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Kolombong solar plant opens ahead of schedule

Sabah's clean energy transition has reached another milestone with the Kolombong large-scale solar plant having commenced commercial operation on Oct 17, quite ahead of the scheduled Nov 26 deadline.

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WORLD

Brazil's Lula clinches historic victory

Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pulled off a dramatic comeback on Sunday as he clinched a re-election victory, but his rival Flavio Bolsonaro refused to accept the loss and said he would seek to annul the vote.

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SPORTS

Asian para champ eyeing World C'ships and LA28

Sabah's national para athlete Jonathan Wong Kar Gee is targeting next year's World Para Athletics Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in his bid to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games (LA28).

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Call for MA63 timeline

Ewon says a clear timeline needed to resolve five outstanding issues, including oil and continental shelf rights

KOTA KINABALU: Penampang MP Datuk Ewon Benedick has called for a clear timeline for the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) Supreme Committee to resolve five outstanding issues concerning Sabah and Sarawak.

The Sabah Deputy Chief Minister III said the matters, which could not be resolved by the MA63 Technical Committee and Implementation Action Council, must be given urgent attention and brought to a conclusion.

He said the five issues included oil royalties and petroleum cash payments, oil minerals and oil fields, state rights over the continental shelf, the Territorial Sea Act 2012, and stamp duties imposed under the Sabah Land Ordinance and Sarawak Land Code.

"What we want is a clear timeline. When will the

committee meet to decide on and finalise the five issues that have been raised?" he said when interjecting during the reply by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs) Datuk Mustapha Sakmud in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday.

The Supreme Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and comprises the Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor.

Ewon acknowledged the progress made in implementing MA63, including the resolution of 16 matters, but stressed that the five outstanding issues remained significant, particularly those involving state revenue and the protection of Sabah's rights under Article 161E of the Federal Constitution.

He said the federal government's commitment to MA63 would be questioned by the people, especially in Sabah, when Parliament was dissolved and elected representatives returned to seek their mandate.

"This is not just about the achievement of the 16 matters mentioned earlier, but also the five key issues that remain unresolved," he said.

Ewon also questioned whether the Supreme Committee would have the commitment and opportunity to discuss and finalise the outstanding matters before the next general election.

He said the same issues had been discussed when he was part of the Federal Government and continued to be raised after he returned to serve in the Sabah government.

"Therefore, the question of a timeline is very important, not only to us in Sabah, but

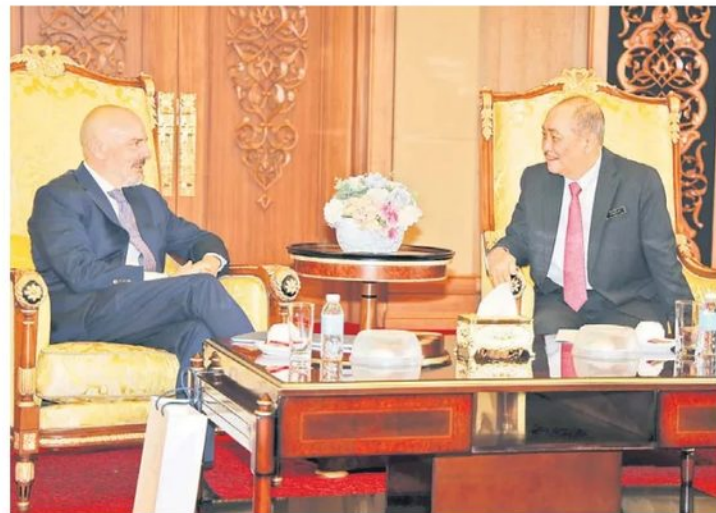
also to the people of Sarawak and Malaysia as a whole," he said.

In response, Mustapha said a meeting of the Supreme Committee would depend on the availability of the Prime Minister, Sarawak Premier and Sabah Chief Minister.

He said the Sabah and Sarawak Affairs Division would continue monitoring the matter to ensure the three leaders could convene a meeting.

Mustapha added that resolving the five issues required mutual agreement through negotiations between the federal government and the Sabah and Sarawak governments, as the federal government could not decide on them unilaterally.

Of the 16 MA63 matters resolved to date, 12 were settled under the Madani government, while the remaining four had been resolved previously, he said.



Hajiji (right) in discussion with Langella.

Italy keen on exploring investment opportunities in Sabah

Nancy Lai

KOTA KINABALU: Italy is keen to explore investment opportunities in Sabah, particularly in the oil and gas, tourism and higher education sectors, said Italian Ambassador to Malaysia Raffaele Langella.

He said Italian businesses had shown strong interest in Sabah, which offered various opportunities for investment and cooperation.

"The interest in Italy is huge. They know there are many opportunities to explore in Sabah. But they need assistance, perhaps in scouting for investments, so I discussed with the Chief Minister how we are going to go about it," he said after paying a courtesy call on Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajiji Noor at Menara Kinabalu here yesterday.

Langella said Italy was also keen to assist in promoting Sabah ahead of Visit Sabah Year 2027.

"Next year, it will be Visit Sabah Year 2027, so we would like to give a helping hand (in promoting Sabah)," he said.

He added that higher education was another promising area for collaboration, with Italian universities keen to expand their presence and partnerships in the region.

"University cooperation is a very interesting field and promising. Italian universities are more and more competitive, and they are very much interested in expanding their activities in this part of the world, and in Sabah in particular," he said.

Langella expressed hope that the meeting would pave the way for stronger bilateral relations and lead to meaningful outcomes in the future.

Hajiji, meanwhile, said Sabah welcomed the interest shown by the Italian government and businesses in exploring investment opportunities in the state, particularly in oil and gas, tourism and higher education.

"We welcome the interest of the Italian government and businesses to explore the business opportunities in Sabah further," he said.

Also present was Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Datuk Cesar Mandela Malakun.

MACC seeks public help to locate man for probe

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is seeking a local man to assist in an investigation in Sabah.

In a statement on Monday, MACC identified the man as Jamaluddin Jamahali, 24, who is being investigated under Section 17(b) of the MACC Act 2009.

The commission said attempts

to contact him and locate him at his last known address in Kampung Keramat, Semporna, Sabah, had been unsuccessful.

Anyone who knows his whereabouts or has relevant information is urged to contact investigating officer Abu Hudzaifah Abd Talib at 014-8573727 or via email at hudzaifah@sprmm.gov.my. — Bernama



Ewon speaks in the Dewan Rakyat.

Drug suspect arrested in Telipok, air rifle seized

KOTA KINABALU: A man suspected of drug trafficking struggled with police before being arrested with 51.31 grammes of syabu during a raid at Taman Telipok Ria, Telipok, here on Sunday.

During the raid at about 9am, police also seized an air rifle hidden in a chicken coop in the area.

Sabah Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department (NCID) chief Assistant Commissioner Alhusin Halil said the 31-year-old suspect was detained after police personnel conducted surveillance for about 10 minutes.

He said the suspect was initially seen standing in a suspicious manner before attempting to flee when approached by police.

"The suspect also acted aggressively, resulting in a struggle, but was successfully arrested using minimum force."

"A search of the suspect's black bag uncovered 112 plastic packets of various sizes containing substances suspected to be syabu, weighing 51.31 grammes and worth RM2,565," he said when contacted on Monday.

He said preliminary investigations found that the suspect was believed to be involved in drug trafficking and received a commission of RM200 for every RM1,000 worth of syabu sold.

Police are now tracking



The air rifle seized by police.

another individual believed to be linked to the drug trafficking activities to assist in further investigations, he said.

"The suspect has a previous drug-related criminal record, and an application for remand was made today to assist investigations under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952," he said.

In a separate development, Alhusin said 28 individuals tested positive for drugs during three separate operations at entertainment outlets around Penampang and Inanam last Saturday and Sunday.

He said the operations, conducted by the Sabah

NCID, involved checks on 158 individuals comprising employees and patrons of the entertainment outlets.

"Of the total, 28 individuals, comprising 16 men and 12 women, tested positive for drugs in preliminary urine screening tests."

"The substances detected included ketamine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, benzodiazepines and THC," he said.

He said the cases were being investigated under Section 15(1)(a) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, while intelligence gathering and monitoring of the entertainment outlets would continue.

One seriously injured after car overturns in Penampang

PENAMPANG: A man was seriously injured while two others sustained minor injuries after the car they were travelling in skidded and overturned at Kampung Minintod here on Sunday.

In the incident at about 5pm, two victims were reported trapped in the vehicle, while the third managed to get out on his own before firefighters arrived.

Penampang Fire and Rescue Station chief Zeno Tingalan said the station received an

emergency call through the NG999 system at 5.07pm.

He said eight firefighters, along with a fire engine, were dispatched to the scene and arrived seven minutes later.

"Upon arrival, the team found that the accident involved a car that had skidded on its own before overturning."

"Firefighters then extricated the two trapped victims and carried them on stretchers before handing them over to ambulance personnel," he said in a statement

on Monday.

He said the three victims were a 56-year-old man, a 21-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman.

All three were subsequently taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital II (HQE II) for further treatment, he said.

"The 21-year-old man sustained serious injuries, while the other two victims suffered minor injuries. The operation ended at 5.50pm after firefighters ensured there were no other hazards at the scene," he said.



Firefighters carry the seriously injured victim on a stretcher to be handed over to ambulance personnel for further treatment.



Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid (eleventh right) in a group photo with ECoS top management and representatives of TG Solar Sdn Bhd.

Kolombong solar plant opens ahead of schedule

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's clean energy transition has reached another milestone with the Kolombong large-scale solar plant having commenced commercial operation on Oct 17, quite ahead of the scheduled Nov 26 deadline.

According to the Energy Commission of Sabah (ECoS), the plant – developed and owned by TG Solar Sdn Bhd under the Teck Guan Group – is the first large-scale solar project to complete the full planning, implementation and completion cycle under commission's regulatory oversight through the LSS-Sabah 2024 programme.

With an installed solar capacity of 22.5 MWp and an export capacity of 15 MWac, the plant is expected to supply approximately 33.4 GWh of electricity annually to Sabah's power grid, equivalent to the electricity needs of more than 9,000 homes.

ECoS chief executive officer

Datuk Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid said the project's early completion marked progress in advancing renewable energy development in Sabah.

"Achieving this milestone 40 days ahead of schedule reflects the commitment and coordination of the developer, contractor, various government departments, the utility and the teams involved.

"This project was awarded through ECoS' large-scale solar competitive bidding exercise in 2024.

"Its successful delivery demonstrates the effectiveness of competitive bidding in facilitating renewable energy development, while showcasing the capabilities of local Sabah developers to deliver large-scale energy projects.

"ECoS will continue supporting responsible renewable energy development that balances reliability, affordability and sustainability, in line with the

Sabah Energy Road Map 2040 (SE-RAMP 2040)," he said in a statement.

Sited on a 36.1-acre land at Jalan Cenderakasih, off Jalan Lintas in Kolombong, the plant combines ground-mounted and rooftop solar installations comprising 30,000 bifacial solar modules.

Electricity generated by the plant is supplied to Sabah Electricity under a 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA), through a 33 kV interconnection at the Kolombong main intake substation.

The project was delivered with GV Borneo Sdn Bhd serving as the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning contractor, supported by local consultants and site personnel.

The plant achieved its initial operation milestone on Sept 8 this year, when it first exported solar energy to the grid, before commencing commercial operation on Oct 17.

e-Lestari: FSI wants phased payments for RM300 per-worker training fee

KOTA KINABALU: The Federation of Sabah Industries (FSI) has called on the Sabah government to allow phased payments for the RM300 per-worker training fee under its e-Lestari initiative to ease the financial burden on employers.

FSI vice-president for Government and Industries Liaison Sylvester Chua said the federation supported the initiative's objectives of improving foreign workers' competency, workplace safety and employment compliance, but stressed that implementation should take into account industry needs and businesses' cash flow.

He said employers should be allowed to propose suitable training programmes for approval by the relevant authorities, with payments made progressively according to agreed training schedules instead of requiring a lump sum upfront.

"For example, a company employing 1,000 foreign workers could face a RM300,000 financial commitment if all workers are subject to the requirement.



Sylvester Chua

"Quarterly implementation would ease immediate cash-flow pressure while ensuring that training objectives are achieved," he said in a statement.

Chua said employers were already facing multiple financial obligations, including foreign-worker levies, Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Social Security Organisation (Socso) contributions, Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) levies for eligible Malaysian employees, rising operating costs, and anticipated wage adjustments following Budget 2027.

He also urged the government

to recognise existing employer-funded training programmes where appropriate to avoid duplication and unnecessary expenditure.

"FSI further calls for clarification on whether e-Lestari will cover manufacturing, construction and other industrial sectors, as well as its implications for foreign-worker licence renewals," he added.

Chua said training contributions should be tied to confirmed programmes, actual delivery and measurable outcomes rather than becoming an additional upfront financial burden on employers.

He proposed closer consultation between the government, industry associations and employers to develop a transparent, flexible and sustainable implementation framework.

A balanced approach, he said, would strengthen workforce development while safeguarding business sustainability, employment opportunities and Sabah's long-term industrial competitiveness.

Perikatan Nasional to initiate disciplinary action against Bersatu — Takiyuddin

KUALA LUMPUR: Perikatan Nasional (PN) will initiate disciplinary proceedings against Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) over actions deemed contrary to the coalition's interests.

PN secretary-general Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said the decision was made at a PN Supreme Council meeting on Sunday night, in accordance with Article 15 of the coalition's constitution.

He said the article empowered the PN Supreme Council to take disciplinary action against any member party, individual member, affiliated party or associate member found to have acted against the coalition's

interests.

"The PN Supreme Council has the authority to take disciplinary action against any member party, individual member, affiliated party, or associate member by issuing a warning, suspending, or expelling the party or member concerned if they engage in conduct contrary to PN's interests.

"PN will take the appropriate steps under the disciplinary proceedings and formally present the charges to the member party concerned, namely Bersatu," he told a press conference after the meeting.

Takiyuddin said Bersatu would be given sufficient time to respond to the charges before

any further action was taken.

Meanwhile, he said PN had decided to use its own logo in the 16th Melaka state election.

"The number of seats and candidates will be determined through a series of meetings to be held, during which these details will be finalised," he said.

He said the court's decision on Oct 22 to stay the Registrar of Societies' (RoS) order suspending PN's activities had enabled the coalition to resume its activities and functions as usual.

The Election Commission (EC) has set Oct 31 for nomination, Nov 10 for early voting and Nov 14 as polling day for the Melaka state election. — Bernama

New WARISAN leadership to strengthen party — Shafie

SANDAKAN: Parti Warisan (WARISAN) president Datuk Seri Panglima Mohd Shafie Apdal has high hopes for the party's new leadership to strengthen the party and attract greater support from young voters in the next election.

He said the large number of candidates who offered themselves for election this time showed that WARISAN continued to enjoy the confidence of its members as a platform to champion the people's voices.

He said the new leadership line-up, which included young people from various backgrounds and areas of expertise, could bring added strength to the party.

"My expectations are high that

they will be able to contribute to and strengthen the party.

"We are aware that young voters will make up a significant number of voters in the next election.

"I hope they will support young people who can shape their future," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after delivering his winding-up speech and adjourning WARISAN's annual general assembly and party election here on Sunday.

Shafie said a combination of experienced leaders and new faces was important in building a stronger leadership team and expanding the party's network, not only within the country but also internationally.

He said the members' response to the election also reflected their confidence in WARISAN's struggle, with many offering themselves as candidates for seats on the Supreme Council, vice-president posts and leadership positions in the party's wings.

He hoped the new leadership would make the most of their respective strengths to reinforce the party and ensure that the people's aspirations continued to be championed.

In the election, Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis secured 259 votes, followed by Datuk Junz Wong with 254 votes and Datuk Mohd Azis Jamman with 242 votes to be elected vice-presidents.



(From left) Munirah, WARISAN deputy president Datuk Darell Leiking, Shafie, WARISAN secretary-general Datuk Loretto Padua Jr, Junz and Azis.

SAMENTA Marks 40 Years, Urges SMEs to Compete Through Innovation and AI

PETALING JAYA: The Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Malaysia (SAMENTA) marked its 40th anniversary on Wednesday, 21 October 2026, with a renewed call for Malaysian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to move beyond cost-based competition by embracing artificial intelligence (AI), digitalisation and homegrown intellectual property.

At its SAMENTA 40th Anniversary Ruby Gala at M World Hotel, Bandar Utama, the association highlighted its four-decade role in representing SMEs and outlined priorities to help businesses adapt to changing economic conditions and compete in global markets.

SAMENTA National President Datuk William Ng and National Deputy President Edwin Ng attended the celebration, which also recognised government agencies and industry partners supporting the SME community.

Founded in Penang in 1986 by the late Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu, then Penang Chief Minister, SAMENTA was established to help local SMEs develop into capable suppliers for the state's emerging electronics manufacturing sector.

The association has since grown into a national, multi-racial and multi-sector organisation representing more than 4,000 members across manufacturing, services, logistics, food and technology.

SAMENTA National Deputy President and Ruby Gala organising chairman

Edwin Ng said the challenges facing SMEs had evolved significantly since the association's establishment, with businesses now having to navigate AI adoption, environmental, social and governance (ESG) requirements, rising labour costs, tax changes and increasingly complex compliance obligations.

Despite these changes, he said SMEs continued to require strong representation in policy discussions to ensure their concerns were considered when new regulations and reforms were introduced.

Among SAMENTA's key initiatives was its 2023 SME Trade Mission to Taiwan, which brought together more than 200 Malaysian SMEs and generated RM58.6 million in potential business.

The association also expanded its Hyperlocal AI Fest in 2026 into a 50-city programme to bring practical AI training to SMEs beyond major urban centres.

Other initiatives include ASEAN's first Circular Economy Certification, the RetailTech+ programme and a Digitalisation Grader tool to help businesses assess their progress in adopting digital technologies and sustainable practices.

For the 2026-2029 term, SAMENTA's National Council has identified three priorities: accelerating AI adoption and digitalisation while advocating policy reforms; helping SMEs transition from original equipment manufacturing (OEM) towards owning their brands, designs and

intellectual property; and making ESG compliance and the circular economy more accessible to smaller businesses.

The association also highlighted three pressing challenges facing SMEs: rising business costs, limited access to financing and the widening digital and AI adoption gap between smaller enterprises and larger companies.

SAMENTA called for reforms to be implemented with sufficient transition periods, more realistic credit assessments and stronger financing guarantees. It also urged policymakers to consult SMEs before introducing new regulations.

The gala recognised long-time SME advocate and former SAMENTA secretary-general Yeoh Seng Hooi with the Presidential Award. Six agencies, namely SME Corp, the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Malaysian Industrial Development Finance Bhd (MIDF), the National Institute of Entrepreneurship (INSKEN) and the Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (SIDEK), received Friends of SAMENTA Awards.

As it enters its fifth decade, SAMENTA said its focus would be on helping Malaysian SMEs compete through innovation, technology and stronger homegrown brands, rather than relying solely on lower costs.

(Content Partnership)



Edwin Ng, National Deputy President & Ruby Gala Event Organising Chairman of SAMENTA.



(Left to right) Edwin Ng, Dato Indera Abu Bakar (MATRADE), Rizal B Dato Nainy (SMECorp), Tan Sri Rr Fong Chan On (former minister), Datuk Teng (SMECorp), Datuk William Ng, Dato Sri Abd Halim (SAMENTA advisor).



Dr Cassidy Morris, director of JKR Sarawak, delivers the welcoming remarks during the pre-launch ceremony of Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara (HPTN) Sarawak 2026 on 24 September 2026 in Kuching, Sarawak.



Deputy Works Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Maslan officiates the pre-launch ceremony of HPTN 2026 at the Kompleks Kerja Raya, Kuala Lumpur on 8 September 2026.

HPTN 2026 Heads to Sarawak in December

By NURIN ABDULLAH

KUCHING: Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara 2026 (HPTN 2026) will bring together technical professionals, government agencies, industry players, educational institutions and the public at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK), Sarawak, on 1-2 December 2026, to celebrate technical expertise and highlight its role in driving sustainable national development.

Carrying the theme "Profesion Teknikal Pemacu Kelestarian", this year's event aims to recognise the contributions of technical professionals while promoting innovation, knowledge sharing and collaboration across industries.

The theme emphasises the integration of skills, technology and sustainability in supporting development that is innovative, resilient and beneficial to present and future generations.

As Malaysia continues to develop its infrastructure and embrace technological advancements, technical professionals remain essential to ensuring that roads, bridges, buildings, transport systems and public facilities are planned, constructed and maintained to meet quality, safety and sustainability standards.

HPTN 2026 seeks to raise public awareness of these contributions while encouraging greater participation in technical fields, particularly among young people who will form the next generation of engineers, scientists, technologists and other skilled professionals.

The 2026 edition marks a milestone for HPTN as the national celebration moves to Sarawak for the first time, extending its reach to Borneo following previous editions in Penang and Johor. HPTN was established to recognise the expertise, dedication and contributions of technical professionals to the country's development and modernisation.

The initiative was first proposed by the Public Works Department (JKR) to the Public Service Department on 19 June 2012, before receiving further attention at parliamentary level in 2017.

On 3 October 2018, the Cabinet agreed to declare Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara, to be observed on the first Saturday of December each year. The inaugural celebration was held at JKR Malaysia headquarters in Kuala Lumpur in December 2018, under the theme "Profesion Teknikal Pelopor Pembangunan".

In 2024, HPTN expanded beyond the Klang Valley for the first time, with Penang hosting the event, followed by Johor in 2025.

