suspected involvement in a fraud case by impersonating agents to release motorcycles seized by police.

Its chief ACP Mohd Zamzuri Mohd Isa said in a statement the arrests were made following a report by a 25-year-old local man who claimed to be a victim of such activity.

He said the man was arrested in a traffic operation on April 5 at Jalan Tun Razak and his motorcycle was seized for illegal vehicle modifications.

"While outside the police station, he was approached by an unknown man who offered to help release the seized motorcycle for a fee."

Mohd Zamzuri said the

motorcyclist then handed RM1,400 in cash and an iPhone 12 Pro Max to the man, purportedly for the purpose of paying a compound fine and renewing insurance coverage for the motorcycle, after which the man fled.

However, the suspect and another man were arrested by the police the next day and several items, including the victim's mobile phone, police seizure form, drugs and a vehicle believed to have been used in the activity were seized from them.

He advised the public not to entertain unknown individuals offering services related to the release of confiscated vehicles or settlement of summonses as all such transactions should be done officially at a legitimate counter and not through middlemen. – Bernama

RTD clarifies report on Lamborghini seizure

KUALA LUMPUR: The Road Transport Department (RTD) has clarified that a Lamborghini Aventador driven by a Chinese national without a licence was not seized as previously reported.

The department said the driver was only issued a summons during an integrated special operation in conjunction with Ailfitri in Jalan Bangsar on Tuesday.

"RTD only issued a summons to the driver and allowed the passenger with a licence to take the vehicle home. We apologise for any confusion caused," it said in a statement yesterday.

Earlier, media reports quoted RTD director Hamidi Adam as saying that the luxury car driven by the 28-year-

old content creator was among 27 vehicles seized during the operation.

It is learnt the man was driving the car to his home in Damansara Heights with his girlfriend after attending the launching of a fast-food restaurant in Kepong.

"We checked 1,627 vehicles and 211 vehicles were subjected to enforcement action. We also seized 24 motorcycles, two commercial vehicles and a car."

"We issued 463 compound notices for various offences such as driving without a licence, road tax or insurance, and for illegal vehicle modifications."

Hamidi said 115 officers and personnel from various agencies, including the Traffic Investigation

Healthcare worker duped of RM1.2m

KEPALA BATAS: A healthcare worker suffered losses of more than RM1.2 million after falling victim to a non-existent online investment scam recently.

North Seberang Perai police chief ACP Anuar Abdul Rahman said the Commercial Crime Investigation Division received a report from the 58-year-old victim on Friday.

"The victim saw an ad for the investment on Facebook on Dec 20. Interested in the package that promised returns of 500% to 800% on the capital, the victim transferred money into seven bank accounts," he said in a statement.

However, the victim did not receive any returns and subsequently lodged a police report.

The case is being investigated under Section 420 of the Penal Code. – Bernama

Man held for trespassing on army grounds

IPOH: A 50-year-old man has been arrested for trespassing on the grounds of Company C, Second Battalion, 503rd Regiment of the Territorial Army in Gerik.

Gerik police chief Supt Zulkifli Mahmood confirmed the arrest at 2.35pm after a military volunteer reported spotting the suspect, known as "Mat", inside the fenced area at around 8.45am on Tuesday.

In a statement, he said investigations revealed the suspect spray-painted a message reading "No entry without business" on a building wall and threatened the complainant, claiming he was the owner of the land.

Police recovered several items believed to have been used for the break-in from the intruder, including a hammer and a spade.

The case is being investigated under Section 448 of the Penal Code and the suspect will appear in court for a remand order. Anyone with information on the case is urged to contact Sgt Muhamad Suwadi Mohd at 016-880 4375. – Bernama

Sotong tutok maker keeps to tradition

► Time-honoured preparation process takes four hours per kilo, whereas modern method of using machines to flatten squid and cook it over gas stove able to do job in only an hour, says trader

KUCHING: The flavour of a dish relies not only on the right ingredients and exact measurements but also on cooking techniques, especially in the case of traditional recipes.

Despite the development of various tools and machines for cooking, some still prefer traditional methods to preserve authentic flavours.

One such individual is 65-year-old *sotong tutok* (pounded dried squid) maker Salim Ibrahim, who continues to use the traditional technique of pounding dried squid on *belian* (Borneo ironwood) before grilling it over charcoal.

He said the entire traditional *sotong tutok* preparation process takes four hours per kg, whereas using a machine to flatten the squid and cooking it over a gas stove takes only an hour.

Sotong tutok, is a popular snack in the Land of the Hornbills, especially during Ramadan, and is often enjoyed for *moreh* after *tarawih* prayers.



Sotong tutok, a popular Sarawak treat, has a wide following. — BERNAMAPIC

He said traditionally made *sotong tutok* has a richer flavour and aroma, and is more expensive than those prepared using modern methods.

Salim, who has been in the business for 35 years, said the rising price of dried squid, now reaching RM200 per kg, has also impacted the market price of *sotong tutok*, which ranges between RM12 and RM40 per piece, depending

on the size and preparation method.

"Just imagine, back in 1990, dried squid cost only RM20 per kg, but today it starts at RM170 and can go over RM200 per kg, depending on the season.

"That's one of the challenges we face. However, there is still demand from loyal fans, so we keep going," he said, adding that traditional *sotong tutok* is sold at RM600 per kg,

while the machine-processed version is priced at RM500 per kg.

The father of two, who owns "Sotong Salim", said Ramadan boosted sales significantly, allowing him to sell up to 40kg of the delicacy, double the amount he sells in other months.

Like how grilled fish pairs perfectly with tamarind sauce, *sotong tutok* is best enjoyed with spicy-sweet *sambal* or dipping sauce.

"All *sotong tutok* may taste similar, so the key to a truly delicious serving lies in the sauce. Here, we make our own using my wife's special recipe," said Salim, who ran a stall at Kubah Ria Ramadan Bazaar last month in addition to his daily operations at Medan Selera Aneka Rasa.

Sharing the sentimental story behind his hammer, Salim, who is from Kampung Bintawa Ulu, said the tool holds a special place in his heart as it was a gift from his wife's uncle when he started the business in 1990, Bernama reported.

"This hammer was given to me as part of my startup capital, and even after 35 years, it's still in good condition. I also have another hammer that is 10 years old.

"As long as I'm alive, I will continue pounding squid by hand. I hope traditional *sotong tutok* making won't disappear, although there are now easier shortcuts," he said, adding that both of his children help manage the business.

Salim's eldest son, Mohammad Faizul, 44, who has been helping his father since he was 11, said he struggled to keep up with orders via WhatsApp during Ramadan.

"As the second-generation successor of this business, I admit that using machines makes production much easier, especially when we receive large orders," he said, adding that a squid-flattening machine costs around RM10,000.

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Pro-monarchy protests in Nepal seek return of king

➤ Demands rise amid dissatisfaction over political instability, corruption and poor economic development

KATHMANDU: Nearly two decades since Nepal became a secular republic, a surge of pro-monarchy protests have swept the Himalayan nation, fuelled by economic despair and disillusionment with current leaders.

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets last month in a royalist rally that turned violent, with two people killed and more than 100 arrested.

It was one of the latest in a wave of protests demanding the restoration of the monarchy. Such demands have grown in tandem with widespread dissatisfaction over political instability, corruption and lacklustre economic development.

The Hindu-majority nation became a secular republic in 2008 after parliament abolished the monarchy in a peace deal to end a decade-long civil war in which more than 16,000 people died.

Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) chairperson Rajendra Lingden, representing Nepal's fifth-largest party, said the king is linked with national identity and pride. "We do not seek monarchy as a ruling institution but rather as a guardian that safeguards national interests and prevents foreign interference."

In 2017, RPP won a single seat in parliament. In the last election in 2022, their royalist and pro-Hindu agenda gained them 14 seats.

"The country faces instability. Prices are high, people are jobless and there is a lack of education and healthcare facilities. That is why we need the king back," said teacher Rajendra Kunwar, 43, who joined a royalist demonstration last month.

Former king Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, 77, was crowned in 2001 after his elder brother



Gyanendra waving to crowds cheering for him as he arrived at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on March 9. — AFP/PC

Birendra Bir Bikram Shah and his family were killed in a palace massacre that wiped out most of the royal family.

His coronation took place as the Maoist insurgency raged in far-flung corners of Nepal. He suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament in 2005, triggering a democratic uprising in which the Maoists sided with Nepal's political establishment to orchestrate huge street protests.

This eventually precipitated the end of the conflict, with parliament voting in 2008 to abolish Nepal's 240-year-old Hindu monarchy.

"I have assisted in and respected the verdict of the people," he said in a short address before leaving his palace, adding that he "would not leave this country" and go into exile.

As he departed, many gathered to cheer the monarchy's end while a few royalists wept. Mainstream politicians have dismissed a

return to the past.

"Monarchy is a failed and outdated concept," said Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) chief whip Rajaram Bantaula, whose party governs in a coalition with the Nepali Congress Party.

"Conscious Nepalis of the 21st century will not accept the return of the monarchy."

The deposed king has largely refrained from commenting on Nepal's fractious politics but in the last few months, he made several public appearances, mainly visiting religious sites with supporters.

"If we wish to save our nation and maintain national unity, I call on all countrymen to support us for Nepal's prosperity and progress."

Political analyst Hari Sharma said: "The royalists have found the chance to articulate their demands and frustrations, especially in a global climate in which right-wing conservative ideas are gaining traction." — AFP

BRIEFS

U.S. ALARMED BY ARREST OF AMERICAN IN THAILAND

WASHINGTON: The US State Department yesterday said it was alarmed by the arrest of American academic and US citizen Paul Chambers in Thailand for insulting the monarchy, in a rare prosecution of a foreigner under one of the world's strictest *lese-majeste* laws. Chambers was also charged with a computer crime violation. "As a treaty ally of Thailand, we will closely monitor this issue and advocate fair treatment of Chambers," the department said. "This case reinforces our longstanding concerns about the use of *lese-majeste* laws in Thailand. We continue to urge Thai authorities to respect freedom of expression and ensure laws are not used to stifle permitted expression." — Reuters

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN CHINA NURSING HOME, 20 DEAD

SHUIAZHUANG: A fire at a nursing home in north China's Hebei Province has left 20 people dead, local authorities said yesterday, Xinhua reported. The blaze broke out at 9pm on Tuesday in Longhua County, Chengde City. The cause of the fire is under investigation. State broadcaster CCTV said police arrested the owner of the apartment while 19 residents of the home were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment and observation. — Bernama-Xinhua

MAGNITUDE-FIVE EARTHQUAKE HITS TAIWAN

TAIPEI: A magnitude-five earthquake hit northeastern Taiwan yesterday, the US Geological Survey said, causing buildings to shake in the capital Taipei. The quake struck at a depth of nearly 70km in Yilan County, near Taipei, it said. Yilan fire authorities told AFP there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The last major earthquake occurred in April last year when the island was hit by a magnitude-7.4 tremor that officials said was the strongest in 25 years. — AFP

Meta compliments Philippines on strong fact-checkers

MANILA: Social media giant Meta on Tuesday commended the Philippines as home to some of the "most robust" fact-checkers in the world, highlighting its efforts to curb misinformation across its platforms.

Speaking at a House of Representatives Tri-Committee hearing on online disinformation, Meta Public Policy for Southeast Asia director Dr Rafael Frankel underscored the critical role of local third-party fact-checkers in reducing the spread of false content on Facebook and Instagram.

He said Philippine-based fact-checking partners include Vera Files, Rappler and Agence France-Presse, the Philippines News Agency reported.

"When it comes to misinformation, we can send content to fact-checkers to verify or they can act independently."

"In the Philippines, we see very robust fact-checkers. I think we have some of the most robust fact-checkers in the world operating here," Frankel told the committee.

He noted that Meta prioritises content moderation based on severity, focusing first on posts involving child exploitation, incitement to violence and terrorism.

He also expressed Meta's openness to working with Philippine lawmakers on regulatory frameworks.

"I would be more than happy for Meta to engage with the Philippine government and Congress on any type of regulations they are considering."

"We have many years of experience working with governments across Southeast Asia, the Asia Pacific and globally to develop modalities and regulations that protect users and uphold freedom of expression." — Bernama-PNA

Indonesia ready to temporarily shelter Gazans

JAKARTA: Indonesia President Prabowo Subianto yesterday said he is prepared to grant temporary shelter to Palestinians affected by the war in Gaza.

He said Indonesia is ready to receive 1,000 people in the first stage of the evacuation.

He added that Jakarta is ready to accommodate orphans, injured individuals and "anyone whom the Palestinian government and relevant parties believe should be evacuated to Indonesia".

"We are ready to receive wounded victims.

We are ready to send planes to transport them," Prabowo said before leaving for a visit to the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Egypt, Qatar and Jordan.

He said wounded Palestinians and "traumatised, orphaned children" would be prioritised.

He added that he has instructed his foreign minister to talk with Palestinian officials and "parties in the region" about how to evacuate wounded or orphaned Gazans.

The victims would remain in Indonesia until

they recovered and it was safe for their return.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has consistently called for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

According to Turkish media, Prabowo will be afforded the rare opportunity to address the Turkish parliament.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is one of the main backers of the Palestinian cause and visited Indonesia in February, during which the pair pledged closer ties. — AFP

Denuclearisation of North Korea labelled 'daydream'

SEOUL: Kim Jong Un's powerful sister Kim Yo Jong has slammed US-led efforts to take away North Korea's nuclear weapons, calling the idea of denuclearising the country a "daydream".

Her remarks come after the top diplomats of South Korea, Japan and the United States issued a statement on the sidelines of a Nato meeting last week in which they "reaffirmed their resolute commitment to the complete denuclearisation" of the isolated state.

"If anyone openly talks about dismantling nuclear weapons, it just constitutes the most

hostile act of denying the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"It only fully exposed the uneasiness of the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea in a desperate plight of having to talk about denuclearisation in chorus."

In March, she also condemned Washington over the visit of a US Navy aircraft carrier to the South Korean port of Busan, accusing US President Donald Trump's administration of "carrying forward the former administration's hostile policy".

During his first term, Trump became the first sitting US president to meet a North Korean leader when he held talks with Kim Jong Un in 2018 in efforts to reach a deal on denuclearisation.

Since taking office a second time in January, he has referred to the North as a "nuclear power".

Pyeongyang has ramped up efforts to enhance its nuclear and military capabilities since Trump and Kim's second summit in Hanoi collapsed in 2019. — AFP

White House told to **restore access** of news agency

➤ Restrictions must be reasonable and not viewpoint-based, says judge

WASHINGTON: A US federal judge ordered the White House on Tuesday to restore the access of the Associated Press (AP) to President Donald Trump's official events, saying it had no right to bar media for their "viewpoints".

AP journalists and photographers have been barred from the Oval Office and from traveling on Air Force One since mid-February because of the news agency's decision to continue using "Gulf of Mexico" and not "Gulf of America", as decreed by Trump.

District judge Trevor McFadden said the "viewpoint-based denial of AP's access" was a violation of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and of the press.

He ordered the White House to "immediately rescind the denial of AP's access to the Oval Office, Air Force One and other limited spaces when such spaces are made

open to other members of the White House press pool."

He put off the implementation of his order for five days to give the White House time to reply or file an appeal with a higher court.

AP spokesperson Lauren Easton welcomed the court's decision.

"Today's ruling affirms the fundamental right of the press and public to speak freely without government retaliation. This is a freedom guaranteed for all Americans in the US Constitution."

AP filed suit against the White House after it began denying the wire service's reporters and photographers access to some of Trump's official events.

Since Trump returned to the presidency, his administration has sought to radically restructure the way the White House is covered, notably by favouring conservative podcasters and influencers.

Two weeks after barring AP, the White House stripped journalists of the nearly century-old power to decide which of the profession's own number will be members of a pool of reporters and photographers covering presidential events.

"The White House changed its policy to a

rotation system that happens to exclude AP," said AP lawyer Charles Tobin.

In his ruling, McFadden said: "Access restrictions must be reasonable and not viewpoint-based. So, while AP does not have a constitutional right to enter the Oval Office, it does have a right to not be excluded because of its viewpoint."

He noted that the restrictions have "cut deeply into AP's business, both financially and in terms of lost opportunities."

In its style guide, AP noted that the Gulf of Mexico has "carried that name for more than 400 years" and the agency "will refer to it by its original name while acknowledging the new name Trump has chosen."

"As a global news agency that disseminates news around the world, AP must ensure place names and geography are easily recognisable to all audiences."

The White House Correspondents Association lauded McFadden's decision.

"We are thrilled that AP reporters, photographers and video journalists are to be allowed back into presidential events from which they had been banned by the administration just for using words the White House did not like." – AFP

US revokes legal status of Biden-era app migrants

WASHINGTON: Migrants who obtained temporary permission to live in the United States through the CBP One app under former president Joe Biden have received orders to self-deport "immediately", US media reported on Tuesday.

A US Homeland Security Department spokesperson told AFP that "formal termination notices" have been issued to certain "illegal aliens" but did not provide details on how they were selected.

"Affected aliens are urged to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home app. Those who refuse will be found, removed and permanently barred from re-entry."

Starting in January 2023, the CBP One app allowed migrants to schedule appointments at certain southwestern US ports of entry and was a central part of the Biden administration's humanitarian parole strategy.

The latest orders could affect more than 930,000 migrants, National Public Radio reported.

President Donald Trump cancelled further entries via the CBP One app on the first day of his second term.

Doing so blocked access to a platform that allowed migrants in Mexico to make appointments with US officials at designated border crossings, during which they could apply for temporary residency.

Trump vowed to deport "millions" of undocumented migrants as he was sworn in for his second term, after running an election campaign that focused on illegal immigration.

On the campaign trail, Trump likened migrants to "animals" and "monsters", claiming they were responsible for violent crime across the country.

"Cancelling these paroles is a promise kept to the American people to secure our borders and protect national security," the spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Those whose paroles were cancelled were informed via email that the department was exercising its discretionary authority under US law to do so.

The latest orders come after the Trump administration terminated the legal status of 532,000 Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan migrants last month, giving them weeks to leave the country. – AFP



The exact number of people inside the club at the time of the collapse remains unclear. – AFP/PPIC

Nightclub roof collapses, at least 113 dead

SANTO DOMINGO: A roof collapse at a nightclub in the Dominican Republic capital left at least 113 people dead on Tuesday, and emergency crews were working frantically after nightfall to pull survivors from the rubble.

About 155 people were injured. Families of the victims gathered near the Jet Set nightclub seeking information about their loved ones.

"I have family members that are still in the rubble and we do not know what happened to them," said 17-season Major League Baseball (MLB) player Pedro Martinez.

Dominican Republic emergency operations centre head Juan Manuel Mendez said the exact number of people inside the club at the time of the collapse remains unclear, adding that the preliminary death toll reached

98 yesterday.

The capacity of the emergency crews was increased as "more heavy equipment has been used to speed up the removal of debris and continue search efforts", said presidential spokesperson Homero Figueroa.

The disaster struck during a concert by popular Dominican merengue singer Rubby Perez, who was among those killed, according to his manager and family members near the site. The event was attended by politicians, athletes and other prominent figures.

Another victim was northern Monte Cristi province governor Nelsy Cruz, said President Luis Abinader, who visited the scene and declared three days of national mourning.

Cruz was the sister of former baseball player

Nelson Cruz, a seven-time MLB All-Star.

Former MLB players Octavio Dotel and Tony Blanco also died in the collapse, local authorities confirmed. Dotel died en route to a local hospital after being pulled from the debris, a sports ministry spokesman said.

Dotel, 51, debuted for the New York Mets in 1999 and played until 2013 for more than a dozen teams.

Relatives are receiving psychological support and the cause of the roof collapse remains under investigation, officials said.

Authorities have issued a call for Dominicans to donate blood.

On Tuesday, the club issued a statement saying it is working "fully and transparently" with authorities. – Reuters

BRIEFS

MEXICO REPORTS FIRST H5N1 HUMAN DEATH

MEXICO CITY: A three-year-old girl in western Mexico died after contracting avian influenza A (H5N1), becoming the country's first fatal human case of the disease, Xinhua reported, quoting health authorities on Tuesday. The deceased patient tested positive on April 1 and died at 1.35am local time (0735 GMT) on Tuesday due to respiratory complications caused by the infection. Local authorities traced the patient's contacts and no additional human cases have been identified. Bird flu is a viral disease that affects birds, mammals and occasionally humans, the ministry said. Globally, 464 fatal human cases of H5N1 have been reported in 24 countries over the past two decades, according to the World Health Organisation. – Bernama-Xinhua

HAWAII CONFIRMS MEASLES CASE IN CHILD

WASHINGTON: The Hawaii Health Department said on Tuesday a measles case was confirmed in a child on Oahu on Monday. The child, who is under the age of five, recently returned from international travel with the parents, it added. – Reuters

Varsity funding frozen over alleged antisemitism

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has frozen over US\$1 billion (RM4.4 billion) in funding for Cornell University and US\$790 million for Northwestern University while it investigates both schools over civil rights violations, a US official said on Tuesday.

It has threatened to block federal funding for schools over pro-Palestinian campus protests as well as other issues, such as diversity, equity and inclusion programmes, and transgender policies.

Last month, the administration sent a letter to 60 universities, saying it could bring enforcement actions if a review determined the schools had failed to stop what it called antisemitism.

In an opinion piece in the *New York Times* last week, Cornell president Michael Kotlikoff said his university is not afraid to let people argue, including over issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

US President Donald Trump has attempted to crack down on pro-Palestinian campus protests, calling the protesters antisemitic, sympathetic to Hamas militants and foreign policy threats.

Protesters, including some Jewish groups, said the Trump administration wrongly conflates their criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza and advocacy for Palestinian rights with antisemitism and support for Hamas.

Human rights advocates have raised free speech and academic freedom concerns over the crackdown by the Trump administration. — Reuters



MEAGRE MEALS ...

Palestinian children waiting to receive food prepared by a charity kitchen in Nuseirat, central Gaza Strip on Tuesday.

— REUTERS/SPIC

Ukraine captures Chinese nationals fighting for Russia

Kyiv demands explanation from Beijing

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday said Ukrainian troops have captured two Chinese citizens fighting alongside Russian forces, with Kyiv demanding an explanation from Beijing.

Moscow and Beijing have in recent years boasted of their “no limits” partnership and deepened political, military and economic cooperation since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in February 2022.

“Our military captured two Chinese citizens who fought in the Russian army. This happened on the territory of Ukraine in the Donetsk region.”

“We have the documents of these prisoners, bank cards and personal data,” said Zelensky in a social media post that included a video of one of the alleged Chinese prisoners.

A senior Ukrainian official said the prisoners are likely Chinese citizens who were enticed into signing a contract with the Russian army, rather than being sent by Beijing.

“Nothing is completely clear yet. When they are delivered to the SBU (Ukraine's security service) and interrogated, we will understand.”

The source sent images of identification cards linked to one of the prisoners, which showed his date of birth as June 4, 1991 and said he belonged to the Han ethnicity.

There was no immediate response to the claims from Moscow or Beijing but Ukraine Foreign Minister Andriy Sybига said China's *charge d'affaires* has been summoned for an explanation.

“Chinese citizens fighting as part of Russia's invasion army in Ukraine

calls into question China's declared stance for peace and undermines Beijing's credibility as a responsible permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.”

China presents itself as a neutral party in the conflict and says it is not sending lethal assistance to either side, unlike the United States and other Western nations.

Zelensky said Kyiv has evidence that “many more Chinese citizens” are fighting alongside Russian forces and he has instructed his foreign minister to find out how China intends to respond.

He said the capture of the two men is “a clear signal” that Russian President Vladimir Putin “is going to do anything but end the war.”

Washington voiced alarm at the capture, saying it showed Beijing's level of support for Russia.

“China is an enabler of Russia in the war with Ukraine. China provides nearly 80% of the dual-use items Russia needs to sustain the war,” said State Department

spokeswoman Tammy Bruce.

Ukrainian authorities yesterday said at least 22 people have been injured in three cities in Russian drone strikes overnight.

Dnipropetrovsk regional governor Sergiy Lysak said 15 people were injured in Dnipro, with one in serious condition. The casualties were aged between 18 and 87.

The southeastern city's mayor Borys Filatov said five high-rise buildings were damaged.

Donetsk region governor Vadym Filashkin said an 11-year-old girl, her mother and her grandmother were injured in Kramatorsk following a “massive attack by Russian drones.”

Three people were injured in Kharkiv, authorities said, with the regional prosecutor's office adding that around 15 strikes hit an industrial area in the eastern city, impacting confectionery and paint manufacturers, among other civilian enterprises. — AFP

BRIEFS

GREEK TRANSPORT WORKERS DEMAND INCREASE IN WAGES

ATHENS: Transport ground to a halt in Greece yesterday as a general strike called by unions got under way, just weeks after a similar protest descended into chaos. The protest, organised by public and private-sector unions, was to demand an increase in wages to face the rising cost of living. Flights to and from Greece were grounded as air traffic controllers joined the strike action, with urban transport also affected. Ferries serving the Aegean and Ionian islands remained at anchor while schools, courts, banks and public services were shuttered. — AFP

DEADLINE SET FOR SOLUTION ON SPY CHIEF DISMISSAL

JERUSALEM: Israel's supreme court on Tuesday gave the Cabinet and Attorney-General's Office a deadline to find a solution to the government's decision to sack domestic security chief Ronen Bar. Supreme Court president Yitzhak Amit said: “Since we saw some sparks of willingness, we are giving you until after Passover (April 19) to try to reach some kind of creative solution that is agreed upon by both sides.” The Supreme Court said Bar “will continue to perform his duties until a later decision”. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the court's ruling “to delay the end of the Shin Bet chief's term by 10 days is puzzling.” — AFP

Cholera patients die on trek to clinic after US aid cuts

NAIROBI: Eight people in South Sudan, including five children, died on a three-hour walk to seek medical treatment for cholera after US aid cuts forced local health services to close, said UK-based charity Save the Children yesterday.

The deaths last month are among the first to be directly attributed to cuts imposed by US President Donald Trump after entering office on Jan 20, which he said were to ensure grants were aligned with his “America First” agenda.

“There should be global moral outrage that the decisions made by powerful people in other countries

have led to child deaths in just a matter of weeks,” said Save the Children South Sudan country director Christopher Nyamandi.

Experts have warned that the cuts could cost millions of lives in the coming years due to malnutrition, AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases.

The US State Department said it does not have information about the deaths reported.

A spokesperson said many US government programmes providing lifesaving aid in South Sudan remain active but support for medical services have been used to enrich the country's leaders.

“While emergency lifesaving programmes continue, we will not ask the American taxpayer to provide assistance that effectively subsidises the corrupt behaviour of South Sudan's political leaders.”

South Sudan's government has in the past acknowledged a significant amount of public corruption but denied specific accusations of graft, including against President Salva Kiir's family.

Humanitarian aid to the country is often channelled through NGOs, largely due to corruption concerns.

Save the Children supported 27 health facilities in eastern South Sudan's Jonglei State until earlier

this year when the US cuts forced seven to shut completely and 20 to close partially, the organisation said.

US-funded transport services to take people to hospitals in the main local town also stopped for lack of funds, which meant the eight cholera patients had to walk in nearly 40°C heat to seek treatment at the nearest health facility, it said.

Three of the children were under the age of five, Nyamandi said.

A cholera outbreak was declared in October last year. More than 22,000 cases have been recorded as of last month, causing hundreds of deaths, said the World Health Organisation. — Reuters



How will Asean respond to tariffs?

TRUE to his election promises, President Donald Trump has unleashed his tariff bazooka on the world to make America great again.

Using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, a rarely used presidential provision, the US president has imposed what the official announcement declares as a "national emergency to increase our competitive edge, protect our sovereignty, and strengthen our national and economic security" on April 2.

Breakdown of targets

The reciprocal tariffs unleashed apply to 183 countries and territories. Countries affected include key players in global trade such as China, Japan, India, South Korea, Taiwan, European Union (EU) countries, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Australia.

They also include small nations from the global south, especially Asia, that have benefited from export-oriented development, with virtually all of them facing a much higher imposition of the baseline 10% tariff on their US exports.

In Africa, home to some of the world's poorest countries, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which has allowed African nations to export duty-free to the US since 2000, is now as good as dead.

A small number of countries have been excluded due to earlier sanctions. They include Russia, Belarus, Cuba and North Korea.

Canada and Mexico, though missing from the April 2 list, have had new higher tariffs imposed under prior orders.

Stock market boom

The impact of what Trump now refers to as his economic revolution has been staggering, with US stock market losses reaching into the trillions of dollars since his inauguration.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 37,965 on Monday afternoon, down from an all-time high of more than 45,000 in December 2024.

ANOTHER TAKE



BY LIM TECK GHEE

Shell-shocked analysts and investors in the share market bloodbath looking for some relief from the havoc and meltdown in markets around the world will not be comforted by the down-playing of stock market falls by White House senior counsellor for trade and manufacturing Peter Navarro.

"The market will find a bottom. It will be soon and from there we're going to have a bullish boom," Navarro went on to predict that "the Dow is going to hit 50,000 during Trump's term" and the S&P 500 is going to have a very broad-based recovery."

Unfortunately, the senior adviser was not asked when his predicted Dow boom was going to be realised. Trump's term of office ends in November 2028 or much later should Trump decide on a third term that he has not ruled out. The next few months and years could well see the global economy enter into a prolonged recession led by the US.

Impact on Asean countries

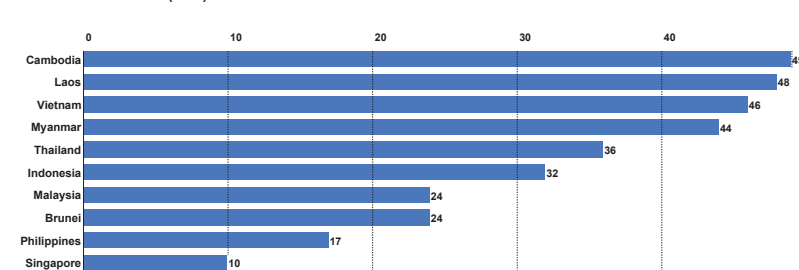
Besides the downturn in share markets, the Association of Southeast Asian nations (Asean) is having to deal with the fact that among trading blocs and regions in the world, its member countries are the hardest hit by Trump's tariff war.

Within Asean, the worst affected are Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar. All are being hit with over 40% tariffs, which are amongst the highest in the world. Only the Philippines and Singapore, the most pro-American countries in the region, have gotten off lightly, with less than 20% tariff imposition.

In a response on April 4, Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Ministry in an official statement said: "Indonesia has communicated with Malaysia as the Asean chair to take joint measures, considering that all 10 Asean countries are affected by the imposition of US tariffs."

On its part, the Malaysian prime minister has responded that he "will continue to coordinate efforts

U.S. Tariffs on ASEAN (in %)



Asean countries are the hardest hit by Trump's tariff war.

"The more strategic approach would be to await the outcome of the EU's retaliatory united front response to Trump's tariffs and to work with the EU on the targeted countermeasures."

to present a united regional front, maintain open and resilient supply chains and ensure that Asean's collective voice is heard clearly and firmly on the international stage."

Any joint steps or united front will take considerable time and effort to organise even if there is consensus, which appears unlikely.

The Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos Jr has put all its eggs into the US basket whilst Singapore may be reluctant to join a united front fearing it could endanger its current relationship with the US.

Will Asean countries fight back?

Vietnam, possibly the most badly affected Asean country, appears to have bent its knee in the hope of securing a substantial reduction in the tariff rate.

In fact, even before the actual announcement of the new tariff rates, Vietnam had cut several duties as its concession to the US while pledging to buy more American goods, including planes and agricultural products.

Describing the new tariff as "shockingly high", Vietnamese and American businesses have requested the Trump administration to delay the 46% tariff on Vietnamese goods, saying the levy will hurt them and bilateral commercial relations.

An indication that Vietnam may be able to get a discounted rate is the news that Vietnam's leader, To Lam, general-

secretary of the country's Communist Party, was able to get an early phone call to Trump to discuss the matter, ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who is anxiously awaiting for his turn to get his call through.

Lam's call, described by Trump as "very productive", has raised expectations that Trump's transactional approach may permit a lowering of the announced Vietnam tariffs through negotiations and further concessions to the US.

Other Asean member states will have reservations with a supplicatory approach, which may not bring much positive outcome given Trump's proclivity to engage in public relations statements and unfulfilled promises.

The more strategic approach would be to await the outcome of the EU's retaliatory united front response to Trump's tariffs and to work with the EU on the targeted countermeasures.

Asean should also work with the Indo-Pacific and global south countries to tackle US protectionism and push for World Trade Organisation reforms and for a return to the rules-based economic and trade order which Trump's economic revolution is seeking to destroy.

Lim Teck Ghee's Another Take is aimed at demystifying social orthodoxy.

Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

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Mindless scrolling hijacks attention

WE live in an age where our attention has become the most valuable commodity.

Social media platforms know this, and they have designed their algorithms to capture and hold our focus in the most efficient ways possible.

It is not just about keeping us entertained – it is about keeping us hooked. The emergence of short-form content like TikTok, YouTube Shorts, Instagram Reels and Facebook Stories is no accident.

These platforms have perfected the art of delivering rapid, bite-sized content that hits our brains with bursts of pleasure, designed to keep us swiping, scrolling and craving for more.

The architecture of these platforms is built on the principle of endlessness. Where once we would flip through a magazine or browse a newsfeed with a defined end, we are now subjected to a continuous, bottomless experience.

There is always something else to watch and something else to read. And it is not just any content – it is content carefully curated and tailored to our interests and vulnerabilities, thanks to algorithms that learn from every click, like and linger.

Recent studies suggest that the average human attention span has shrunk to a meagre 8.25 seconds, shorter than that of a goldfish. This is not a natural evolution of the human mind. It is the consequence of environments specifically engineered to fragment our focus and condition our brains to crave constant novelty.

The more our attention wavers, the more susceptible we become to the allure of quick, dopamine-fuelled gratification. It is all too easy to fall into this trap. The simplicity of a swipe or scroll feels effortless, yet the implications are profound.

Hours can slip away in what feels like mere minutes, leaving behind an unsatisfying sense of emptiness. This experience is so common it has earned its own term – doomscrolling.

The irony, of course, is that we often seek distraction as a way to soothe ourselves, only to emerge



MIND THE MIND
BY DR PRAVEENA RAJENDRA

"Recent studies suggest that the average human

attention span has shrunk to a meagre 8.25 seconds, shorter than that of a goldfish. This is not a natural evolution of the human mind.

feeling more agitated, anxious and unfulfilled.

Social media is not inherently harmful. It can be a source of connection, inspiration and knowledge. However, when used mindlessly, it becomes something else entirely – a form of digital dissociation.

Unlike traditional forms of entertainment that require some level of cognitive engagement, mindless scrolling is passive consumption at its purest. It is not designed to stimulate deep thinking or creativity but to keep us suspended in a state of perpetual semi-engagement.

The structure of these platforms plays a significant role in this process. The content is designed to be consumed rapidly and with minimal effort. Each clip or post is brief enough to demand only a fraction of our attention but captivating enough to hold us in a loop.

It is a formula perfected to ensure we stay on the platform for as long as possible. With every scroll, the algorithm learns more about us, enhancing its ability to deliver content that feels increasingly irresistible.

It is no coincidence that the rise of short-form content correlates with a



The more our attention wavers, the more susceptible we become to the allure of quick, dopamine-fuelled gratification.
– MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

dramatic decline in attention spans. Our brains are being rewired to expect instant rewards.

We crave the rapid bursts of pleasure provided by the next amusing video, the next shocking headline or the next clever meme. And when we do not receive that hit of dopamine, we quickly swipe again, searching for the next fix.

Perhaps most troubling is the way this habit seems to seep into other areas of our lives. The constant pull of our devices leaves us distracted, unfocused and prone to procrastination. The more we indulge in these quick, dopamine-fuelled interactions, the less patience we have for tasks that require sustained attention.

Reading a book, holding a deep conversation or even sitting in silence feels increasingly difficult. Breaking free from this cycle is not easy but it is possible. It starts with awareness – recognising the subtle but powerful grip these platforms have on our minds.

Instead of consuming content passively, we can choose to engage with it more intentionally. Ask yourself: Why am I reaching for my phone? What am I hoping to gain from this experience? Am I using this platform to learn, connect or create, or am I simply killing time?

Establishing boundaries is

essential. Limiting time spent on these platforms, particularly during moments meant for rest or creativity, can help restore a sense of balance.

However, it is not enough to simply cut down screen time. We must also cultivate alternatives that fulfil us in deeper, more meaningful ways. Pursuing creative projects, engaging in mindful practices or even spending time in nature can help rewire our brains to appreciate presence and depth over quick fixes.

Additionally, we must take responsibility for curating our online environments. If the content we consume leaves us feeling anxious, inadequate or perpetually dissatisfied, then it is worth examining why we continue to engage with it.

Following accounts that inspire, educate and uplift us can shift the experience from passive consumption to active enrichment.

However, the most powerful antidote to mindless scrolling is perhaps the simplest one: mindfulness. By cultivating the ability to be present in the moment, we can break the automatic habit of reaching for our phones whenever boredom, stress or discomfort arises.

Mindfulness allows us to reclaim our attention, making it a tool for growth and creativity rather than a commodity to be exploited.

Ultimately, the choice is ours.

Social media platforms are not going away, nor should they. But we must decide whether we will use them consciously or allow them to use us.

It is a decision that requires intention, effort and an unwavering commitment to living a life that is not just reactive but consciously designed.

The endless scroll offers an illusion of fulfilment – a fleeting, hollow distraction disguised as connection and entertainment. But beneath the dopamine-driven loops lies something infinitely more valuable: your attention. It is the most powerful tool you possess, capable of shaping your thoughts, creativity and even your sense of self.

By reclaiming it, you can reclaim your life. Every moment you choose presence over mindless consumption is an act of empowerment, a testament to your ability to design your reality with intention.

It is time to break the loop, take back your attention and create something meaningful from the space you reclaim.

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

LETTERS letters@thesundaily.com

My naive views on local politics

I HAVE not spoken or discussed with any politician or political activist. Therefore, I am naive in politics and my perspectives are based on the contents from various sources, opinions posted online, mainstream and social media, and my interpretations from reading between the lines.

My views may be dismissed as naive by politicians but could be interesting and useful for others, especially those who can think for themselves, unlike blind followers and sycophants.

I have always had a disdain for politics and, for the past 75 years, have never been a political neophyte, a member of any political party, nor have I attended any political rallies to listen to speeches.

This is because talk is cheap. I avoid such public gatherings and imagine

many in the audience are often swayed by the rhetoric and issues concerning race, religion and language.

These perennial issues will continue to be harped upon by politicians eager to win popularity, support and votes from the *rakyat*, all in a bid to gain power, position and wealth for themselves.

Many politicians rely and seek votes from party members and constituencies when nominated to contest in general or by-elections, such as the one set on April 26 at Ayer Kuning in Perak.

There are two main types of politicians or political activities. The first are those who work hard to uplift the constituency they represent and safeguard the interests of the state and nation.

Regardless of whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition, elected representatives should strive to collaborate closely with local authorities as well as state and federal governments for the benefit of their constituents.

They should also work within their parties to propose new state enactments or federal laws or amendments to existing ones and actively participate in debates in the state assemblies or Dewan Rakyat, as they are the lawmakers. Instead, many are often absent from these important sessions.

Individually, politicians must build a capable and efficient team to serve their constituents, winning their hearts and minds to ensure success in the next general election.

However, lifting entire communities out of poverty and creating better income opportunities and livelihoods for all requires a significant effort and dedication.

Unfortunately, it is much easier to sow fear and hatred by creating or using imaginary threats related to race, religion and language just to be seen as a champion defending against these fabricated dangers.

Sadly, many politicians fall into this second category, diverting attention from the real issues that need addressing.

Many Malaysian voters tend to be more emotional than rational and can easily be swayed. This includes a broad spectrum of people, from those living in poverty or with limited education to those who consider themselves highly

educated or religious, despite race, culture and language being non-issues in religion.

While neighbouring countries are progressing rapidly, we are still grappling with issues that were long settled when we first achieved independence and later formed Malaysia. This stagnation is due to the fact that many of these politicians do not genuinely have the interests of the people and nation at heart.

Their fervent defence of race, religion and language is merely a façade to advance their hidden agendas.

In reality, they have only succeeded in institutionalising corruption, which has held our country back.

YS Chan

Solaris unveils co-living in Melbourne

► Project features seven one-bedroom apartments, gardens, private balconies, shared spaces, parking and eco-friendly amenities

PETALING JAYA: Solaris Property Group launched its premium boutique co-living apartment developments in Melbourne, Australia offering individuals in Malaysia and beyond the opportunity to own their very own co-living building.

Founded with a mission to create residential spaces that benefit local communities, Solaris Property Group is quickly becoming a frontrunner in the co-living space. The company specialises in providing premium residences for individuals and couples living in Melbourne where there is a significant supply crunch.

Its co-living apartment developments feature seven one-bedroom

apartments, landscaped gardens, private balconies and terraces, shared kitchen and lounge spaces, parking, and exclusive amenities that reflect a deep commitment to quality, design and environmental responsibility.

Each development is characterised by a blend of efficiency and elegance, with all projects achieving a 7-star energy efficiency rating, furthering the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately providing better living.

Solaris Property Group was founded by Steven Galanos and Robbie Wilson. Galanos - a Melbourne native who has worked in the property development and construction industry for more than 20

years - has successfully delivered over 500 properties in Australia. Wilson is also the founder of Raw CreativeE, Asia's leading real estate integrated communications agency. Together they have set out to change the residential landscape across Australia, in terms of the way individuals live and invest in property.

As Solaris Property Group continues to focus on its core developments within Australia, the company recognises the dynamic potential of the Southeast Asian market. As part of its strategic expansion plans, the company aims to engage with Southeast Asian investors and stakeholders who are seeking secure robust real estate investment opportunities in Australia.

"At Solaris Property Group, we believe in creating spaces that inspire and endure, giving people a place they can truly call home. We wanted to create design-driven properties that blend the styles of chic Australian coastal living with English Cotswolds charm.

As we launch our first Melbourne developments to the Southeast Asian market, we are very excited to share our vision of energy-efficient and innovative Australian property developments with a new audience. We see this as an opportunity to showcase our projects in one of the world's most dynamic regions," said Wilson.

He added that there is massive potential in the Australian market for their co-living apartment buildings. Currently 70% of tenants in Melbourne are singles or couples, however most homes being built and on the market are four-bedrooms, which shows a real design and supply mismatch.

"A rental shortage is also likely to continue for many years, as well as high rental and sales prices. These factors make our more affordable one-bedroom apartments the perfect structure for many residents living in Melbourne," said Wilson.

Meanwhile, Galanos said: "We're at the early stage of what I believe is a

15-year growth period in the co-living space in Melbourne. Unlike many other co-living properties out there, investors can purchase an entire Solaris apartment building which consists of seven one-bedroom apartments, providing investors with seven income streams from one development.

"Our local property management team rents out the individual apartments for investors and currently we have a 0% vacancy rate.

"Investors can expect rental returns of 10% plus per annum on their investment. Unlike a standard apartment or single family home investment, they can also apply for a land tax exemption via the State Revenue Office, which provides them with a significant annual savings."

Investors can own their own co-living building for A\$1,311,500 (RM3,637,000). Solaris Property Group has started sales in Malaysia. Financing is available for foreign investors.

Exim Bank facilitates foreign worker housing project in Penang

BATU KAWAN: Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Bhd (Exim Bank) entered into a facilities agreement with Urban Pinnacle Sdn Bhd for a property development of staff residential hub located in Batu Kawan.

Penang Development Corporation (PDC) had on Nov 10, 2023 signed an agreement with Urban Pinnacle Sdn Bhd to lease a piece of land in Batu Kawan to build a RM350 million workers' village to house foreign workers. Urban Pinnacle Sdn Bhd was awarded the project after a Request for Proposal was called in 2022.

The village will be built on 7.27 acres of land situated south of Penang Science Park South. The construction work will take about two years for completion. This hostel would cater to the Penang Science Park and the booming Batu Kawan Industrial Parks, which are located nearby.

The project consists 836 apartment units to accommodate a total of 8,360 foreign workers. A commercial and facility block equipped with various facilities and amenities such as food court, outlets, convenience stores, surau, green space, 24-hours security surveillance will be included.

The project will be designed adhering to the standards in Act 446 implemented by the government as well as the world labour standards. The objective is to provide a better living environment for foreign workers in Malaysia, giving employers especially multinationals ease of mind without having to worry about their foreign workers' welfare; as well as to meet the audit requirements and human right standards of European Union and



The signing ceremony between Urban Pinnacle and Exim Bank Malaysia, witnessed by Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

developed nations. Upon completion, the hostel will be managed by Urban Pinnacle Sdn Bhd in partnership with a well-established operator.

Exim Bank president and CEO Nurbayu Kasim Chang said: "This partnership is a clear demonstration of Exim Bank's dedication to supporting the country's exports. We are facilitating investments by multinational corporations and local businesses in Penang, which plays a vital role in Malaysia's global semiconductor supply chain.

Nurbayu also emphasised the economic impact of the project, noting that it would create new job opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and help reduce the unemployment rate in Penang. "Exim Bank is committed to helping local entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses and expand internationally. One of the ways we're doing this is through the introduction of the Exporters' Development Incentive Scheme, which has a funding allocation of RM750 million," she said.

Tropicana Metropark hands over Southplace with 85% Qlassic score

PETALING JAYA: Tropicana Corporation Bhd has delivered vacant possession (VP) to the homeowners of SouthPlace Residences, Tropicana Metropark in Subang Jaya.

The 88-acre self-sustained satellite integrated township sees its fourth residential development located on a 4-acre landbank.

The 100% sold serviced residences possess a built-up ranging between 500 sq ft to 700 sq ft, showcasing a modern minimalist design aesthetic that overlooks its 9.2-acre Urban

Park. Tropicana Metropark, inspired loosely by the design concept of Melbourne's, Yarra River, offers a convenient urban living with SouthPlace Residences.

Tropicana marketing & sales and business development managing director Ixora Ang said that in 2013, Tropicana created a blueprint for a dynamic and flourishing mixed-use development in Subang Jaya which is Tropicana Metropark. Overlooking a 9.2-acre urban park, new homeowners of SouthPlace

Residences have direct access to a variety of tenants in the Shoppes below.