The Penang edition recorded 10,000 attendees, while the Johor edition attracted 15,000. HPTN 2026 is targeting an even higher attendance as organisers seek to reach more Malaysians and strengthen appreciation of the technical professions.

Sarawak's selection as host aligns with the 2026 theme and its development

aspirations, including the state's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030).

The event will provide a platform for technical practitioners and stakeholders from across the country to exchange expertise, explore new technologies and strengthen partnerships in support of sustainable development.

Visitors can look forward to a range of activities, including technical talks, industry networking sessions, technology and innovation exhibitions, career opportunities and interactive programmes for students.

A total of 11 technical talks will be held, featuring speakers who will share insights into developments across science, technology and innovation.

Among the featured sessions are Beyond the Atmosphere: Inspiring the Next Generation, delivered by National Astronaut Dr. Sheikh Muszaphar, and Placing Sarawak as a Regional Digital Leader with AI, presented by Sarawak AI Centre chief executive officer Prof Dr Patrick Then.

The sessions will offer opportunities for participants to explore emerging

developments and understand how technical expertise can contribute to addressing future challenges.

Industry networking will also be a key component, bringing together government agencies, higher education institutions and industry partners to exchange ideas, share knowledge and explore potential collaborations.

Through these engagements, visitors can gain a better understanding of industry requirements, technical capabilities and the opportunities available across different professional fields.

The exhibition component will feature 211 booths involving agencies and companies from across Malaysia, showcasing products, technological developments and technical expertise.

The displays will provide visitors with opportunities to learn more about innovations and solutions across the technical sector, while allowing participating organisations to share their capabilities with a wider audience.

HPTN 2026 will also feature a career carnival with interviews and career talks, providing opportunities for

jobseekers to explore employment prospects and connect with prospective employers.

Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), PERKESO Sarawak and JKR Sarawak, the carnival will target 650 job vacancies involving 12 employers.

The initiative is intended to help participants gain insights into career pathways and workforce requirements while strengthening connections between employers and potential candidates.

For students and young people, the event will offer exposure to technical careers through programmes centred on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Planned activities include science exploration, Steam Challenge, The Crucible Challenge, interactive STEM exhibitions, technology and robotics stations, Robosphero Challenge, science demonstrations, trivia quizzes and Robot Challenge.

These activities aim to make technical learning more engaging by allowing students to explore scientific concepts, interact with technology and develop problem-solving skills.

The programmes also seek to broaden perceptions of technical professions beyond calculations, technical drawings and construction. Creativity, digital technology, innovation and environmental problem-solving are equally important aspects of the sector.

By introducing students to these possibilities, HPTN 2026 hopes to inspire more young Malaysians to pursue careers as engineers,

architects, scientists, technologists and other technical professionals who can contribute to the country's progress.

Beyond the technical programmes, visitors can also explore small and medium enterprise sales booths and food stalls offering local products and food. Lucky draws will be held throughout the event, with free registration required on the day.

The selection of BCKK as the venue provides a setting for technical professionals, industry representatives, educational institutions and the public to come together to discuss innovation and sustainable development.

As Malaysia faces evolving development needs and environmental challenges, collaboration between technical professionals, government agencies, industry and educational institutions will be important in developing practical, sustainable solutions.

HPTN 2026 aims to strengthen these connections while highlighting the importance of technical skills, technological advancement and sustainability in shaping the country's future.

Ultimately, sustainable development requires more than building infrastructure. It involves ensuring that projects are safe, resilient, environmentally responsible and capable of delivering long-term benefits to communities.

Through its technical discussions, exhibitions, networking opportunities and youth-focused activities, HPTN 2026 seeks to promote greater understanding of the technical professions and encourage more Malaysians to contribute to the sector.



Ahmad (centre) during the pre-launch ceremony of HPTN 2026 in Kuala Lumpur on 8 September 2026.

Man jailed for using fake QR payment code

Suraini Andokong

KOTA KINABALU: A man who used a fake QR code receipt during a purchase was sentenced by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday to 10 months' imprisonment.

Mohd Sobrie Eddie, 32, changed his plea to guilty after initially claiming trial to a charge under Section 471 of the Penal Code, punishable under Section 465 of the same Code.

The prosecution had so far called one witness to testify against the accused.

Mohd Sobrie was charged with using a fake QR receipt as genuine in front of a convenience store in Inanam on Oct 19, 2024.

The facts of the case stated that he had agreed to purchase a set of audio equipment worth



Around The Courts

RM1,100 from the complainant.

The accused showed a QR receipt indicating the successful transfer of funds into the account of the complainant's wife.

However upon checking, the complainant found no such transfer of funds and filed a police report which led to Mohd Sobrie's arrest.

Prosecuting before Magistrate Dzul Elmy Yunus was deputy public prosecutor Akaash Singh, while the accused was unrepresented by counsel.

Man jailed seven days for stealing from shop

KOTA KINABALU: The Magistrates' Court here yesterday sentenced a man to seven days in prison for stealing items from a shop.

Magistrate Wan Farrah Fariza Wan Ghazali convicted Mohd Rozzaide Hassan, 41, on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 380 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to 10 years' jail and possible fine.

The offence was committed at a shop located in a shopping complex here on Oct 20, 2026.

Based on the facts of the case, the accused entered the shop and took two handbags, instant noodles, canned food and instant drinks, and left without making payment.

An investigation found that the accused intended to steal the items as he had no money to pay for them.

Deputy public prosecutor Esther Cynthia Jebon prosecuted, while the accused was represented by National Legal Aid Foundation counsel Carmen Khoo.

Man charged with murdering AKPS officer wife at KLIA quarters

SEREMBAN: A man was charged at the Magistrate's Court on Monday with murdering his wife, an officer with the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS), at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) quarters on Oct 15.

Mohd Khairudin Safi'ai, 37, nodded to indicate he understood the charge read before Magistrate Nurul Saqinah Rosli.

However, no plea was recorded as murder cases fall under the jurisdiction of the High Court.

Mohd Khairudin is accused of murdering Norhazwani

Ibrahim, 35, at a house in the KLIA Civil Servants' Housing Complex in Nilai at about 7 pm on Oct 15.

The charge was framed under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which carries the death penalty or imprisonment of between 30 and 40 years and, if the death penalty is not imposed, at least 12 strokes of the cane upon conviction.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Farah Wahidah Mohd Sharip conducted the prosecution, while the accused was unrepresented.

The court fixed Dec 22 for mention. — Bernama

Prosecution rejects Dr Akmal Saleh's representation over public alarm charge

BUKIT MERTAJAM: The Magistrate's Court was told on Monday that the prosecution has rejected a representation by UMNO Youth chief Datuk Dr Muhamad Akmal Saleh seeking to drop his charge of causing alarm to public safety through his social media account last year.

Penang State Prosecution Director Muna Mohamed Jaafar conveyed the matter during proceedings before Magistrate Roshayati Radellah.

However, lawyer Aizat Azam, representing Dr Muhamad Akmal alongside 10 other lawyers, said the defence will apply to submit a second representation after the earlier one was rejected.

Muna said the prosecution had no objection to the second application and would forward it to the Attorney General's Chambers.

"We have no objection if the lawyers wish to submit another representation," she said.



Datuk Dr Muhamad Akmal Saleh (right) at the Bukit Mertajam Magistrate's Court on Monday. — Bernama photo

The court then fixed Jan 4, 2027 as the next mention date for developments regarding the second representation.

In August 2025, Dr Muhamad Akmal pleaded not guilty to a charge of issuing a statement

likely to cause public alarm and public unrest.

He was alleged to have issued the statement through a social media post at about 3 pm on Aug 11, 2025, which was likely to cause public alarm and

unrest.

The charge was framed under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code, which provides for imprisonment of up to two years or a fine, or both, upon conviction. — Bernama

KLIA shooting case: Appeal to backdate jail term dismissed

SHAH ALAM: The High Court on Monday dismissed an appeal by a former travel agency manager to have his seven-year jail sentence for shooting his wife and injuring her bodyguard backdated to the date of his arrest in 2024.

Judge Datuk Seri Shamsulbahri Ibrahim ruled that the Sepang Sessions Court's order for 39-year-old Hafizul Hawari's prison sentence to commence after he had served his sentence for separate offences in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, was lawful and fair.

In his grounds of judgment dated Oct 19, he also stressed that the decision was in accordance with Section 292 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

"Having carefully examined the Appeal Record, the grounds of

appeal, the notes of proceedings, and the written submissions of both parties, I find that the order passed by the learned judge is lawful and fair.

"Accordingly, the appellant's appeal against sentence is dismissed, and the order of the session court judge dated Dec 5, 2025 is affirmed," according to the document.

In the appeal application, the defence argued that Hafizul had been held in remand without bail from April 15, 2024 to Dec 5, 2025, a period of almost 20 months, and that this period should be taken into account when determining his sentence.

The defence also submitted that Hafizul had pleaded guilty at an early stage, had no previous

criminal convictions before the incident and had expressed genuine remorse.

Previously, Hafizul had pleaded guilty to attempting to murder his estranged wife, Farah Md Isa, 40, and voluntarily causing grievous hurt to her personal bodyguard, Mohd Nur Hadith Zaini, during the shooting at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Terminal 1 on April 14, 2024.

He was sentenced to five years' jail for attempted murder and seven years for voluntarily causing grievous hurt using a dangerous weapon. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently, with the seven-year term to begin after he completes his Kota Bharu jail term.

On Feb 25 last year, Hafizul was sentenced by the Kota Bharu Session Court to six years' imprisonment and six strokes of the cane for illegally possessing a Glock 19 pistol, as well as three years' imprisonment for each offence of possessing ammunition without a licence and firecrackers without a permit.

He was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for each of three charges of possessing other people's identity cards and one year's imprisonment for using a fake vehicle registration number.

All the sentences were ordered to run concurrently from the date of his arrest on April 15, 2024. — Bernama

Flight attendant charged with drink-driving, causing death

KUALA LUMPUR: A flight attendant pleaded not guilty at the Magistrate's Court on Monday to two charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, causing the death of a supervisor and injuring a lorry driver in an accident on Lebuhraya Sultan Iskandar on Saturday (Oct 24).

Mohd Iman Nafiz Fong Mohd Sabirin, 26, is accused of driving with a blood alcohol concentration of 64 milligrams (mg) per 100 millilitres (ml) of blood, exceeding the legal limit of 50mg per 100ml, and causing the death of Faris Irfan Fazli, 29, on Lebuhraya Sultan Iskandar heading towards Jalan Parlimen at 4.09 am on Oct 24.

The charge was framed under Section 44(1)(b) of the Road Transport Act 1987 (Amendment 2020), which provides for imprisonment of between 10 and 15 years and a fine of between RM50,000 and RM100,000, upon conviction.

If convicted, the accused may also be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence for a period of at least 10 years from the date of conviction.

He also faces a charge of causing injuries to Ahmad Zakiyamani Zakaria @ Yusuff, 49, in the same incident.

The charge, under Section 44(1A)(b) of the same Act, carries a prison term of between seven and 10 years and a fine of between RM30,000 and RM50,000, as well as disqualification from holding or obtaining a driving licence for at least 10 years from the date of conviction, upon

conviction.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohamad Fadhli Mohd Zamry proposed bail of RM25,000 for each charge, with one surety, as well as the suspension of the accused's driving licence and impounding of his passport, taking into account that he worked as a flight attendant and could pose a flight risk.

Defence counsel Mohd Anif Rafih applied for the bail to be reduced to RM15,000 for each charge. He did not object to the prosecution's additional condition that the accused's driving licence be suspended but opposed the requirement for his passport to be surrendered.

"My client needs his passport for work as a cabin crew member with a local airline. In addition, he is single and supports his family, including his father who requires regular hospital treatment for a heart condition.

"The defence proposes that the accused report to a police station once a month as an alternative to surrendering his passport," he said.

Magistrate Atiqah Mohamed @ Mohamad Saim granted the accused bail of RM35,000 for both charges, with one surety, and ordered his driving licence to be suspended until the case is concluded.

She also ordered him to report to the nearest police station once a month.

The court fixed Nov 30 for case mention. — Bernama

Govt retiree claims trial to charges involving two girls

KANGAR: A government retiree pleaded not guilty in the Sessions Court on Monday to three charges of committing physical sexual assault and criminal force against two girls about two months ago.

Annuar Abdullah, 72, entered the plea after the charges were read out to him before Judge Sharifah Norazlita Syed Salim Idd.

The first two charges alleged that Annuar committed physical sexual assault for sexual purposes against an 11-year-and-five-month-old girl at a house at No. 7, Lorong 4 Jalan Utama here, at 6.30 pm on Aug 11.

The third charge alleges that he used criminal force against a 10-year-and-11-month-old girl by pulling both her legs with the intention of outraging her modesty, at the same place, time and date.

The first two charges were brought under Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, which provides for a maximum prison sentence of 20 years and whipping upon conviction.

The third charge, under Section 354 of the Penal Code, carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, a fine, whipping, or any two of the punishments, upon conviction.

The court granted Annuar bail of RM10,000 with one surety and ordered him to report to a nearby police station on the first day of every month. — Bernama

GISBH granted time extension to file records of appeal

PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal on Monday granted GISB Holdings Sdn Bhd (GISBH) an extension of time to file the records of appeal in its appeal against the Selangor state fatwa.

GISBH's lawyer, Zulkikri Ulul Azmi, had applied for the extension during proceedings, telling the court that the records of appeal were filed 27 days late.

He said his side had been unaware that the draft index had not been submitted, an error that has since been rectified.

A three-judge panel comprising Justices Datuk Mohamed Zaini Mazlan, Datuk Ong Chee Kwan and Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Harun allowed the application and awarded RM5,000 in legal costs to the Attorney-General's Chambers.

"The appellant must pay RM5,000 to the AGC immediately because you made a mistake," he

said.

Senior Federal Counsel Mohammad Sallehuddin Md Ali, appearing for the AGC, said the prosecution maintained its objection to the application.

He said, however, that if the court were minded to allow the extension of time, the AGC would seek costs.

The application follows the Shah Alam High Court's rejection on Jan 9 this year of GISBH's bid for leave to commence a judicial review.

High Court Judge S. Narkunavathy dismissed the leave application after allowing a preliminary objection by the AGC that the fatwa is not amenable to judicial review by virtue of Article 121(1A) of the Federal Constitution.

Narkunavathy said that under Article 121(1A), civil courts are expressly precluded from

exercising jurisdiction over any matter within the exclusive purview of the Syariah Courts.

She further said the case involved a dispute over Islamic tenets, which is not a matter for the civil courts.

Initials judicial review application, GISBH sought a certiorari order to quash the fatwa published on Oct 14, 2024 and gazetted on Oct 16, 2024, which declared GISBH as deviating from the teachings of Islam and prohibited its followers from practising its beliefs, teachings and doctrines.

GISBH also sought a declaration that the fatwa does not apply to the company, which is incorporated under the Companies Act 1965.

GISBH named the Selangor State Fatwa Committee and the Selangor Islamic Religious Council as respondents. — Bernama

Court reduces Klang Council's damages from RM117 mln to RM3 mln

PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal on Monday reduced the damages payable by the Klang Municipal Council, now known as the Klang Royal City Council, to property developer NBC Land Sdn Bhd from RM117 million to RM3 million in a dispute over the rehabilitation of a former dumpsite.

A three-man bench comprising Datuk Ismail Ibrahim, K. Muniandy and Datuk Dean Wayne Daly also set aside nearly RM50 million in pre-judgment interest previously imposed by

the Shah Alam High Court on the local authority.

Delivering the broad grounds of judgment, Justice Muniandy said the Shah Alam High Court was plainly wrong in principle and in law in the assessment of damages which warranted the intervention of the appellate court.

"The contractual damages flowing from the breach of the Dec 2, 2003 agreement must be assessed based on the works contemplated under the contract, namely the soil capping

scheme estimated at RM6 million of which the appellant (Klang Municipal Council) was to bear 50 percent," he said.

Justice Muniandy said the agreement reached by parties was not an open warranty by the local authority to eradicate all waste or convert the dumpsite into virgin ground, rather the consensus was based on a specific proposal by the company's own consultant to execute an in-situ soil capping of approximately 1.5 meters of compacted soil over the waste, at an estimated cost of

RM6 million.

"The parties agreed to share this estimated cost of RM6 million equally, 50 percent each (RM3 million each)," he said.

Justice Muniandy said that the High Court also erred in law in awarding the pre-judgment interest under Section 11 of the Civil Law Act 1956 as the award of pre-judgment interest cannot stand because the rehabilitation works were never executed and the landfill was also never excavated and third-party contractors were also not paid.

"To award nearly nine years of pre-judgment interest, amounting to approximately RM50 million, on an unspent, unliquidated estimate of works penalises the appellant (Klang Municipal Council) and produces an impermissible windfall," he said.

Therefore, he said the court substitute the High Court's award with RM3 million in damages, representing the council's agreed 50 per cent share of the RM6 million rehabilitation cost. — Bernama

Koperasi Green Sabah’s assets jump to RM49.5 mln

Jenne Lajjun

SANDAKAN: Koperasi Green Sabah Berhad has recorded encouraging financial growth, with the value of its fixed assets increasing to RM49.5 million, paving the way for the cooperative to explore new business opportunities in Sabah’s oil and gas sector.

Deputy Chief Minister II Datuk Seri Panglima Masidi Manjun said the cooperative’s financial position had improved from RM4.5 million in 2007 to RM20.4 million in 2024, following a transformation in governance towards more efficient and transparent management.

“Among the cooperative’s key achievements were the purchase of a block of shop lots in Bandar Megah Jaya for RM4.9 million in 2012 and the full financing of the construction of Rimba Point at a cost of RM9.65 million.

“Rimba Point, which was completed in 2025, has opened up a new source of income through the rental of its premises, while the cooperative’s annual income has now reached approximately RM3.13 million. These achievements demonstrate that disciplined and visionary management can bring about significant change,” he said.

He was speaking at the opening of Koperasi Green Sabah Berhad’s 27th annual general

meeting at Dewan Hakka in Sandakan recently.

His speech was delivered by Assistant Minister of Finance II Datuk Ishak Ayub.

Masidi, also state Finance Minister, expressed his support for Koperasi Green’s intention to explore business opportunities in the oil and gas sector in Sandakan and Lahad Datu, which form part of Sabah’s East Coast development area, designated by the state government as an oil and gas hub.

He said the cooperative’s strong financial position and asset base would enable it to consider opportunities outlined in the Sabah Oil and Gas Services and Equipment Industry (OGSE) Roadmap 2026–2030.

“The state government fully supports the cooperative’s intention to explore business opportunities in the oil and gas sector in Sandakan and Lahad Datu. This is a forward-looking aspiration with the potential to generate long-term economic benefits for the cooperative and its members,” he said.

Potential areas for exploration include logistics and transportation, the supply of industrial materials and equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), operational support services, office and workers’ accommodation rentals, catering and food supplies.

In this regard, Masidi advised the cooperative to hold an

engagement session with Sabah Energy Sdn Bhd to obtain guidance on the knowledge, skills and capabilities required to venture into the sector.

Touching on the cooperative’s role in supporting members’ welfare, he said Koperasi Green provided several forms of assistance, including funeral benefits of RM3,000 for members and RM1,500 for family members, assistance for members admitted to hospital, aid for families affected by floods, and academic excellence awards for members’ children who achieved at least six As in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination.

However, he stressed that every business expansion initiative must be carefully planned, including an assessment of its viability and risks, while ensuring that the cooperative had the capacity to undertake the proposed projects.

Masidi said the strength of a cooperative should not be measured solely by its profits or asset value, but should also be assessed in terms of the trust, participation and cooperation of its members.

He also emphasised that business growth must translate into tangible benefits for members and their families.

“Profit is important to ensure business sustainability, and the welfare of members must remain a priority,” he said.

“Every step must be

accompanied by a thorough assessment of viability, risk management and implementation capacity to ensure that the interests of members are always protected,” he added.

Masidi also highlighted the importance of active member participation in determining the cooperative’s direction, including using the annual general meeting as a platform to review achievements, examine its financial position and propose improvements.

“Therefore, let us discuss matters openly, base our deliberations on facts and treat one another with mutual respect. Our goal remains the same: to ensure that the cooperative is managed with integrity, continues to grow and delivers benefits to all its members,” he said.

Masidi, who is also one of Koperasi Green’s founding members and was involved when it was formerly known as The Green Cooperative Society Limited, said the cooperative’s progress demonstrated the importance of trust, dedication and a spirit of togetherness in building a sustainable organisation.

“This journey has demonstrated that, with integrity, dedication and a spirit of togetherness, our cooperative can continue to grow and bring benefits across generations,” he said.



A donor poses with their contribution.

Centre Point’s disaster relief drive surpasses 2025 donation record

KOTA KINABALU: Centre Point Sabah Shopping Mall’s Disaster Relief Donation Drive 2026 collected over 400kg of donated goods and approximately 250 essential items compared to the 160kg and 100 items in 2025.

In a statement, it said this reflected the growing awareness and generosity surrounding the initiative, which was held from Sept 25-Oct 9 at Food Eden.

The drive aimed to provide practical assistance to communities affected by floods, house fires and other emergencies while promoting compassion, social responsibility and collective action.

Donations included clean and useable clothing, dry food, personal hygiene products, drinking water and other essential relief items, with all contributions carefully checked to ensure they were in good condition and suitable for distribution.

“Support also extended

beyond Kota Kinabalu, with contributions received from surrounding areas including Menggatal and Putatan—further demonstrating the strong community spirit behind the campaign,” it said.