"Tropicana Metropark can also pride itself with the quality completion of SouthPlace Residences which achieved an impressive Quality Assessment System in Construction score of 85%. Aligned with our ongoing commitment to Redefine the Art of Living and quality delivery to our propertyowners, we look forward to more good news with the upcoming phases," she added.

Lagenda acquires Negeri Sembilan land for RM60m

KUALA LUMPUR: Lagenda Properties Bhd through its wholly owned subsidiary Vivafirst Sdn Bhd, has acquired 138.17 acres of land in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan for RM60.19 million.

This acquisition, with an estimated GDV of RM550 million, marks Lagenda's strategic entry into Negeri Sembilan, further expanding its development footprint across Malaysia.

Strategically situated in the heart of Senawang, close to key industrial parks and established residential developments, this acquisition represents Lagenda's first venture into Negeri Sembilan and its sixth state nationwide.

The site is ideally positioned to tap into the strong demand for affordable housing in the surrounding areas. With its well-connected infrastructure and proximity to essential amenities, this location offers exceptional potential for the development of a large-scale, integrated and affordable township.

Lagenda Group managing director Datuk Jimmy Doh, said, "As part of our strategic growth plan, we are actively exploring expansion opportunities in new states where we have yet to establish a presence. Senawang, with its close access to key infrastructure such as the North-South Expressway, Lekas Highway, public transport, essential amenities, industrial parks, and established residential communities - stands out as an ideal location for us to advance our mission of developing affordable homes within integrated townships."

With this latest acquisition in Negeri Sembilan, Lagenda Properties will have its land bank increases to a total of 5,201 acres, further solidifying its presence across key states starting with Perak, Selangor, Johor, Kedah, and Pahang. Lagenda's strategy has consistently focused on acquiring sites situated just outside established towns yet still offering easy access to essential amenities and key infrastructure. This approach enables Lagenda to effectively address the housing needs of the underserved of B40 and M40 income groups, making homeownership more accessible to a broader range of Malaysians.



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's leadership role in coordinating Asean's response to the United States' latest tariff measures should be balanced with direct and strategic engagement with Washington.

Universiti Malaya foreign affairs, security and strategy analyst Collins Chong Yew Keat (*pic*), said it is vital for Malaysia to pursue a dual-track approach – strengthening regional coordination while maintaining pragmatic bilateral ties with the US, which he described as Asean's most important economic and security partner.

"To balance our approach and to protect our national and regional interests, this is the time for us to face the reality that America still remains the most important economic, market, trade and security source that Malaysia and Asean still depend on primarily," he told Bernama International News Service on the implications of the US tariffs for Malaysia and Asean.

Elaborating, he highlighted that Malaysia remains a major US investment destination, receiving a combined RM32.8 billion in American investments that helped fuel economic momentum in 2024.

In 2022, net foreign direct investment from the US accounted for 43% of Malaysia's total – more than the combined total of the six largest investors.

"Over 70% of new US investments

'Adopt dual-track strategy in response to US tariffs'

➤ Analyst says Malaysia should strengthen regional coordination and maintain pragmatic bilateral ties with Washington



are from Fortune 500 companies. To date, US businesses have created over 300,000 jobs," he noted.

Therefore, the foreign affairs analyst called on policymakers to focus on long-term, values-based partnerships that prioritise technology transfer, human capital development, and high-skilled industries – a shift from Malaysia's longstanding dependence on low-skilled, extractive sectors.

"Without a focused long-term approach, we lose out from both unreliable economic dependence, and the risks that this pivot will entail with further retaliatory and punitive measures from the US," he warned.

At the same time, Chong stated his opinion that Asean must avoid sentimental or knee-jerk responses to the new US tariffs.

He stressed that diplomacy and pragmatism must prevail, warning that symbolic unity alone will not move Washington – particularly under Donald Trump's administration guided by strategic trade hardliners.

"Antagonistic and knee-jerk responses, coupled with the bandwagon of misplaced countermeasures, will only invite more wrath from the US. We must be wise not to be seen as antagonising in our approach by galvanising joint or common Asean solidarity and stance in pushing back against these tariffs," Chong said.

He recommended that Malaysia table a credible counterproposal and

reduce its own tariff and non-tariff barriers on American goods.

Despite global calls to diversify economic partnerships via Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, BRICS or the Global South, Chong said, these platforms remain unable to match the full spectrum of US-led economic, technological, and security structures.

"This new tariff hike has seen knee-jerk reactions throughout the world with threats to impose immediate countermeasures. This remains a foolish move and Malaysia must not join the bandwagon.

"Overdependence on the so-called prospects of the alternative invites greater risks due to the unpredictable resilience and sustaining economic potential of the powers behind the move to dislodge the US-dominated system," he said.

Highlighting Trump's approach, Chong described the tariffs as part of a broader reset to correct longstanding global trade imbalances.

He added that a strong, stable and

economically resilient America remains central to Malaysia's own long-term prosperity and regional security.

"What Trump is doing now is to fairly ask the rest of the world to pay its fair share and to jointly contribute to this global task.

"The tariffs imposed are thus a common-sense measure to stop the bleed, fix the debt, and ensure long-term fiscal discipline and sustainability.

"Remember, a strong, safe, and financially healthy America translates to a strong, safe, and financially healthy world," Chong said.

Malaysia is set to dispatch a delegation to Washington by the end of April to initiate dialogue with the US over the 24% reciprocal tariff imposed on Malaysian goods, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced on Tuesday.

Anwar said the move is part of Putrajaya's "soft diplomacy of quiet engagement", aimed at exploring possible adjustments to the policy's implementation. – Bernama

Asean Power Grid requires US\$764b for generation, transmission infrastructure: Sec-gen

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asean Power Grid (APG) vision – which is aimed at enhancing regional electricity interconnectivity – requires an estimated investment of US\$764 billion (RM3.4 trillion) for power generation and transmission infrastructure, said Asean secretary-general Dr Kao Kim Hourn (*pic*).

Through cross-border electricity trade, the APG addresses the region's rising energy demands and accelerates the integration of renewable energy sources, he said in his keynote address on the second day of the Asean Investment Conference here yesterday.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Southeast Asian bloc was engaging with investors as well as multilateral development banks, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, to power up the APG.

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said the financing was aimed at supporting projects that involve transmitting electricity from Vietnam to Kelantan via submarine cables, with further distribution to Singapore through land transmission lines.

APG is a region-wide initiative introduced

in 1997 to connect electricity infrastructure among member states.

Besides the APG, Kao said that by 2030, Asean will require about US\$2.8 trillion in infrastructure investments – equivalent to an annual average of US\$184 billion – to meet its decarbonisation commitments.

"Given the significant demand for a sustainable future, Asean must develop appropriate policies to channel financial resources into sustainability initiatives, including a sustainable investment policy."

He said the ongoing development of the Asean Taxonomy for Sustainable Finance provides an excellent opportunity to align Asean's framework with global taxonomies, providing investors and international donors with clear guidelines for sustainable investments in Asean.

Kao said Asean must develop robust and innovative financial mechanisms to diversify capital resources from the private sector and international donors, which include establishing capital markets to facilitate the exchange of sustainable bonds and make



blended loans and other multilateral funds more accessible for sustainable investment projects.

These efforts complement the Asean Green, Social, Sustainability and Sustainability-linked Bond Standards. Additionally, Asean must enhance collaboration with international partners and donors and the private sector to support existing initiatives such as the Asean Catalytic

Green Finance Facility to scale up bankable green projects, he added.

Asean must also focus on projects that support supply chains in green industries such as electric vehicles, logistics, sustainable mining practices and renewable energy.

"To this end, Asean is finalising the Policy Recommendation on Guidelines to Support Asean EV Implementation Roadmap and the Asean Sustainable Investment Guideline in 2025. These initiatives are critical in shaping national investment and industrial policies that drive sustainable growth and contribute to the sustainable development goals," Kao said. – Bernama

Bloc to implement Rapid Financing Facility to help distressed members

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean ministers will endorse the operationalisation of the Rapid Financing Facility (RFF), aimed at helping financially distressed member countries to cushion against exogenous shocks or financial problems caused by external factors.

Besides this safety net, Bank Negara Malaysia deputy governor Datuk Marzunisham Omar announced the grouping will also endorse the

Paid-In-Capital, which forms part of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation, a self-help regional mechanism to help countries facing liquidity problems.

"These two programmes would help Asean members to help each other in the event of a crisis," he told Bernama after co-chairing the Asean+3 finance and central bank deputies meeting yesterday.

Marzunisham, however, clarified that Asean countries are not foreseeing a financial crisis. "No, we are not, and no country in the region is facing any liquidity crisis. But it's always good to be prepared," he said.

Marzunisham said the facilities are seen as a demonstration of the region coming together to assist any member country in the event that liquidity needs arise.

Malaysia discusses trade initiatives with EU-Asean, US-Asean business councils

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia met with representatives from the European Union-Asean Business Council (EU-ABC) and the United States-ABC (US-ABC) on Tuesday regarding new initiatives that could be promoted to enhance trade, not only in Malaysia but also among Asean member countries.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said the meetings also aimed to identify issues faced by investors and to consider suitable methods to assist them.

"This will help the government take appropriate actions to support them in expanding their businesses here. The discussions were very productive, and the new ideas proposed could help further increase intra-Asean trade," he told Bernama after the separate bilateral meetings.

At the same time, Amir Hamzah said, Malaysia seized the opportunity to seek support from the US-ABC as part of efforts to find solutions to the tariffs imposed by Washington.

Meanwhile, he expressed hope for consensus and agreement among Asean member countries ahead of three important meetings with the US-ABC, EU-ABC and the Asean Business Advisory Council yesterday.

"We hope to reach an agreement on how we interact and enhance the existing trade between industries and other countries.

"Ideas like intra-Asean trade are a sound approach for member countries to build a cross-border market operation. Therefore, I look forward to positive outcomes and mutual agreements from all parties," he said.

The meetings, which Amir Hamzah will chair, emphasise financial issues crucial in strengthening Southeast Asia's appeal as a trade and investment destination.

WTEC Group aims to raise RM22.5 million from IPO

► Foam and non-foam products manufacturer to invest RM9.4 million of proceeds in new factory

BY AIMIE SHAZRI
 sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: WTEC Group Bhd, a manufacturer and trader of foam and non-foam products, is accelerating its growth trajectory with the purchase and renovation of a new manufacturing facility.

The expansion forms a core part of the company's strategy to enhance its operational capacity and efficiency, backed by funds to be raised from its initial public offering (IPO) on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia.

WTEC Group's IPO comprises a public issuance of 90.2 million new ordinary shares, representing 18.8% of its enlarged share capital, alongside an offer for sale of 43.2 million existing shares or 9%. At the IPO price of 25 sen per share, the company is expected to have a market capitalisation of RM120 million upon listing. WTEC Group is scheduled to debut on the ACE Market on April 29.

WTEC Group aims to raise RM22.5 million from the IPO, of which RM9.425 million (41.8% of total proceeds) has been earmarked for the acquisition and renovation of a ready-built factory.

Group managing director Tan Kok Kheng said the facility, to be acquired in Kajang or Semenyih, will allow the company to consolidate multiple operations under one roof, streamline production workflows and house advanced machinery.

"The new facility is a strategic move that will enable us to scale up our production capabilities, optimise operational efficiency, and cater to the growing demand from both local and international clients. We plan to commence operations at the new factory by the second quarter of 2026. This expansion is a testament to our commitment to long-term growth and competitiveness," he said at the company's IPO prospectus launch yesterday.



Tan (third from left) and other directors at the launch of WTEC Group's IPO prospectus.

Tan said WTEC operates from three rented factories currently. The consolidation into a single manufacturing hub is expected to significantly improve management control, quality oversight and material handling.

"At present, our bulky materials have to be transported between different sites, which is time-consuming and inefficient. With this new factory, we aim to centralise operations and improve overall productivity."

Apart from the factory investment, WTEC Group will channel RM3 million (13.3%) of the IPO proceeds towards the purchase of new machinery and equipment to bolster its automation capabilities, reduce reliance on manual labour and enhance product quality.

Other allocations include RM1 million for sales and marketing expenses (4.4%), RM5.1 million for working capital (22.7%), and RM4 million to cover listing-related expenses (17.7%).

Established over two decades ago, WTEC Group has built a solid reputation across multiple industries, including automotive, electrical and electronics (E&E), construction,

medical and personal protective equipment. The group serves clients in Malaysia and exports to markets such as Vietnam, Australia and Thailand.

WTEC's financial performance reflects its resilience and growth momentum. Revenue climbed from RM43.1 million in the financial year ended Dec 31, 2021 (FY21) to RM52 million in FY24, translating into a compound annual growth rate of over 6.5%.

Meanwhile, profit after tax more than doubled over the same period, rising from RM3.5 million to RM8.2 million.

In FY24, the manufacturing of foam products contributed 65.7% of total revenue, followed by 15.9% from non-foam products, while trading of polyurethane foam and other related materials made up the remaining 18.4%.

Tan said, "With strong foundations and extensive industry experience, we are confident in our ability to capitalise on the opportunities ahead, particularly in the automotive and E&E sectors, where demand for high-performance materials continues to grow."

Proton wraps up strong Q1 with rebound in March sales

PETALING JAYA: National carmaker Proton closed the first quarter of 2025 with a significant rebound in March that saw 13,918 units sold, an increase of 23.9% over February and 9.6% ahead of the same month in 2024.

As a result, market share for group sales (domestic, export, smart, Proton e.MAS) is forecast to be 19.4% from an estimated total industry volume (TIV) of 71,596 units.

The strong results lifted Proton's first-quarter sales to 35,068 units, which is equivalent to a market share of 18.9% based on a TIV of 184,652 units. The achievement was led by strong sales performance across the entire model lineup, growth in export sales as well as contributions from the company's new energy offerings, particularly the Proton e.MAS 7, which has performed well in its first three months and is the best-selling electric vehicle in Malaysia.

Sales of internal combustion engine (ICE) offerings saw strong segment leadership for key models

Sales for all Proton ICE models increased across the board with two models continuing to lead segment sales in March. The Proton S70 has kept its hold as the C-segment sedan leader with 1,125 units sold, an increase of 77.5% over February, and bringing its cumulative year-to-date (YTD) sales to 4,465 units.

Meanwhile its larger sibling, the Proton X90, remained the dominant model for D-segment SUVs. The best-selling Proton SUV however remained the Proton X50. With 1,858 units sold in March its YTD sales for the first quarter of 2025 were 5,117 units.

As for the Proton X70, the C-segment SUV has undergone a sales renaissance and showed strong growth with 835 units sold in March, an increase of 11.9% compared to February. For first-quarter 2025, sales were up by 52% with 2,158 units sold.

The iconic Proton Saga also had its best sales month in March. Volume was up by 22.5% with 6,154 units sold.

Moving to EV sales, the Proton e.MAS 7 continued to lead all other EV models. A further 797 units (domestic plus export) were sold in March to bring the cumulative first-quarter YTD total for the company's first battery electric vehicle to 1,853 units for the first three months of 2025.

SumiSaujana Group makes lacklustre market debut

BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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PETALING JAYA: Specialty chemicals manufacturer SumiSaujana Group Bhd, the fifteenth initial public offering (IPO) on Bursa Malaysia this year, made a lacklustre debut on the ACE Market yesterday.

The counter failed to impress in its first trading day, opening at 18 sen or 25% below its IPO price of 24 sen per share. It closed at 18 sen, after touching an intraday low of 16.5 sen and a high of 19 sen.

The company's IPO was oversubscribed by 1.85 times. It offered 310 million new shares and up to 90 million existing shares, representing 27.71% of its enlarged issued share capital.

SumiSaujana executive deputy chairman Toh Chee Seng said the group remains focused on its long-term strategy despite current

market conditions.

"Nobody can time the market accurately. Historically, data shows that to be true. For us, it's about moving forward with our business plan," he said at a press conference after the listing ceremony.

Toh said becoming a listed company provides them with a solid foundation to scale new heights in the oil and gas specialty chemicals industry.

"This IPO allows us to strengthen our infrastructure, deepen customer relationships, and pursue strategic expansion in key international markets. We are committed to delivering long-term value to our stakeholders by continuously enhancing our capabilities and sustaining our competitive edge in the industry."

Toh said the group remains optimistic about overseas growth in the Middle East and North America.

"We are still quite gung-ho about

our expansion plan, despite the current tariff imbalance. The dust will settle eventually, maybe in weeks, maybe in months."

He noted that while Malaysia has experienced slower drilling activity in recent years, there has been a pickup in the Americas, Middle East and Africa.

"One region may slow down, but another picks up. We believe the market remains at a stable level overall."

Through its IPO, SumiSaujana raised RM74.4 million, with RM40.2 million to be used for the acquisition of a new warehouse and corporate office in Puncak Alam, consolidating the group's operational and warehousing facilities.

Another RM18.9 million has been allocated for the acquisition of its existing factory in Puncak Alam to ensure long-term operational stability.



From left: SumiSaujana Group independent non-executive directors Norhafiza Mohd and Lily Rozita Mohamad Khairi, independent non-executive chairman Liang Kok Siang, Toh, executive director/CEO Norazlam Norbi, executive director/COO Ramli Mohamad and independent non-executive director Datuk Chan Choy Lin (Carol), and RHB Investment Bank Bhd CEO/managing director Kevin Davies at the listing ceremony.

The group will also spend RM2.08 million on capital expenditure, including the purchase and installation of information technology infrastructure and a solar photovoltaic system.

In addition, RM7.62 million will go towards the establishment of a

research and development laboratory, while RM5.6 million has been set aside for listing-related expenses.

RHB Investment Bank Bhd is the principal adviser, sponsor, sole underwriter and sole placement agent for SumiSaujana Group's IPO.

Yong Tai, Taghill team up to develop **Malacca** project

➤ Joint venture to build serviced suites named The Dawn @ Impression City Melaka

KUALA LUMPUR: Main Market listed Yong Tai Bhd (YTB) has initiated a joint venture agreement (JVA) between its wholly owned subsidiary YTB Impression Sdn Bhd (YTB I) and Taghill Land Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Taghill Holdings Bhd to develop two blocks of serviced suites, collectively known as The Dawn @ Impression City Melaka in Malacca.

Under the terms of the JVA, Taghill Land will assume full responsibility for the planning, execution, management, and marketing of The Dawn, comprising 648 units of serviced suites with an estimated GDV of RM183.31 million. In return, Yong Tai immediately unlocks RM28 million, significantly enhancing its cash flow position without incurring further capital risks.

The Dawn @ Impression City

Melaka, located within Yong Tai's premier integrated development in Malacca, has already completed piling and a five-storey car park podium structure, providing Taghill Land with a ready platform to expedite construction. With this partnership, the project is expected to commence in Q3'25 and achieve completion by Q4'27.

Beyond the immediate cash inflow, the JV also presents attractive upside potential for Yong Tai. Should the project's profit before tax (PBT) exceed RM11 million (after deducting Yong Tai's entitlement), Yong Tai will further benefit from a 40% share of any additional profits.

YTB CEO and executive director Datuk Wira Boo Kuang Loon said the joint venture with Taghill Land will boost Yong Tai's finances and lower construction risks. Taghill Land's proven expertise in property



The Dawn features 648 serviced suites with a GDV of RM183.3m, set for completion by Q4'27.

construction ensures that The Dawn will be completed swiftly, allowing us to efficiently monetise our previous investments while positioning Yong Tai for sustainable long-term growth."

Taghill Group, already recognised for its reliable construction and

development credentials through previous successful collaborations with Yong Tai - including The Apple and Courtyard by Marriott Melaka hotel - is ideally suited to drive The Dawn project forward, thereby reducing the execution risks for Yong Tai significantly.

Miti targets 50% jump in trade with New Zealand

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (Miti) aims to increase bilateral trade with New Zealand by 50%, with an estimated value of RM25.67 billion by 2030.

Its minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said Malaysia values trading partners like New Zealand, especially in an uncertain global economy.

He said that cooperation between Malaysia and New Zealand has been established for a long time, further strengthened by the status of "strategic partnership" since 2023 and the visit of the New Zealand Prime Minister last year.

"To achieve the 50% target, Malaysia is ready to work closely with New Zealand to explore new opportunities, especially in the high-value manufacturing sector, digital economy and renewable energy.

"These sectors are in line with our focus in the New Industrial Master Plan," he said in a post on his Instagram page on Wednesday, after receiving a visit from New Zealand Ambassador to Malaysia Michael Wehi Maitetonga Walsh.

Tengku Zafrul said strong cooperation in innovation and technology could boost Malaysia's trade. - Bernama

IILM reissues US\$1.02b short-term sukuk

KUALA LUMPUR: The International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM), an international organisation that develops and issues short-term Shariah-compliant financial instruments, has successfully completed the reissuance of an aggregate US\$1.02 billion (RM4.6 billion) short-term sukuk across three different tenors of one, three, and six-month respectively.

The three series were priced competitively at 4.6% for US\$350 million for 1-month tenor; 4.5% for US\$450 million for 3-month tenor; and, 4.4% for US\$220 million for 6-month tenor.

The short-term sukuk transaction on

Tuesday marked the IILM's sixth auction year-to-date, with cumulative issuances totalling US\$6.07 billion across 17 sukuk series of varying tenors.

IILM in a statement said the auction saw a competitive tender amongst the Primary Dealers and Investors globally, with a strong orderbook of US\$2.2 billion, representing an impressive average bid-to-cover ratio 216%.

IILM CEO Mohamad Safri Shahul Hamid said the successful reissuance comes against the backdrop of a global market rout, marked by a sharp sell-off that were triggered by the latest wave of US tariff hikes and growing protectionist measures that have shaken investor confidence worldwide.

"The strong demand from a diverse base of global investors underscores continued confidence in the IILM's short-term sukuk as a safe haven, Shariah-compliant instrument for effective liquidity management during one of the most challenging periods in recent years. The IILM remain committed to supporting our investor community - particularly Islamic financial institutions - through the regular supply of high-quality securities that meet the evolving needs of the Islamic financial markets globally," he added.

Notably, he said the significant demand for IILM's 3-month and 6-month sukuk reflects market

expectations of potential monetary easing ahead.

"This suggests that investors are positioning for a more accommodative global monetary policy environment, driven by central banks' efforts to stabilise growth amid persistent uncertainty," Safri added.

The issuance forms part of the IILM's "A-1" (S&P) and "F1" (Fitch Ratings) rated US\$6 billion short-term sukuk issuance programme. The total amount of IILM sukuk outstanding currently stands at US\$4.69 billion (end-December 2024: US\$4.14 billion).

The IILM's short-term sukuk is distributed by a diversified and growing network of primary dealers

globally, namely Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Al Baraka Turk, Affin Islamic Bank, Boubayan Bank, CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad, Dukhan Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Golden Global Investment Bank, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait International Bank, Maybank Islamic Bhd, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat, Qatar Islamic Bank, and Standard Chartered Bank.

The IILM is a regular issuer of short-term sukuk across varying tenors and amounts to cater to the liquidity needs of institutions offering Islamic financial services. The IILM will continue to reissue its short-term liquidity instruments monthly as scheduled in its issuance calendar.

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Reach Ten prices IPO shares at 52 sen each, to raise RM104m

► Telco provider intends to expand fibre optic infrastructure in Sarawak

KUALA LUMPUR: Sarawak-based telecommunications provider Reach Ten Holdings Bhd is set to raise RM104 million through its initial public offering (IPO) ahead of its planned Main Market listing on May 2, 2025.