Centre Point Sabah said following the collection period, all donated items will be sorted, packed and coordinated with welfare and relief partners for responsible distribution based on the actual needs of affected communities.

It also extended its heartfelt appreciation to every donor and contributor whose generosity helped make the campaign a success.

It also urged members of the public to follow Centre Point Sabah on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok for campaign highlights, donor appreciation posts and future #CPCares initiatives, or contact the Centre Point Sabah Management Office at 088-246900 for further information.

Munirah tops WARISAN veep polls, eyes grassroots training

SANDAKAN: Increasing training opportunities and knowledge-sharing among grassroots members is among the plans of newly elected Parti Warisan (WARISAN) vice-president Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis to strengthen the party’s capabilities.

Munirah, who is also Kota Belud MP, said exposure and training were important in helping members improve their skills and play a more effective role in the party organisation.

She said she had been considering the plan for some time, but its implementation required careful planning, including developing a syllabus suited to members’ needs.

“I believe in training and exposure. I want to organise more training sessions and knowledge-sharing activities with colleagues at the grassroots level.

“I am working on a suitable syllabus and hope to implement the plan for the party,” she said when met after being announced as the winner of the WARISAN vice-president post at the party’s annual general assembly and election on Sunday.

Munirah said she hoped to use the opportunity to take on the new responsibility to contribute to the party’s development,



Munirah is announced as elected WARISAN vice-president with the highest number of votes in the party election.

particularly by strengthening the role of grassroots members.

Commenting on her victory, she admitted that she had not expected to secure the delegates’ confidence to win the post, as time constraints had prevented her from visiting several areas represented by delegates.

She said she had to rush back to Kuala Lumpur after attending parliamentary business, limiting her opportunities to meet more delegates before the election.

Nevertheless, she expressed her appreciation to all delegates who had placed their trust in her.

Munirah said engaging with grassroots members was not new to her, as she had been doing so since before the 14th General Election (GE14), including during her tenure as WARISAN Wirawati chief.

She said her efforts had included visits to Keningau and Long Pasia to engage with members and understand the

situation at the grassroots level.

“Even before becoming vice-president, when I was Wirawati chief, I had made many grassroots visits on my own initiative.

“I have been doing this grassroots engagement work since before GE14,” she said.

In the election, Munirah secured 259 votes to top the poll for the vice-president post, followed by Datuk Junz Wong with 254 votes and Datuk Mohd Azis Jamman with 242 votes.

Missing elderly man found dead in oil palm plantation

BANDAR BAHARU: An elderly man who was reported missing since Oct 4 was found dead in an oil palm plantation in Kampung Air Puteh, Serdang, on Sunday.

Bandar Baharu district police chief Supt Mohamad Sani Mat Ali said the deceased was

identified as Abdul Aziz Ali, 67, based on physical characteristics and personal belongings found at the scene.

“The body was taken to the hospital for further examination and a post-mortem to determine the cause of death,” he said in a statement on Monday.

He said an examination of the scene found no indications of criminal activity.

“Further investigations are ongoing and the public is advised against making any speculation or spreading unverified information to avoid jeopardising the investigation,”

he said.

It was earlier reported that the elderly man’s family believed he had gone missing after leaving his home in Kampung Air Puteh on Oct 4 and had appealed to the public for help in locating him. — Bernama



Azman undergoes a ‘checkup’ at one of the roadshow booths.



Junz Wong retains his post as WARISAN vice-president during the party election.

Junz Wong retains veep post, focuses on grooming young leaders

SANDAKAN: Grooming more young leaders to continue championing Sabah’s rights is a key focus for Parti Warisan (WARISAN) vice-president Datuk Junz Wong after retaining the post in the party election.

Junz, who is also Tanjong Aru assemblyman, said that after 10 years as one of WARISAN’s founding members, his responsibility was no longer limited to fighting for Sabah’s rights and serving the people, but also included guiding the younger generation to become

future leaders.

He said grooming more future leaders was important to ensure the party’s struggle continued to gain strength and was not confined to the current generation.

“My role has changed somewhat, with greater focus on how we can groom more young people with the potential to become leaders.

“We want to produce more outstanding young leaders so they can continue our struggle for Sabah,” he said when met

after being announced as having retained the vice-president post at WARISAN’s annual general assembly and party election on Sunday.

He said WARISAN had given young candidates opportunities to contest in the last State Election, including several elected representatives in their 30s who now held public office.

He said the initiative needed to continue as young people were expected to play an increasingly significant role in determining the country’s political direction.

“Based on my observation of the latest electoral roll, more than 60 per cent of voters are young people.

“Over the next five years, that figure could rise to 70 per cent, and within 10 years, it could reach 80 per cent,” he said.

Junz said young leaders had an advantage in understanding the thinking, language and aspirations of their peers, making it easier to engage with this group.

He said generational differences could create communication gaps if leaders

failed to understand changes in young people’s mindsets and needs.

Therefore, he said, WARISAN needed to continue grooming more young leaders, particularly those in their 30s, to ensure continuity in the party’s struggle and maintain its relevance in the future.

In the party election, Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis secured 259 votes to be elected vice-president, followed by Junz with 254 votes and Datuk Mohd Azis Jamman with 242 votes.

Govt studying models for Malaysian Law Reform Commission

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is assessing suitable models for a proposed Malaysian Law Reform Commission, taking into account the country's legal and administrative framework, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said.

She said the assessment included practices adopted in England and Wales, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and India.

"The commission's proposed core functions include reviewing outdated laws, identifying inconsistencies and legislative gaps, and simplifying legal language," she said when winding up the policy-stage debate on the Supply Bill 2027 (Budget 2027) for her portfolio in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday.

Azalina said the proposed commission would also conduct

research and comparative studies, undertake public consultations and independently recommend legal reforms, including assisting in drafting bills for government consideration.

She said the Legal Affairs Division (BHEUU) had been studying the proposal since August 2023, focusing on the commission's functions, structure and implementation model.

Azalina said the study would be followed by consultations with ministries, government agencies, legal practitioners, academics and civil society.

A steering committee, which she would chair, has also been proposed to coordinate the study, with participation from central agencies and relevant ministries.

"The finalised findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet for

consideration before further developments are reported to the Dewan Rakyat," she said.

The minister said establishing the commission was essential to ensuring legal reform remained a continuous process, independent of changes in government or political leadership.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced during the tabling of Budget 2027 on Oct 9 that the government was studying a proposal to establish the commission to identify outdated laws and legislative gaps.

Meanwhile, Azalina cited the Parliamentary Services Act 2025 (Act 869), which came into force on Oct 1 to restore Parliament's administrative autonomy after nearly three decades, as evidence of the Unity Government's commitment to institutional reform. — Bernama



The successful participants gather for a group photo.

25 complete training for Women's Ministries certification

TAMPARULI: Twenty-five women from Region 7 have received Level 1 Women's Ministries certification after completing their training under the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church.

The certification was presented during a convocation ceremony held recently at the Sabah Adventist Secondary School

(SASS) hall here, in conjunction with the 31st anniversary celebration of Mission-level Women's Ministries.

The event also featured convocation ceremonies for Children's Ministries and Women's Ministries.

Region 7 covers the SDA Church's ministry districts of Tambunan, Keningau, Tenom,

Sook, Sinulihan/Mansiat and Nabawan/Pensiangan, serving communities across Sabah's interior.

The certification recognises the participants' commitment and dedication in completing ongoing ministry training to strengthen their ability to serve families, churches and communities in their respective districts.

SAFVA: More transparency in federal funding distribution for film industry

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Film and Visual Association (SAFVA) is seeking for greater transparency in the distribution of federal funding for the film industry, saying local producers need clarity on the status of their applications to sustain production activities.



Chester Pang

Its president Chester Pang said they welcomed the RM15 million Creative Content Fund (DKK) announced by Communications Minister Datuk Seri Fahmi Fadzil, with applications opening on Nov 16.

However, he said the association hoped the RM140 million allocated for the creative industry under Budget 2026 would translate into more accessible funding opportunities for Sabah filmmakers.

Pang said he had yet to receive clear updates on several funding applications for Sabah film productions submitted to the National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (Finas) around June and July this year.

"Many industry players have been asking about the progress of their applications. They need to know the status so that production planning, financing and work schedules can proceed in an orderly manner," he said in a statement.

He stressed that the issue was not simply the amount allocated, but also access to funding, transparency in the application process and the effectiveness of fund distribution to industry players nationwide, including Sabah.

Pang said several Sabah filmmakers had benefited from Finas financing schemes in 2025, including the Digital Content Fund and Catalyst Fund, with an estimated allocation of more than RM2 million for projects related to Sabah.

He hoped the momentum would continue this year, adding that sustained support was needed to help local producers plan productions, develop expertise and create employment opportunities.

He said Sabah's film industry was showing encouraging progress, with local filmmakers increasingly pursuing projects through self-financing, private investment and partnerships with industry players.

Among the productions he cited were Bas Malam, Mr. Finance directed by Jade Morris, and Bobohizan Next Generation

directed by Marc Abas.

Meanwhile, 4x4 Seram produced by Q5 Quintuple Sdn Bhd is expected to reach audiences in June 2027, subject to the completion of post-production and distribution arrangements.

Pang said the film had received Finas funding support for post-production.

He added that two other films, Beri Aku Waktu directed by Dr Zairul Anwar, and Kak Long KK directed by Deeva Khan, had recently completed filming using self-financing and investor support.

"These developments show that Sabah filmmakers are not simply waiting for government assistance.

"They are also seeking investment, building business networks and looking for opportunities to bring local productions to market," he said.

Pang said a stronger film ecosystem was needed, including accessible financing, production facilities, talent development, distribution channels and screening opportunities.

Looking ahead to 2027, he urged the state government to give greater attention to the creative economy under the relevant state portfolio, including film, music, performing arts, visual arts, publishing and digital content.

He said the sector's progress should be measured not only by the number of events held, but also by the economic value generated, employment created, income earned by industry players and the ability of local productions to reach wider markets.

Pang said SAFVA was ready to work with the state and federal governments, industry associations, private companies and educational institutions to strengthen Sabah's creative ecosystem and establish the industry as a sustainable contributor to the state's economy.



The research team with their published paper.

KVC teachers publish research on women's empowerment

KENINGAU: A team of six teachers from Keningau Vocational College (KVC) has published a research article examining how baking and entrepreneurship training can empower low-income women through its community initiative, Slices of Care.

The study was published in the International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research on Oct 23, 2026.

Titled "Slices of Care: Assessing the Impact of Baking and Entrepreneurship Training for Low-Income Women Through Kirkpatrick's Model", the research examined feedback from participants who attended cake-baking workshops and took part in sales activities in

Keningau.

The initiative aimed to equip low-income women, including single mothers and housewives, with practical baking and entrepreneurship skills to support their livelihoods. The findings showed that participants wanted the project to be conducted regularly to reach more women from similar backgrounds.

They also viewed the initiative as a valuable social platform that allowed them to meet new people, build friendships and strengthen their social connections.

Overall, the study found that the programme was effective in helping participants apply the skills they had acquired during the workshops.

The research team comprised Syafiqah Eugene, Saleha

Suhaidin, Mujip Munib, Syuaib Samijan, Dr Sirhajwan Idek and college director Lumang anak Lang.

The project was supervised by KVC's Bakery and Pastry Programme and had previously received grants from the CHANGE welfare association and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Lumang said he was deeply moved by the dedication shown by the college community in supporting local communities by sharing their expertise and making institutional facilities and equipment available.

He expressed hope that the college's educators and students would continue contributing to society through community service initiatives and social projects.

MOSTI warns against impersonation, fraudulent use of its name

PUTRAJAYA: The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) has received several complaints regarding the ministry's name and identity being misused, as well as those of its officers, by irresponsible parties seeking to collect payments and conduct unauthorised transactions.

In a statement on Monday, MOSTI said it views the matter seriously and stressed that the use of the ministry's name,

logo or official identity without authorisation does not imply that any matter has received approval or involves the ministry.

"All official dealings must be conducted through the channels and procedures established by the Ministry," the statement read.

Accordingly, MOSTI advises the public and industry players to verify matters through the ministry's official channels before making any payment or taking action based on suspicious

communications.

The ministry also reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the public service and protecting the interests of the public and industry players against all forms of fraud and identity misuse.

Those with enquiries or wishing to make verification may contact the Procurement Section, Finance Division, MOSTI, at 03-8885 8164 / 8072 / 8373 / 8506 / 8208. — Bernama

KPKT to standardise short-term rental accommodation rules nationwide

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT), through PLANMalaysia and in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), state governments and local authorities, is drafting STRA planning guidelines to serve as a uniform source of authority.

The move comes as the government seeks to require that only premises registered and fully compliant with local authority licensing conditions

may legally operate short-term rental accommodation (STRA) nationwide, said Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Aiman Athirah Sabu.

"Under this framework, strata premises remain bound by the provisions and by-laws of their respective Joint Management Bodies (JMB) or Management Corporations (MC) under the Strata Management Act 2013.

"To ensure full compliance, the government is also encouraging

strategic cooperation with digital platform companies to implement an automatic licence status verification mechanism before any premises is listed," she said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat on Monday.

She was responding to a question from Syerleena Abdul Rashid (PH-Bukit Bendera) on provisions requiring short-term accommodation platforms to verify licence status, delist unlicensed premises and regulate

such operations.

Aiman Athirah said digital platform providers must take responsibility for delisting premises that are unlicensed or in breach of local authority conditions and existing laws, while enforcement agencies hold the legal power to act firmly against recalcitrant operators.

"Local authorities and enforcement agencies have the right to take legal action under the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 and the Street, Drainage

and Building Act 1974, as well as by-laws, against stubborn operators and to ensure listings of illegal accommodation on service provider portals are blocked," she said.

On the guidelines, she said the document is now in the final review stage with MOTAC before being raised for the Cabinet's consideration.

"The document will be tabled at the National Council for Local Government (MNKT) for mutual agreement before being adopted

by state and local authorities nationwide," she said.

Aiman Athirah praised the Penang state government for moving ahead in regulating the sector through the gazetting of local by-laws.

"Penang has implemented the Guidelines for the Operation of Private Accommodation in Strata Property Schemes from April 1, 2023 and has enforced the Private Accommodation (Local Authority) By-Laws from Aug 1, 2026," she said. — Bernama

Stand firm in GPS seat allocation negotiations, SUPP told

SIBU: The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) central leadership has been urged to stand firm in seat allocation negotiations with Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) ahead of the coming state election and defend its right to contest every seat traditionally allocated to it.

In a statement, SUPP Dudong chairman Wong Ching Yong stressed that the loss of a traditional seat was not merely a matter of individual political fortunes, but also concerned the party's grassroots strength, credibility and future.

Drawing on his own political experience, he highlighted the importance of protecting SUPP's traditional seats.

He said that at the eleventh hour before the candidates for the 2021 Sarawak election were announced, he had been denied

the opportunity to contest under what he described as "baseless allegations".

Having experienced the situation firsthand, Wong said he understood the impact that a last-minute change in the allocation of a traditional seat could have on branch morale and grassroots confidence as well as its long-term development and political standing.

However, he expressed full confidence that SUPP president Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian would do everything possible to safeguard the party's traditional seats.

Wong also voiced his backing for SUPP Bawang Assan chairman Councillor Kevin Lau and expressed confidence that the constituency could undergo significant development within five years if "represented by a

young, energetic and capable elected representative who understands local needs".

"Councillor Kevin Lau is a strong candidate to lead the constituency forward, given his extensive grassroots experience, commitment to public service and positive reception among residents from different ethnic communities," he said.

Wong added Lau had been appointed a councillor for the Sibu Rural District Council (SRDC) in 2023, and currently served as chairman of its Environment and Public Health Standing Committee.

He noted that through these roles, Lau has gained valuable experience in local administration and a better understanding of the needs of rural communities.

Speaking in his own capacity as SRDC deputy chairman,

Wong said he had received positive feedback about Lau from Chinese residents in rural areas, while many longhouse communities had also expressed their appreciation for his work.

"His diligent and practical approach to public service had also earned him praise from residents across different ethnic groups. These endorsements from people of different ethnic backgrounds show that Kevin Lau is not only committed to getting things done, but is also willing to engage with different communities.

"He has the enthusiasm and ability to understand the people's needs and work towards securing more development for the constituency," he added.

He also backed a statement by SUPP Bawang Assan Youth chief Kapitan Chew Hoo Kiong, who on

Sunday said the branch is ready for the coming Sarawak election and backed Lau's Bawang Assan candidacy.

Wong noted that Bawang Assan covered part of Sibu town and surrounding rural areas, including the West Bank and Paradom, while numerous longhouses were scattered along the Igan River, with the constituency extending as far as Matu District in Mukah Division.

"Given its extensive geographical coverage, an elected representative needs a thorough understanding of local conditions, as well as the energy and determination to maintain a strong presence on the ground and serve communities across the constituency.

"Notably, the West Bank and the areas from Sungai Assan to Paradom are relatively close

to Sibu town. With proper planning, better infrastructure and an elected representative who actively seeks government funding and resources, these areas could see significant improvements within just a few years," he said.

Wong said Bawang Assan's vast land resources had yet to be fully translated into economic opportunities.

He said the West Bank was already an important vegetable-producing area, and greater access to investment, technology and markets could help improve agricultural productivity, expand production, create jobs and stimulate the rural economy.

He expressed confidence that Lau has the ability, commitment and drive to bring fresh development opportunities to Bawang Assan.



Abang Johari performs the SUF 2.0 officiating gimmick. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

Tg Embang eyed for billion-dollar AI, new tech investment

Desiree David

KUCHING: Tanjung Embang could be among the locations considered for a proposed billion-dollar investment in artificial intelligence (AI), new technology and data centres in Sarawak, said Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The caretaker Premier said the state had proposals for investments in intelligent data centres, but declined to disclose the names of the prospective investors.

He said the proposed investment could be worth around US\$50 billion, although he could not confirm the exact amount.

"As part of the planning framework, there are indeed

proposals to invest in the state in intelligent data centres.

"However, we cannot disclose the investors' names yet because they are leading international companies," he told reporters after officiating at the opening ceremony for the Sarawak Urban Forum 2.0 (SUF 2.0) here yesterday.

Abang Johari also said he was unaware of the suggested locations in Peninsular Malaysia.

"I don't know about Peninsular Malaysia. What I know is Sarawak."

On Tanjung Embang being considered as a location for the investment, he said it was a possibility.

On Oct 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that a global investor planned

to invest US\$50 billion (RM204 billion) in AI, new technology, and data centres in Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia.

According to reports by The Edge Malaysia and The Business Times, Anwar said the investor had conveyed the intention during a video conference on Oct 20, identifying Kuching and Peninsular Malaysia as locations for the proposed investment.

The Business Times identified the investor as SoftBank Group founder and chief executive officer Masayoshi Son.

Anwar said the investment could create new and better job opportunities for Malaysians, particularly the younger generation, including students in schools and institutions of higher learning.

Abg Johari: ART project is not wasteful spending

KUCHING: The Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) project is a strategic investment aimed at empowering public mobility and modernising urban living rather than a waste of public funds, said Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The caretaker Premier dismissed claims that questioned the necessity and financial prudence of implementing the high-tech transit system in Sarawak.

"This is not a waste of money. It is an investment for the free movement of our citizens and also for the state," he said in his

keynote address at the Sarawak Urban Forum, here yesterday.

Abang Johari emphasised that the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) government actively seeks ways to increase state revenue specifically to reinvest those funds back into high-impact infrastructure and public amenities for the people.

"What the government is doing now is getting money. We have to think to increase our revenue and give it back to the people."

He further highlighted that modernising the public transportation network is essential for creating future-

ready, resilient, and connected cities across the state.

"During a briefing, I was informed that the ART will arrive at stations precisely every 15 minutes. This allows us to properly plan our commutes through an efficient public transport system," he said.

Abang Johari noted that the central ART station is deliberately sited at a historic location to revive and preserve Sarawak's original railway heritage, blending modern technology like hydrogen-powered transit with the state's cultural identity.

'Hard to predict weather ahead of state election'

KUCHING: It is difficult to predict whether haze or rain will have an impact on the 13th Sarawak Election, said caretaker Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg.

"We cannot predict the weather. Whether it will rain or the haze will worsen during the election, I do not know," the Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) chairman told reporters after officiating at the Sarawak Urban Forum 2.0 here.

Addressing concerns over logistical challenges, including past delays in delivering ballot boxes, Abang Johari said the previous incident was linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He indicated that similar disruptions were not expected to be a major concern for PRN13, including potential flooding in rural and interior areas.

Sarawak has been afflicted by transboundary haze since August this year.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari emphasised that Sarawak would maintain its policy of not accepting Rohingya refugees.

He said Sarawak did not face the Rohingya issue because the state had rejected their entry.

"If they were here, then it would become a problem," he said.

Asked whether the policy would remain in place indefinitely, he said Sarawak had immigration powers and would continue to exercise them to regulate the entry of foreign nationals.

He said those entering for economic purposes or to work as foreign workers would be regulated accordingly, while the state would exercise its

immigration powers in cases where individuals arrived without a clear purpose.

In his officiating address earlier, Abang Johari said Sarawak had made the right decision in rejecting the entry of Rohingya refugees into the state.

Despite facing criticism from various quarters over the decision, he said he was glad Sarawak was not facing the Rohingya issue experienced by other states.

"They asked us to accept Rohingya refugees to be placed in Serian. But I firmly rejected the proposal to safeguard the sovereignty of our state," he said.

He said the matter had also been raised during a meeting with Pertubuhan Kebajikan Islam Malaysia earlier yesterday, which touched on the Rohingya situation in the peninsula.

Kuching's Sri Maha Mariamman Temple reconstruction complete, consecration set for Oct 27-30

KUCHING: The reconstruction of the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple here has been completed, with its Maha Kumbhabhishegam (temple consecration ceremony) scheduled from Oct 27 to 30.

Sri Maha Mariamman Temple Association Kuching president Dato Shankar Ram Pohumall Asnani said the celebrations will begin with a chariot procession on Oct 27 at 7.30pm, departing from Sri Srinivasagar Temple in Jalan Ban Hock and proceeding to Sri Maha Mariamman Temple.

On Oct 30, sacred rituals will begin at 7.30am, followed by the main consecration ceremony at 9am.

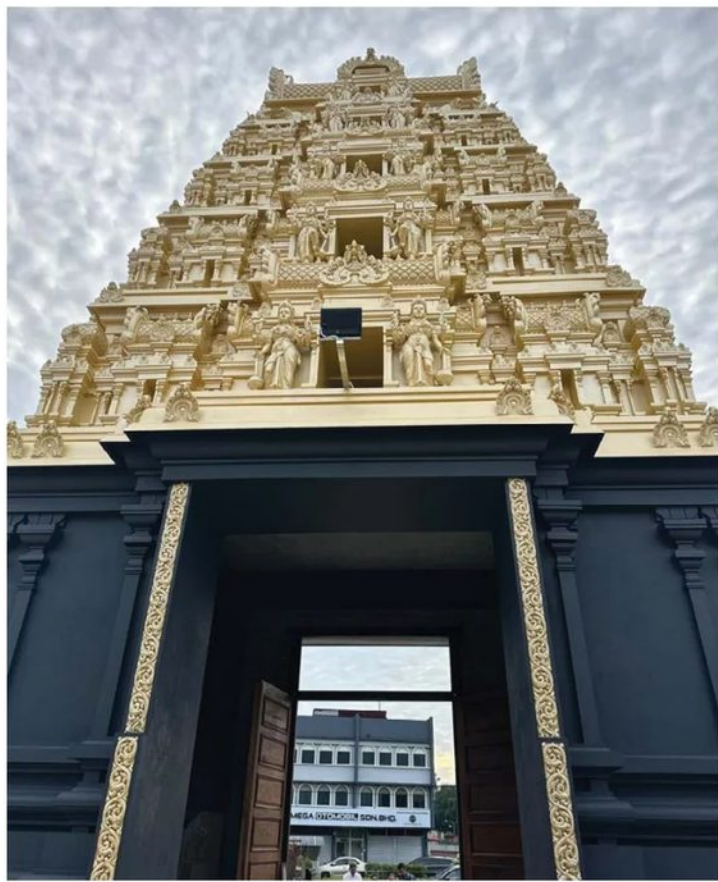
"Devotees and members of the public are warmly invited to join this devotional occasion, bringing the community together in prayer as we prepare for the consecration," he said in a statement.

Shankar said for devotees, the completion of the temple fulfilled a long-held collective aspiration.

"It renews a sacred place of worship that holds deep spiritual, cultural and historical significance for the Hindu community in Sarawak and provides a home for our religious traditions for generations to come," he added.

Following the main consecration ceremony, the temple will observe a 48-day Mandala period of continued prayers and religious observances.

During this period, devotees will have the opportunity to participate in Chandi Homa, a sacred fire ritual dedicated to Goddess Chandi, a manifestation of the Divine Mother associated



The reconstruction of Sri Maha Mariamman Temple in Kuching has been completed.

with protection, courage and overcoming difficulties.

On behalf of the association, Shankar expressed gratitude to Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, Deputy Premiers Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas and Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian, as well as Unit for Other Religions director Dato Georgina Apphia Ngau,

for their support in bringing the temple reconstruction to fruition.

"Under the Premier's leadership, we are witnessing a 'Zaman Kegemilangan Sarawak', an era of progress and shared opportunity in which people truly enjoy freedom of religion, as enshrined in Article 11 of the Federal Constitution," he said.

Grave-robbing five jailed for looting Riam Catholic cemetery

MIRI: Three brothers were among five men sentenced to one year and eight months' imprisonment by the Magistrate's Court here yesterday for vandalising a woman's grave at the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Riam.

A sixth accused, a 16-year-old who is the younger brother of the three siblings, was released on RM1,000 bail with his parents as sureties pending the hearing of his probation officer's report on Nov 25.

All six accused had pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 426 of the Penal Code, which provides for up to five years' imprisonment or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

The five adult accused are Mat Abdul Rahman, 34, and his younger brothers Muhammad Iwan, 33, and Bujang, 28, from Kampung Sebalik, Sibuti; Mohammad Shajiry Abdullah, 21, from Kampung Masjid Lama, Belawai; and Muhammad Khairul Abdullah, 23, from Pujut Adong 1 here.

According to the facts of the case, a 30-year-old man lodged a police report on Sept 3 after his late mother's grave at the Roman Catholic Cemetery 2 in Riam had been broken into and damaged by unknown persons.

The complainant said he learned



Police officers escort the accused at the court compound.

of the incident at about 1.30pm that day after receiving a phone call from his uncle.

The grave had been damaged at the lower part of the wall on the left corner, where ceramic tiles had been smashed to create a hole in an apparent search for valuables.

The deceased's clothing were also found scattered on top of the grave.

Acting on information and intelligence gathered, police arrested all six accused and seized a torchlight, a hammer, a sledgehammer, and a screwdriver as exhibits.

Further investigations revealed that the act was committed at about 3.30am on Sept 2.

Police also found that the group had been involved in similar incidents at several other cemeteries, namely the Methodist Cemetery Riam, the Bahai Cemetery Riam, and the BEM Cemetery Riam.

Deputy public prosecutor Muhammad Farhan Mohd Pauzi prosecuted the case before Magistrate Nursyaheeqa Nazwa Radzali.

All the accused were unrepresented by counsel.

Antonelli looks to seal F1 title after US GP win

AUSTIN: Kimi Antonelli said his mindset will not change as he heads to next week's race in Mexico seeking the two points he needs to become Formula One's youngest world champion.

The 20-year-old Italian delivered a well-executed and dominant drive to claim his ninth victory this year for Mercedes in Sunday's United States Grand Prix and move within reach of the title.

Antonelli is on the brink of smashing the previous record for youngest champion, held by Sebastian Vettel who was 23 years and 133 days old when he won his first title in 2010. He is also set to become the first Italian to win the title since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

"The best way, the perfect way, would be to finish off in style and then just enjoy the rest of the season," he said.

"I'm very aware that it's very close but the mindset doesn't change. I want to finish the season on a high in order to then go with high hopes into 2027. But we'll first focus and worry about finishing this well, and then we'll see."

After Sunday's triumph at the Circuit of the Americas he leads with 365 points ahead of nearest rival and team-mate George Russell on 242 and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari on 241.

He will be champion if he finishes in the top nine or, if he doesn't score, Russell or Hamilton fail to win. But on current form, after winning again for the first time in four races, he looks certain to take the title in his own happy, generous and infectious style.



Antonelli (centre) stands on the podium with Leclerc (left), Mercedes Chief of Aerodynamic Technology Pierluigi Orsi (second right) and Verstappen at the conclusion of the United States Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. — AFP photo

The best way, the perfect way, would be to finish off in style and then just enjoy the rest of the season.

Kimi Antonelli

"That was the perfect way to end the weekend," he said.

"It was an incredible team effort, especially from strategy, to believe in me and go for one stop because I wasn't sure whether one or two stop was the quickest.

"But I'm really happy that we made it stick. Today was a really important victory for me and for the team, especially after having a couple of difficult races, so being back on top feels very good."

Antonelli's ability on the track and infectious attitude off it have landed him numerous admirers around the paddock, including 1996 world champion Damon

Hill.

"The team love him, he's enjoying everything he's got in F1 and he's very grateful for all the breaks they've given him at Mercedes," Hill said on the BBC.

"But he delivers. He's such a nice kid. It's incredible. Twenty years old and he's on the verge of winning his first championship, which I'm sure will be the first of many."

Russell needed to finish in the top eight to remain notionally in the title race and he did indeed finish eighth after taking an early five-second penalty.

"My pace was just rubbish today. That's the long and short

of it," he said.

"Of course, the five seconds didn't help things and probably cost me two or three positions, but nevertheless, the pace was not good enough when it needed to be."

Hamilton is the only other driver who still has a mathematical chance of catching Antonelli but the seven-time champion was left to rue missed opportunities in Sunday's race.

"I felt the race was lost in my first two stints," said Hamilton. "I lost so much time. I couldn't turn the car in the lower speed corners particularly.

"I was adjusting my settings and by the last stint I was closer to the right balance.

"I think I've lost a lot of points in the last five races or so and I think it's really come from set-up or just not perfecting the set-up. It's something I've really got to get on top of." — AFP

Pakistan 'shadab' England to reach tri-series final

LAHORE, Pakistan: Shadab Khan's maiden century rescued Pakistan from a dire situation and took them to a stunning one-wicket victory over England in the one-day international in Lahore on Sunday, booking the hosts' spot in the final of the tri-series.

Defending a modest 242-run target, England were on the cusp of victory with the home team reduced to 154-9, but Shadab's unbeaten 113 condemned Harry Brook's side to a third defeat in five days in the series, which also involves Sri Lanka.

England, who failed to defend a 430-run target against Sri Lanka on Thursday, were left stunned as number 11 Haris Rauf cracked the winning boundary with 17 balls to spare, sparking huge celebrations in the Pakistan dug-out.

Haris, who scored an unbeaten seven, ably played his part in a match-winning 89-run partnership with Shadab for the last wicket.

Shadab, who cracked five sixes and 13 boundaries, was lucky to survive a leg-before decision off Gus Atkinson with 20 needed. But while trudging off distraught, he took a review which overturned the decision.

Restored to the crease, the 28-year-old guided Pakistan to victory and a spot in next Saturday's final – his score now is the highest batting at number eight in all ODIs. It was a stunning turnaround which left pakistan skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi struggling for words.

"I can't say much, Shadab and Haris, the way they finished the game, 89-runs partnership is amazing," said Shaheen.

Brook refused to blame his bowlers in spite of their inability to close out the game, just days after their nightmare against Sri Lanka.

"I don't think we went wrong with the ball, to be honest. I thought we did an exceptional job but maybe didn't quite get enough runs on the board," said Brook.

Pakistan lost opener Fakhar Zaman and Babar Azam for 10 each and Saim Ayub for six in a poor start before Saad Baig (32) and Salman Agha (26) briefly revived the innings.

Match-winner Shadab then entered the fray in the 24th over with Pakistan on 103-6. — AFP



(From left) Esponda and Pease celebrate on the podium after the Women's Floor Exercise Final during the 54th FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships, in Rotterdam. — AFP photo

Pease spins to floor gold, US top medal table

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands: American teenagers Claire Pease and Reese Esponda reaped the reward of high-difficulty routines to take the top two places in the women's floor exercise Sunday on the final day of the World Gymnastics Championships in Rotterdam.

Their medals allowed the United States, who collected eight medals, three of them gold, to edge China for the top spot in the medal count.

China finished with seven medals including three golds, the last of them earlier Sunday when Zou Jingyuan continued his domination of the men's parallel bars.

In the women's floor event, the 17-year-old Pease scored 13.866. Esponda, also 17, was second 13.566, 0.010 off French 16-year-old Maiana Prat and Britain's Abigail Martin, the oldest of the quartet at 18, on a tiebreak.

Prat, who had the lowest degree of difficulty, was awarded bronze because her execution score was better than Martin's.

The American women put on a spectacular show in Rotterdam, led by Skye Blakely, who won gold in the all-around and bronze on the uneven bars and vault. The

Texan, a model of resilience, was the feel-good story of this week in the Netherlands.

She was forced to withdraw from the 2020 Olympic Games, held in 2021 in Tokyo, and the 2024 Paris Games, with injuries.

Zou was again untouchable on the bars. The 28-year-old finished on 15.733 for his fifth world title in the event.

Illia Kovtun, who left his native Ukraine after the Russian invasion and represents Croatia, was a distant second on 14.900, just ahead of Russian Daniel Marinov, representing World Gymnastics, on 14.866.

On the beam, Algeria's Kaylia Nemour claimed her second gold in two days as she edged China's Zhang Qingying a tiebreak.

Brazil's Flavia Saraiva was third.

The 19-year-old Nemour finished tied with Zhang on 14.566 points. Nemour rebounded with two golds after finishing fourth in Friday's all-around after errors on the vault and the uneven Bars.

After finishing close to tears on Friday, Nemour beamed as she received a standing ovation on Sunday. She said she was happy 'even if it doesn't make up for the all-around competition.' — AFP



Doncic works the ball against Darryn Peterson of the Utah Jazz during the second half of their game at the Delta Centre in Salt Lake City, Utah. — AFP photo

Lakers off to 3-0 start, Sixers lose season's first

LOS ANGELES, United States: Luka Doncic scored a monster 52 points as the Los Angeles Lakers maintained their perfect start to life after LeBron James with a 132-123 defeat of the Utah Jazz.

Now the undisputed superstar of the Lakers since James departed this summer for Philadelphia, Doncic also provided 10 assists and eight rebounds in a masterful performance, with eight three-pointers and two steals.

Doncic was supported by Austin Reaves, who had 29 points, as the visitors pulled decisively clear in the last four minutes of a game they had trailed for long periods.

"It's one of the best feelings – down the stretch, tight game, hitting those threes. Played the basketball we know how to play. We are learning our lesson...we cannot start games like this any more," said Doncic.

It was the first 50-point game by an NBA player this season. Slovenian point guard Doncic was the league's top scorer last season.

After cruising to comfortable opening wins against the Golden State Warriors and city rival Clippers, the Lakers overcame their first real adversity of the nascent season in Salt Lake City.

Utah led nearly the entire first half, pulling as many as 18 points clear, with Finland's Lauri Markkanen on scintillating form.

But the Lakers rallied. A Doncic three-point pullup shot with seconds remaining in the second quarter gave Los Angeles a slender lead at the interval.

The Jazz had inched back in front with just over four minutes remaining, when another Doncic trey tied up the score 116-116.

From there Doncic and Reaves were relentless, outscoring the entire Jazz offense in the final quarter between them, as the new-look Lakers moved to a perfect 3-0 start.

"We have a tight group. I think everybody new that came, they feel very welcome here. That's what we want," said Doncic.

Meanwhile James' Philadelphia 76ers, who had won all three of their opening games, fell 106-93 to the Detroit Pistons.

Detroit – who topped the Eastern Conference last season – led wire-to-wire, pulling 21 points clear in the second quarter.

Tyrese Maxey tried his best to drag the Sixers back into the contest with 18 points in the fourth quarter, but the Pistons weathered the storm and also moved to 3-0.

Elsewhere, the New York Knicks lost their third straight game, falling 111-102 to the Orlando Magic despite Jalen Brunson's 28 points. It is the worst start to a season by defending NBA champions since the Dallas Mavericks in 2011.

Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander top-scored with 34 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Clippers 108-101.

And Anthony Edwards scored a game-high 26 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves secured a third straight comfortable win, 117-94 over the Toronto Raptors. — AFP



The mascot Ayo, a young lion representing the energy, pride, and joy of African youth is seen in dakar ahead of the fourth Summer Youth Olympic Games. — AFP photo

Senegal to host Africa's first Youth Olympics

DAKAR: Signs across the Senegalese capital proclaim 'Africa welcomes, Dakar celebrates' ahead of the Youth Olympic Games, which will mark the continent's first time to hold an Olympic event when they kick off on Saturday.

Over the course of two weeks some 2,700 athletes aged 17 or younger are expected to compete across 25 sports, including Russians who are returning to the Games following a ban.

Events ranging from athletics to beach wrestling, rugby sevens to breaking will be held across eight venues in three locations.

Dakar, the nearby suburb of Diamniadio and the beach town of Saly, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital, will all host events. In total, 136 Senegalese athletes will participate.

The fourth edition of the YOG opens with Senegal mired in debt amid a severe economic crisis.

While a sense of excitement is beginning to stir in the capital, the Youth Olympics have struggled to stoke wild enthusiasm across Senegal, where many are more concerned with the high cost of living, unemployment and economic hardship.

Senegalese authorities, who have overseen extensive infrastructure projects, view their efforts as an investment in the future as well as an occasion for training and long-term skill development.

They also hope the event

will highlight Dakar as a major African destination.

Upon welcoming the Youth Olympic flame to Dakar on September 12, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye told the country that 'all of Africa's youth is watching (you) with confidence and pride.'

He said he wanted those who attended 'to take away from the experience that Africa's youth is brimming with energy, that they are standing tall and determined, and that they are proud.'

The flame then travelled 3,600 kilometres (2,200 miles), touring all 14 regions of Senegal.

Return of Russian athletes

The Games will mark the return of Russians to Olympic competition under their own colours following a ban.

In July, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) effectively lifted the Russian Olympic Committee's (ROC) suspension.

According to the ROC, 13 Russian athletes will participate and 10 coaches will accompany them to Senegal.

During a meeting in Moscow a week ago, Russian Sports Minister Mikhail Degtyarev, who also heads the ROC, told the young athletes that 'after your victories – and I'm sure there will be some – the Russian anthem will be played and the Russian flag will be raised'.

Cyclist Angelina Novolodskaya shared her excitement with AFP.

"When I was told that there would be Youth Olympic Games and that I could go, it was just 'Wow'. It's so cool and extraordinary", she said.

However, it is up to each sport's international federation whether to authorise the Russian athletes' participation.

The international athletics governing body, World Athletics, is maintaining a ban, while the judo and swimming federations have allowed the Russians' return with their flag and national anthem.

The Dakar Youth Games will also welcome a refugee Olympic team, composed primarily of athletes based in Africa.

Milestone

The IOC has called the Dakar YOG an important milestone for the continent and an opportunity to showcase Senegal's cultural richness and Africa's growing role within the Olympics. That said, Senegal has recently doubled its maximum penalty for same-sex relations, amid a wave of homophobia in the conservative, predominantly Muslim nation.

As the Games approached, Human Rights Watch called on Senegalese authorities to halt what it said was a 'brutal crackdown' on LGBTQ people.

"The Olympic Charter prohibits discrimination on any grounds and commits host countries to respect human rights and human dignity", it said. — AFP

Kane primed to pip Yamal, Mbappe to Ballon d’Or glory

LONDON: England captain Harry Kane is the favourite to win a wide open race to be crowned Ballon d’Or winner at a glitzy London ceremony on Monday, with Lamine Yamal and Kylian Mbappe also in the running to be named the world’s best footballer.

The 70th edition of the award, established by the magazine France Football, will be hosted in England for the first time in recognition of the first winner Stanley Matthews and fittingly could have a first English winner for 25 years.

Bayern Munich striker Kane struck a remarkable 73 goals in 65 games for club and country last season, leading the German giants to a league and cup double and England to the semi-finals of the World Cup.

“I’d love to be able to achieve something like that. I would be a massive milestone in my career,” said the 33-year-old.

But semi-final exits in both the Champions League and World Cup for Kane means the outcome is far from certain.

“I think my wife would prefer to know and my family ... it’s very stressful for everyone. I can see why they don’t tell people. They want everyone to go, all the big names, and there will be more people watching it if they don’t know,” he added.

Yamal finished second to Paris Saint-Germain’s Ousmane Dembele last year and the 19-year-old Barcelona superstar seems destined to be a Ballon



d’Or winner one day.

However, after a hamstring injury ended his club season early, he was far from the shining light of Spain’s World Cup triumph that was built on being the best collective unit.

Mbappe, by contrast, boasts plenty of personal milestones without medals for either Real Madrid or France.

The 27-year-old was top goalscorer in La Liga, the Champions League and the World Cup without winning any of those trophies. His 10 World Cup goals made him the top goalscorer in the competition’s history on 22.

One football journalist from each of the 100 top nations in FIFA’s rankings is invited to cast votes for their top 10 players from a 30-man shortlist, allocating a maximum of 15 points down to one based on their ranking.

The Ballon d’Or goes to the player who accrued the most points. Although the award carries no cash prize, it can generate huge bonuses from clubs and commercial partners as well as increasing a player’s overall marketing value. — AFP

Mbappe-led Real Madrid stun Barca in Clasico

BARCELONA: Kylian Mbappe struck twice to earn Jose Mourinho’s Real Madrid a 2-1 Clasico victory over La Liga leaders Barcelona on Sunday at Camp Nou, cutting the gap to three points.

French superstar Mbappe opened the scoring before the interval and then slotted home late on to inflict Barca’s first domestic defeat of the campaign after Raphinha had equalised for the champions.

Real Madrid remain third, behind Atletico Madrid and Hansi Flick’s Barca, who had won their first nine games before a chastening week. The Catalans suffered a second straight defeat after losing on Tuesday against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

Mourinho was delighted with his team’s display in his first Clasico back at the helm of Madrid.

“My team had an extraordinary game, very organised, good concentration, with courage to play out from the back against a team that presses you a lot,” Mourinho told reporters.

“We had chances for the second goal... obviously Barca had a strong reaction but we were calm and organised and at 1-1 we never lost our tranquility.”

Barca had won six of the seven previous Clasicos since Flick arrived but were surprisingly subdued against Mourinho’s side.

“You saw today, we lacked freshness. It’s the first defeat in La Liga, we won nine in a row. This is what we have to see,” said



Mbappe celebrates scoring his team’s second goal during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid CF at Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona. — AFP photo

Flick of his team’s performance.