The company stated that its IPO is priced at 52 sen per share, projecting a market capitalisation of RM520 million upon listing, based on an enlarged share base of 1.0 billion shares.

Reach Ten intends to allocate RM60 million (57.7%) of the IPO proceeds to enhance its existing fibre optic network in Kuching and to build new fibre optic infrastructures in Miri, Sibul and Bintulu.

Additionally, RM25 million (24%) will be used to construct 100 new 4G and/or 5G telecommunication

towers across Sarawak, with a focus on Miri, Sibul, and Bintulu. This effort aligns with the state government's push to broaden internet access, especially in rural regions.

The company also plans to invest RM4.3 million (4.1%) to upgrade its satellite-based communications network. This includes the purchase of mobile and fixed satellite terminals, supporting hardware and software, and improvements to its teleport facilities.

"The remainder of the proceeds will be used for working capital requirements amounting to RM5.0 million (4.8%); RM1.7 million (1.6%) to repay bank borrowings, while the remaining RM8.0 million (7.7%) to defray the estimated listing expenses," it said in a statement.

Managing director Leo Chin said the company would expand its fibre optic networks, enhance satellite capacities and develop digital solutions to provide seamless connectivity across Sarawak.

He said the IPO proceeds will enable it to further expand its existing fibre optic communication networks infrastructure in Kuching as this will enable it to reach underserved or

newly developed areas, attracting new customers and thereby increasing its market share.

"In addition, building upon our experience in establishing our fibre optic communication networks infrastructure in Kuching and Samarahan, we intend to establish three new fibre optic communication network infrastructure in Miri, Sibul and Bintulu over the next three to four years, to meet customers' demands and to capture future business growth opportunities."

Currently, Reach Ten owns and operates a fibre optic communication network infrastructure in Kuching and Samarahan, spanning approximately 217km of fibre optic duct infrastructure and 649km of fibre optic cable link communication networks, which took nearly 14 years to develop.

Over the past two decades, Reach Ten had participated in numerous government initiatives, including Jendela, a nationwide programme to enhance broadband coverage and quality; the Sarawak Multimedia Authority Rural Telecommunication or Smart initiative, aimed at expanding connectivity in remote regions; and the Saluran initiative,

ensuring reliable communication networks across Sarawak.

For the 10-month financial results ended Oct 31, 2024, Reach Ten registered RM65.4 million net profit on the back of RM153.1 million turnover. The net profit achieved in the period under review has outperformed 2023's full-year results.

For the financial year of 2023, the company posted RM51.3 million net profit and a turnover of RM182.3 million.

Under the listing exercise, Reach Ten is issuing 200 million new shares and an offer for sale of 100 million existing shares, representing 20% and 10% of the enlarged share capital of Reach Ten respectively.

Of the 200 million issue shares, 50 million new shares will be made available to the Malaysian public via balloting and 25 million new shares for its eligible directors, employees and persons who have contributed to the success of Reach Ten Group under the pink form allocations.

The remaining 125 million issue shares will be placed out to selected bumiputera investors approved by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry. - Bernama

GMT Plus 8 acquires its first two units of Scania super trucks

JOHOR BHARU: GMT Plus 8 Sdn Bhd has acquired their first two units of Scania Super trucks, marking a significant milestone in enhancing delivery performance.

Upon receiving the keys to the truck from Scania Southeast Asia dealer director of East region, Rini Sabir Massgard, GMT Plus 8 Sdn Bhd director Lee Zi Yang said: "Our new Scania Super G420A6X2NZ general cargo application sets a new industry standard with its exceptional torque at the lowest RPM."

"Its 13-litre six-cylinder engine produces 2,300NM at 900RPM," he said.

"This is the most advanced and efficient combustion-engine powertrain in our fleet that delivers an unprecedented fuel savings of up to 8% and more."

Rini said: "GMT Plus 8 can further increase safety, fuel efficiency, and sustainability with our Driver Training and Coaching programme, which is a driving masterclass beyond teaching how to drive a truck."

"It is rather how to really make the absolute most out of their Scania trucks for their specific operation and routes," the director said.

"Our certified driver trainers leverage the latest in coaching and training methodologies, resulting in an average 10% reduction in fuel consumption."

Their new Scania Super includes 3-Year Fleet Management System Control Package that provides insights and information about their fleet via the My Scania portal and Fleet app.

This provides GMT Plus 8 with real-time positioning, vehicle performance monitoring, CO2 emissions tracking, service planning, defect reporting, and driver evaluation which helps them quickly identify potential vehicle usage improvements that could be achieved via Driver Training and Coaching.

KIP REIT to purchase four retail assets for RM118m

KUALA LUMPUR: Pacific Trustees Bhd, the trustee of KIP Real Estate Investment Trust (KIP REIT) has entered into conditional sale and purchase agreements for the proposed acquisitions of four retail assets in Selangor and Pahang.

The acquisitions, for a total purchase consideration of RM118 million, are - KIPMall Desa Coalfields, a freehold 2½ storey retail centre with a drive-thru outlet in Kuala Selangor; Lotus's Indera Mahkota, a leasehold single-storey hypermarket in Kuantan that is master leased to Lotus's Stores (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd; three units of double-storey shop offices in Kuantan, and a double-storey commercial building in Kuantan.

These acquisitions, KIP REIT said in a statement, are part of the Group's Right of First Refusal (ROFR) pipeline, reflecting the Group's strategic focus

on acquiring quality assets with established tenancy and rental income.

"The ROFR arrangement ensures a visible and consistent pipeline of assets from its sponsor, reinforcing KIP REIT's long-term growth strategy."

KIP REIT CEO Valerie Ong said: "These acquisitions are a strategic step forward, not only expanding our retail footprint but also deepening our presence in high-density suburban growth zones. The strong tenancy mix and long-term lease structures will strengthen the stability of our rental income. Coupled with our proposed placement, we are able to maintain a healthy gearing profile while continuing to invest in value-accrue assets and improvements."

"We focus on community-centric neighbourhood malls, which are inherently resilient as our tenants predominantly serve the mass



KIPMall Desa Coalfields in Kuala Selangor.

market with affordable, daily essentials. This positions us well to weather economic cycles while maintaining high occupancy."

"By leveraging both our ROFR pipeline and third-party opportunities, we are steadily executing our vision to be Malaysia's leading community centric real estate investment trust.

These acquisitions not only enhance our current portfolio but also bring us closer to our target of achieving RM2 billion in assets under management by 2027."

"This approach gives us forward visibility, portfolio diversification, and consistent returns to our unitholders."

Federal govt deficit to narrow to 3.8% of GDP in 2025: BMI

KUALA LUMPUR: BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, has retained its forecast that Malaysia's federal government budget deficit will narrow to 3.8% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2025, down from 4.1% in 2024.

In a research note yesterday, BMI said that it remained comfortable with its projection, given the current administration's track record of sticking closely to its fiscal targets and its alignment with the Malaysian government's own projection.

"The budget also marks a positive step towards Malaysia's medium-term goal of narrowing its budget deficit to an average of 3.5% between 2025 and 2027," it noted.

The government is pushing ahead with fiscal consolidation and is targeting a 3.8% deficit of GDP in 2025.

A key driver of this reduction is the ongoing broadening of the tax base, while the government continues to rein in spending.

However, BMI warned that risks to the forecasts are weighted towards a larger deficit, as US President Donald Trump's administration has recently imposed a 24% reciprocal tariff on all Malaysian imports into the US, which could have a significant impact on Malaysia's export-oriented economy.

"The silver lining, we think, will depend on the degree of success attained when both sides engage in

negotiations to bring down the tariffs."

BMI also forecasts a slight slowdown in revenue growth, projecting it to decline to 16.3% of GDP in 2025 from 16.6% in 2024.

It noted that the most significant budget announcements include the expansion of sales and services tax (SST) to include business-to-business (B2B) commercial service transactions, non-essential food items, and imported premium products like salmon and avocado.

BMI estimated that these measures could generate RM51.7 billion in revenue, or 2.2% of GDP, which the government plans to use to offset declining petroleum-related income.

"Indeed, while petroleum-related revenue will probably ease to three per cent of GDP in 2025 from 3.2% in 2024, based on the government's revised oil price forecast of US\$75-US\$80 per barrel in 2025, it fits into policymakers' goal of reducing its reliance on petroleum-related income."

"We also expect the government to meet its revenue targets, as it has consistently done in recent years, through the imposition of a 2% tax on individual dividend incomes exceeding RM100,000 from the year of assessment 2025," BMI said.

While BMI anticipates that total expenditure may exceed budgeted levels, it acknowledges that the gap

between budgeted and actual spending has been narrowing since 2022, with total expenditure expected to decline to 20.1% of GDP in 2025 from 20.9% in 2024.

"The upside, we think, is policymakers' intention to cut back on existing blanket RON95 subsidies effective mid-2025 and to roll back education and healthcare subsidies for the top 15% income group."

"While the withdrawal of RON95 petrol subsidies will translate into approximately RM20 billion in savings, details surrounding the plan remain scant, raising questions about its implementation and effectiveness within Malaysia's fiscal consolidation efforts," it added. - Bernama

US tariffs kick in, spurring more market carnage

► China goods slapped with 104% duties but Chinese shares rise

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs on dozens of countries took effect yesterday, including massive 104% duties on Chinese goods, deepening his global trade war and spurring more widespread selling across financial markets.

Trump's punishing tariffs have shaken a global trading order that has persisted for decades, raised fears of recession and wiped trillions of dollars off the market value of major firms.

Since Trump unveiled his tariffs last Wednesday, the S&P 500 has suffered its deepest loss since the benchmark's creation in the 1950s.

It is now nearing a bear market, defined as 20% below its most recent high.

European and US stock futures pointed to more pain ahead, following a grim session for most of Asia.

Chinese stocks bucked the trend, however,

as state support propped up the ailing market.

Trump has shrugged off the market rout and offered investors mixed signals about whether the tariffs will remain in the long term, describing them as "permanent" but also boasting that they are pressuring other leaders to ask for negotiations.

"We have a lot of countries coming in that want to make deals," he said at a White House event on Tuesday afternoon.

He said at a later event that he expected China to pursue an agreement as well.

Trump's administration has scheduled talks with South Korea and Japan, two close allies and major trading partners, and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is due to visit next week.

The deputy prime minister of Vietnam, the low-cost Asian manufacturing hub hit with some of the highest duties globally, is set to talk with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent later this week.

The prospect of deals with other countries had pushed stock markets up earlier on Tuesday, but US stocks had ceded their gains by the end of the trading day.

German Finance Minister Joerg Kuebs said yesterday that Europe's largest economy is at risk of another recession as a result of the trade tensions.

Investment bank JP Morgan estimates there is a 60% chance of the world economy entering recession by year-end.

Trump nearly doubled duties on Chinese imports, which had been set at 54% last week, in response to counter-tariffs that Beijing announced last week.

China has vowed to fight what it views as blackmail.

The country's top leaders plan to convene a meeting this week to discuss measures to boost the economy and stabilise the capital markets, Reuters exclusively reported.

China vowed yesterday to take resolute and effective measures to safeguard its rights and interests.

"The US continues to abuse tariffs to pressure China, China firmly opposes this and will never accept this kind of bullying," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a news conference.

Central banks in New Zealand and India cut rates yesterday in what could presage a broader move by policymakers to try and cushion the tariff hit to their economies.

But some economists have warned that ultimately American consumers are likely to bear the brunt of the trade war, facing higher prices on everything from sneakers to wine. – Reuters

Bond rout trigger alarm bells

SINGAPORE: US Treasuries extended heavy losses yesterday in a sign investors are dumping even their safest assets as a global market rout unleashed by American tariffs takes an unnerving turn towards forced selling and a dash for the safety of cash.

"This is beyond fundamentals right now. This is about liquidity," said Jack Chambers, senior rates strategist at ANZ in Sydney.

The 10-year US Treasury yield, the globe's benchmark safe-haven anchor, was unmoored and long bonds were the focus of intense selling from hedge funds which had borrowed to bet on usually small gaps between cash and futures prices.

It shot higher, crossing 4.5% at one point, even as traders ramped up expectations for US rate cuts and, in another signal of dislocation in markets, the dollar fell against the euro and yen.

At 4.41% the 10-year yield was up 16 basis points in Asia and more than 50 basis points from Monday's low.

A three-day rise of nearly 60 basis points in 30-year yields, which spiked above 5%, would mark – if sustained – the heaviest selloff since 1981.

The selloff extended beyond Treasuries to Japan, where the Japanese 30-year government bond yield surged to 21-year highs.

"This is up there with GFC (2007-2009 Global Financial Crisis) and Covid level of volatility," said Mark Elworthy, Bank of America's head of fixed income, currency and commodity trading in Australia.

"Would expect to have some central bank response in the near term if markets continue to behave like they have been in the last 12-24 hours."

Warning signals have been flashing for a few days as spreads between Treasury yields and swap rates in the interbank market collapsed under the weight of bond selling.

Hedge funds were at the heart of it because their lenders could no longer stomach large positions betting on small differences between cash Treasuries and futures prices, or swaps, as markets started to swing on tariff headlines.

"When the prime broker starts tightening the screws in terms of asking for more margins or saying that I can't lend you more money, then these guys obviously will have to sell," said Mukesh Dave, chief investment officer at Aravali Asset Management in Singapore.

"The UST selloff may be signalling a regime shift whereby US Treasuries are no longer the global fixed-income safe haven," said Ben Wiltshire, G10 rates trading desk strategist at Citi. – Reuters

European and Indian pharma stocks decline

NEW DELHI: Drugmakers' stocks in Europe and India slipped yesterday after US President Donald Trump reiterated plans for a "major" tariff on all pharmaceutical imports.

A basket of European healthcare stocks fell 3.9% at 0717 GMT (3.17pm in Malaysia) to its lowest since October 2022, leading losses among sectoral indexes on the region-wide STOXX 600, which was down 2.3%.

Meanwhile, Indian pharmaceutical stocks fell 1.29%, dragging down the benchmark Nifty 50 by 0.51% as of 12.56pm IST (3.56pm in Malaysia).

Trump has not said when and by how much he plans to raise taxes on pharma imports.

Trump had also threatened the duties on Friday, after his first set of reciprocal tariffs announced last week exempted pharma products – a change in stance that had prompted a wild swing in pharma stocks.

The US president has said that the tariffs will incentivise drug companies to move their operations to the US.

However, analysts and companies have raised concerns about the difficulty in setting up manufacturing in the US.

India's pharma exports to US mostly comprise generics, or cheaper versions of popular drugs.

These currently attract almost no US levies, while India imposes about 10% tax on US pharma imports, according to industry experts.

US accounts for a third of India's overall pharma exports. – Reuters



A farmer harvesting winter wheat in the US state of Oklahoma. – REUTERS/SPIC

Asian buyers shun American farm goods

SINGAPORE: Asian buyers are reducing purchases of US agricultural goods as Washington's planned fees on China-linked vessels and sweeping import duties on key regional trading partners stoke uncertainty and dampen appetite for American products.

China, which retaliated with 34% duties on US goods, is the largest importer of American agricultural products, but other Asian countries including Japan, South Korea and Thailand also buy significant volumes of US wheat, corn, and soybean meal.

President Donald Trump's plan to revive US shipbuilding using port fees of up to US\$1.5 million (RM6.7 million) on China-linked ships has forced exporters to hunt for non-Chinese ships and, in turn, driven up freight costs, denting demand for US farm goods.

"It makes the US now an unattractive destination for over half of the world's fleet," said Kansas-based freight consultant Jay O'Neil.

Ship owners and operators are reluctant to provide quotes for US ports for April, May and June due to the looming fees, he said.

The shipping challenges and trade war uncertainties are likely to weigh on benchmark Chicago soybean and wheat futures, which are trading close to multi-month lows, traders said.

"As of now, most importers are not taking the risk of importing from the US," said a Singapore-based trader at an international company which sells American grains and oilseeds into Asia.

"Shipping costs have gone up and there is so much uncertainty over the trade war." – Reuters



South Korea unveils emergency help package for carmakers

SEOUL: South Korea yesterday unveiled a US\$2 billion (RM9 billion) emergency support package for its export-focused carmakers, warning American President Donald Trump's 25% tariffs on the sector could be a "significant blow".

"Given that automobiles and auto parts are South Korea's top exports to the US, the decision to impose a 25% tariff on these items is expected to deliver a significant blow to our auto industry," the government said in a statement announcing the support measures.

Last week, Trump announced sweeping and punitive tariffs against the United States' biggest trading partners, the most severe of which came into force yesterday.

Goods from South Korea are to be taxed at 25%.

Trump also imposed steep tariffs on foreign-made cars sold in the United States, raising concerns over the global economic outlook and leaving Asia's fourth-largest economy scrambling to respond.

After industry consultation, Seoul has decided to introduce "a set of industrial safety net measures centred on the most urgent demands", it said.

The government has also "pledged to take flexible action depending on the level of

industry damage going forward".

South Korea's auto-related exports to the US totalled US\$42.9 billion last year, according to officials.

Under the plan, the government will expand its low-cost financing programme for the auto industry by two trillion won (RM6 billion).

Hyundai Motor, South Korea's largest automaker, will also establish a one trillion won support programme for domestic auto firms in partnership with major financial institutions.

Companies affected by the tariffs will be eligible for tax deferrals of up to nine months, the government added.

"The importance of the domestic market is being highlighted as a way to respond to reduced export volumes caused by US tariffs and to maintain the country's manufacturing base," the government said in a statement.

"To this end, the government will operate an electric vehicle subsidy system linked to manufacturers' discount amounts from the first half of this year through the end of the year."

The government will also "significantly expand the government matching support ratio from the current 20%-40% to 30%-80%". — AFP

Foxconn wants to work with Nissan on EVs: Official

TOKYO: Foxconn wants to cooperate with Nissan but is currently not engaging with the Japanese automaker, an executive in charge of the Taiwan company's electric vehicle business told the *Nikkei* newspaper in an interview published yesterday.

Foxconn chief strategy officer for EVs Jun Seki made the remarks ahead of a seminar in Tokyo this week where the contract manufacturer aims to lay out its EV strategy to Japanese companies.

"From our perspective, the compatibility with Japanese automakers, especially Nissan, will become a strength" for Foxconn, *Nikkei* cited Seki, a former senior Nissan executive, as saying.

Seki also said it was a great idea for Foxconn to be part of a potential broader partnership

with Honda, Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors and confirmed that Foxconn was finalising a deal with Mitsubishi to supply it with EVs.

Sources had previously told Reuters that Nissan's junior partner Mitsubishi plans to outsource the production of EVs for Oceania markets to Foxconn, which also makes iPhones for Apple and artificial intelligence servers for Nvidia.

In February, *Nikkei* reported that Foxconn had proposed partnering with Honda with an ultimate aim of creating a four-way framework that would also include Nissan and Mitsubishi after Honda-Nissan merger talks collapsed.

Foxconn has previously said it would consider taking a stake in Nissan, but that its main aim was cooperation. — Reuters

Call for intra-Asean economic integration

► Bloc's secretary-general says bold action needed in chaotic world

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean must "act boldly" to accelerate regional economic integration as sweeping US tariffs leave much of the world caught in the middle of a devastating trade war, the bloc's chief said yesterday.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which count on the United States as their main export market, were among those slapped with the toughest levies by President Donald Trump.

"To remain relevant and resilient in a world where economic chaos is fast becoming the new normal, we must act boldly, decisively, and together to reaffirm Asean's commitment to a stable, predictable, and business-friendly environment," Asean secretary-general Kao Kim

Houn told an investment conference.

He was speaking on the eve of a meeting of Asean economic and finance ministers as well as central bank governors in Kuala Lumpur to discuss how to respond to the US tariffs.

Asean governments have chosen not to retaliate against Washington, preferring dialogue.

But their export-oriented economies risk being hurt by a global trade war after China — another key market — imposed its own tariffs on the United States.

"Without urgent and collective action to accelerate intra-Asean economic integration and diversify our markets and partnerships, we risk

ceding our place in a fractured and fast-evolving global economy," Kao said.

Manufacturing powerhouse and Asean member Vietnam was hit with a 46% tariff on exports to the United States, while Cambodia — a major producer of low-cost clothing for big Western brands — was slapped with a 49% duty.

Other Asean nations hit with hefty tariffs are Laos (48%), Myanmar (44%), Thailand (36%), Indonesia (32%).

Malaysia, Southeast Asia's third-largest economy, was hit with lower tariff of 24%.

Brunei also faces a 24% tariff while the Philippines was hit with 17% and Singapore 10%.

The bloc has a combined population of more than 650 million but its members are at different stages of economic development, ranging from poorer countries like Laos and Cambodia to rich ones like financial centre Singapore. — AFP



A man walking past a signboard in front of the Samsung Electronics Nano City Hwaseong Campus in South Korea. — REUTERS/SPIC

SK Hynix tops Samsung Electronics in DRAM market share for first time

SEOUL: SK Hynix overtook Samsung Electronics for the first time to lead global revenues for dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips in the first quarter of this year, according to market researcher Counterpoint Research.

South Korea's SK Hynix, which has been the world's second-largest memory chip maker behind cross-town

rival Samsung, held a 36% share of the DRAM memory chip market, followed by Samsung with 34% and Micron with 25%, Counterpoint Research said in a report.

DRAM memory chips are widely used in smartphones and PCs.

SK Hynix has been leading a global race to meet explosive demand for

high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips that aid in the processing of vast amounts of data to train AI technology and are crucial for Nvidia's chipsets, as it has been a main HBM chip supplier to Nvidia.

However, Samsung has lagged behind SK Hynix in supplying HBM chips to AI leader Nvidia.

At a shareholder meeting in March, Samsung executives apologised for poor stock prices stemming from its late response to the booming AI chip market.

They expected chip earnings to recover in the second half on demand for smartphones and data centres, and as the company aims to supply its

improved HBM3E 12-layer chips to Nvidia in the middle of this year.

SK Hynix said last month that it has shipped its HBM4 12-layer chip samples to customers, adding that the company aims to complete preparations for mass production of 12-layer HBM4 products within the second half of this year. — Reuters

MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 9

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

9 April 2025

Participation

Retail (18.65%)		Institution (43.32%)		Foreign (38.03%)	
Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)		Net (in RM mil.)	
+61.71		+449.89		-511.61	
Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)	Bought (in RM mil.)	Sold (in RM mil.)
737.41	675.70	1865.96	1416.07	1184.59	1696.20

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

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

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

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

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE	
FBMEMAS	10,343.78	-306.97
FBMKLCI	1,400.59	-42.97
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	457.26	-7.35
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	132.04	-5.01
CONSTRUCTION	232.32	-8.19
FINANCIAL SERVICES	16,904.82	-690.46
ENERGY	612.59	-31.85
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	451.15	-7.74
HEALTH CARE	1,790.06	-7.60
TRANSPORTATION	926.74	-15.02
PROPERTY	890.23	-28.51
PLANTATION	6,839.09	-134.67
FBMSHA	10,102.69	-251.22
FBMACE	4,146.26	-167.64
TECHNOLOGY	39.12	-1.48

TURNOVER: 3.694 bil **VALUE: RM3.776 bil**

Bursa skids on broad selling, FBM KLCI holds above 1,400

BURSA Malaysia extended its downtrend to close lower yesterday as selling was seen across the board amid the escalating global trade war, with the benchmark index hovering just above the 1,400-point level.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI fell 42.97 points, or 2.98%, to 1,400.59 from Tuesday's close of 1,443.56.