“Defeats are a part of the game. We have to analyse, we have to make things better. Now it’s important that we make a reaction.”

Los Blancos, without suspended winger Vinicius Junior, won their fifth straight game across all competitions and are finding their footing under veteran Portuguese coach Mourinho.

After two trophyless seasons Madrid turned back to Mourinho to try and stop Barca’s dominance, and this result will give them hope they are on the right track.

The opening period of the game was

cagey, with few opportunities. Barca defender Pau Cubarsi twice reacted well to shut down Mbappe, while Real Madrid’s Marc Cucurella took a rapid liking for Lamine Yamal’s shirt, constantly grabbing at the 19-year-old winger.

Anthony Gordon, playing in his first Clasico since joining Barcelona from Newcastle, backheeled the ball to Raphinha, who fired narrowly wide as Barca threatened.

The hosts were dealt a setback when young defender Xavi Espart pulled up hurt and needed to be replaced by Alejandro Balde before the half-hour mark. Andriy Lunin, playing in goal for Madrid after Thibaut Courtois pulled out of the squad with flu, saved at his near post from Gordon before the visitors took the lead.

Mbappe scored his 10th league goal of the season and also his easiest, with Barca’s Gerard Martin clearing a cross straight at the Frenchman, who deflected it into the net.

Barca responded by carving out a glorious chance for an equaliser but teenage sensation Yamal for once miscued in front of goal, firing wide when poised to level. Martin redeemed himself early in the second half as he held off Jude Bellingham, who could neither beat the defender nor find a free Mbappe.

Eduardo Camavinga beat Cubarsi and unselfishly cut the ball back for Mbappe to tuck home his second of the night into an empty net with Joan Garcia drawn out of position. — AFP

China Popular Brand Alternator head 3kw to 75kw

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MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK
AT KOTA KINABALU
IN BANKRUPTCY MATTERS NO. BKI-29NCC-475-7/2026 (HC5)

RE: RODEL BOLIBOL BRIGIDO
(NRIC NO.: 951031-12-5695)
... JUDGMENT DEBTOR

Ex-Parte : BANK ISLAM MALAYSIA BERHAD
(Company No.: 98127-X)
... JUDGMENT CREDITOR

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

To: RODEL BOLIBOL BRIGIDO
1) SK Tills
WDT 34, 89909 Tenom, Sabah.
2) Kuaters Evermaster
89009 Keningau, Sabah.
3) Perumahan Taman Bosoi, Lot 69
89909 Tenom, Sabah.
4) Lot 7, Blok F, Lorong 2
Taman Sabana, Phase 4, Jalan
Perumahan MDK
89000 Keningau, Sabah.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice dated 21st July 2026 has been issued against you by BANK ISLAM MALAYSIA BERHAD of Level 14, Menara Bank Islam, No. 22, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Court has on **20th October 2026** ordered that the said Bankruptcy Notice and the Order be served on you by publication of an advertisement in one (1) issue of this newspaper and that such service shall be deemed to have been effected on the date hereof.

AND TAKE NOTICE that within Seven (7) days after the service of this Notice on you excluding the day of such service, you must pay to the abovesaid Judgment Creditor, BANK ISLAM MALAYSIA BERHAD the sum of **RM247,628.85** (as per calculation attached to the Bankruptcy Notice) claimed by the aforesaid Judgment Creditor as being the accumulated amount due as at 21st July 2026 on final Judgment obtained by them against you in the Sessions Court at Keningau dated 16th June, 2026. Thereon execution has not been stayed, or you must secure or compound for the said sum to their satisfaction or the satisfaction of the Court; or you must satisfy the Court that you have a counter-claim, set-off, or cross demand against them which equals or exceeds the sum claimed by them and which the Judgment was obtained, otherwise you would have committed an act Bankruptcy proceedings may be taken against you.

If you desire to set-aside the said Bankruptcy Notice you must within Seven (7) days apply to the Court by filing with the Deputy Registrar an Affidavit to the above effect.

The Bankruptcy Notice and the Order of Substituted Service can be inspected by you on application at this Court.

Dated this 20TH OCTOBER 2026

SIGNED
THE SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK
AT KOTA KINABALU

This Notice is inserted by Messrs **JOHARI, ZELIKA & AMIN**, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor whose address for service is at 2nd Floor, TB 286, Block 30, Complex Fajar, Jalan Haji Karim, 91000 Tawau, Sabah.

JABATAN AIR SABAH
WATER SUPPLY DISRUPTION NOTICE
(SCHEDULED)
JANS/HQ : 100-7/1/10 JLD. 6 (73)
Date of notice issue : 19 October 2026 (Monday)
Time : 10:00 a.m.

To respected Jabatan Air customer,

Date of interruption	: 28 October 2026 (Wednesday)
Interruption Period	: 8:00 a.m. until cleaning work is completed.
Purpose	: Temporary shutdown at Kg. Bawang Water Treatment Plant, Tamparuli, due to cleaning and disinfection of the clear water tank.
	: The Water Treatment Plant involved is Kg. Bawang Water Treatment Plant, Tamparuli.
Impact on water supply	: Water supply disruptions will affect the impacted areas, with service recovery occurring in stages.
Affected areas	: Tuaran: Whole area of Tamparuli town, Kg. Bantayan, Kg. Mengkaladai, Kg. Rambai, Kg. Tamparuli, Kg. Bontoi, Kg. Bawang, Kg. Dopu and the surrounding areas.
Advice	: Customers residing in the affected areas are advised to store sufficient water in advance. Please be informed that the restoration of the water supply may take some time, particularly in elevated areas and locations at the end of the distribution network.
Enquiries	: 088-892224 (Hotline Jabatan Air Tuaran)

Any complexity that arises is regrettable.

288054/KK/FNC

MALAYSIA
IN THE SESSIONS
COURT OF SABAH AND
SARAWAK AT KOTA
KINABALU
SUIT NO. BKI-A52M-340-
10/2026 (SC7)

BETWEEN
BANK PERTANIAN
MALAYSIA BERHAD
[COMPANY NO. 811810-U]
... PLAINTIFF
AND
MOHD SYAFIK BIN
SYAMSUL [NRIC NO.:
961015-12-5707]
... DEFENDANT

ADVERTISEMENT
PURSUANT TO COURT
ORDER

To: MOHD SYAFIK
BIN SYAMSUL
Of: Kem. Belia dan Sukan
Sabah, Tingkat 10, Blok
B, Wisma MUIS, Karung
Berkunci No. 2007,
88999 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah.

TAKENOTICE thatanaction have been commenced against you in the Sessions Court Kota Kinabalu in Suit No. BKI-A52M-340-10/2026 (SC7) by Bank Pertanian Malaysia Berhad, Lot 1, Blok A, Plaza 22 Kg Sapat, District of Papar, 89608 Sabah in which the Plaintiff’s claim is for the sum of **RM139,342.27** as at **31.08.2026**; Ta width at the rate of 1% per annum on the sum of **RM139,342.27** from 01.09.2026 until the date of maturity of the facility or date of Judgment, whichever comes first and thereafter at the Islamic Interbank Money Market (IIMM) rate until the date of full and final settlement; Costs of **RM1,436.00**; Costs including those incurred by the Plaintiff on full indemnity basis; and any further or other relief which the Honourable Court deems fit and that it has been ordered that the service of the Writ of Summons in the said action on you be effected by this advertisement.

The Borneo Post Reaching Out to you

INSOLVENCY ACT 1967
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 33A

Notice is hereby given that, the bankrupts in the schedule below have been discharged from bankruptcy by Certificate of Director General of Insolvency with effect from the date mentioned in column (5) schedule below.

BIL	NAMA BANKRAP	NO. K/P	NO. KES	TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	ZURINA BINTI MD JAKARIA	780227-12-5108	SDK-29NCC-3/1-2018	21/10/2026
2	FIRMAN BIN LAMMA	821102-12-5639	SDK29NCC282/11-2019	21/10/2026
3	MOHD IZWANDI BIN MUDIMAN	861202-49-6089	SDK-29NCC-13/1-2020	21/10/2026
4	SHEILA NEZA BINTI TANJING	851123-12-5926	SDK-29NCC-13/1-2019	21/10/2026
5	DARUS BIN MALIE	800920-12-6403	SDK-29NCC-181/8-2019	21/10/2026
6	YUSMADEY BIN MD YUSUF	820724-03-5879	SDK-29NCC-134/6-2019	21/10/2026
7	MOHD FIRDAUS BIN CHE DAUD	850829-03-5151	BKI-29NCC-997/10-2018	21/10/2026

Dated this : 26 day of October 2026.

(Dato’ Ishak bin Bakri)
Director General of Insolvency

288144/KK/KKG

If you desire to defend the said action, you must cause an appearance to be entered at the Sessions Court Kota Kinabalu. In default of such appearance, Judgment may be entered against you.

Dated the 27th day of October 2026.

Signed

Messrs Jenny Lim Lee & Wong
Solicitors for the Plaintiff
Lot D-4-3A, 4th Floor, Block D,
Plaza Tanjung Aru,
Jalan Mat Salleh,
88100 Kota Kinabalu
Tel: 088-222678

NEGERI SABAH
LAND ORDINANCE CAP. 68
LAND ENQUIRY NO. 13 OF 2025

BETWEEN
MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD
(787435-M)
AND
HARRIS BIN SANDAMUDDIN
(NRIC NO. 720424-12-5065)
... CHARGE
AND
... CHARGOR

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

IN PURSUANT of an Order of Sale by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue TAWAU (ACLR) at instance of Chargee made on the 7th day of **April 2026**, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the under-mentioned property will be sold by public auction on **Tuesday the 10th day of November 2026 at 10.00 a.m.** at the Office of the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau, Sabah.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND REFERRED TO:-

Title No	: TL 107533353
Area	: 295.90 Sq. Metres/ (more or less)
The Property	: One unit of double storey corner terraced house
Term	: 99 years
Locality	: Lot No. A14, Lorong Indah 1, Taman Kuhara Indah, Km 3, Kuhara Road, Tawau, Sabah
Reserved Price	: RM650,000.00

All interested bidders are required to register with the Auctioneer appointed by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau and shall submit the following:

- (1). An amount equivalent to 25% of the Reserved Price.
- (2). Board of Directors’ Resolution and Written Authorisation where the bidder is a Company bidding through an authorized person.
- (3). Written authorisation where the bidder is acting as a proxy.

A deposit of 25% of the Reserved Price to be paid by CASHIER’S ORDER or by BANK DRAFT to SHIM, PANG & CO. (TAWAU), agent for Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau immediately after the fall of the hammer and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid WITHIN NINETY (90) days from the date of auction. Failure to pay the balance as stipulated above will result in FORFEITURE of the deposit.

The auction and all bidders shall be SUBJECT TO the Conditions of Sale, details of which may be obtained from :-

1. Messrs. Shim, Pang & Co., Advocates & Solicitors, 2nd Floor, TB 265, Block 27, Fajar Complex, Jalan Mahkamah, P.O. Box 60193, 91011 Tawau, Sabah
Tel No. 089-771000 / 779366, Fax No. 089-761084 / 771084
2. Messrs. Sabah Auctioneers, P.O. Box 404, 91007 Tawau, Sabah
Tel No. 0128168990 / 0145565661
3. Assistant Collector Of Land Revenue District Land Office, Tawau, Tel No. 089-760539 / 760536 Fax No. 089-772663

THIS Proclamation of Sale is PREPARED AND APPROVED by the ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF LAND REVENUE, TAWAU.

NEGERI SABAH
LAND ORDINANCE CAP. 68
LAND ENQUIRY NO. 94 OF 2022

BETWEEN
BORNEO HOUSING MORTGAGE FINANCE BERHAD ... CHARGE
AND
HEIW FOOK REALTY (HOLDINGS) SDN BHD ... CHARGOR

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

IN PURSUANT of an Order of Sale by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau (ACLR) at instance of Chargee made on the 21st day of **March 2024**, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the under-mentioned property will be sold by public auction on **Tuesday the 10th day of November 2026 at 10.00 a.m.** at the Office of the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau, Sabah.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND REFERRED TO:-

Title No	: CL 105477094
Area	: 1,200 Sq. Ft. (more or less)
The Property	: One unit of double storey intermediate terrace shophouse of permanent construction
Term	: 99 years
Locality	: TB 1291, Lot No. 9C, Taman King Fook, Mile 4, North Road, Tawau, Sabah
Reserved Price	: RM360,000.00

All interested bidders are required to register with the Auctioneer appointed by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau and shall submit the following:

- (1). An amount equivalent to 25% of the Reserved Price.
- (2). Board of Directors’ Resolution and Written Authorisation where the bidder is a Company bidding through an authorized person.
- (3). Written authorisation where the bidder is acting as a proxy.

A deposit of 25% of the Reserved Price to be paid by CASHIER’S ORDER or by BANK DRAFT to Messrs. SHIM, PANG & CO., agent for Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau immediately after the fall of the hammer and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid WITHIN NINETY (90) days from the date of auction. Failure to pay the balance as stipulated above will result in FORFEITURE of the deposit.

The auction and all bidders shall be SUBJECT TO the Conditions of Sale, details of which may be obtained from :-

1. Messrs. Shim, Pang & Co., Advocates & Solicitors, P.O. Box 60193, 91011 Tawau, Sabah
Tel No. 089-771000 / 779366, Fax No. 089-761084
2. Messrs. Sabah Auctioneers, P.O. Box 404, 91007 Tawau, Sabah
Tel No. 0128168990 / 0145565661
3. Assistant Collector Of Land Revenue District Land Office, Tawau, Tel No. 089-760539 / 760536 Fax No. 089-772663

THIS Proclamation of Sale is PREPARED AND APPROVED by the ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF LAND REVENUE, TAWAU.

NEGERI SABAH
LAND ORDINANCE CAP. 68
LAND ENQUIRY NO. 24 OF 2024

BETWEEN
PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD
(COMPANY NO. 14328-V)
AND
SOEFFREE AMRU
(NRIC NO. 840318-12-5295)
... CHARGE
AND
... CHARGOR

PROCLAMATION OF SALE

IN PURSUANT of an Order of Sale by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue TAWAU (ACLR) at instance of Chargee made on the 31st day of **March 2026**, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the under-mentioned property will be sold by public auction on **Tuesday the 10th day of November 2026 at 10.00 a.m.** at the Office of the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau, Sabah.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND REFERRED TO:-

Title No	: CL 105425250
Area	: 217.90 Sq. Metres (more or less)
The Property	: A double storey intermediate terrace house
Term	: 99 Years
Locality	: TB 3630, Lot No. 11, Taman Jen Loong, Jalan Kampung Jawa, Tawau, Sabah
Reserved Price	: RM380,000.00

All interested bidders are required to register with the Auctioneer appointed by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau and shall submit the following:

- (1). An amount equivalent to 25% of the Reserved Price.
- (2). Board of Directors’ Resolution and Written Authorisation where the bidder is a Company bidding through an authorized person.
- (3). Written authorisation where the bidder is acting as a proxy.

A deposit of 25% of the Reserved Price to be paid by CASHIER’S ORDER or by BANK DRAFT to SHIM, PANG & CO. (TAWAU), agent for Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tawau immediately after the fall of the hammer and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid WITHIN NINETY (90) days from the date of auction. Failure to pay the balance as stipulated above will result in FORFEITURE of the deposit.

The auction and all bidders shall be subject to the Conditions of Sale, details of which may be obtained from :-

1. Messrs. Shim, Pang & Co., Advocates & Solicitors, 2nd Floor, TB 265, Block 27, Fajar Complex, Jalan Mahkamah, P.O. Box 60193, 91011 Tawau, Sabah
Tel No. 089-771000 / 779366, Fax No. 089-761084
2. Messrs. Sabah Auctioneers, P.O. Box 404, 91007 Tawau, Sabah
Tel No. 0128168990 / 0145565661
3. Assistant Collector Of Land Revenue District Land Office, Tawau, Tel No. 089-760539 / 760536 Fax No. 089-772663

THIS Proclamation of Sale is PREPARED AND APPROVED by the ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF LAND REVENUE, TAWAU.

AKTA INSOLVENS 1967
NOTIS DI BAWAH SEKSYEN 33A

Notis adalah dengan ini diberikan bahawa, bankrap yang dinamakan dalam jadual di bawah telah dipaskan daripada kebangkrapan melalui Sijil Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi berkuat kuasa pada tarikh seperti yang dinyatakan dalam ruang (5) jadual berikut.

BIL	NAMA BANKRAP	NO. K/P	NO. KES	TARIKH KUAT KUASA PELEPASAN
1	ZURINA BINTI MD JAKARIA	780227-12-5108	SDK-29NCC-3/1-2018	21/10/2026
2	FIRMAN BIN LAMMA	821102-12-5639	SDK29NCC282/11-2019	21/10/2026
3	MOHD IZWANDI BIN MUDIMAN	861202-49-6089	SDK-29NCC-13/1-2020	21/10/2026
4	SHEILA NEZA BINTI TANJING	851123-12-5926	SDK-29NCC-13/1-2019	21/10/2026
5	DARUS BIN MALIE	800920-12-6403	SDK-29NCC-181/8-2019	21/10/2026
6	YUSMADEY BIN MD YUSUF	820724-03-5879	SDK-29NCC-134/6-2019	21/10/2026
7	MOHD FIRDAUS BIN CHE DAUD	850829-03-5151	BKI-29NCC-997/10-2018	21/10/2026

Bertarikh pada : 26 Oktober 2026

(Dato’ Ishak bin Bakri)
Ketua Pengarah Insolvensi

288144/KK/KKG

The Borneo Post
Reaching Out to you

Antonelli looks to seal F1 title after US GP win



>8



Kane tipped to pip Yamal for Ballon d'Or glory

>9



Wong (from third left), Halim and Ivan pose with Susan (from left), Mansur, Asneh and Alissa upon arrival at the KKIA on Monday.

Asian para champ eyeing World C'ships and LA28

Lester J. Bingkasan

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's national para athlete Jonathan Wong Kar Gee is targeting next year's World Para Athletics Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in his bid to qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games (LA28).

His ambition follows a memorable outing at the recent Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where he clinched his maiden gold medal on his third appearance.

The 35-year old Wong won in the men's long jump T12 with a leap of 6.74 metres, beating Uzbekistan's Sevinchbek Khusanov (6.54m) and Japan's Daiki Ishiyama (6.48m). He improved on his silver medal finish in 2018 in Jakarta while he missed the 2022 Games due to injury.

"I feel really happy," he told reporters upon arrival along with fellow athlete Ivan Jovic Suan at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA) on Monday.

Youth Development, Sports Advancement and Creative Economy Ministry permanent secretary Datuk Mansur Asun, Sabah Sports Council (MSN Sabah) director Mohd Asneh Mohd Noor, deputy director (Para sector) Alissa Alha, Wong's family including his mother Datuk Susan Wong Siew Guen and Asian Para Games silver medalist Abdul Halim Muhammad were among those present.

"This is my first gold medal at the Asian Para Games and I am really proud of myself. In fact I was surprised when I was informed it was the sixth gold medal for the national

I have to do well at the Championships. That will put me in a stronger position to confirm my qualification for the Paralympics 2028.

Jonathan Wong Kar Gee

contingent, thus achieving the target set in the Games.

"Everyone was very happy and the whole of Malaysia was happy with the achievement," he said while adding it was a proud moment for all.

Wong said the initial plan was just to enjoy the moment while trying his best to get on the podium. But he admitted the competition was tough.

"There was some pressure but I expected to just go there and have fun. I felt that winning a medal would already be good enough. The competitors were quite good this time. I managed to win the gold medal in the end. So, I am extremely happy. However, I believe I can still improve a lot more," said Wong who has a personal best jump of 7.22m set in 2018.

With the Asian Para Games gold now under his belt, Wong is turning his attention to the World Para Athletics Championships next year, which he hopes will provide another opportunity to test himself against the world's best.

"I have to do well at the Championships. That will put me in a stronger position to confirm my qualification for the Paralympics 2028," he said.

For the record, Wong has represented the country in the Japan 2020 and Paris 2024 Paralympics, where he missed the bronze by a mere 0.03m in

the latter.

Wong's family has also expressed pride at his achievement at the Asian Para Games. His mother, Susan, said Wong trained hard and deserved the gold medal.

"He was determined to conquer all the challenges despite being injured, and we admire his perseverance. As his mother, I am very proud of him and we will continue to support him," she said.

Meanwhile, Halim said he did not expect to win a silver having entered the Games with a bronze medal target.

"I'm happy and surprised at the same time since I did not win any medal in Hangzhou four years ago. My aim is to qualify for LA28 and close to getting there. It's not confirm yet because there is one more competition to go at the World Para Championship in Mexico next year," added Halim who won the silver in the men's 100m breaststroke SB8 (physical impairment) in 1:14.45s.

Overall, Sabah para athletes contributed two golds, two silvers and one bronze to the national contingent's tally of nine golds, seven silvers and 16 bronzes.

Sabah's other medalists were Mohamad Faris Ahmad Azri (gold - men's badminton doubles SU5), Eddy Bernard (silver - men's long jump T44) and Shahafiq Abdullah (bronze - men's 100m breaststroke SB7).

Wei Chong and Kai Wun bag first title of season

KUALA LUMPUR: Men's doubles pair Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun clinched their first title of the season after staging a superb comeback to see off professional compatriots Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani in an all-Malaysian final at the French Open 2026 on Sunday.

The unseeded Wei Chong-Kai Wun bounced back from a 13-21 opening-game defeat and came out tops against the sixth seeds

in the second game 21-15 to force a decider. The current world No. 11 duo then wrapped up the tie 21-7 in the decider of the match that lasted 44-minutes at the Arena Grand Paris.

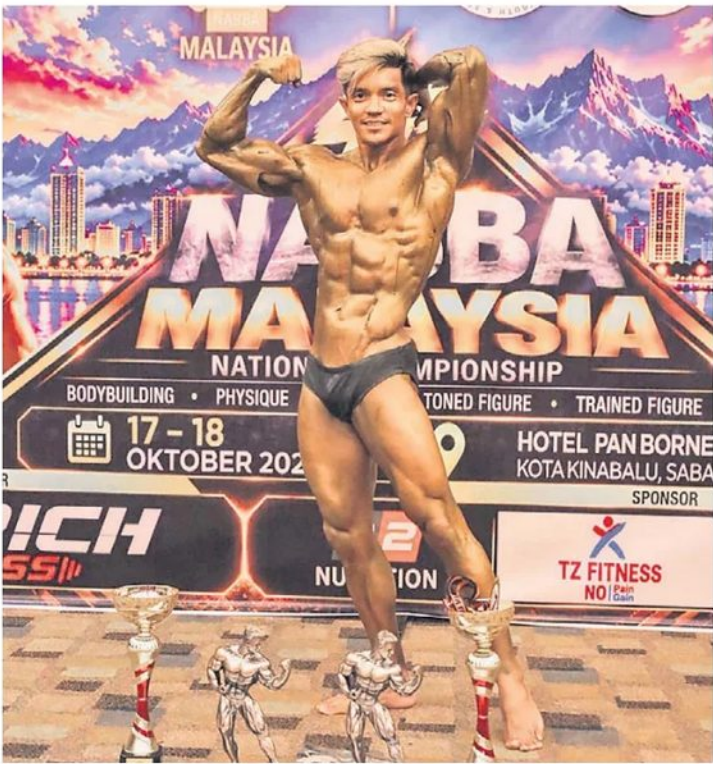
The victory marked their first title since winning the Malaysia Masters last year, while denying sixth seeds Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin a third crown of the season.

The world No. 5 Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin had previously won the

Indonesia Masters in January and Indonesia Open in June this year.

As champions, Wei Chong-Kai Wun pocketed US\$70,300 (about RM287,196) while Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin received US\$33,250 (about RM135,836) as runners-up.

The triumph also ended the country's 22-year wait for the French Open men's doubles title with Gan Teik Chai-Koo Kien Keat the last Malaysian pair to win the crown in 2004. — Bernama



Faez Farhan

Sabah's Faez lifts Mr NABBA M'sia overall 'COC' title

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah's Faez Farhan delivered a stellar performance at the 4th NABBA Malaysia National Bodybuilding Championships by clinching the Mr. NABBA Malaysia overall 'Champion of Champions' (COC) title.

He had earlier dominated the Men Classic Bodybuilding - Class 2 category and finished second in both the Men Body Smart - Class 2 and Men Physique - Class 3 events.

Kedah's Tan Hwei Ling was crowned Ms. NABBA Malaysia while the Best Poser awards went to Daryl Aaron Bawood of Sarawak (men) and Ivy K. Yon of Sabah (women).

The other winners were Koh Han Wan of Johor (Women Bikini - Class 1), Tan (Women Toned Figure), Ivy (Women Trained Figure), Johor's Mohd Iqbal (Junior Men Bodybuilding), Sarawak's Mohd Hadizan (Masters Bodybuilding - Class 1), Yusuf Mengkabong (Masters

Bodybuilding - Class 2 and COC), Labuan's John Hendry Asih (Men Classic Bodybuilding and Men Bodybuilding - Class 1), Labuan's Ahmad Alaudin (Men Bodybuilding - Class 2 and COC), Sarawak's Nathaniel Chee Kovv (Men Body Smart - Class 1), Labuan's Muhd Wazizi (Men Body Smart - Class 2, Men Physique - Class 3 and COC) and Sabah's Joehan (Men Physique - Class 2).

The two-day tournament held at the Pan Borneo Hotel in Putatan here attracted athletes from Sabah, Sarawak, Labuan and Peninsular Malaysia. It launched by Semporna District Officer Mas Syazwan Masood with Jovana Juanis representing the Ministry of Youth and Sports to present the 'Geran Padanan Sukan'.

The National Amateur Bodybuilders' Association (NABBA) was founded in the United Kingdom in 1950 and has affiliates in around 60 countries.

Unfazed Wei Chong, Kai Wun celebrate reunion

KUALA LUMPUR: Not burdened by the pressure of winning, Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun focused on just doing their best and taking it one game at a time - an approach that ultimately brought them the French Open men's doubles title on Sunday.

The unseeded Malaysians showed a remarkable resilience to overcome compatriots and sixth seeds Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Mohd Rumsani 13-21, 21-15, 21-7 in the final at the Grand Paris Arena, fighting back after dropping the opening game to claim a memorable victory.

Wei Chong said they never made winning their main focus, knowing they were not among the favourites to lift the title.

Instead, they focused on delivering their best performance and fighting for every point, without letting the outcome weigh on their minds.

"We did not think too much about winning or losing because we knew we were not the favourites. We just wanted to play our best and try to win every point," he said in an interview shared by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

The triumph was particularly sweet for the pair, who had never progressed beyond the quarter-finals of the French Open before and only reunited in August as part of a restructuring of the national men's doubles squad in preparation for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games (LA28).

Wei Chong and Kai Wun, whose more than five-year partnership was split up for about five months before being reunited in August, showed that the chemistry they had developed over the years remained intact.

Meanwhile, Wei Chong said his knee injury was almost healed after it previously hampered his preparations.

He believes that having no lofty targets at several tournaments following his return from injury allowed them to play with greater freedom and less pressure.

And now they can stand tall after ending Malaysia's 22-year wait for a French Open men's doubles title, with Gan Teik Chai-Koo Kien Keat the last Malaysian pair to win the crown in 2004. — Bernama

SIC set to propose F1 M'sia comeback to Cabinet

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sepang International Circuit (SIC) is drafting a feasibility study on bringing back the Formula One (F1) Grand Prix (GP) to Malaysia, to be presented to the Cabinet in November.

SIC chief executive officer Azhan Shafriman Hanif said it was currently holding engagement sessions with the government, relevant agencies and industry players to obtain accurate information and data for inclusion in the study.

He said the findings would serve as one of the factors for the government to consider before deciding whether Malaysia should return as host of the prestigious race.

"We are in the process of preparing a feasibility study of bringing F1 racing back to Malaysia. In November, we will present a proposal paper to the Cabinet for the government to decide whether to agree to the proposal.

"During this period, we expect to hold engagement sessions with the government, relevant agencies and industry players to ensure that the data presented is accurate," he told Bernama recently.

Azhan Shafriman said the study would emphasise the economic impact of hosting F1, in addition to assessing the country's level of preparedness, especially in terms of traffic congestion management and public transport facilities.

On the prospects of Malaysia returning as host of F1, he described the country's chances as 50-50, as the final decision would depend on the government's consideration of the study's findings.

"For now, it is still 50-50. It's difficult for me to say yes or no (whether it will happen or not). But, insya-Allah, we will provide verified data or information to help the government come to a decision," he added. — Bernama



Valerian poses with prize winners in the various categories.

Sutera Harbour unveils monthly winners for October

KOTA KINABALU: Aaron Pong and Park Ock Nam were crowned the Men's and Ladies' champions (Gross category) in the recent Sutera Harbour October Monthly Medal Golf Tournament.

Pong carded one-under 71 to beat Cho Han Jin by four strokes while Datuk Ting was third with 78. A six-over 78 saw Park topped the Ladies field

ahead of Choi Sun Jun (84) and Julia Sergius (87).

The Men's Medal A event that saw Mohd Izzham Majin topped with 70 nett followed by Jason Lee (72) and Cho Eun Sang (73). Damian Cho carded 68 nett in the Medal B division to pip Tyson Kim Chang Woong by one-shot. Datuk Yusof Ag Besar (72) secured third spot. Top three in Medal C were Eric Hiew (67

nett), Wan Mohd Farehan (68) and Mohd Danish Aiman (71).

Mohd Arieq Dahin won the Junior title with a nett 69. Alyaa Aleesya Walter (72) was second and Bert Chin (75) third.

Frankie Foon emerged as Men's senior champion with 64 nett followed by John Lim (71) and Datuk Vincent Pung (74). Patrick Lau (68 nett) was top among the Men's Super Seniors

ahead of Hj Mazlan Jamalun Nahar (70) and Tsai San Jia (71)

Top three in Ladies' nett were Dionysia Petrus (70), Jessy Kurniawaty (71) and Mimi Kim Mi Jung (73) while Sally Chai (69), Joyce Ng (69) and Rozeline Augustine (70) topped the Ladies' Senior nett.

Club captain Valerian Hansen Petrus officiated the prize-giving and closing ceremony.

RM1,000 driver aid nationwide, not just Melaka — Loke

MELAKA: Transport Minister Loke Siew Fook has denied that the RM1,000 special financial assistance given to taxi, rental car and school bus drivers in Melaka was intended to fish for votes ahead of the Melaka State Election.

He said the incentive was being extended to all taxi, rental car and school bus drivers nationwide following its announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim during the tabling of Budget 2027 in Parliament recently.

"I want to clarify some remarks made by people outside who have asked why the assistance is being given only in Melaka. The fact is that this special financial assistance is for all taxi drivers nationwide, not just those in

Melaka.

"I am distributing the assistance in Melaka today. Last week, I was in Negeri Sembilan, and next week I will be going to Kedah. Taxi and rental car drivers in every state nationwide will receive this assistance," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after officiating at the Special Financial Assistance presentation ceremony for taxis, rental cars and school bus drivers at the CMI Complex Auditorium in Ayer Keroh on Monday.

A total of 283 taxi and rental car drivers received contribution vouchers worth RM1,000 each at the event.

Loke said about 12,000 taxi, rental car and school bus drivers were expected to receive the special financial assistance this

week alone to help ease their financial burden.

"Those we were unable to invite to the ceremony will receive the assistance via electronic fund transfer (EFT) or direct bank transfers.

"The assistance is available nationwide. As long as they hold a valid driver's card and its validity is verified by the Land Public Transport Agency (APAD), their names can be registered in the system and they will receive RM1,000.

"Starting today, we will also credit the assistance to the bank accounts of more than 12,000 recipients.

"We hope the funds can be disbursed as soon as possible to ease their financial burden," he said. — Bernama



Egbert (fourth right) presents a souvenir to Norsih, as others look on.

Murut Nabai association discusses community empowerment with Keningau DO

KENINGAU: Potential cooperation in community and economic empowerment was discussed during a recently courtesy call paid by Sabah Murut Nabai Ethnic Association on Keningau District Officer Norsih Nusuri.

The visitors comprised eight members of the association's supreme council delegation, led by president Aki Mangkaunan Egbert Manjin, also talked about the importance of exchanging accurate and timely information on issues affecting the Murut Nabai community.

Egbert briefed Norsih on the association's role in preserving cultural heritage, strengthening community unity and supporting grassroots welfare; and also sharing its policies,



Dr Aini Janteng

Borneo Festival of Ideas 2026 for her 'Murut Nabai Ethnic Pattern Beaded Necklace' project.

Association's spokesperson Razali Ujuh hailed the achievement as 'a source of pride', as the design showcased the community's cultural heritage and also demonstrated the value of research and creativity.

"The recognition also highlights the importance of preserving traditional crafts and cultural identity so that they can be appreciated by a wider audience. The association hopes that Dr Aini's success would inspire more people to promote Murut Nabai heritage and encourage further achievements in preserving and showcasing local culture," said Razali.

direction and current concerns.

The delegation also congratulated Norsih on his appointment, and invited him to attend and officiate at the association's future events.

Moreover, the association congratulated Associate Professor Dr Aini Janteng on winning a silver medal in the Designers Competition at the

Crews rescued after sand dredger sinks off Kuala Kurau

IPOH: All 19 crew members of a sand dredger were rescued after the vessel sank about 25 nautical miles northwest of Pulau Pasir Hitam near Kuala Kurau on Sunday.

Perak Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) director Maritime Captain Zainudin Mohd Zuki said the Kuala Kurau Maritime Zone Headquarters Operations Centre received an emergency call via the 999 hotline at 5.53am, prompting the activation of a search and rescue (SAR) operation at 6.30am.

He said the operation involved MMEA assets KM Gagah and Perkasa 1238, with assistance from the maritime community in the vicinity.

"Nine crew members were rescued by the sand dredger MV Yaode 1, which was near the scene, while another nine who were aboard a life raft were rescued by MV Vivo Diya," he said in a statement on Monday.

He said the 18 crew members were subsequently taken to Batu Maung Jetty for further action.

In a related development,

Zainudin said another crew member, a Chinese national identified as Tang Jifu, 57, who had been reported missing, was found safe by Perkasa 1238 during the SAR operation.

He said Tang was taken to the Kuala Kurau Maritime Zone Headquarters Jetty before being sent to a nearby hospital for further examination and treatment.

With all 19 crew members accounted for and rescued, the SAR operation was officially called off at 4.30 pm, he said. — Bernama

PKSKS: One-off aid for drivers helps cushion rising operating costs

KENINGAU: Persatuan Kereta Sewa Keningau Sabah (PKSKS) has welcomed the one-off RM1,000 assistance for eligible taxi, rental car and school bus drivers, describing it as meaningful support amid rising operating costs.

PKSKS chairman Nillson Norrisin J. Nasipin said the association appreciated the initiative on behalf of more than 200 drivers and operators serving Keningau, Tambunan, Tenom, Nabawan and other interior areas of Sabah.

"The amount may seem small in figures, but it means a great deal to us at the grassroots level. It is not just about money, but also a sign that our presence and contributions are being recognised," he said.



Nillson Norrisin J. Nasipin

The assistance was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, with Transport Minister Anthony Loke saying about 53,000 drivers across the three categories were expected to receive payments before Deepavali.

Payments will be made in stages, with eligibility

determined through records held by the relevant agencies. Eligible drivers do not need to apply.

Nillson said drivers faced rising expenses for fuel, tyres, vehicle maintenance and insurance, with many travelling along hilly routes and challenging roads to serve rural communities.

He hoped the assistance would ease some of their financial burden and help them continue providing transport services to the public.

PKSKS also pledged to maintain comfortable, safe and affordable services while promoting Sabah's natural attractions and cultural heritage, including Mount Trus Madi, to visitors.

Urgent call for direct shuttle service covering QE hospitals

KOTA KINABALU: A direct shuttle service linking the major parking facilities with Queen Elizabeth Hospital I (QEH1) and Queen Elizabeth Hospital II (QEH2) here should be introduced immediately.

In making this call, Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) vice-president Gee Tien Siong also pointed out that the necessary infrastructure and bus fleet were already available, making the proposal a practical solution that would not require additional capital expenditure.

In this regard, he suggested the setting-up of a dedicated two-way shuttle loop connecting KK Sentral, QEH1, Foh Sang Parking Building and QEH2.

Gee said in realising the provision of this service, the transport authorities could redeploy between two and four buses from the existing fleet of more than 40 BAS.MY buses — more commonly known as the 'pink buses' here.

"This will immediately link the hospital visitors to more than 800 parking spaces across KK Sentral and the Foh Sang parking building," he said in a statement on Monday.

According to Gee, the current



Photo shows cars parked along Jalan Bersatu near the QEH2.

bus routes, although passing near both hospitals, cover circuitous routes through residential areas in Lido, Damai and Kepayan, instead of providing direct connections from the major parking hubs.

"The existing arrangements have failed to resolve access and parking problems, as motorists continue to park along road shoulders surrounding QEH1 and along Jalan Bersatu near QEH2.

"I urge the elected representatives and relevant authorities to inspect QEH2 to understand the severity of the parking shortage, following the

closure of its open-air parking lot for high-rise construction.

"With the adjacent Dewan Damai facility also reaching capacity daily, displaced motorists are forced to park along Jalan Bersatu, creating traffic hazards," he elaborated.

Gee, a former Luyang Community Development Leader (PPM), also pointed to the availability of parking spaces on Levels 6 to 8 of the KK Sentral parking, which he viewed as being 'often underutilised'.

"The assets are already in place. Will the authorities act or not?" he questioned.

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Brazil's Lula clinches historic victory

Leftist president defies projection to secure fourth term, Bolsonaro seeks to annul election

BRASÍLIA: Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pulled off a dramatic comeback on Sunday as he clinched a re-election victory, but his rival Flavio Bolsonaro refused to accept the loss and said he would seek to annul the vote.

With Lula's victory, Brazil staved off a conservative wave that has seen numerous countries – such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Peru – all shift right, backed by US President Donald Trump.

The leftist icon, who turns 81 on Tuesday, defied projections to win an unprecedented fourth term.

According to official results, he won 51.8 percent of the votes to 48.2 percent for Flavio Bolsonaro, with Lula pulling around 4.4 million more votes.

The senator is the son of former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, who is serving a 27-year jail term for attempting a coup after his loss to Lula in the country's last election in 2022.

Sunday's vote was marked by confusion after a Supreme Court ruling extended voting by two hours as some polling stations had already closed.

The move came at the request of Lula who complained that buses had been pulled from circulation in various cities, barring citizens from voting.

Flavio Bolsonaro also requested an extension in some regions due



Lula waves to supporters after winning the presidential runoff. Sunday's vote was marked by confusion after a Supreme Court ruling extended voting by two hours as some polling stations had already closed. — AFP photo

to heavy rains, but he described the decision as "unacceptable" and a "dirty trick"

"It is impossible to recognize the results. I am going to request the annulment of these elections," he said, stone-faced, in a brief speech in Brasilia.

No candidate who lost the first round has gone on to win the second in Brazil since 1989, the first direct election after the

end of the country's military dictatorship.

"People went to vote because we managed to convince them that voting was very important for ensuring democracy in the country," Lula said in his first comments after the win.

Fireworks and vuvuzelas rang out in Rio de Janeiro, while thousands of people dressed in red, the color of Lula's Workers'

Party, streamed into the streets of Sao Paulo to celebrate.

Lula's fight back

After the first-round defeat, the left swung into action with massive rallies, declaring "Never Again Bolsonaro" and revamped their social media strategy.

The abstention rate decreased from the first round, falling from 21 percent to 19 percent.

Julio Canelo, 42, a lawyer celebrating in Rio de Janeiro hailed a victory for "the entire democratic spectrum."

"It was the result of the people mobilizing, in the streets and online," he told AFP.

A fierce social media battle drew in Meta, parent company of WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram, which Lula's campaign accused of favoring his opponent with "algorithmic manipulation."

Meta denied this but acknowledged that some of Lula's campaign ads had been mistakenly deactivated due to technical errors.

"We are going to have to regulate them," Lula said of social media companies after his win.

A bitter campaign marred by scandals and mudslinging laid bare the deep divisions that have plagued Brazil over the past decade.

A country split in two

Lula heads into a fourth term with almost half of the nation having rejected him, desperate for change.

He rose from poverty to become president in 2003 and was re-elected in 2006.

Lula made a dramatic return to office in 2022 elections after a corruption scandal saw him jailed for over 18 months.

The charges were annulled on procedural grounds.

In his third term, Lula oversaw a drop in inflation and unemployment, and lifted millions out of hunger, but many voters felt gloomy about the high cost of living and crime.

Flavio Bolsonaro, 45, pitched himself as more moderate and jovial than his father and managed to galvanize conservatives as well as less ideological voters wanting something new.

"We're in a deep hole, things are dire. People can barely afford to eat – buying meat is out of the question," said Tereza Cristina Ramos, a 68-year-old retiree, who voted in Rio de Janeiro.

Already one of the world's oldest leaders, Lula will be 85 by the end of his new term in 2030.

He is also facing a hostile Congress dominated by the right.

Lula's campaign leaned heavily on the theme of sovereignty in the face of commercial and diplomatic pressure from Trump's United States.

"This country will not accept being anyone's backyard," he said Sunday.

Lula received congratulations from Chile's far-right president, Jose Antonio Kast, and Ecuador's right-wing Daniel Noboa – both close Trump allies.

Mexico's left-wing President Claudia Sheinbaum wrote on X, saying "Long live democracy, the people of Brazil won." — AFP



Sadiq Khan attends the opening ceremony for a section of one of Britain's most famous shopping streets, Oxford Street, as it goes permanently traffic-free for the first time in central London. — AFP photo

London Mayor hails new era as Oxford Street goes traffic-free

LONDON: London Mayor Sadiq Khan has hailed the pedestrianisation of Oxford Street as "a truly momentous occasion for the capital."

From Monday, almost a kilometre of the busy central London shopping street, between Orchard Street and Great Portland Street, will be traffic-free with vehicles being diverted onto nearby roads, reported PA Media/dpa.

Oxford Street, which produces an annual spend of around US\$4.1 billion, is one of the world's busiest shopping areas, with

around half a million visitors each day and the overhaul comes in time for the run-up to Christmas.

Buses, taxis, private hire vehicles, cycles, scooters and pedicabs can no longer enter while deliveries can be made from midnight to 7am.

Emergency services will have access to the street at all times.

The area has become increasingly popular as an office location thanks to the Elizabeth line and Khan believes the scheme will help revitalise the

site, boost economic growth and attract visitors.

Describing it as "a new vibrant destination", he said: "I'm hugely excited to see my bold vision for Oxford Street coming to life from today. It is a truly momentous occasion for the capital."