The benchmark index opened 6.55 points lower at 1,437.01 and moved in negative territory between the day's high of 1,438.99 during the morning trading session and a low of 1,386.63 during the afternoon session.

Market breadth was also negative with decliners thumping gainers 919 to 224, while 320 counters were unchanged, 887 untraded and 10 suspended.

Turnover improved to 3.77 billion units valued at RM3.79 billion from 3.32 billion units valued at RM2.83 billion on Tuesday.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors Sdn Bhd head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan said the FBM KLCI closed lower amid renewed anxiety stemming from President Donald Trump's latest tariffs, a hefty 104% duty on Chinese goods.

"With no sign of China backing down in tariff talks, we anticipate the US-China trade spat intensifying, potentially surpassing the turbulence of Trump's first term," he told Bernama.

For heavyweights, Maybank dropped 38 sen to RM9.50, Public Bank lost 13 sen to RM4.09, Tenaga Nasional shed 40 sen to RM12.82, CIMB was 33 sen down to RM6.35, IHH Healthcare trimmed two sen to RM6.71 and Hong Leong Bank was 88 sen lower to RM18.50.

Among the actives, ACE Market debutant SumiSajana lost six sen to 18 sen, MYEG fell 1.5 sen to 75.5 sen, Gamuda shaved 18 sen to RM3.59, while Supermax added three sen to 80.5 sen and Top Glove stayed flat at 82 sen.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
SUMI	0.180	-0.060	-25.00	1,035,855
MYEG	0.755	-0.015	-1.95	1,028,594
HSI-CWEI	0.115	+0.035	+43.75	1,025,979
HSI-CWC4	0.065	+0.005	+8.33	993,167
SUPERMX	0.805	+0.030	+3.87	809,886
HSI-PWD3	0.075	-0.005	-6.25	667,287
GAMUDA-C2R	0.020	-0.015	-42.86	616,788
PBBANK	4.090	-0.130	-3.08	600,917
HSI-CWCT	0.065	+0.015	+30.00	598,789
HSI-PWDT	0.160	-0.020	-11.11	592,414
GAMUDA	3.590	-0.180	-4.78	496,908
TOPGLOV	0.820	-	-	473,411
SUPERMX-C4N	0.080	+0.010	+14.29	451,285
NEXG	0.220	-	-	447,498
HSI-CWCE	0.025	-	-	410,714
TANCO	0.720	-0.080	-10.00	399,630
CIMB	6.350	-0.330	-4.94	398,988
MAYBANK	9.500	-0.380	-3.95	335,843
AUMAS	0.560	-0.085	-13.18	301,938
INARI	1.450	-0.100	-6.45	296,430



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWFE	1.390	+0.465	172
HSI-PWFF	2.050	+0.300	81
SP500-H53	2.380	+0.300	775
HSI-PWFC	0.950	+0.240	100
DIN045801028	103.200	+0.200	0.1
XIAOMI-C32	1.150	+0.170	200
NIKKEI-HK	1.110	+0.165	681
NDX-HK	1.260	+0.160	1,245
HSI-PWFD	1.140	+0.155	1,150
XIAOMI-C34	0.450	+0.155	1,838
NIKKEI-HM	2.780	+0.140	155
HSI-PWFB	1.360	+0.130	20
HSI-CWC2	0.365	+0.110	850
HSI-PWFFV	0.335	+0.110	250
CVIEW	1.820	+0.100	30
FGN	23.300	+0.100	1,308
HSI-CWET	0.255	+0.095	48,444
GOLDEF	4.270	+0.090	974
FBMKLCI-HA9	0.425	+0.085	2,200
HSI-CWES	0.455	+0.085	1,000

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWEE	0.045	+800.00	2,963
HSI-CWEC	0.120	+166.67	200
HSI-CWCZ	0.055	+120.00	18,665
ALIBABA-C39	0.020	+100.00	10
DNEX-C39	0.020	+100.00	501
KOSSAN-C72	0.020	+100.00	500
REX-WA	0.060	+100.00	420
SUNCON-C26	0.010	+100.00	1,180
SUPERMX-C4H	0.010	+100.00	27,373
SUPERMX-C4J	0.010	+100.00	14,623
FBMKLCI-HA2	0.105	+75.00	10,030
HSI-CWEH	0.190	+72.73	44,344
HSI-CWEP	0.075	+66.67	5,130
HSI-CWEB	0.205	+64.00	266
HSI-CWC7	0.040	+60.00	32,343
HSI-CWET	0.255	+59.38	48,444
XIAOMI-C34	0.450	+52.54	1,838
HSI-PWFE	1.390	+50.27	172
ASOCHIN-CH	0.030	+50.00	1,000
HARTA-C2J	0.045	+50.00	666

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	37,645.59	-320.01	-0.84
S&P 500 [US]	4,982.77	-79.48	-1.57
NASDAQ [US]	15,267.91	-335.35	-2.15
NYSE [US]	17,188.46	-250.18	-1.43
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	4,676.79	-96.86	-2.03
FTSE 100 [UK]	7,755.94	-154.59	-1.95
DAX [GER]	19,840.24	-440.02	-2.17
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	31,714.03	-1,298.55	-3.93
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	2,349.33	-82.69	-3.4
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	20,264.49	136.81	0.68
CSI 300 [CHN]	3,686.79	36.03	0.99
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	166.32	3.5	2.15
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,186.81	41.26	1.31
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,293.70	-40.53	-1.74
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	73,857.25	-369.83	-0.5
ASX 200 [AUS]	7,374.95	-135.02	-1.8
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	7,561.71	-142.7	-1.85
FBM KLCI	1,400.59	-42.97	-2.98
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,390.08	-79.39	-2.29
WTI [US\$/BBL]	57.82	-1.76	-2.95
BRENT [US\$/BBL]	61.03	-1.79	-2.85
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,063.50	73.3	2.45
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	30.34	0.65	2.2
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	924.36	2.78	0.3
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	420.75	6.35	1.53
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	8,655.50	-76.5	-0.88
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	476.25	1.5	0.32
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	544.75	4.75	0.88
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	45.2	-0.16	-0.35
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	7,858.00	137	1.77
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	158	-7.4	-4.47

As at 5pm, April 9

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWCQ	0.460	-1.080	50
HLBANK	18.500	-0.880	44,644
SUNNY-C5	0.095	-0.555	20
HLFG	16.000	-0.500	2,256
HLIND	12.740	-0.500	1,441
HSI-CWCV	0.325	-0.475	62,801
NESTLE	73.720	-0.440	2,240
MPI	13.600	-0.420	5,970
LPI	13.360	-0.400	2,165
TENAGA	12.820	-0.400	122,352
KLK	18.700	-0.380	9,601
MAYBANK	9.500	-0.380	335,843
PETGAS	15.360	-0.380	6,411
HEIM	25.600	-0.360	988
CIMB	6.350	-0.330	398,988
ALLIANZ	16.680	-0.320	820
AJI	13.200	-0.300	1,783
KGB-WB	1.220	-0.300	27,600
APOLLO	5.720	-0.280	421
PETDAG	18.040	-0.280	4,922

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
AFFIN-C22	0.020	-86.67	3,300
UWC-C11	0.005	-85.71	8,550
SUNNY-C5	0.095	-85.39	20
KEYFIELD-CD	0.030	-80.00	690
D&O-C13	0.005	-75.00	3,300
GAMUDA-C2V	0.005	-75.00	510
KOMARK-WD	0.005	-75.00	486
MSM-C2	0.005	-75.00	700
DIALOG-C2A	0.010	-71.43	3,000
HSI-CWCQ	0.460	-70.13	50
HSI-PWDR	0.005	-66.67	85
KGB-CJ	0.005	-66.67	750
MSC-CR	0.010	-66.67	6,348
NATGATE-CK	0.005	-66.67	6,069
SPSETIA-C89	0.005	-66.67	1,000
IHH-C51	0.055	-63.33	710
RHBANKC60	0.015	-62.50	130,644
AMBANK-C50	0.025	-61.54	11,850
EG-CD	0.035	-61.11	1,000
PMETAL-C1W	0.060	-60.00	221

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

Moody's: Malaysia set to gain as US reshapes Apac trade

KUALA LUMPUR: The sweeping US tariffs will be credit negative for Asia-Pacific (Apac), but lower-tariff countries such as Malaysia, India, and the Philippines may gain market share through trade triangulation to serve the US market, according to Moody's Ratings.

In its latest report, the international rating agency said the new tariffs would hinder the China+1 strategy, and that supply chain diversification away from China is unlikely to accelerate at this stage.

However, Apac economies may still be incentivised to deepen intra-regional trade and investment ties.

"Lower-tariff countries in the region may stand to gain market share on the margin from potential trade triangulation to serve the US market in the near term.

"For example, Malaysia (A3 stable), India (Baa3 stable) and the Philippines (Baa2 stable), which are subject to tariff rates in the middle band (10-30% range), may benefit from some trade diversion activity," it said.

Moody's Ratings said countries like India could benefit as firms move production to tap large consumer markets and lower costs, though this may take years to unfold.

It noted that economies subject to the lowest tier of tariffs, the 10% baseline such as New Zealand (Aaa stable), Australia (Aaa stable), and Singapore (Aaa stable), would not be spared.

"While these economies face a smaller direct shock from US tariffs, these economies, Singapore in particular, have high exposure to a global trade slowdown.

"Moreover, for Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia, a potential slowdown in Chinese final demand with China being their largest trading partner would spill into lower demand for commodity exports," it said. — Bernama

Ringgit falls against dollar amid worries of prolonged trade war

THE ringgit closed weaker against the US dollar yesterday, weighed down by cautious market sentiment following reports of a 104% tariff imposed on China, indicating the likelihood of a prolonged trade war.

At 6pm, the local currency stood at 4.4935/4990 against the greenback, compared to Tuesday's closing of 4.4885/4930.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said that tit-for-tat trade actions could worsen the situation, as the US tariffs raise both business and living costs, ultimately weighing on global economic growth.

"We can safely say that the main focus among central banks is how monetary policy could be used to steer the economy, with, for example, sustaining growth as the immediate priority," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, the ringgit was traded weaker against major currencies yesterday.

It fell against the Japanese yen to 3.0921/0964 from 3.0501/0533, slipped against the euro to 4.9640/9700 from 4.9005/9055 and decreased against the British pound to 5.7629/7700 from 5.7210/7268 yesterday.

The local note was mostly traded lower against Asean currencies.

It slid versus the Thai baht to 12.9915/13.0153 from 12.8898/9094 and edged down against the Indonesian rupiah at 266.3/266.7 from 265.7/266.1 from Tuesday's close.

The ringgit was weaker against the Singapore dollar at 3.3349/3395 from 3.3224/3259 previously while almost flat against the Philippine peso at 7.83/7.85 from 7.83/7.84.

We are now a 7-day Paper

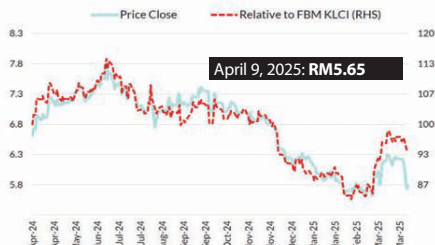
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Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.5640	4.4300	4.4200
1 Australian Dollar	2.7470	2.6350	2.6190
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3790	3.2800	3.2720
1 Canadian Dollar	3.2040	3.1180	3.1060
1 Euro	5.0420	4.8790	4.8590
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5390	2.4450	2.4290
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3790	3.2800	3.2720
1 Sterling Pound	5.8650	5.6790	5.6590
1 Swiss Franc	5.4520	5.2200	5.2050
100 UAE Dirham	125.7200	119.2400	119.0400
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.8350	3.5720	3.3720
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.5200	59.8900	59.8900
100 Danish Krone	69.2200	63.7100	63.5100
100 Hongkong Dollar	59.4100	56.4600	56.2600
100 Indian Rupee	5.3600	5.0300	4.8300
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0278	0.0252	0.0202
100 Japanese Yen	3.1450	3.0450	3.0350
100 New Taiwan Dollar	14.8000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.0400	39.5600	39.3600
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6500	1.5500	1.3500
100 Philippine Peso	8.0600	7.5900	7.3900
100 Qatar Riyal	126.6200	120.2100	120.0100
100 Saudi Riyal	122.9500	116.7200	116.5200
100 South Africa Rand	23.9600	21.6300	21.4300
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5700	1.4400	1.2400
100 Swedish Krona	47.2600	43.0200	42.8200
100 Thai Baht	13.7000	12.1400	11.7400

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

AEON Credit Service (M) Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM8.10

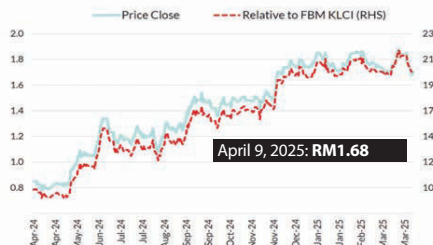
Source: Bloomberg

ACSM posted Q4'25 net profit of RM131 million (+15% YoY, >100% QoQ), which brought the full-year figure to RM370.6 million (-10% YoY), beating our and consensus estimates by 7% and 5% respectively. The key deviation to our numbers arose from the Nil line, where receivables growth of 15% YoY (QoQ: +3%) was higher than our forecasted +12%. This allowed the full-year PPOP to expand by 13% YoY, though higher credit costs of 5.3% (FY24: 4.5%), together with wider associate losses of RM68 million (FY24: 17 million, one quarter of recognition), caused the PBT to decline 9% YoY. On a quarterly basis, as expected, most of the QoQ strength came from the impairments line, where credit costs moderated to 2.8% (Q3'25: 5%, Q4'24: 2.3%) partly due to a favourable refresh of the group's expected credit loss model.

ACSM declared a 14.5 sen final DPS for FY25, bringing the full-year sum to 28.8 sen. This compares to the 14.3 sen paid out in FY24 – a 2% YoY growth – driven mostly by a dividend payout ratio (DPR) expansion to 39.6% (FY24: 34.8%). Despite the earnings beat, DPS came within expectations, as the full-year payout ratio fell just short of our 40% initial forecast. Moving forward, management has committed to maintaining the DPR at c.40%. Capital levels remain conducive, with the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) at 22.7% in Feb 2025 (Feb 2024: 24.4%), comfortably above the 16% minimum.

Receivables growth of 15% YoY was driven largely by personal financing (+22% YoY) and credit cards (+21% YoY), while superbike financing – the sub-segment of motorcycle financing with better credit quality – also grew by a decent 20% YoY. Elsewhere, average collection ratios remained stable in FY25, reflecting management's continuous focus on enhancing collection productivity through digitalisation and risk-based collections.

BUY with RM8.10 TP. – RHB Research, April 9

Binastra Corporation Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM2.21

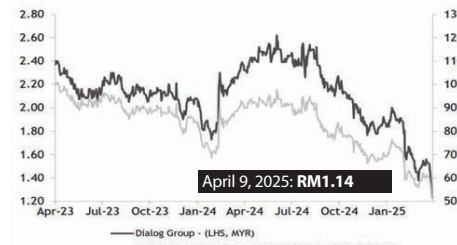
Source: Bloomberg

TO date, BNASTRA has secured RM1.2 billion worth of data centre (DC) jobs (across four projects), which currently makes up approximately 25% of the group's RM3.6 billion outstanding orderbook based on our estimates. We remain cognisant of external factors such as the tariffs imposed by the US on other countries in the world combined with the US Artificial Intelligence (AI) Diffusion Framework. Nevertheless, we take comfort that potential offtakers for the DCs in Bukit Jalil are likely corporations based in Asia. For instance, EXSIM Development (EXSIM) has secured an offtaker (set to be the anchor tenant) – which is a Japanese Fortune 500 company – for Ext 1 of Phase 1 of EXSIM's Bukit Jalil DC while still receiving strong interest from a large East Asian Enterprise and a major local corporate.

For Ext 2 of Phase 1 of EXSIM's Bukit Jalil DC, EXSIM is in discussion with four potential offtakers (we envisage to be mostly Asian-based) to replace Aperia Cloud Services, which was supposed to take up 10.5MW out of the 15MW capacity for the said DC. If one out of the four potential offtakers takes up 10.5MW, we do not discount the possibility of the other three potential offtakers occupying Phase 2, which is currently undergoing piling works, with a 15MW capacity.

In the grand scheme of things, we deem BNASTRA's DC exposure in the Klang Valley (particularly Cyberjaya and Bukit Jalil) with total live supply of DCs in Cyberjaya is forecasted to reach 232MW in CY27 vs 88MW in CY24 according to Keppel DC REIT (KDCREIT SP, NR). Should BNASTRA continue building its track record in DCs, we do not rule out potential spillover opportunities for other industrial buildings such as factories and warehouses.

BUY with RM2.21 TP. – RHB Research, April 9

Dialog Group Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM2.34

Source: Maybank Investment Bank

LAST week, Opec+ has announced (link) that it will gradually raise oil production to 2.2mbpd starting April 2025 to September 2026. However, the gradual increase may be paused or reversed depending on evolving market conditions. Opec+ plans to boost output by 411kbpd in May 2025 (from previously planned 135kbpd). This caused Brent crude oil price to react negatively and declined by c.13% to US\$56/bbl from April 3 till 8 (from US\$75/bbl).

Lower oil prices due to higher production could boost demand for oil storage. Dialog's tank terminals are already >90% utilised as of Q2'25. If demand exceeds supply, storage rates may rise, benefitting Dialog's independent tank terminals. Its end-clients might lock in longer contracts at higher rates (currently S\$6-6.5/m3/month), improving Dialog's cash flow and earnings. However, lower oil prices could hurt Dialog's upstream revenue (from its E&P assets – 50.01%-owned POES & D35, D21 and J4 PSC). We estimate Dialog's earnings are 40%/55%/5% split across up-/mid-/downstream operations in FY24.

In our view, Dialog would need to win new, sizeable tank terminal contracts to re-rate its share price as this would grow its recurring income portfolio. Dialog could benefit from: i) ChemOne's development of Pengerang Energy Complex; ii) Petronas' RM6 billion development of a 650k biorefinery with Eni and Euglena with the need for tank terminals for LT storage of refined/crude products.

Several risk factors may impact our earnings estimates, target price and BUY rating for Dialog. Key risks include: (i) an unexpected slump in crude oil prices; (ii) cost-overruns for its EPCC projects; and (iii) a dip in tank terminal utilisation rates.

BUY with RM2.34 TP. – Maybank Investment Bank, April 9



the Sun **LYFE**

THURSDAY | APR 10, 2025

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Earth **core**

**Emerging trends in
design & architecture**
– P22

WEEKLY FOCUS

MONDAY

Technology and
social media

TUESDAY

Family
and parenting

WEDNESDAY

Fashion
and beauty

THURSDAY

Home
and living

FRIDAY

Travel
and leisure

SATURDAY

Food
and beverage

INSIDE

p23

Growing interest
in tiny houses

p24

Eric Suen's first
M'sian concert

p25

Minecraft movie
delivers laughs

p26

Elton John
drops new album



THE five key macro trends that will influence design and architectural surroundings in the coming years are origin, solace, nature, urban and wonder, according to Cosentino's first global trend report – *Shaping Tomorrow: Future Design & Architecture*.

Origin – Bringing it back home

Local culture, architecture, food and fashion shape our tastes, values and beliefs as we age. In a world with everchanging surroundings, designing with origin in mind creates a stronger emotional connection and embraces the richness of heritage.

“I see origin as something that is tied to things that are not heavily influenced by human presence. I also like this other word called ‘terroir,’ a French term used when speaking about wines. I believe that can also be applied to design,” said Mexican designer Fernando Laposse.

➔ Colours: Vibrant and vintage greens, burgundy, yellow-based greens and terracotta.

Solace – Designing for our emotions

Colour goes beyond just a detail of design, but rather a way to stimulate certain emotions to redefine interactions with environments. Designing spaces to fit emotional needs has an impact on our human psyche and brings together textures, smells, colours and lighting to create a dynamic environment that supports mental and emotional health.

“The future home is a sanctuary, a space where the sensory and the emotional are prioritised. As people seek more meaningful connections in their lives, sensory design has become a vital demand,” said Spanish interior designer Patricia Bustos.

➔ Colours: Gentle greens, aquas, pale violets, soft peaches and warm neutrals.

Nature – Designing for and with the environment

Sustainability will continue to become an increasingly important factor in design. The nature trend influences a more modest and mindful approach to design, reassessing priorities of material items and reusing them to bring new life into the design of spaces.

“A successful project should enhance people's lives, bringing joy and meeting their needs in meaningful ways. Additionally, each creation must have a positive impact on the world, reflecting human and environmental values,” said Brazilian architect Joao Armentano.

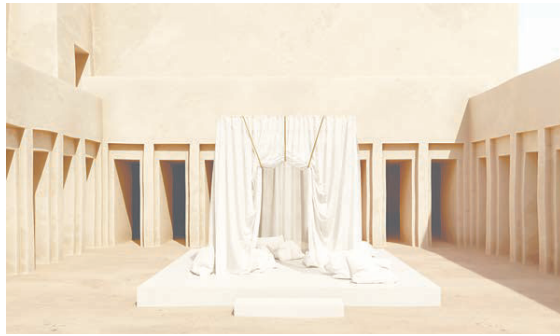
➔ Colours: Greenish-grays, bluish-blacks, dim oranges, avocado greens and ecru.

Urban – Designing cities for future

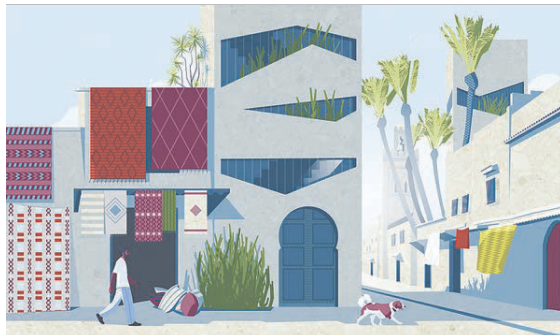
Urban living is growing worldwide and the changing climate, balance between heritage and innovation, between tranquility and stimulation as well as new household compositions are all factors to consider when building modern cities. Design solutions that create spaces to be versatile and multifunctional so that occupants can work, play and live under one structure will become the main drivers of architectural innovation.

“Modularity of space and how it is used really helps with social equity. Adaptability is the biggest problem when designing for climate change,”

➔ Trends that will shape design in years to come



Solace prioritises an environment that supports mental and emotional health.



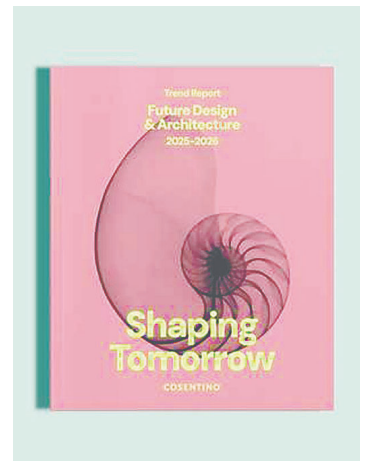
Urban designs create spaces that are versatile and multifunctional.