The move marks the first phase of a pedestrianisation and wider regeneration project aimed at putting Oxford Street among top global shopping destinations including Times Square, the Champs-Élysées and La Rambla. — Bernama-pa media/dpa

Nonagenarian in Japan outwits suspected scammer

TOKYO: A 93-year-old woman in western Japan outsmarted a suspected scammer by pretending to fall for the scheme and helping police arrest him at her home, an officer told AFP on Monday.

Japan has the second-oldest population in the world after Monaco, and senior citizens are often targeted by fraudsters, who last year collectively stole around 325.7 billion yen (US\$2.0 billion) from their victims.

The woman received telephone calls from Wednesday through Thursday last week from a man who claimed to be a police officer. The caller falsely informed her that her bank account had experienced an unauthorised withdrawal.

The woman was told to hand over her ATM card to a man, posing as a police officer, who would visit her so that authorities could verify her account.

Suspecting a scam, the woman consulted her son and the police as she waited for the scammer to visit her house.

"The person's family reached out to the police on Wednesday evening, and we were able to have officers at her house" before the scammer arrived on Thursday, a local police official said. When a 47-year-old man appeared at her doorstep, waiting officers arrested him on the spot, he said. "The person (the woman) is someone in good health and highly articulate," the official said. — AFP

China condemns US designation of Confucius Institutes as threat

BEIJING: China accused the United States on Monday of "targeted smearing" over Washington's designation of Beijing-funded Confucius Institute cultural centres as national security threats.

Washington considers the centres on American university campuses as propaganda tools of the Chinese Communist Party and has imposed funding restrictions on the institutes since 2025.

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday his department had dismantled dozens of similar organisations over two months that had reappeared in disguise, "using different names... but with the same mission" and deemed them a threat to national security.

China's foreign ministry

criticised the move on Monday.

"We oppose the targeted smearing and stigmatisation of Confucius Institutes," ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a news conference.

"China-US educational exchanges and cooperation are beneficial to enhancing mutual understanding between the people of both countries," he said, adding that such ties "should not be interfered with or undermined".

China has set up hundreds of Confucius Institutes in more than 150 countries over the last two decades, according to the body that oversees them.

Dozens of them have closed down in several countries following similar accusations of foreign interference. — AFP

China's Communist Party elite hold key talks on governance

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping opened a key meeting of Communist Party elites in Beijing on Monday, state media said, which observers will be closely watching for clues as to the country's direction and future leadership.

Roughly 300 members of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee in attendance at the meeting, called the fifth plenum, will be looking to tighten discipline within their ranks, according to state media.

That includes measures to reduce corruption and make cadres more effective and loyal.

Xi opened the session on Monday, presenting a draft

decision by the Central Committee that "sets out strategic plans for strengthening full and rigorous Party self-governance", state news agency Xinhua reported.

Few details from the closed-door gathering, held under tight security, will be made known until it concludes on Thursday, but the timing of the meeting is crucial.

The fifth plenum comes ahead of a major party congress next year, where 73-year-old Xi is almost certain to secure a historic fourth term and oversee a leadership reshuffle.

Previous plenums have represented key moments for Xi

to cement his authority.

The Chinese leader has waged a 14-year campaign against corruption that has purged thousands of officials, including dozens of the Central Committee.

Yet he remains frustrated with cadres he deems are not implementing his orders.

State media published an article ahead of the plenum, based on a speech Xi gave in January in which he railed against "two-faced" officials who appear to comply with central directives but "inwardly resist", pursue "individualism" and are "politically opportunistic".

Analysts told AFP that Xi is

trying to maximise efficiency and loyalty among cadres by imposing more supervision and rules.

But as a result of his expansive purges, this year's plenum is expected to have the lowest turnout since former leader Mao Zedong's death in 1976.

Eight of the Central Committee's seats lie vacant, with another 15 members under investigation and at risk of being replaced.

Xi's anti-corruption drive has also targeted the military, toppling five of the seven members of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the party's top armed forces body. — AFP



Paramilitary police stand guard at an entrance to the Tiananmen Square during the plenary session of the Communist Party's Central Committee. — AFP photo

Indonesia fire hotspots fall by more than half

JAKARTA: Indonesia recorded a sharp decline in forest and land fire hotspots on Sunday, with the nationwide tally falling by more than half to 147 as rainfall brought some relief to firefighting operations.

The Forestry Ministry said yesterday that satellite monitoring data recorded at 9 pm local time on Sunday showed that high-confidence hotspots in six priority provinces had plunged from 226 to just 26, signalling an improvement in fire conditions.

"The decline continues the positive trend observed over the past several days. However, we must reiterate that hotspots are indications of surface temperature anomalies detected by NASA Terra/Aqua, SNPP and NOAA-20 satellites," the ministry said in a social media post yesterday.

Among the six priority provinces, West Kalimantan recorded 15 hotspots, followed by Central Kalimantan with five and South Kalimantan with four.

In Sumatra, two hotspots were recorded in South Sumatra, while Jambi and Riau reported none.

The ministry said rainfall in parts of South Sumatra,

The decline continues the positive trend observed over the past several days. However, we must reiterate that hotspots are indications of surface temperature anomalies detected by NASA Terra/Aqua, SNPP and NOAA-20 satellites.

Indonesia's Forestry Ministry

Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan on Sunday helped dampen fire-affected areas and support firefighting operations.

However, it stressed the need for continued monitoring, particularly in peatland areas where underground embers could persist despite rainfall.

Despite the decline in hotspot numbers and improving weather conditions, firefighting operations remained active in several affected areas, according to the ministry.

These included Tanjung Jabung Timur in Jambi; Muara Enim, Ogan Komering Ilir, Banyuasin and Musi Banyuasin in South Sumatra; Pulang Pisau in Central Kalimantan; and Banjarbaru in South Kalimantan.

The ministry said 49 aircraft remained deployed to support firefighting operations, comprising 32 for water bombing and 17 for aerial patrols and weather modification operations.

Across the border in Malaysia, clearer skies returned to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday after days of reduced visibility caused by transboundary haze linked to Indonesia's forest and land fires.

Kuala Lumpur recorded moderate air quality at 7 pm on Sunday. However, seven areas in Sarawak registered unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings above 100 at 9 am yesterday, according to Malaysia's Department of Environment's API Management System portal. — Bernama



A man dressed in a tiger costume stands at a traffic light to busk amid thick haze from forest and land fires in the region in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. — AFP photo



A passenger poses with an oversized boarding pass before boarding Jetstar's inaugural flight from the newly-opened Western Sydney International Airport.



Albanese speaks as he inaugurates the Western Sydney International Airport. — AFP photos

First international flight takes off from new Sydney airport

SYDNEY: The first international flight took off yesterday from a new, multi-billion-dollar airport in the fast-growing western suburbs of Sydney.

After more than four decades of planning, Western Sydney International Airport offers the first alternative to the city's main airport, which has been operating for more than a century.

An Air New Zealand plane from Auckland landed and soon afterwards flew out of the airport in the morning, launching a three-flights-a-week service to Sydney's largely working-class western suburbs.

"It's not every day you get to be part of opening a brand-new international airport," said Air New Zealand chief operations officer Kate Boyer.

"Western Sydney is home to more than 2.5 million people and it's a further gateway for Australian visitors to discover everything our country has to offer."

The new single-runway airport, Australia's first new major aviation hub in more than five decades, began domestic flights on Sunday, and freight operations in July.

Sydney's main airport, Kingsford Smith, is Australia's busiest, its three runways handling more than 42 million passengers last year.

Lying in Botany Bay just nine kilometres (six miles) from the city centre, planes using the airport roar over many city homes, and a curfew bars passenger aircraft from operating

during the night.

The new airport in western Sydney has no such restrictions.

"Through our 24-hour operations, Western Sydney International Airport gives airlines greater flexibility to connect into global hubs and travellers more choice in how they reach the world," said airport chief executive Simon Hickey.

Qantas' budget carrier Jetstar is now the main domestic carrier, flying to the Gold Coast, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The airport says other international carriers are coming, including Qatar Airways from December 2027, Fiji Airways from March 2027, and Vietjet Air from January 2027.

Built at a cost of Aus\$5.3

billion (US\$3.7 billion), excluding surrounding transport works, the airport is reachable by road but is not expected to have a direct rail link until at least December 2027.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the new airport marked a "wonderful new chapter" for Australia.

It would also drive economic and jobs into western Sydney, an area often overshadowed by the city's famed harbour and central business district (CBD), he said at the weekend.

"For too long, Sydney has looked towards the harbour and the CBD. What this does is turn it around to where people live, to where jobs occur, to where investment occurs in western Sydney." — AFP

Former Japan PM Yasuo Fukuda dies at 90

TOKYO: Former Japanese prime minister Yasuo Fukuda, known for trying to build stable ties with China, has died at the age of 90, a ruling party official said yesterday.

Fukuda passed away on October 22, the official from the Liberal Democratic Party told AFP.

He led Japan for a year from September 2007 after replacing the late premier Shinzo Abe, who's first term ended after just 12 months.

During his stint in power, he sought to improve relations with China and invited then-Chinese president Hu Jintao to visit Japan.

Hu's trip in May 2008 made him the first Chinese head of state to visit the country in a decade.

The two leaders issued a joint statement committing to a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests".

Fukuda resigned in September 2008 as his approval ratings dropped. He retired as a politician in 2012. — AFP

N. Korea brings spat over landmine blast to UN

SEOUL: North Korea sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council accusing Seoul of fabricating a landmine explosion that injured three South Korean soldiers, its state media reported yesterday.

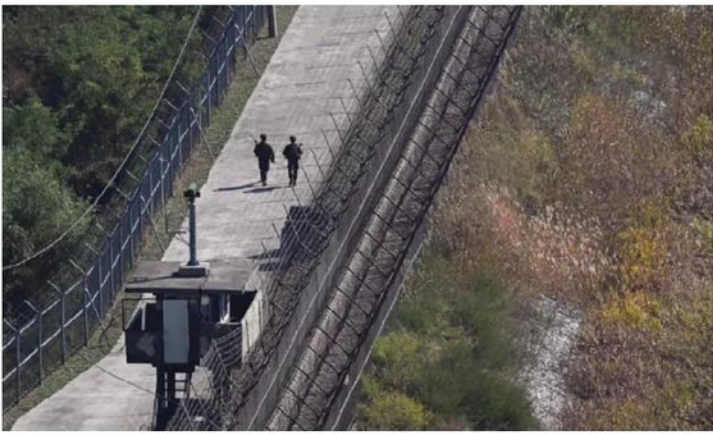
Tensions between the two Koreas have soared since the South last month blamed the blast inside the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that separates the countries on landmines laid by the North, an accusation it has fiercely rejected.

The North Korean permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) sent a letter on Sunday to the UN Security Council regarding the "provocation the ROK committed by groundlessly shifting the blame for the dubious 'mine explosion incident'".

The letter said that the landmine incident "fabricated by the ROK, is a sinister obstructive move to brand as a 'military invasion', delay and impede the DPRK's fortification of its southern border," using the acronyms for both countries' official names.

The incident was a "farce to evade the responsibility for the ever-escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula," it added.

It went on to say its ongoing border fortification efforts were



South Korean soldiers patrol along a military fence on the south side of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) dividing the two Koreas, as seen from a South Korean observatory in the border city of Paju. — AFP file photo

"a legitimate and just exercise of its sovereignty going in strict conformity with the UN Charter," while blasting South Korea for firing warning shots at soldiers involved in the work.

"This is a wanton violation of Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter which stresses the need to refrain from the use of force or threat against territorial integrity of any country in international relations," said the official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA).

South Korea's foreign ministry sent its own letter to the president of the UN Security Council last week, again blaming

the explosion on a North Korean landmine and calling it a "clear violation of the armistice agreement".

The statement comes days after South Korea proposed military talks with North Korea to "mutually confirm the precise location" of their border and discuss restoring communication channels.

The proposal was announced after Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader, announced that Pyongyang had moved new troop units into "firing position" along the border. — AFP

Singapore sets new retirement age at 65 from 2029

SINGAPORE: Singapore will raise retirement age to 65 and re-employment age to 70 from Jan 1, 2029, a year ahead of the 2030 timeline, as part of six recommendations to help seniors remain in the workforce longer, according to AsiaOne news portal.

Announced yesterday by the Tripartite Workgroup on Senior Employment (TWG-SE), the recommendations aim to help more seniors remain in meaningful, sustainable employment, while promoting age-diverse, multi-generational workplaces.

This comes amid an ageing workforce, with the proportion of Singapore's resident labour force aged 50 and above rising from 34 per cent to 40 per cent over the past decade, according to the Ministry of Manpower.

Speaking at the launch conference yesterday, Minister of State for Manpower Dinesh Vasu Dash said employers should adapt jobs and workplaces to give older workers more options to remain in the workforce.

"We hope for our seniors to also upskill themselves to be able to deal with jobs and look at careers as a multi-staged perspective," said Dinesh, adding that creating age-inclusive workplaces would benefit both employers and workers.

"Ultimately, we want to create age inclusive workplaces in Singapore where we are able to then extract the maximum we can for our business and at the same time to support our workers."

The event was also attended by NTUC deputy secretary-general Desmond Tan, and other guests, who were invited to a walkthrough of the digital booths and NTUC's e2i career

pulse workshop.

To expand flexible employment opportunities for older workers, the workgroup recommended introducing a new Flexi-Load Programme (FLP) to help employers create and expand part-time and fractional roles.

The programme will help employers defray the transitional costs of introducing such arrangements, including redesigning jobs, systems and policies traditionally structured around full-time work.

The FLP will also replace the existing part-time re-employment grant when it expires at the end of 2027.

While the current grant is available only to employees aged 60 and above, the FLP will be open to those aged 50 and above.

The workgroup also proposed setting up a programme office for career longevity under the skills and workforce development agency, in collaboration with NTUC and Singapore National Employers Federation, to support career transitions and promote age-inclusive hiring practices.

To provide greater financial support to seniors who are unable to secure re-employment, the workgroup also recommended raising the minimum and maximum employment assistance payment amounts.

The revised amounts will take into account wage growth since the last update in 2022, helping affected workers manage their expenses while seeking new employment opportunities.

Additionally, it also proposed enhancing earned income relief for seniors working beyond the statutory retirement and re-employment ages to reduce their tax burden, boost take-home pay. — Malay Mail

Japan indicts US Marine on murder charge in Okinawa

TOKYO: Japanese prosecutors have indicted a US Marine on suspicion of murdering a woman on Okinawa, a court spokesman told AFP yesterday, in a case that prompted public outrage.

The alleged killing of the 39-year-old Japanese woman caused Japan's premier to slam the "heinous crime" and reignited controversy over the heavy US military presence on the southern island.

"The case was indicted on October 25," said the spokesman for the court in Naha, confirming media reports that the suspect had been indicted on charges of murder and robbery.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported that, according to the indictment document, the 20-year-old suspect allegedly strangled the woman from Naha in a hotel with a telephone cord on October 3.

He is also accused of stealing a backpack containing the woman's wallet and other

belongings, the newspaper said.

The Marine denied the allegations at the time of his arrest but has now made statements that imply some involvement in the case, the Yomiuri and other media said, citing investigative sources.

Crimes including rapes, assaults, hit-and-runs and drunk driving by US military personnel have long triggered protests on the southern Japanese island, which has for years urged other regions in the country to share the burden of hosting US troops.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi has said that officials were reviewing the off-base code of conduct for US troops in Japan following the alleged killing.

The high-level bilateral consultations will examine off-duty conduct and the "liberty" policy governing off-base private activities of US military personnel, he said. — AFP



Supporters of the Students' List gather to celebrate their victory in the Serbian parliamentary elections, in downtown Belgrade. — AFP photo

Serbia’s student movement ousts longtime leader

BELGRADE: Serbia’s student-led movement declared victory in parliamentary elections Sunday ending 14 years in power for Aleksandar Vucic’s right-wing populist party.

The victory in the snap vote comes after nearly two years of anti-government protests sparked by the 2024 collapse of a canopy at Novi Sad railway station that killed 16 people.

The disaster has been widely blamed on corruption and triggered some of Serbia’s largest protests since the fall of strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 2000.

“Preliminary results show that students are convincingly leading in almost all polling stations,” Radomir Saicic, a candidate for the Students’ List, said in a speech at the movement’s election HQ.

“Students won and with them also a hope that Serbia can be a country of justice, freedom and dignity.”

Voters cast ballots in huge numbers on Sunday, with the country recording its highest

parliamentary election turnout in more than three decades.

Vucic conceded defeat less than two hours after polls closed, triggering raucous scenes in the capital as supporters of the movement celebrated the defeat of a government they blamed for deep-rooted corruption.

“I feel incredible,” student Mila Martic told AFP from the List’s headquarters. “I feel as though I am finally living in a free country.”

Thousands poured into the capital’s streets to celebrate the victory, with passing cars honking, crowds chanting, and fireworks lighting up the skyline.

According to the country’s election officials, nearly 65 percent of its 6.4 million registered voters had cast their ballots by 6:00 pm (1700 GMT), two hours before polls closed.

The figure surpassed the 1993 parliamentary election, when just over 61 percent voted.

During his speech to supporters, Vucic said preliminary figures suggested the student movement could

win between 135 and 140 seats, handing it an outright majority in the 250-seat parliament.

The 56-year-old statesman, who has maintained close ties with Russia throughout his tenure, blamed foreign powers for the result.

“I want people to know, this was the validation of a revolution carried out with the direct support of various European countries and the US deep state, the one that is also against President Trump,” he said.

For nearly two years, students have staged rallies and marched across the Balkan nation to reach voters directly and counter the media machine of Vucic’s Serbian Progressive Party.

Their protests have drawn huge crowds, a final pre-election rally in Belgrade on Thursday attracting around 150,000 people, according to an independent protest monitor.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar congratulated the Students’ List on their victory. — AFP

Saudi coalition says struck Houthi missile facilities after Riyadh airport attack

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia: The Saudi-led military coalition fighting Yemen’s Houthis struck several of its missile launchers and storage facilities, a spokesman said on Monday, while the Iran-backed group claimed a new attack on Riyadh’s international airport.

The coalition’s operation came a day after explosions rattled Saudi Arabia’s capital and authorities sent text messages to residents warning them of a ‘hostile aerial threat’ to the city, which has been heavily targeted by the Houthis in recent weeks.

The Saudi-led military coalition’s spokesman Turki al-Maliki posted on X on Monday that the operation had destroyed four ballistic missile launchers, as well as a missile depot and tunnels used by the Houthis, who control a large part of Yemen.

The operation “focused on cutting off Houthi militia supply lines between areas under their control,” he added.

The group have carried out waves of strikes on the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, including an attack this month that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade.

“Air defences intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward Riyadh,” al-Maliki also said on Monday.

The airport re-opened and flights resumed on Sunday with the Houthis warning travellers to avoid the facility, calling it a “military target.”

On Monday, the Houthis said once again they had attacked the airport ‘with a ballistic missile, striking the target with precision’, according to a post by Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree on social media.

He said the Houthis had also struck oil pumping stations with



A member of the Civil Defence assesses damage in southwestern Saudi Arabia reportedly caused by debris from the interception of two ballistic missiles fired by Yemen’s Houthis. — AFP Photo

drones.

On Sunday, the Houthis had said they launched an attack on the airport in Riyadh, after the kingdom announced flights were resuming. The airport closure had been a major blow for Saudi Arabia, forcing the postponement of the kingdom’s flagship investment conference until 2027 and disrupting travel plans for thousands of passengers.

The Dakar Rally also joined a growing list of events that were cancelled, postponed or relocated in the fallout from the war.

Saree had warned that Riyadh airport was still “unsafe” and a “military target”.

“The Saudi regime shall bear the consequences of any operations at the airport,” the spokesman said.

Saudi Arabia and the

government it backs in Yemen have come under sustained attack in recent weeks from the Houthis as a years-long truce broke down in the summer, shifting the focus of the wider US-Iran war that erupted in February.

As operations resumed at Riyadh airport, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and discussed a key air defence system. Mitsotakis “responded favourably to the kingdom’s request to keep the Patriot system in Saudi Arabia, given the current challenging circumstances”, his office said.

Greece has deployed a battery to operate the US-made Patriot air defence system in Yanbu, a major oil export hub on the Red Sea coast. — AFP

Spanish police make 128 overnight arrests in Barcelona for ‘looting’

MADRID: Police made 128 arrests overnight in Barcelona for acts of ‘vandalism’, ‘damage to public property’ and ‘looting’, the regional Catalan police said on Sunday.

Seventy-three of those arrested were minors, with the reports due to be sent ‘to the juvenile prosecutor’s office’, Catalan police chief Silvia Cata told Spain’s 3CatInfo media outlet.

Footage on social media showed

groups of young people, many clad in all-black, attacking businesses in Barcelona after gathering in the city centre for a rally that had not been declared to the authorities.

The scenes come at a time when countries across Europe have been grappling with unrest, with France, Italy and Albania all seeing protests give way to incidents of looting and violence.

Cata said that only two of the 128 people detained in Barcelona

had prior criminal records, and said that a total of 15 officers had been injured during the night.

“This is gratuitous violence,” the police chief said, noting 23 premises were vandalised.

While the movement was ‘completely disorganised’, the call to rally had spread “on social media”, Cata added.

The police were attempting to “study the profile” of those in custody, she said. — AFP



A flood warning sign is seen beside the River Eden in Carlisle in north-west England. — AFP photo

Storms batter Europe hitting power supplies, flights and phones

LONDON: Storms battered northern Europe Sunday, killing a man, cutting power to more than 150,000 homes and disrupting travel and phone networks.