Origin embraces the richness of heritage.



Wonder emphasises surprise and amazement.



A guide for design professionals and enthusiasts looking to stay at the forefront of the most innovative and transformative trends.

said Gustafson Porter + Bowman founding partner Kathryn Gustafson.

➔ Colours: Medium-reds, classic blues, warm greys, bright yellow and deep purples.

Wonder – Bending reality, beating expectations

Wonder imagines a more human-centred approach to design, leading to moments of surprise, amazement and compassion.

Buildings, interiors and objects that break through the mundanity

and predictability of everyday life through colours, textures and materials will continue to gain traction.

“It is so important that something can stand up to the elements and continue to look beautiful,” said designer Tom Faulkner.

➔ Colours: Reddish-blues, bluish-reds, reddish-yellows, blue-greens and near-black purples.

The 400-page report explores each of these trends through informative texts, inspirational mood

boards, colour palettes, keywords, microtrends, global case studies, material selections and interviews with internationally recognised designers and creatives. To bring new ideas about living and architecture to life, along with colour palette and materials, the publication shows the work of digital artists, illustrators, photographers and stylists, who have visually interpreted the five trends, connecting theory with practice.

It is based on the opinions of over 200 professionals from around the world, providing a comprehensive

overview of emerging priorities in materials, styles, technology and sustainability. Exhaustive research was carried out using coolhunting techniques at an international level, complemented by one-on-one interviews with experts in interior design, architecture and space management.

This analysis reflects the demands and expectations of interior designers and architects globally, highlighting key patterns that will shape the future of contemporary spaces.

Big demand for tiny houses

► Trending concept becomes opportunity for side income

FOR retiree Mat Zin Ali, 64, nothing brings greater joy than celebrating Aidilfitri with his large family of 12. However, the house he built five years ago struggled to accommodate everyone comfortably.

With only four bedrooms and three bathrooms, space was limited. To ensure his children, in-laws and grandchildren could still gather in one place while enjoying more comfort and privacy, he decided to build two tiny houses next to his main home in 2022.

Mat Zin explained the concept is affordable and practical, offering a modern design while maximising space. He said the cost ranges from RM15,000 to RM25,000, depending on size.

"What parent would not be happy to have all their children, in-laws and grandchildren celebrating together? It is wonderful, but I felt sorry seeing them struggle for space – competing for bedrooms and bathrooms and lacking privacy, especially the women," Mat Zin said.

Despite embracing a modern

concept, Mat Zin, fondly known as Pok Suzin, incorporated traditional Malay village house elements into his two compact homes. One unit is slightly larger, accommodating three to four people, while the other is designed for two adults.

Both tiny houses are thoughtfully equipped with essential amenities, including beds, fans and chairs, ensuring comfort for family members of all ages.

"I also took the opportunity to turn these tiny houses into roomstays for visitors looking for a unique lodging experience. This not only benefits guests searching for alternative accommodations but also provides me with a source of side income," said Mat Zin, who hails from Terengganu.

This tiny house trend is gaining popularity among those looking for cost-effective housing options or additional space for large family gatherings. Additionally, these houses have become favourite spots for capturing picturesque OOTD (outfit of the day) photos during festive seasons.

Yuslan Ibrahim, 46, owner of Cottagehomespd, said demand for tiny houses spikes during festive seasons. His units follow a modern cottage concept, blending English country home aesthetics with minimalism and natural beauty.

"I have two tiny house units and



Demand for accommodation in tiny houses spikes during festive seasons. – PICS FROM FACEBOOK @YUSLAN IBRAHIM

my inspiration to build them came from my fascination with small home designs on Pinterest, particularly Nordic, cottage and cabin styles. So far, we receive many bookings, especially during festive seasons such as Aidilfitri.

"Most of our guests are families wanting to spend time together, and they also love taking pictures around the cottage due to its charming design and scenic surroundings," said Yuslan, who has been in the business since 2019.

Architect Kahar Ambok Lalek, 25, said the tiny house movement began in the early 2000s in US as a response to limited land availability, with homes often built on trailer frames. Over time, tiny houses have gained popularity among those seeking a minimalist dream home.

"In Malaysia, demand for tiny houses is mainly concentrated in orchard and farm areas, where they are used as vacation homes or guesthouses. Despite requiring only a small plot of land, these homes can feel surprisingly spacious inside," he said.

He added that there are no fixed size limits – it all depends on the owner's needs.

"The architectural principle of 'less is more' ensures the space feels open and functional.

"Living areas such as the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and lounge work just like in a regular home, but some spaces are designed for dual purposes and ceilings are lowered to maximise the area," he explained.

– Bernama



Tiny houses can feel surprisingly spacious inside.



Tiny houses provide additional space for large family gatherings.



Some Malaysians are renting out tiny houses to earn side income.

How music can spark our most precious memories

YOU may already have noticed a few notes can be enough to take you right back to a distant memory. One song and suddenly, you find yourself at a wild party in a friend's garage or on the vacation highway, windows wide open, singing at the top of your voice. This unique power of music has been deciphered in a new study published in the journal *Human Brain Mapping*.

Researchers at the Brain and Creativity Institute at USC Dornsife in California sought to understand which neural mechanisms allow music to revive personal memories. To do this, they used functional MRI to analyse the brain activity of some 60

participants, aged 18 and over, while they listened to songs that were significant in their lives. The scientists observed a specific neural signature is activated when music awakens autobiographical memories.

This phenomenon involves two major brain networks: the "default mode network", associated with memory and self-reflection, and the reward circuitry, responsible for the experience of pleasure.

In other words, listening to a significant song is like activating our most intimate memories and our reward system.

"Music is deeply intertwined with

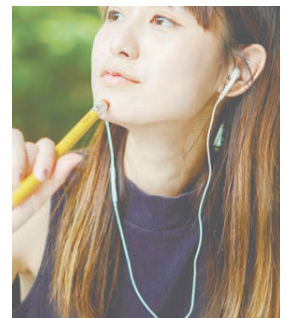
our sense of identity and personal history. What we are seeing is that nostalgic songs do not just bring back memories – they activate the brain in ways that could support emotional well-being and cognitive function, especially in individuals living with memory impairments," explained study co-author USC Dornsife associate professor Assal Habibi, who was quoted in a news release.

Beyond its emotional significance, this discovery opens up promising therapeutic prospects. A simple playlist could become a valuable tool for people with memory disorders, particularly those with Alzheimer's

disease. Some care facilities now use approaches based on sound familiarity.

For example, a familiar sung melody can facilitate the ritualisation of the moment of washing or dressing a resident. Other establishments are installing devices that play specific music in each activity room to help patients find their bearings in space and time, reported the French National Centre for Scientific Research.

It is an approach that is creative and scientifically sound, helping to revive fragments of the self that were thought to be lost. – ETX Studio



A specific neural signature is activated when music awakens autobiographical memories. – PEXELSPIC



BY EE ANN NEE

HONG Kong artiste Eric Suen staged his first concert in Malaysia last Saturday, ending a long wait for local fans who longed to see the suave singer-actor in action.

Dubbed The Big Reunion world tour, the concert in Arena of Stars, Resorts World Genting was the second stop after his two shows in China's Foshan and Guangzhou last year.

Suen was a 90s pop idol who rose to fame in Taiwan with his debut album and song *Ren Shi Ni Zhen Hao*. Now 52, Suen is still looking youthful and spry as he sports an ash blonde hair with streaks of blue and purple for his Malaysian gig.

Suen mesmerised fans with 26 songs in over two hours, bringing back his popular hits *Wo Zhi Dao Ni Zai Deng Wo*, *Ai Huo*, *Xi Guan* and Cantonese favourites *Love Story (Part 1 & 2)*. It was rather amusing

Performing lively numbers, including *Ren Shi Ni Zhen Hao*, *Ai Huo* and *Lun Yat Go Oi*.

Suen-sational performance

► Nostalgic ride by HK singer-actor's first concert in Malaysia

that he chose to sing local Klang song *Pa Sang Anthem* by homegrown musical trio 3P. He performed duets with Malaysian singer-songwriter VChuan (*Wo Ai Ta*, *Hoi Fut Tin Hung*) and singer Priscilla Abby (*Xing Fu De Wang Ji*, *Saat Foh*). He also performed with his wife Macy Chan as the couple belted out *You Yuan Qian Li*.

Fans were in for a surprise when the singer showed off his versatile skills at playing the piano, harmonica and drums. Suen is proof that age is no barrier to singing, dancing and even doing a backflip on stage. When altitude acclimatisation posed a challenge to him during the concert, Suen continued to deliver a

memorable night with his best hits for fans.

Suen also performed his more recent songs *Pu Tong Ren* and *Sai Dao*, donning a race suit to embody his song, and made six other outfit changes throughout the night.

The singer paid tribute to his mentor and lyricist He Hou-hua, who has penned many songs for Suen. The artiste could not hold back his emotions as he sang *Zui Hao De An Pai*, a final project that both of them worked on before the passing of He last year.

As Suen brought fans through his 30-year journey in the entertainment industry, the once boyish idol remains as youthful-looking as ever, thanking fans for their support over the last three decades, taking the ups and downs in stride and being grateful for everything in life.

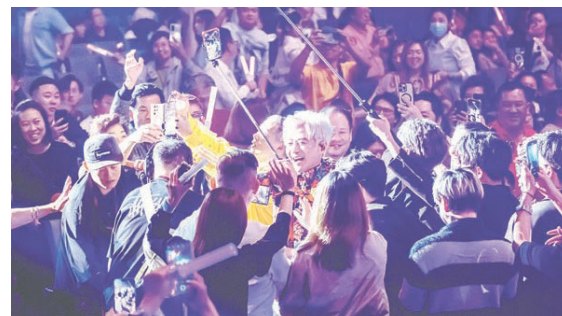
"I believe this is the best arrangement. Although I am not a mega superstar, all is well and I am blessed," said Suen in Mandarin.



Aside from music, Suen has also made inroads into film and television.

Suen opens the show with *Fei*.Besides 90s love songs and upbeat hits, Suen also sings his recent song *Sai Dao*.Suen plays the harmonica when performing his Cantonese hit *Love Story (Part 1)*.

Malaysian singer-songwriter VChuan (left) and Suen attempting a freestyle duet.



Suen greets fans as he livestreams during the concert.

Comedy gold **mine** or lose your mind

► Unapologetically goofy, visually chaotic for pixel-hearted fans

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

THERE are movies made for critics, movies made for cinephiles and then, there is *A Minecraft Movie* – a film so purposefully tailored for the block-building generation that everyone else might as well be punching trees in confusion.

Directed by Jared Hess (*Nacho Libre*), the film is a high-octane, pixel-polished adventure that barrels through logic, narrative cohesion and subtlety with the same energy as a creeper sneaking up behind an unarmoured noob. And honestly? That is kind of the point.

Cinematic sandbox of silliness

From the opening minutes, *A Minecraft Movie* plants a pickaxe in the ground and declares, this one is for the gamers. It is a film built entirely on the idea that fun is king and sense is optional.

With an ensemble led by Jason Momoa and Jack Black, both dialled up to 110, the film explodes with chaotic charm, eye-popping visuals and the kind of humour that feels pulled straight from a particularly wild multiplayer session.

This is not a story told with prestige drama in mind. There are no tear-jerking monologues or slow-burn character arcs. Instead, expect constant explosions, pixelated physics-defying stunts and references that will land only if one has ever spent too many hours avoiding lava or building Redstone traps. It plays like a fever dream written during a sugar rush and it is not trying to be anything else.

For kid inside everyone

It is clear from the get-go, *A Minecraft Movie* is meant for a very specific audience – namely, kids who live and breathe *Minecraft* and adults who have accepted that fact because they have no choice. This is the kind of film where the laughter of a younger viewer will outshine any adult grumbling in the background.

It is loud, it is messy and at times, it feels like a YouTube playthrough got turned into a blockbuster. But, therein lies its charm. For those willing to embrace the absurdity, real entertainment can be found in how unashamedly weird this movie is. It knows exactly what it is and it



Cast: Jack Black, Jason Momoa, Sebastian Hansen, Emma Myers, Jennifer Coolidge
Director: Jared Hess

E-VALUE

7

PLOT

3

ACTING

4

(From right) Garrett (Momoa), Henry (Hansen), Natalie (Myers) and Dawn (Brooks): four misfits, one chaotic quest and zero idea what they are doing.



Nothing says 'baby pandas on the way' like two snacking fluffballs bumping noses.



From TNT to diamond swords and fireworks that are definitely not safety-approved, this display is everybody's dream.

does not apologise for even a second.

Rule is: No rules

What *A Minecraft Movie* lacks in coherence, it makes up for in sheer creativity. The film leaps from one bonkers set piece to the next with zero concern for pacing or realism.

Logic is an optional mod and the narrative is powered more by imagination than structure. But for the *Minecraft* faithful, this is nothing new. After all, this is a game where chickens can ride minecarts and entire cities float in the sky.

Expect a visual spectacle that treats physics like a suggestion and delivers action sequences that

would not feel out of place in a Saturday morning cartoon. There is a deliberate 'just go with it' energy throughout and those resistant to that vibe might find themselves mentally checking out before the halfway point. But again, this is not a film made for them.

Blocky brilliance or brick-brained buffoonery?

Let us be clear – *A Minecraft Movie* is not trying to win awards. It is not reaching for Oscars – it is reaching for slimeballs, ghost tears and the collective giggles of a roomful of children who just saw a zombie get smacked with a loaf of bread. It is, by design, unserious. And therein lies

the genius, or at least, the logic.

The performances are cartoonish (in the best way), the script swings wildly between clever and cringe – and the visuals, courtesy of Sony Pictures Imageworks, Weta FX and Digital Domain, lean fully into the blocky weirdness of the source material. It is bold, bizarre and bursting with energy.

Do not overthink, just laugh

This is the kind of movie that thrives in popcorn-scented cinemas filled with giggling kids and parents who have learnt to let go. It is not deep.

It is not subtle. It is not trying to be either. It is a meme in motion, a cinematic Twitch stream, a fever

dream powered by Redstone and chaos.

Those entering the theatre expecting something resembling a traditional fantasy film will likely walk away puzzled or annoyed.

But those who come in with the mindset of "This is a movie made for my Fortnite-playing, YouTube-watching, sugar-rushed child" might just walk out charmed and maybe a little dazed.

Pickaxe or pass?

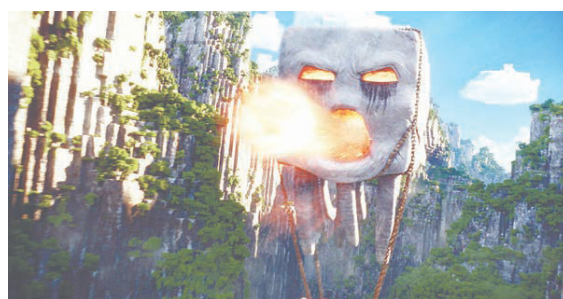
A Minecraft Movie is not for everyone. It does not care if it is not. That is the joke and the film is in on it. For *Minecraft* fans, especially younger ones, this is a laugh-a-minute love letter to a digital world they know like the back of their pickaxe-wielding hand. For everyone else, it is either a bizarre curiosity or a headache in cube form.

But whether adored or eye-rolled, the movie deserves credit for one thing – it stays true to its core audience and commits to the bit with 100% sincerity. And sometimes, in a world full of adaptations trying to please everyone, a film that just wants to entertain its niche is a rare kind of honest.

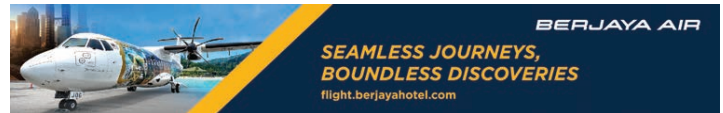
Enjoy it for what it is or do not. The movie does not care. It is too busy riding a chicken into battle.



The Piglins have arrived and they are not here to barter.



Minecraft's least cuddly balloon makes its explosive entrance.



Elton John says new album 'freshest' since 1970s

➤ Legendary artiste returns with *Who Believes in Angels?*

ELTON John has described his new album as the "freshest" he has done since the 1970s, with *Who Believes in Angels?* releasing last Friday.

The studio album comes after he wound down his glittering live career with a global farewell tour, which wrapped up in Sweden in July 2023.

Who Believes in Angels? is a collaboration with US singer Brandi Carlile and co-written by John's long-time songwriting partner Bernie Taupin.

"This album marks a new beginning for me. It is very fresh. It is probably the freshest album I have done since the 70s."

"I needed new musicians, although I love my band so much, (and a) new producer to give me a challenge."

"You have to be challenged," the 78-year-old singer told Smooth Radio ahead of the release.

John, famed for his flamboyant performances and unforgettable melodies, has sold over 300 million records worldwide.

The new album was written and recorded from scratch in 20 days in October 2023 at the Sunset Sound recording studio in Los Angeles shortly after the end of the farewell tour.

"That is the rest of my life. It is a challenge," John said, adding that the biggest challenge is being a parent.

"And it is the most wonderful challenge you will ever have, and it has its ups and downs - but it is pretty amazing," he said.

With his music, he said, he could now pick and choose exactly what he wants to do now, so he does not have the brunt of touring and he can concentrate on other things such as recording more songs.

"But it will not be like *Who Believes in Angels?*, it will be something else," he said.

The release comes after the *Rocket Man* star revealed in December that an eye infection contracted last summer had severely affected his eyesight.

"I am healing but it is an extremely slow process and it will take some time before sight returns to the impacted eye," he said at the time.

A headline set at the Glastonbury festival in 2023 was his last UK performance as part of his 330-date Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour, which ended with an emotionally charged show in Stockholm, Sweden.

In January, he achieved his ninth UK number one album with *Diamonds*, a greatest hits compilation. - AFP



John has sold over 300 million records worldwide. - PIC FROM ISLAND EMI RECORDS

Rangga Jones chooses to *Move On*

EMERGING as another new voice in R&B and pop, multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and producer Rangga Jones has served up a new single *Move On*.

A soulful blend of a gently strummed guitar, infectious drums and melodies, the track offers an intimate window into Jones's personal evolution, as he reflects on the journey of moving past the heartbreak of a past relationship.

"I remember browsing through sounds in a hotel room and found the guitar melody. I instantly knew I wanted to write about accepting and finally moving on from my seven-year past relationship," said Jones.

"The song honestly wrote itself. I did not have to think of the lyrics at all and I let my emotions and thoughts do their thing. When I finished the song, I felt some sort of 'relief' because I finally got all the words and feelings out from the heartbreak I went through."

The single is also a prelude to Jones's upcoming sophomore album *Everything I've Wanted To Say*, set for a release this May.

An artiste with an ear for groove and sentiment, the singer has received significant recognition in Singapore's music scene, having released his self-produced EP *A Little Bit Patient* debuting through the country's Noise Music Mentorship Programme in 2020.



The idea for the new track stemmed from Jones's solo trip to Tokyo.

Let there be rot

ONCE in awhile, a band comes along and simply forces listeners to drop whatever they are doing and just engage in a bout of spontaneous hair swirling. One such band is Rotpit. Formed in Sweden in 2019, the three-piece outfit makes an almighty racket that is redolent of late 80s death metal.

Rotpit has been making significant waves in the global underground scene as its first two albums received rave reviews from fans of the genre and critics alike. *Golem of Rot* is the latest single to assault listener's eardrums and picks up directly where the last album *Long Live the Rot* let off.

The influence of early progenitors such as Obituary and Cannibal Corpse loom large as Rotpit regurgitates the thick, swampy sound that was beloved by those Floridian pioneers.

It is just non-stop riffage that is designed purely to get those cranium muscles moving with the tempo never dropping below fast and furious.

The production is almost treacle-like as the band attempts to make listeners feel as if they are trapped in quicksand while being relentlessly pummelled on the head with a sledgehammer.

Rotpit stretches the "rot" theme to the nth degree, making all its releases extremely fun. Aside from the latest



Rotpit's latest single is out on War Anthem Records and can be sampled on all major streaming platforms. - PIC FROM FACEBOOK @ROTPIT

single, examples include *Night of the Ultimate Rot*, *Rottenness* and *We Rot*. Obviously not to be taken seriously, Rotpit's forte is mining old school death metal for inspiration and producing no-frills, straight-up death metal.

No flashy stuff here as solos are kept to a minimum to allow the song to just gallop through its paces with minimal distractions. Like a gore-drenched horror film, this is the aural equivalent of *Fright Night*. Nothing original but hugely entertaining in its own way.

All together now - all hail the mighty Rotpit! - by **R. BALA**

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322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BAN LOONG CALCIUM CARBONATE PRODUCTS SDN. BHD.
(No. Syarikat: 197701001754 (52897-V))
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 459(2) of the Companies Act 2016, a Final Meeting of the members of Ban Loong Calcium Carbonate Products Sdn. Bhd. will be held at No. 108 (2nd Floor), Jalan Raja Ekrum, 30450 Ipoh, Perak on Monday, 12 May 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

- To receive and adopt the account from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to hear any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.

- To determine the manner in which the books, accounts, documents and records of the Company and of the Liquidator thereof shall be disposed of in pursuant to Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act 2016.

Lee Hong Ching
Liquidator
c/o Peter Lee Consultancy (M) Sdn. Bhd.
No. 108 (2nd Floor),
Jalan Raja Ekrum
30450 Ipoh, Perak

Iph: 10 April 2025

Note:
A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint another person (whether a member or not) as his/her proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. The instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at No. 108 (2nd Floor), Jalan Raja Ekrum, 30450 Ipoh, Perak not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting.

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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 (Petaing Day) (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.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 (Pursuant to Section 439) AND IN THE MATTER OF CABANG METRO SDN. BHD.
(Registration No. 201401022634 (1098720-H))
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

At a Meeting of Members of the above-named Company duly convened and held at 50-1, 52-1 & 54-1, Jalan BPM 2, Taman Bukit Piatu Muliana, 75150 Melaka on 7 April 2025, the special resolution set out below was duly passed:

"Resolved that the Company be wound up voluntarily and that Miss Thirupathy Sukanya (MACSA 707597) (SSM Practising Certificate No. 202408000084), Chartered Secretary of KCCA Corporate Services Sdn. Bhd. [Registration No. 200401036122 (674633-P)], 50-1, 52-1 & 54-1, Jalan BPM 2, Taman Bukit Piatu Muliana, 75150 Melaka be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator for the purpose of such winding up."

Date: 10 April 2025
BONG KIM FAH
CHAIRMAN

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF CABANG METRO SDN. BHD.
(Registration No. 201401022634 (1098720-H))
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named Company, which is being wound up voluntarily are required on or before the 10 May 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, and if so required are to come in and prove their debts or claims as shall be specified or in default will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such proof.

Date: 10 April 2025
THIRUPATHY SUKANYA
LIQUIDATOR
50-1, 52-1 & 54-1, Jalan BPM 2,
Taman Bukit Piatu Muliana,
75150 Melaka.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF GERAMET SDN. BHD.
(Company Registration No.: 198501003919 (136358-W))
(Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

At an Extraordinary General Meeting that the resolutions set out below were duly passed by the Members of the Company on Monday, 31st day of March, 2025 at 10.00 a.m., as Special or Ordinary resolutions:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. I - WINDING UP OF THE COMPANY

"THAT the Company be wound up voluntarily by way of a Members' Voluntary Winding-up pursuant to Section 439 (1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016."

SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. II - POWER OF LIQUIDATOR

"THAT the Liquidator be authorized to exercise any of the powers set out in Section 466 of the Companies Act, 2016 and to distribute to the members any surplus assets of the Company in accordance with their existing rights and interests in specie or otherwise."

ORDINARY RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR

"THAT pursuant to Section 445(1) of the Companies Act, 2016, Mr. Goh Tai Seng of 38, Jalan Penaga U1/34, Nicom Glenmarie Industrial Park, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator for the purpose of winding-up the Company's affairs and distributing the assets of the Company in specie or otherwise."

Date: 10 April 2025
(Signed)
GOH TIE NAM
Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF GERAMET SDN. BHD.
(Company Registration No.: 198501003919 (136358-W))
(Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

NOTICE is hereby given that the creditors of GERAMET SDN. BHD. [Company Registration No.: 198501003919 (136358-W)] which is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before the 30 April 2025 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, and if so required by notice in writing by the liquidators, either personally or by their solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, and in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts and claims are proved.

Date: 10 April 2025
(Signed)
GOH TAI SENG
Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT JOHAR BAHRU (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANY WINDING UP PETITION.
No.: JA-28NCC-39-03/2025

In the matter of FY Metal Resources Sdn Bhd
And
In the matter of Sections 465(1)(e) and 466(1)(a) of the Companies Act 2016 ("CA 2016")

And
In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

BETWEEN
MESSRS. KHENG HOE & LEE YUEN (Suing as a firm) ... Petitioner

AND
FY METAL RESOURCES SDN BHD (Company No.: 201501021604 (1146932 - X)) ... Respondent

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the above-named company by the High Court was, on 7th March 2025, presented by MESSRS. KHENG HOE & LEE YUEN.

And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Johor Bahru High Court at 9.00 a.m. on 9th 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 charge for the same.

The Petitioner's registered address is at A3-3-6, Block A3, Solaris Dutamas, 1 Jalan Dutamas, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen
Messrs. Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen
The Petitioner

NOTE - Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs. Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than twelve o'clock noon of 8th May 2025 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the petition).

THIS ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION is issued by Messrs. Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen, the Petitioner, with the address for service at A3-3-6, Block A3, Solaris Dutamas, 1 Jalan Dutamas, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. (Ref: 23041759/Te: 03-6205 3928/Email: ask@khyt.law)

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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 Chargeman, 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)

Lucknow, Punjab win in IPL

WEST INDIES veteran Nicholas Pooran (*pic*) smashed an unbeaten 87 and Indian newcomer Priyansh Arya hit his first IPL century to lead Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings to victories yesterday.

The left-handed Pooran and Mitchell Marsh, who hit 81 guided Lucknow to 238-3, a total their bowlers defended in a tense four-run win over holders Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens.

Arya, an Indian left-hander known for his six-hitting prowess, smashed 103 off 42 balls to help Punjab to 219-6 and bowlers kept down Chennai to 201-5 in the second match of the day at Mullanpur, near Chandigarh.

Arya, who was picked up by Punjab in the November auction after his six sixes in an over in a Delhi Premier League T20 match last year, announced himself on the big stage with a 39-ball ton.

"Tonight, he was backing his instincts," Punjab skipper Shreyas Iyer said of the breakout star. "It was free-flowing and that is the mindset I want in everyone. Today, he kept on going, he was fearless and it was basically one of the top knocks I have seen in the IPL so far."

The big-hitter smashed the second ton of this

season in the T20 tournament in his fourth match to pummel to the opposition attack with seven fours and nine sixes.

The ton was the fastest against five-time champions Chennai and the fourth joint-fastest ever in the IPL. Chris Gayle holds the record of a ton in 30 balls.

Opener Arya found little support at the start as Punjab slipped to 83-5 when Shashank Singh joined the rising star and the two put together 71 runs in 34 balls.

Arya finally fell to Afghanistan spinner Noor Ahmad but Shashank, with his 52, and South African Marco Jansen, who smashed 34, finished with a flourish in an unbeaten stand of 65.

Chennai attempted to make a fist of the chase as New Zealand left-handers Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway put on 61 runs for the opening wicket.

Conway also put on 89 runs with impact substitute Shivam Dube but Ferguson broke through to get the left-handed Dube bowled for 42.

Veteran MS Dhoni walked out to loud cheers but even though Conway retired out, Chennai's batters failed to keep up to the ever-increasing run-rate. - AFP



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IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA IN KUALA LUMPUR IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA COMPANIES (WINDING UP) NO.: WA-28NCC-225-02/2025

In the matter of sections 465(1)(e) & (h) and 466 of the Companies Act 2016

And
In the matter of EYKTE MALAYSIA SDN BHD (Company No.: 200301004750 (637171-K))

BETWEEN
BRILLIANT STAR CONSTRUCTION (M) SDN BHD (Company No.: 201401011081 (1087157-I)) ...PETITIONER

AND
EYKTE MALAYSIA SDN BHD (Company No.: 200301004750 (637171-K)) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the above-named company by the High Court was, on the 26th day of February 2025, presented by BRILLIANT STAR CONSTRUCTION (M) SDN BHD.

And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur at 9.00 a.m. on the 16th of 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 from the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's registered address is at 64, Persiaran 656, Perikembangan Business Centre, 53000 Kuala Lumpur and the business address is at PT 12941, 1st Floor, Jalan BBN 1/70, Putra Indah, Nias, 71800 Negeri Sembilan.

The Petitioner's solicitor is Messrs. Amar Sybilini Izzat & Sham, whose address of service is at 8-05-07, Plaza Mont Kiara, No. 2 Jalan Kiara, Mont Kiara 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

tt
Messrs. Amar Sybilini Izzat & Sham
Petitioner's solicitor

Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Petitioner or his advocate or solicitor, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 15th June 2025 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the petition). (Ref No.: ASIS/2025-16)

'Last year means nothing'

Defending champ Scheffler ready to fend off game's best at Masters

WORLD NO. 1 Scottie Scheffler isn't taking anything for granted as he prepares for his Masters title defense at Augusta National, where every day brings a fresh challenge and every rival is a potential threat.

"At the end of the day, when I tee it up on Thursday, I start the tournament even par just like everybody else," Scheffler told reporters yesterday.

"Last year doesn't have a lot to do with this year, outside of I can go back on some of the experience that I've had playing well on this golf course and reflect on that."

"Let's say I get off to a bad start on Thursday, and I can use some stuff that I've done here the past few years as confidence to kind of turn things around," he added.

"But at the end of the day, when I step on there on Thursday, we're at even par, and it's a totally new golf tournament. Last year means nothing."

Scheffler is chasing his third green jacket, having won the Masters for a first time in 2022.

He joined Horton Smith as the only players to win two Masters titles in their first five or fewer

starts, and he's never finished outside the top 20.

But Scheffler said Augusta National, so familiar as the only course to host a major every year, remains a constantly changing challenge.

"A lot of the golf course changes with the weather here," he said. "A lot of the strategy for this place, I think, changes with the conditions of the course."

"I think a lot of it's pretty fluid around the way you play the course because, depending on the firmness of the greens, there's certain pins you can try to attack and there's certain pins you've got to steer clear of."

Scheffler's Masters triumph last year was part of a nine-win campaign, but after suffering a hand injury in a Christmas cooking accident he has made a slower start to 2025.

Scottie Scheffler.
—REUTERS/SPIC

That has plenty of pundits tipping world No. 2 Rory McIlroy, a two-time winner already this year, to challenge for a first green jacket that would complete the Northern Ireland star's career grand slam.

Scheffler, however, said any number of golfers could emerge as contenders in a field that features top PGA Tour and DP World Tour pros – including reigning PGA Championship and British Open winner Xander Schauffele – along with top LIV Golf players who have slumped in the rankings but own formidable major resumes.

That includes 2023 Masters champion Jon Rahm, reigning US Open champion Bryson DeChambeau and five-time major winner Brooks Koepka.

The depth of talent, Scheffler said, makes it a n y b o d y 's tournament.

"It's one of our jobs to go out there and take it," he said. —AFP

PIN HIGH

Morikawa ponders career Slam



WITH triumphs at two majors and strong showings at the two others, Collin Morikawa admits the thoughts have snuck into his mind about a career Grand Slam.

World No. 4 Morikawa captured the 2020 PGA Championship and the 2021 British Open. The 28-year-old American would love to move one step closer to the feat by winning this week's Masters at Augusta National.

He has two top-five finishes at both the Masters and US Open over the past four years, sharing third last year for his best Masters showing.

That's enough to ponder joining Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Gene Sarazen, Gary Player and Ben Hogan in the career Slam club.

"I've been in the lead at the Masters last year. A few years ago even at Brookline (2022 US Open) I was leading through 36. Yeah, it creeps in," Morikawa said.

"If it doesn't creep in, then you really don't care. For me, you care so you want to put yourself in these positions. It doesn't always work out but it's definitely something you want to try and accomplish."

"I do know fully how hard it is, but it's not like one of them I haven't played well. I've been close. It's just keep knocking at the door."

Seve still inspires Rahm

FORMER Masters champion Jon Rahm says the mystique of Augusta National has an extra dimension for Spanish golfers still inspired by Seve Ballesteros, the first European to win the coveted green jacket.

In 2023, Rahm became the fourth Spaniard to win the Masters, after Ballesteros in 1980 and '83, Jose Maria Olazabal in 1994 and '99, and Sergio Garcia in 2017.

"I think it all started with Seve," Rahm said yesterday as he prepared for a practice round ahead of today's start to the 89th edition of the Masters.

"I think he set that essence, and it can't be a coincidence that the last two Spanish players to win it both won it on what would have been Seve's birthday."

"There's definitely something here going on with him and with all of us, and I think it's something we can all feel."

Cabrera returns with regrets and hope

ANGEL CABRERA returns to the Masters this week for the first time since spending 30 months in prison for domestic violence, expressing regret while hoping to take advantage of a second chance.

The 55-year-old from Argentina won the Masters in 2009 but has not played in a major since 2019 after being behind bars from 2021-2023.

Cabrera was approved to play PGA Tour-sanctioned events in 2023 and won last week's 50-and-over PGA Tour Champions James Hardie Pro Football Hall of Fame Invitational.

"I'm very happy," Cabrera said yesterday. "Had a great week and that gives me a lot of confidence to even play better this week."

Cabrera said he has learned from his actions and hopes to make the most of his second chance beyond golf.

"Obviously I regret things that happened and you learn from them," Cabrera said. "But at the same time those are in the past and we have to look forward what's coming."

"Life has given me another opportunity. I got to take advantage of that and I want to do the right things in this second opportunity."

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJLISRET DI KUALA KUBU BHARU DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAM SIVIL NO. BF-A72NCVC-24-01/2025

Antara
MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) ...PLAINTIF
Dan
SATHIASILAN AL NADESAN (NO. KP: 731017-10-5861) ...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGKIJAN

Kepada,
SATHIASILAN AL NADESAN (NO. KP: 731017-10-5861) SBD-113 Jalan Bakarwal 2 Sek B510 Apt Seri Bakarwal Bukit Sentosa 3 46300 Rawang, Selangor

SATHIASILAN AL NADESAN (NO. KP: 731017-10-5861) No. SBD-113, Jalan Bakarwal 2 Pangapuri Seri Bakarwal, Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majlisret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NCVC-24-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlatarlat di Jalan Bukit Kerjangan, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 20.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majlisret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Notis Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan notis tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membatalkan tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfailkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 10 harbulan April 2025.

LL
Pegumbara bagi pihak Plaintiff
Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengkijian ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu, Pegumbela & Pegumbara, pegumbara bagi Plaintiff yang dinamakan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penyampaiannya di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: 017-7171474
Ruj:LPKAR/LIT/MDHS (SIN)/14/2022
Email:lawpracticeofkaram@gmail.com

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJLISRET DI KUALA KUBU BHARU DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAM SIVIL NO. BF-A72NCVC-27-01/2025

Antara
MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) ...PLAINTIF
Dan
NOR AZAH BINTI NGAPIN @ SARMAN (NO. KP: 740919-10-5214) ...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGKIJAN

Kepada,
NOR AZAH BINTI NGAPIN @ SARMAN (NO. KP: 740919-10-5214) No. SBD-411 Jalan Bakarwal 2 Kumpang Sijangkang 42500 Teak Panglima Garang Selangor

NOR AZAH BINTI NGAPIN @ SARMAN (NO. KP: 740919-10-5214) No. SBD-411, Jalan Bakarwal 2 Pangapuri Seri Bakarwal, Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majlisret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NCVC-27-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlatarlat di Jalan Bukit Kerjangan, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 20.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majlisret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Notis Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan notis tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membatalkan tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfailkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 10 harbulan April 2025.

LL
Pegumbara bagi pihak Plaintiff
Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengkijian ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu, Pegumbela & Pegumbara, pegumbara bagi Plaintiff yang dinamakan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penyampaiannya di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: 017-7171474
Ruj:LPKAR/LIT/MDHS (NAN)/20/2022
Email:lawpracticeofkaram@gmail.com

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJLISRET DI KUALA KUBU BHARU DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAM SIVIL NO. BF-A72NCVC-16-01/2025

Antara
MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) ...PLAINTIF
Dan
THEN KOON FATT (NO. KP: 680116-10-5009) ...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGKIJAN

Kepada,
THEN KOON FATT (NO. KP: 680116-10-5009) No. SBE4-13 Jalan Bakarwal 2 Pangapuri Seri Bakarwal, Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

THEN KOON FATT (NO. KP: 680116-10-5009) No. SBE4-13, Jalan Bakarwal 2 Pangapuri Seri Bakarwal, Bukit Sentosa 46300 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majlisret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NCVC-16-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlatarlat di Jalan Bukit Kerjangan, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 07.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majlisret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Notis Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan notis tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membatalkan tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfailkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 10 harbulan April 2025.

LL
Pegumbara bagi pihak Plaintiff
Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengkijian ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu, Pegumbela & Pegumbara, pegumbara bagi Plaintiff yang dinamakan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penyampaiannya di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: 017-7171474
Ruj:LPKAR/LIT/MDHS (TKF)/18/2023
Email:lawpracticeofkaram@gmail.com

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJLISRET DI KUALA KUBU BHARU DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAM SIVIL NO. BF-A72NCVC-36-01/2025

Antara
MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) ...PLAINTIF
Dan
JAAFAIR SIEK BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (NO. KP: 651012-08-6139) ...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN SECARA PENGKIJAN

Kepada,
JAAFAIR SIEK BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (NO. KP: 651012-08-6139) No. 56 Jalan Kasturiat 2C Perumahan Jalan Kasturiat, Bandar Wilayah Persekutuan, Putrajaya Sungai Bayu 43010 Rawang, Selangor

JAAFAIR SIEK BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (NO. KP: 651012-08-6139) No. 56 Jalan Kasturiat 2C Perumahan Jalan Kasturiat, Bandar Wilayah Persekutuan, Putrajaya Sungai Bayu 43010 Rawang, Selangor

AMBI PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majlisret Kuala Kubu Bharu dalam Guaman Sivil No. BF-A72NCVC-36-01/2025 oleh MALIS PERBANDARAN HULU SELANGOR (dahulu dikenal sebagai MALIS DAERAH HULU SELANGOR) yang berlatarlat di Jalan Bukit Kerjangan, 44000 Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan Mahkamah ini telah memberi perintah bahawa Writ Saman bertarikh 24.01.2025 hendaklah dilaksanakan secara penyampaian ganti kepada Defendan dengan menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada papan kenyataan di Mahkamah Majlisret, Kuala Kubu Bharu, menyampaikan satu salinan perintah ini pada alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui dan juga secara menyerahkan sesalanan Notis Periklanan untuk sekali sahaja di suratkhabar tempatan dan bahawa penyampaian sedemikian hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup dalam tempoh empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh akhir penyampaian dokumen tersebut dan pengiklanan notis tersebut mengikut yang mana lebih lewat.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membatalkan tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari penyampaian dan penyerahan pengiklanan ini, memfailkan Memorandum Kehadiran. Kegagalan kamu untuk berbuat demikian boleh menyebabkan Pengiklanan Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 10 harbulan April 2025.

LL
Pegumbara bagi pihak Plaintiff
Law Practice of K.A. Ramu

Notis Penyampaian Secara Pengkijian ini telah dikeluarkan oleh Law Practice of K.A. Ramu, Pegumbela & Pegumbara, pegumbara bagi Plaintiff yang dinamakan diatas dan yang mempunyai alamat penyampaiannya di Unit G082, Ground Floor, Millenium Square, 98 Jalan 14/1, Section 14, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: 017-7171474
Ruj:LPKAR/LIT/MDHS (JAF)/94/2022
Email:lawpracticeofkaram@gmail.com

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT SHAH ALAM (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO. BA-28NCC-215-03/2025

In the Matter of Section 465 (1) (e) and 466 (1) (a) of the Companies Act, 2016.
And
In the Matter of West Consortium Haulage Sdn. Bhd.
(Company No. 201601009659 (1180567-P))
Between
YONGMAY AUTO (WESTPORT) SDN. BHD. (Company No. 201401002702 (1078776-X)) ... PETITIONER

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Winding-Up of the above-named Company by the High Court was on the 24th March, 2025 presented by Yonmay Auto (Westport) Sdn Bhd (Company No. 201401002702 (1078776-X)) and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Shah Alam at 9.30 o'clock in the morning at Tingkat 2, Bangunan Utama, Kompleks Mahkamah Tinggi Shah Alam on the 30TH JUNE 2025 and any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at Lot G3657, No. 25, Lorong Jala 14/51/1, Tokong, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan

The Petitioner's Solicitors are MESSRS HO DAN RAKAN RAKAN of Suite 9-18, 9th Floor, Wisma Zetian, No. 1, Jalan Tekong, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Messrs Ho Dan Rakan Rakan Solicitors For The Petitioner

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs Ho Dan Rakan Rakan notice in writing of his intention to do so. The Notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or his or her solicitors (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named Messrs Ho Dan Rakan Rakan not later than twelve o'clock noon on the 28th June, 2025.

TEL: 03-91732150
Email: horakand28@gmail.com
Email: HO DAN RAKAN RAKAN (WONGSB) (B)

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYSIA AT SHAH ALAM (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANIES WINDING-UP NO. WA-28NCC-295-03/2025

In the Matter of Section 465, Section 465 (1)(e) read together with Section 466 (1) (a) of the Companies Act 2016;
And
In the Matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972;
And
In the Matter of VELFARE ENERGY SDN. BHD. (Company No. 202301008686 / 1502607 - U) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the above-named Respondent by the High Court was on the 13.03.2025 presented by Mohamed Nazim Bin Mohamed Azman (NIC No.: 010817-10-1893) and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the court sitting at Kuala Lumpur on 24.06.2025 at 9.00 o'clock in the morning 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 the hearing by himself or his Counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at 1 Jalan Telawati, 2, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur.

The Petitioner's Solicitors are Messrs. Krishnan & Krishnan of 1-1, Jalan Telawati, Bangsar Baru, 59100 Kuala Lumpur.
Messrs. Krishnan & Krishnan
NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve personally or send by post to the above-named Messrs. Krishnan & Krishnan, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The Notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or his or her solicitors (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent in sufficient time to reach the above-named Messrs. Krishnan & Krishnan not later than 12.00 o'clock noon of 23.06.2025.

TEL: 03-2201 3350
Email: krishnan@kgklaw.com.my
Email: krishnan@kgklaw.com.my
Email: krishnan@kgklaw.com.my



Man Utd reliant on Europa League to salvage season

MANCHESTER UNITED'S lone hope of salvaging anything from a terrible season lies in the Europa League, where success is vital to helping finance a rebuild of Ruben Amorim's underperforming squad.

United travel to Lyon for the first leg of their quarterfinal tomorrow (3am Malaysian time), the first meeting of the clubs since Cristiano Ronaldo's goal settled a last-16 tie in 2008 en route to the English giants' last Champions League title.

A dour 0-0 draw with Manchester City at the weekend left United in 13th place in the Premier League, prompting Amorim to say his side must improve "everywhere" with the team destined for their worst top-flight finish in at least 35 years.

The Europa League offers United their only route back into Europe next season, but falling short of anything but the trophy in Bilbao next month would have severe financial repercussions.

"It's not the most important thing for Manchester United because we have a lot of things to do, but you can see it, in this season, the Europa League is really important," said Amorim.

"We can reach the Champions League next season, we can win something, so we are going to do everything to try to go to the next stage."

Failure to qualify for Europe's top competition is expected to cost United at least £100 million (RM550m), ramping up the pressure at a time when the club's financial headroom is already limited, with cost-cutting measures prevalent.

"We are suffering a lot to make next year so much better and that is our goal," Amorim said last week, conceding time was not on his side. "We are in a rush."

Winning the Europa League title is as important to Lyon as it is to United, with French football's financial control body warning the seven-time champions earlier in the season that they would be relegated without drastic action to reduce debts.

That could lead to the departure of Rayan Cherki, who has struck a rich vein of form since his proposed move to Borussia Dortmund collapsed, scoring the winner against Lille on Saturday.

For now though Cherki is fully focused on leading Lyon's European charge, starting with Thursday's visit of United.

"We're going to play with confidence and to win," said Cherki. "We're ready. We've been waiting a long time for this. It's going to be a battle of men. We're going to have to go to war." —AFP

Shaken Real insist comeback possible

FOR a while it seemed like the same old story, Real Madrid soaking up the pressure while their attacking superstars waited impatiently to punish Arsenal on the counter.

But then Declan Rice scored two brilliant free-kicks and Mikel Merino added a third goal, leaving the holders on the verge of Champions League elimination as Arsenal secured a 3-0 quarterfinal first leg triumph yesterday.

Instead *Los Blancos* are forced to fall back on another of their favourite tales, that of the impossible comeback made reality at the Santiago Bernabeu, and the party line was immediately clear.

"We're totally convinced we can turn it around, this is Real Madrid, positive mindset and let's go for it," said defender Raul Asencio.

"If there's one team in the world that can turn this around, it's us, with our fans, with our pitch, our stadium," Lucas Vazquez told *Movistar*.

"Next Wednesday will be a totally different game to this and together we will get it done."

However despite their words, this time Madrid

must find doubts creeping in.

This is not the Real Madrid side that lost just two games in the whole of last season – the humbling at the Emirates is their 11th defeat of the campaign.

Vinicius Junior is struggling for form, Kylian Mbappe can't do it all by himself, even though he kept trying, and Eduardo Camavinga is banned for the return.

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois made a handful of excellent saves in London before Rice's two freekicks left him no chance and put the record 15-time winners against the ropes.

Real Madrid's long list of comebacks in Europe is an exponentially self-fulfilling prophecy.

Fans at the Bernabeu help whip games into a frenzy, believing their team will triumph no matter the situation, and Madrid's opponents start to crack.

With Paris Saint-Germain two goals ahead on aggregate in 2022, a 17-minute Karim Benzema treble turned the tie on its head.

They pulled off further sensational comebacks against Chelsea and Manchester City on the way to

the trophy in one of the wildest runs in the competition's history.

"(A comeback) is difficult but we know we're strong at home with our fans," said Courtois.

"They have to believe in this team, from the first minute we'll give everything to turn around the result."

"We have to correct our mistakes and try to win. If we score one or two, quickly... I think it's possible."

Arteta's side allowed Madrid only a couple of opportunities in the first leg, and their lead gives them license to hold back next week.

However at Real Madrid there is only one way of thinking permitted.

"In football everything can happen," pointed out Ancelotti.

"We'll need something special," said Jude Bellingham, who created Madrid's best two chances in the first leg.

"Of course we can," said Mbappe, when asked if Madrid can fight back as he headed for the team bus. —AFP

Inter strike first blood

Late Frattesi goal gives Milan edge over Bayern in Champions League

AN 88th-minute Davide Frattesi goal took Inter Milan to a 2-1 win at Bayern Munich yesterday, giving the Italians the edge after the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal.

Undermanned Bayern, nursing a bulging casualty ward, set the tone in the first half-hour, with Michael Olise and Harry Kane narrowly failing to break through.

Inter opened the scoring on the 38-minute mark when Marcus Thuram's clever back-heel found Lautaro Martinez who blasted home.

The Italians maintained control until Bayern veteran Thomas Muller, days after announcing his departure after 25 years at the club, scored the equaliser with a typical poacher's finish with five minutes remaining.

Not content to be spectators to a Bayern fairytale ending, Inter broke on the counter just three minutes later, with Carlos Augusto finding Frattesi, who scored Inter's second.

Inter, defeated in the final by Manchester City two seasons ago, have their noses in front in their bid to make the last four of the competition.

The late goal consigned Bayern to their first home defeat in the Champions League since 2021, a run of 22 matches.

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany said his side "fully believe" in their chances despite yesterday's setback.

"In the first half we were very dominant. We had clear chances and should have scored more goals," Kompany told reporters.

"Inter's ahead, but we need to win in Milan. Results aren't always fair, but it's halftime."

"We were confident and it's a shame Inter scored this late goal, but we'll have the chance again in Milan, that's how we feel. We're fully believing in our chances in Milan."

Bayern striker Harry Kane agreed, saying "there's 90 minutes to play and we've got the players to turn it around."

"Inter celebrated like they won the tie there at the end, but it's

all there to play for.

"We created enough opportunities to hurt them and if we do the same next week, we can turn it around."

The English captain had been set up perfectly by Olise, who found his striker in space and completely unmarked inside the box.

It looked a sure goal, the type of chance a striker of Kane's quality is expected to bury, in the sort of moment a Champions League winning side is expected to conjure.

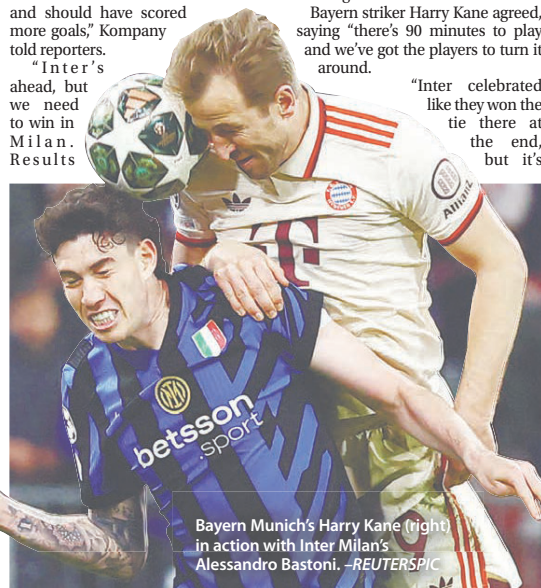
"It doesn't happen very often," Kane lamented after the match (as captured by *Sky Sport* journalist Florian Plettenberg, via @iMiaSanMia).

"That's the life of a striker, sometimes it happens. It was one of those. It's part of being a footballer. You have to take the highs with the lows."

"The good thing is that I'm getting chances. I'll go into the game against (Borussia) Dortmund with the same confidence and hopefully get back in the score sheet."

Two-time Champions League winner Muller lamented Inter's "stupid" late goal, saying "when we watch the footage, when we analyse it, we'll know we could have done better."

"It wasn't a brutal defeat. We've played the first half, the first leg – we imagined a different result but we know there's still something in it for us." —AFP/Agencies



Bayern Munich's Harry Kane (right) in action with Inter Milan's Alessandro Bastoni. —REUTERS/PIC

SHORTS

We showed what we were made of, says Martinez

GOALSCORER Lautaro Martinez said his Inter Milan side "showed what we were made of" after a 2-1 win at Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League quarter final yesterday.

Speaking with *Sky Germany*, the World Cup winner said his side showed their "character and personality" with and without the ball.

"It was a complete performance. I'm really pleased because once again on a difficult ground the boys showed what they were made of."

The victory was Inter's fifth in a row in the competition, marking the first time they have

won that many consecutive games since winning it all in 2010.

The loss was Bayern's first at home in the Champions League in 22 matches.

Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said his side's desire to win was more important than the result.

"Even in the 91st minute we didn't stop thinking about how to win the match even though we'd conceded a few minutes before..."

"The boys were brilliant, let's keep going."

"It's a huge performance and it gives us great satisfaction... but we have to follow up on what we did here in seven days."

Inter goalie Yann Sommer, who won the Bundesliga with Bayern before joining Inter in 2023, said his side would not try and protect their lead in their bid to make the final four.

"We go into every game to win," Sommer told

Amazon Prime.

"I think it's dangerous to go into a game to try and play out a 0-0. We want to go further and that requires a great performance."

Five English teams in 2025-26 Champions League

THE Premier League will be guaranteed at least five teams in the 2025-26 Champions League edition following Arsenal's stunning 3-0 win over Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal tie yesterday.

The English top flight needed just one win from its clubs in any of the three European competitions to secure one of two extra berths – on top of the four granted to the top four in the table – awarded to the highest-ranked countries

in the Uefa coefficient ranking.

In this system, teams earn two points for a win and one for a draw, adding up all the points obtained by each club and dividing by the number of clubs from that league participating in Europe.

England could have up to seven teams in the upcoming Champions League if Aston Villa win this year's edition without qualifying through the Premier League table, and if either Manchester United or Tottenham Hotspur are crowned in the Europa League.

Italy lead the race for the second additional place, with Spain and Germany trailing behind.

Premier League leaders Liverpool and second-placed Arsenal look set to claim two of the five available berths, while Nottingham Forest hold a strong third position.

RUBEN AMORIM has defended Manchester United's post-season trip to Asia, saying it is a "small sacrifice" to reward the club's global fan base while also potentially providing funds for team strengthening.

United announced on Tuesday that Amorim's squad will travel to Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong straight after their final match of the campaign to play two friendlies.

The Red Devils host Aston Villa in the Premier League on May 25 and will then immediately fly out to Malaysia to face the Asean All Stars in the 84,000-seater Bukit Jalil National Stadium three days later.

United will then play Hong Kong, China, in the Hong Kong Stadium, on May 30.

Small sacrifice for Devils

Amorim defends Man United's post-season Asia trip

Asked if he had been consulted about the trip, Amorim told *Sky Sports*: "Yes of course. The board talked to me about this situation."

"We have to look at the context of the club. We are raising our tickets (prices) for our fans."

"We are doing all this so we have also to make sacrifice - and (it) is a small sacrifice. It will be six days and we make contact with our fans around the world."

"They come here every weekend to see games at Old Trafford, so everybody in the club is making sacrifices."

"This is nothing compared to what people are doing to watch our games. We will do our small part. We are lucky to be here and we move forward because that tour will help us also to maybe

improve the team if we need."

United had already confirmed their participation in the Premier League Summer Series in the United States in July and August.

They play West Ham in New Jersey on July 26, Bournemouth in Chicago on July 30 and Everton in Atlanta on Aug 3 before the Premier League season kicks off again on Aug 16.

The issue of player welfare has again been thrust under the spotlight by United heading to the Far East, especially with the journey sandwiched between the end of a strenuous domestic campaign and World Cup qualifiers at the start of June.

Amorim said: "We try to deal with that. We are going to travel in very good conditions. We are trying to rotate."

"We want to show our players to our fans in other parts of the world, and my job to manage all the players."

"We'll try to deal with the different players going to the national team."



Ruben Amorim.
- REUTERS/SPIC

Leeds back on top as promotion race heats up

IT was all change at the top of English football's second-tier Championship yesterday as Leeds moved from third to first on goal difference with a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough.

Burnley, meanwhile dropped from first to second following a goalless draw at Derby and Sheffield United dropped down from second to third after losing 1-0 at home to Millwall.

With only five games to go, it all makes for a fascinating finale to the season given only the top two at the end of the regular campaign are guaranteed promotion to the lucrative Premier League - the other place will be decided by playoff games involving the teams finishing third to sixth in the standings.

Former Manchester United forward Daniel James earned Leeds a key victory in the promotion race yesterday.

The Welsh international scored with a close-range finish just two minutes after kickoff at the Riverside, his 12th of the Championship campaign.

"It was crucial today to return back to a clean sheet," Leeds manager Daniel Farke told *Sky Sports*. "Especially in the last few games we have conceded too many goals."

Leeds also had a couple of strikes disallowed, with Farke adding: "Normally when two regular goals are disallowed, you don't win such a hard away game, but our lads found a way."

Burnley lost their place at the summit but were still two points clear of third-

placed Sheffield United after a goalless stalemate by relegation-threatened Derby at Pride Park.

"It's a team fighting for their lives," said Burnley boss Scott Parker, adding: "We defended exceptionally well and overall it's a point gained and another clean sheet."

Sheffield United slipped up against Millwall, with Josh Coburn's first-half strike good enough to give the promotion-chasing Londoners victory.

Blades manager Chris Wilder reckoned his team had "just shot ourselves in the foot really".

"The goal, from our point of view, there were so many things we could have done better to prevent that."

Victory lifted the Lions to within three points of the top six.

"I thought we deserved it," said Millwall manager Alex Neil. "I think if you look at the clearest chances in the game they fell to us."

Sunderland remained adrift in fourth after a goalless draw at Norwich. Bristol City moved up to fifth after their 96th-minute winner in a 2-1 victory at home to West Brom.

Both second-bottom Luton and third-bottom Cardiff scored injury-time equalisers to keep pace with Derby.

Stoke missed the chance to pull clear of danger after conceding to Luton in a 1-1 draw while Hull's 1-0 defeat against Watford means they are just two points clear of the relegation zone. - AFP

"We'll try to arrange everything and it will not be hard to do that."

Many fans have voiced their disapproval online, expressing disbelief at what they see as another example of the club chasing profits at the expense of footballing priorities under the Glazer family and part owners Sir Jim Ratcliffe and Ineos.

One United fan, as per *goal.com*, warned on X about potentially repeating the mistakes of last year, when Erik ten Hag saw a number of players suffer injuries before the start of the new season.

"How about prioritising tactics and match fitness of the players. Remember what happened with Ten Hag in the last pre-season."

Another fan bluntly wrote: "Money money money," adding "no wonder half the side is injured." - The Independent/Agencies



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5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	+	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

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Draw Date: 09/04/25 (Wed) Draw No: 5977/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER1+3D	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
	0102	7353	1469
Starters	4090 7817	3749 1071	
	0814 6806	4769 8006	
	7377 9756	2472 7013	
	3181 0640	8344 1620	
	2047 9006	3439 8189	
Consolation			

1+3D Jackpot	Jackpot 1	Jackpot 2
	RM14,521,677.90	RM179,417.90
	0102 + 7353	7353 + 0102
	0102 + 1469	1469 + 0102
	7353 + 1469	1469 + 7353

Winning numbers are valid only for the corresponding 1st to 3rd Prize.

3+3D Bonus		1st Prize Bonus
1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
180 102 + BOAR		RM50,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
587 353 + ROOSTER		RM892,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
941 469 + TIGER		RM1,961,506.00

Starters	Consolation
204 090 997 817	473 749 471 071
950 814 496 806	504 769 418 006
777 377 969 756	792 472 287 013
403 181 100 640	858 344 401 620
742 047 139 006	873 439 828 189

3D	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
	102	353	469

3D Jackpot	Jackpot
	RM1,033,074.20
	102 + 353 + 469
	102 + 469 + 353
	353 + 102 + 469
	469 + 353 + 102

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.
HSSB 1+3D J1 RM1,399,439.30 & J2 RM183,281.60 won on 6/4/25!

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RESULTS & STANDINGS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE (Quarterfinals, 1st leg): **Arsenal 3** (Rice 58, 70, Merino 75) **Real Madrid 0**, **Bayern Munich 1** (Muller 85) **Inter Milan 2** (Martinez 38, Frattesi 88).

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Blackburn 2 Sheffield Wednesday 2, Bristol City 2 West Bromwich Albion 1, Derby 0 Burnley 0, Middlesbrough 0 Leeds 1, Norwich 0 Sunderland 0, Preston 2 Cardiff 2, Sheffield United 0 Millwall 1, Stoke 1 Luton 1, Watford 1 Hull 0.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	41	24	13	4	80	28	85
Burnley	41	23	16	2	55	12	85
Sheff Utd	41	26	7	8	56	31	83
Sunderland	41	21	13	7	57	37	76
Bristol City	41	16	15	10	53	44	63
Mid'boro	41	17	9	15	61	50	60

BRIEFS

M'sia eye Olympic-calibre coaches

MALAYSIA'S athletics coaching lineup could soon be bolstered by the arrival of international coaches with a proven track record of producing Olympic champions, said Malaysia Athletics (MA) technical director Robert J Ballard. He said the national athletics governing body has shortlisted several potential candidates to strengthen the national squad and athlete development programme, but the final decision lies with the National Sports Council (MSC). "The names we suggested have either coached or produced Olympic gold medalists. We're looking at a mix of foreign and local coaches," Ballard told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. "It's not just for sprint events – we're working across several disciplines. These changes take time, and we also need to secure the necessary funding. Once everything is finalised, we'll make an official announcement." Yesterday, MA confirmed that a new coaching lineup for the national athletics squad is expected to be announced soon.

Record number of teams for Penang 7's

THE 24th PSC International Football 7's Tournament is set to make an exciting return this year, with a record 70 local and international clubs participating. Organised by the Penang Sports Club (PSC) football section, the annual tournament will be held this weekend at the PSC field, featuring three categories, namely Veterans, Masters and Grandmasters. Organising chairman A. Balasubramaniam said over 60% of the participating teams will be from overseas and the rest from various states across Malaysia. "There are 18 teams confirmed for the Veterans category, 28 for the Masters and 24 for the Grandmasters. Among the foreign teams are those from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, the Maldives and Brunei. "In addition, there will be strong representation from Malaysian teams coming from across the country – Penang, Kedah, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak," he told a press conference in George Town yesterday. "For football enthusiasts, this will be a perfect opportunity to catch a glimpse of yesteryear international stars from Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, the Maldives, Australia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and China," he added.

Sze Fei–Nur Izzuddin cruise into round two

MALAYSIA'S top men's doubles pair, Goh Sze Fei–Nur Izzuddin Mohd Rumsani, advanced to the second round of the 2025 Badminton Asia Championships (BAC) in Ningbo, China, yesterday.

The tournament's top seeds beat Japan's Takuro Hoki–Yugo Kobayashi 21-18, 21-16.

Another Malaysian men's pair, Man Wei Chong–Tee Kai Wun, also progressed after defeating Hong Kong's Law Cheuk Him–Yeung Shing Choi 21-14, 21-12.

Earlier, professional women's singles player Goh Jin Wei also advanced to the second round after

defeating Taiwan's Sung Shuo Yun 21-16, 21-13 in 41 minutes.

The former world junior champion will meet Thailand's Supanida Katethong in the next round.

Fellow Malaysian professional, women's singles player Wong Ling Ching, making her debut in the tournament, fell in the first round after losing to Indonesia's Komang Ayu Cahya Dewi 17-21, 21-16, 17-21.

National men's singles player Leong Jun Hao was also shown the exit after losing to Taiwan's Lin Chun Yi 11-21, 19-21.

Huge boost for Xin Ying

National squash queen books spot in U-23 World C'ships semifinals

MALAYSIA'S Yee Xin Ying (pic) pulled off a major upset to book her place in the semifinals of the U-23 World Championships after defeating second seed Malak Khafagy of Egypt yesterday.

The inaugural edition of the championships, taking place at the DHA Creek Club, Karachi, features an array of the world's top squash talent aged 22 and under.

In front of a lively crowd, world No. 82 Xin Ying went in as clear underdog against the world No. 31, but belied the 51-place difference in the world rankings with a spirited opening game as she pressed Malak hard.

Malak, 20, was able to edge ahead as she took the opener 11-9, only to be pegged back 8-11 in game two.

Xin Ying kept the momentum in game three, capitalising on mistakes from the frustrated Malak to move ahead for the first time with an 11-9 win, before Malak dragged herself level with an 11-7 game four win.

In a fractious fifth game, Malak and Xin Ying collided frequently as the pair wrestled for control of the court.

Xin Ying looked to have secured a famous upset when she earned four match points at 10-6, only for Malak to dig in to save three to move within a point of forcing a tie break.

In a nerve-shredder finale, Malak played a



loose shot back towards herself, with Xin Ying crashing into her opponent as she charged after the ball.

To Xin Ying's delight and Malak's unbridled fury, a stroke decision was given in the Malaysia's favour to bring an enthralling match to a close and send the 21-year-old into the last four.

"She's a very good player and this win is definitely such a boost of confidence for me!" Xin Ying admitted afterwards.

The other women's semifinal will between Egyptian top seed Fayrouz Aboelkheir and Malaysia's Aira Azman, after Fayrouz downed a determined Tse Toby of Hong Kong 3-1, and Aira beating Tse's compatriot Fung Heylie 3-0.

In the men's draw, Pakistan's Hamza Khan went down in a hard-fought defeat to Malaysia's Ameeshenraj Chandaran but Noor Zaman kept the home flag flying with a convincing win over France's Melvil Scianimanico.

Noor will take on Ameeshenraj in the last four after the Malaysian took down 2023 World Junior Champion Hamza, fighting his way to a 3-1 win. The other men's semifinal will be an all-Egyptian affair between top seed Ibrahim Elkabbani and Kareem El Torkey, with Ibrahim taking down 2022 World Junior Champion Rowan Damming of the Netherlands and Kareem defeating Swiss David Bernet in straight games. – World Squash

Sri Pahang turn it around to thrash Kedah

SRI PAHANG FC'S transformation in the second half proved to be the turning point for the team as they thrashed Kedah Darul Aman FC 6-0 in their Super League clash at the Temerloh Municipal Council Stadium on Tuesday night.

Head coach Fandi Ahmad said he was initially concerned about his side's first-half performance, as they came under pressure and committed a few unforced errors.

"The first half was quite terrifying, and had the opponents scored, the result could have been very different.

"But in the second half, Sri Pahang improved – our players were more focused, the attacking line was sharp, and the passing was much better," he said at a post-match press conference.

The former Singapore international said the positive shift was also influenced by his tactical

changes, including several substitutions after the break.

"We brought in fresh players such as Nor Azam Azih and Mohamad Saiful Jamaluddin after noticing a drop in performance in those positions.

"We also introduced Manuel Federico Hidalgo to strengthen the attack, which contributed to this resounding win," he said.

He hoped the win would also inspire his players to give a serious challenge to Johor Darul Ta'zim in the upcoming Malaysia Cup.

Kedah Darul Aman head coach Victor Andrag said the outcome might have been different had his players converted a few golden opportunities in the first half.

"In the second half, I noticed that many of my players were already tired, but they didn't give up," he said. – Bernama

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3rd Prize **8985**

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5823 8841	0956 0817
8328 9310	7479 2481
3801 4234	8207 1967
8147 4741	8458 9245

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM3,463,663.50**

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5263 + 4500	5263 + 8985
8985 + 4500	8985 + 5263

Jackpot 2 **RM251,136.04**

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Jackpot 2 **RM164,752.56**

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Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	0 0 6 3 8 5	
GROUP 2	00638	OR 06385
GROUP 3	0063	OR 6385
GROUP 4	006	OR 385
GROUP 5	00	OR 85
	OR 63	
GOLDEN NUMBER	05	

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SCAN ME



'Last year means nothing'

Story on page 28



Small sacrifice for Devils

Story on page 30



Huge boost for Xin Ying

Story on page 31

THIS is the European pedigree that Mikel Arteta desired, and a victory to go down in Arsenal history. For now... But with the promise of more.

Arteta had said his club needed to "create our own story" before this 3-0 evisceration of Real Madrid - a sentence that almost warrants repeating - and this was far more than just that. It was an epic.

They now need to finish that story, both at the Bernabeu next week and maybe even by lifting the Champions League trophy for the first time at the end of next month.

There should be no doubt about their capabilities after a victory like this.

Madrid were subjected to the kind of humiliation that many had long suspected was possible from so many campaigns, but that so few teams have been able to do.

Arsenal managed it, fully displaying the conviction that Arteta has instilled in this burgeoning side.

The odd thing was, it could have been even worse for Madrid had it not been for Thibaut Courtois, and yet the goalkeeper could be construed as culpable for both of the first two goals.

That is perhaps harsh given the sheer quality of Declan Rice's strikes in his sensational free kicks, before Mikel Merino gave Arsenal the kind of scoreline their performance deserved.

Arsenal didn't just brutalise Madrid, though. They outsmarted them, which is arguably the deeper story of this sensational victory.

Arteta had more injuries and a squad that lacked both the depth and the stars of their Spanish opponents, but you wouldn't have thought that judging from this rout.

That came from the intelligence about how to approach the challenge. They were canner, Arteta's pre-match gameplan paying off as they simply didn't make the kind of mistakes that Madrid usually depend on.

Madrid may not have been playing in white but they looked like ghosts. There was so much more substance to Arsenal.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are now going to have to conjure up the kind of comeback beyond even what they did in 2021-22.

Yes, it is Madrid and it is the Bernabeu but Arsenal should not go there with any doubt. They were too good here.

It was a performance worthy of

All Guns blazing

Arsenal obliterate Madrid to write most epic story in Emirates history

European champions. That ascendancy was reflected by the context of the goals that won it.

To think these were Rice's first free-kick goals at senior level. What a moment to rise to the occasion.

Arteta hailed Rice's magical double set-piece strike and then insisted Arsenal have "a lot more to give" in their historic bid to win the Champions League.

"Declan's been very determined because we have said in the last few months that we have not scored a direct free-kick in three-and-half years.

"So, to score two goals in 12 minutes of that magnitude and of that quality from the same player, a player that has never scored a freekick before in his career, what are the odds?"

"This night was all about two factors; one is the atmosphere that we created 15 minutes before kickoff with something I haven't seen before.

"And then the magic, the individual moments that decide all matches. And the first two goals from Declan sums up the night."

Speaking after the game, Rice revealed that he was told by several of his teammates, including Martin Odegaard, to attempt to deliver a cross rather than shoot.

However, after some words of encouragement from Bukayo Saka, he changed his mind and decided to shoot.

He told *Amazon Prime*: "It's been in the locker, but I've hit the wall too many times or it's gone over the bar.

"Originally we were going to cross it and then I've just seen the wall and the goalkeeper's position. So I thought

just go for it. And Bukayo (Saka) said to just feel it.

"The second one I had the confidence. I hit it. It's not going to hit me now because there's another leg to go.

"I'm excited, I'm happy, I'm over the moon. But in a few years' time this will really hit me that what I've done tonight was really special" - The Independent/Express Newspapers



Arsenal's Mikel Merino (left) celebrates scoring their third goal with Declan Rice during their Champions League quarterfinal first leg match yesterday. - REUTERS/PIC