A man died when a tree fell on him in southwestern Scotland, while a runner in a marathon in northern France was injured when a tree was felled by strong winds during the race.

More than 82,000 homes in Britain, nearly 60,000 in France and at least 10,000 in Germany had power cuts inflicted by the passage of storms Boelo and Austen within 24 hours of each other, authorities in the countries said.

In the Argyll and Bute region of western Scotland, winds of up to 84 miles (135 km) an hour were recorded. Trees and power cables brought down by the storm blocked roads and rail lines across Scotland and northern England.

Britain’s Energy Networks Association said more than 400,000 homes had lost power at some stage during the storms.

Part of the pier at Brighton on the southern England coast, unused since a fire in 2003, blew

away in Storm Austen on Friday.

The powerful winds also battered northern France across the Channel as Europe battled its first big autumn storms of the year. Experts have warned of more extreme weather events because of global warming.

Authorities warned of flood risk in regions in Scotland and England.

A runner was lightly injured in the northern French city of Lille near the start of the city’s marathon, which was being staged for the first time in 31 years.

French energy company Enedis said that at the peak of storm Austen on Saturday, some 288,000 homes had no electricity.

In Germany, Austen cut power to 10,000 homes in and around the southwestern town of Freiburg-Brigau on Sunday. The town’s main hospital said it had had to limit service to emergency cases because of the blackout that also cut the mobile phone network.

The storms also hit the Netherlands and Belgium, where falling trees injured four people in Brussels on Saturday. — AFP

‘Marine has to win’: Le Pen supporters fear for France’s future

ORLÉANS, France: Wrapped in the French tricolour, Loïc Le Tourneau was among thousands of supporters who flocked on Sunday to see far-right leader Marine Le Pen officially launch her presidential campaign.

Outside the arena in the city of Orleans, fans milled about, tucking into hot dogs and French fries and snapping up Le Pen-branded T-shirts and scarves before heading inside.

But behind the festive atmosphere lay deep-seated anxieties about France’s future among the roughly 8,500 people who turned out to hear the leader of the nationalist, anti-immigration party.

Le Tourneau, who travelled nearly an hour to attend the rally, said he was increasingly worried about insecurity in France — even though he said he had not experienced it firsthand in the countryside where he lives.

“I’m afraid because things have been deteriorating enormously for about ten years now,” the 25-year-old told AFP.

“I’m worried things will keep



Le Pen, flanked by RN president Jordan Bardella (right), acknowledges the audience after her speech at the end of her campaign kickoff rally as part of the party congress in Orleans, central France. — AFP photo

getting worse if the National Rally doesn’t come to power next year.”

Polls show Le Pen — who has already made three unsuccessful presidential bids — is the frontrunner in the race to succeed centrist President Emmanuel Macron in next year’s election.

But critics accuse her Eurosceptic party of remaining

fundamentally racist despite her efforts to distance it from the legacy of her father, who co-founded what was then called the National Front and was convicted over racist and antisemitic remarks.

Her campaign launch came after weeks of unrest across France, where largely peaceful mass demonstrations have at

Palestinian Authority says 2,670 displaced in Israel’s Hebron operation

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: The Palestinian Authority said Sunday that nearly 2,700 people had been displaced by an Israeli military operation in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron launched after two soldiers were killed in an attack nearby.

Following Friday’s attack, Israeli forces entered the Hebron neighbourhood of Ein Deir Baha, where the assailants lived, and ordered residents to pack up and leave after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged a major operation in the occupied territory.

“More than 2,670 Palestinians

have been forcibly displaced from their homes in Hebron by Israeli occupation forces, the majority of them women, children, and elderly people, according to data from Hebron Municipality,” the Palestinian prime minister’s office said on X.

A convoy of Israeli military and police vehicles accompanied by soldiers was seen in Hebron on Sunday, making its way down a street blocked to civilian traffic by parked cars and motorbikes, AFP images showed.

Local shopkeeper Higazi al-Tamimi, who also plays a leadership role in the evacuated neighbourhood, accused Israeli

soldiers of beating him as he attempted to go to his home.

“I remember one or two people starting to strike my legs, chest and shoulders. One of them even hit me on the head,” he said from a hospital bed, with his leg thickly bandaged.

“They then pushed me backwards, and I kept moving until I reached a safe area.” — AFP

Khaled Shawer AL Tamimi, 68, who was evicted alongside his family from Ein Deir Baha neighbourhood by Israeli forces, poses for a picture with his grandson in Hebron, in the occupied West Bank. — AFP photo





Belle Sisoski takes Borneo music to the world stage

NAGOYA: A traditional musical instrument of Borneo’s Lun Bawang community, at risk of fading into obscurity, is reaching a global audience through local singer and musician Belle Sisoski, who is showcasing its distinctive sound in Toyota’s ‘Move Your World Beat’ music project.

Belle, 20, said the unique sound of the instrument, known as the tapi’, was fused with electronic music in the production of a song entitled ‘New Day Rising’, reviving an ethnic musical heritage that is facing the risk of being forgotten.

She said the project was also a golden opportunity for her to represent Malaysia in an international music project while introducing the tapi’ to a new generation.

“I feel so honoured and privileged to be able to be here and showcase our culture, and share our ethnic instrument that has been long forgotten,” she told Bernama in a recent interview.

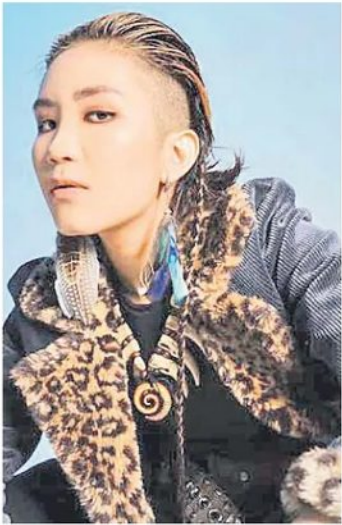
Belle said the Lun Bawang musical instrument has significant heritage value and deserves greater exposure through creative approaches that reflect the evolution of contemporary music.

She said efforts to reintroduce the instrument to a wider audience were also driven by the desire to ensure that the heritage remained relevant and could be passed down to future generations.

“It’s good to be able to showcase the old instrument on the world stage and to fuse it with modern technology and electronic music.”

“My mission is to revive this instrument and give it greater exposure in the mainstream media. Hopefully, future generations can integrate its traditional sound with electronic and contemporary music,” she said.

For Belle, fusing traditional



Belle Sisoski is showcasing the distinctive sound of the tapi’ — a traditional musical instrument of Lun Bawang community — in Toyota’s ‘Move Your World Beat’ music project. — Facebook photo

and modern music not only opened up opportunities for musical experimentation but also allowed her to present cultural heritage in a form that resonated more closely with contemporary listeners.

In ‘New Day Rising’, Belle said she also incorporated elements from various Malaysian traditional instruments, including the rebab and serunai associated with Kelantan’s Mak Yong performance, gamelan, and instruments influenced by Chinese and Indian cultures.

“There’s gendang anak, serunai, and many different sounds in one track. It’s been really fun to work with them,” she said.

The song was produced under Motor Asia’s inaugural initiative, ‘Move Your World Beat Volume 1’, which brings together seven artists from six Asian countries: Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand.

The project combines traditional musical heritage with modern musical innovation, including the use of vehicle sounds that are transformed into elements of the song composition.

Other participating musicians include 2pillz from Vietnam, Miguel Benjamin and Paolo Benjamin of the Philippine band Ben&Ben, Natasha Noorani from Pakistan, Shye from Singapore and Valentina Ploy from Thailand.

Belle said the songwriting process began with discussions in October last year, before the artists collaborated online to develop their respective musical ideas and bring them together into a single work.

“October was the planning stage. The actual work started in March this year and it did not take long. It was such a good experience as it was the group’s collective effort,” she said.

Although most of the production process took place online, Belle said the collaboration allowed artists from different cultural backgrounds to exchange ideas and build relationships before meeting in person for the filming of the music video in Thailand.

Reflecting on the experience of bringing Malaysia’s musical identity into the project, Belle described it as a fresh opportunity that could pave the way for more creative collaborations across Asia.

She said the opportunity to bring different cultures together in a single work also reinforced her belief that music could serve as a medium for connecting people from diverse backgrounds.

“The song brought different cultures together, so it’s something new for the future of Asia. I am so proud to be able to bring Malaysia’s sound to the world stage,” she said. — Bernama



‘THE CAT IN THE HAT’ WORLD PREMIERE

Erica Rivinoja, Daniela Mazzucato, Xochitl Gomez, Bill Hader, Tiago Martinez, America Ferrera, Alessandro Carloni, Quinta Brunson, Giancarlo Esposito, Bill Damaschke and Paula Pell attend ‘The Cat in the Hat’ world premiere at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, California. — AFP photo

‘Hantu Pon X Boleh Resign’ embraces Mamat Khalid’s comedy style

IPOH: Local filmmaker Mohd Asrul Nizam Mohd Yusof, better known as Paklong Zam, continues to explore his creativity in filmmaking through a horror-comedy short film titled ‘Hantu Pon X Boleh Resign’.

Produced by ECCO Studio Production, the film draws creative inspiration from the works of the late Mohamad Mohamad Khalid, better known as Mamat Khalid, who was renowned for his distinctive portrayal of local characters, satirical comedy and natural, conversational dialogue.

“This approach aims to produce a work that does not rely solely on jump scares and ghostly appearances, but also captivates audiences through distinctive characters and entertaining situations, despite featuring new actors and incorporating the Perak dialect,” he told Bernama.

Filed on Oct 5 and 6 with funding support from PORT@IPOH, Mohd Asrul Nizam said the production combines horror, situational comedy and character antics that reflect the everyday lives of Malaysians.

He said the 30-minute film places emphasis on strong

characterisation, dialogue, atmosphere and humour that emerges naturally from the storyline.

He said the production of ‘Hantu Pon X Boleh Resign’ also reflects ECCO Studio Production’s continued efforts to create locally distinctive creative content while providing opportunities to nurture talent in directing, acting and audiovisual production.

“Funding support from PORT@IPOH is crucial in helping local creative works come to fruition, particularly by giving arts practitioners the opportunity to realise their ideas and bring their creative output to audiences,” he said.

Asked about the film’s screening, he said it would be shown through wayang pacak (open-air screenings) in appreciation of the Kampung Perepat community in Klang, which had provided considerable cooperation, in addition to being made available on YouTube.

“We are also exploring a collaboration with AE Cinema in Seri Iskandar and expect the film to begin screening around November,” he added. — Bernama

Tamil cabaret show explores love, heartbreak

KUALA LUMPUR: Theatre-goers can look forward to a blend of Tamil cinema, live music and comedy in Kaadhal Tholvigal (The Failed Romances) which explores love, heartbreak and self-discovery through stories inspired by Tamil popular culture.

The 90-minute cabaret production will run at The Studio, Jeffrey Cheah Performing Arts Centre (JCPAC), Sunway City Kuala Lumpur from Nov 12 to 15.

Created by Malaysian performance group Terry and The Cuz and Australian theatre-maker Adriano Cortese, the show draws inspiration from Tamil films and songs spanning the 1960s to the 2010s.

“It explores how cinematic portrayals of romance have shaped people’s expectations of love and relationships, while examining the realities of heartbreak and the lessons that come with failed relationships,” according to a statement made available to Bernama.

Inspired partly by the 1970s cult classic Mera Naam Joker directed by Raj Kapoor, the production also looks at how social expectations influence ideas about masculinity, femininity, attraction and belonging.

The performance features Malaysian performer Govin Ruben and Singaporean actress and presenter Udaya Soundari, accompanied by a live six-piece band performing iconic and reimagined Tamil songs.

Presented in English, Tamil and Malay, with English subtitles, the show combines music, humour and storytelling to offer audiences a different perspective on romance and relationships.

Following its Kuala Lumpur run, The Failed Romances will travel to Singapore for performances at Esplanade — Theatres on the Bay on Nov 21 and 22.

The production is also scheduled to be staged at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York on Jan 13, 2027, bringing a Malaysian work rooted in Tamil cinema, local culture and the experiences of the South Asian diaspora to an international audience.

The show is presented by JCPAC, which provides a platform for Malaysian and international performing arts productions.

Tickets are available through CloudJoi. — Bernama

Sofia Jane wants you to put your phone down and let theatre get under your skin

KUALA LUMPUR: In a world of endless scrolling and on-demand entertainment, Datin Sofia Jane wants audiences to do something increasingly rare — put their phones away, sit in the dark and let a story get to them.

The actress returns to the stage next month in Thrown, a one-woman play about childhood trauma, buried memories and the emotional baggage people carry into adulthood.

Written by Jodi Gray and directed by Gavin Yap, the production sees Sofia play a child psychologist whose patients’ experiences begin to blur with memories she has kept buried in her own past.

For Sofia, the play’s appeal lies in how it explores the ways painful experiences can shape not only our lives but also our relationships with others.

“When I read it, I thought it was very interesting because we are living in a world where mental health challenges affect not just adults but people of all ages, from children to the elderly,” she told Malay Mail in a recent interview.

One actress, one stage, no hiding place

Taking on an entire production alone is no small feat, particularly



Sofia Jane will star in the one-woman play ‘Thrown’, playing a child psychologist who has been carrying emotional baggage for years. — Photo courtesy of the Jeffrey Cheah Performing Arts Centre

in a story that demands a performer move between a psychologist’s professional world and the personal memories she has spent years avoiding.

Sofia admitted that carrying an hour-long performance on her own was both daunting and exciting.

“Everything is a challenge,” she said.

Although her work in film and television has kept her busy, Sofia said she never lost her appetite

for theatre, with the right role and timing simply not always lining up.

“Being on stage is something I always look forward to because it has a different energy,” she said.

“It feels like starting all over again.”

Can theatre compete with the scroll?

For Sofia, the appeal of live performance is precisely what makes it different from watching a film or series at home: audiences

have to show up, pay attention and experience the story as it unfolds.

She believes theatre still has a place in Malaysia’s entertainment landscape, with younger creatives exploring how sound, lighting and music can push the form in new directions.

But keeping the stage alive also means confronting practical barriers, including whether people can afford tickets and whether they are willing to give a performance their undivided attention.

Theatre, she added, is not confined to contemporary plays or urban audiences, encompassing traditional forms such as Bangsawan, Mak Yong and Indian classical dance.

“We often say theatre is for everyone, but affordability can be an issue,” she said.

For Sofia, the responsibility of sustaining the art form does not fall solely on performers and producers; audiences must also be willing to make room for it.

“It comes down to whether people can afford to attend, whether they want to go and whether they are willing to put their phones down for a while, sit in the dark, listen and watch,” she said.

McCartney objects to Paul Mescal playing him in Beatles movies

SIR Paul McCartney has shared his one objection to Paul Mescal playing him in Sir Sam Mendes’ Beatles movies.

The Hey Jude hitmaker admitted he was frustrated by Sam Taylor-Johnson’s 2009 biopic Nowhere Boy — which followed his late bandmate John Lennon’s early years — because he felt the height difference between Thomas Brodie-Sangster and Aaron Taylor-Johnson made him look “wimpy”, so he was keen for the dynamic not to be echoed in the upcoming four-film cinematic event.

Speaking to Amy Poehler

on her Good Hang podcast, McCartney said: “We were all the same height, and Ringo was a bit smaller. And if you look at photos, we’re all the same height.”

“[In Nowhere Boy], the John character, who she later married, Aaron — he’s bigger than me in the film.

“My character is kind of wimpy. Smaller than John. John knocks me to the floor. And it’s like, ‘Sam, this is not true!’

“Her only explanation, bless her, ‘cause she’s still a good friend, she said, ‘This is a movie, it’s not a documentary.’

“And I thought, ‘Mm. Well, I

don’t like that explanation.’ But I couldn’t do anything, ‘cause by now she’d made the film. There was I, little Paul. John, the great big hero, and it’s like: No! It’s not true.”

McCartney then admitted he had reservations when he heard Mescal had been cast alongside Harris Dickinson as Lennon in Mendes’ upcoming project, and he messaged the director to voice his concerns.

He said of Mescal: “Guess what? He’s smaller than the guy who plays John. Sam Mendes is making the film. I said, ‘Sam, I’ve got just one thing that I need to say to you. You know, Paul

[Mescal is] a bit smaller’ - I don’t know how Sam’s gonna deal with it.

“He sent me a picture, a still from the filming they were doing, and they’re crossing the Abbey Road crossing, and the Paul character is markedly smaller.

“I texted him, ‘Sam! Smaller? Don’t do this! You said you wouldn’t do it.’

However, the filmmaker was quick to try and appease the 84-year-old music legend.

McCartney recalled: “He said, ‘No, it’s okay, it’s just the stride pattern.’ And he sent me another one where they were equal.”

Despite the reassurance,

Mescal is listed as being 5’11”, similar to McCartney’s height, but Dickinson is reportedly 6’2”.

The Fab Four will be rounded out in the movie series by Barry Keoghan as Sir Ringo Starr and Joseph Quinn as the late George Harrison.

Mescal revealed earlier this year that he was “thrilled” to be portraying McCartney as it is providing him with some “stability” after a whirlwind few years since his breakthrough role in the TV series Normal People.

The 30-year-old actor told Variety earlier this year: “To be honest, I can say very little — actually contractually [about the

films], but also I’m kind of keen to say very little about it, because I’m excited that people want to know so much about it.

“I think the endeavour is totally singular. The four of us inside it are pinching ourselves.”

Mescal added: “On a personal level, I’m so thrilled to be working on something at this scale, but also rooted in performance with Sam and great writers.

“But also just to be living and working in London and to have some sort of stability in what has been like a kind of mad six, seven years since Normal People came out.” — Bang Showbiz

‘Clayface’, Holmes doc lead North America box office

LOS ANGELES: A buzzy new documentary about jailed tech CEO Elizabeth Holmes gave “Clayface,” a gory Batman villain origin story, a run for its money at this weekend’s domestic box office, industry estimates showed Sunday.

“Clayface,” from Warner Bros. and DC Comics, debuted in first place with US\$24 million in the US and Canada, but A24’s “You Can See Everything” was not far behind at US\$20 million, according to Exhibitor Relations.

That represents the second biggest weekend ever for a documentary – after Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004) – and an “extremely rare” 28-per cent increase from its debut the prior week, according to analyst David A. Gross of Franchise Entertainment Research.

The three-hour documentary, co-directed by comedian Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim, follows Holmes and her family at home in 2023 during the month before she began an 11-year prison sentence.

Holmes was convicted of defrauding investors in her medical testing company Theranos after touting lofty promises she couldn’t deliver.

The scandal fueled a media circus and was chronicled in a book, multiple podcasts, and the biographical mini-series “The Dropout,” starring Amanda Seyfried – who has sparked some awards chatter with her surprise cameo in “You Can See Everything.”

The film has now earned an estimated total of US\$45 million



English actor Naomi Ackie poses on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the European Premiere of ‘Clayface’ at Curzon Mayfair in London. — AFP photo

at the domestic box office, with some analysts predicting it could become the first documentary to be nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars.

Third place this week went to Fathom Events’ animated film “Wildwood,” which debuted at US\$11 million after over a decade in production.

Made by the stop-motion animation studio behind 2009 hit “Coraline,” “Wildwood” follows a young girl who must venture into an enchanted forest after her brother is whisked away by crows.

“Audiences love this movie, but it needs a very long run to recoup its costs, or an over-performance overseas, and neither appears likely,” said Gross.

In fourth place, falling from first last week, was Paramount’s “Street Fighter” at US\$8.6 million.

Based on the beloved Capcom video game, “Street Fighter” follows super-powered martial artists competing in a global tournament who uncover and battle a sinister conspiracy.

Fifth place went to Black Bear’s “Wicker,” which debuted at US\$5.8 million.

The film stars Olivia Colman as a lonely fisherwoman and Alexander Skarsgard as her fantastical husband made out of wicker, whose housework – and bedroom skills – quickly become the talk of the town.

Rounding out the top 10: “Other Mommy” (US\$3.9 million) “Sense and Sensibility” (US\$3.4 million) “Whalefall” (US\$3.2 million) “Verity” (US\$3.1 million) “Resident Evil” (US\$3.0 million) — AFP

Jamie Foxx to produce ‘East of the River’

JAMIE Foxx has joined the independent crime thriller ‘East of the River’ as a producer, backing a film about two estranged brothers drawn into the dangerous world of underground poker.

The Oscar-winning actor, 58, is producing the film through his Foxxhole Productions company alongside Alex Marks, with his daughter Corinne Foxx, 32, serving as an executive producer.

Directed by Dennis Latos, the thriller stars Ben Barnes, 45, Ben Ahlers, 30, Callie Hernandez, 38, and Maria Sten, 36, and follows two brothers who reunite to confront the illegal gambling operation responsible for destroying their family.

In a joint statement with Corinne and Alex, Jamie said: “We’ve been fans of Dennis since first discovering his short film, ‘Leylak’, where his command of character and storytelling immediately stood out. This film is a powerful continuation of that voice, and we’re proud to support this exceptional project.”

The film has recently completed post-production, with global distribution rights being handled by CAA Media Finance.

Dennis, whose previous work includes the short film Leylak, said the production combined the emotional consequences of family conflict with the dangers of organised crime.

He said: “I wanted to capture



Jamie Foxx

the kinetic, dangerous energy of a world most people never see. This isn’t just a story about poker, it’s a high-octane look at what happens when you’re backed into a corner and forced to gamble with your life.

“We’ve fused a gritty family drama with the pulse-pounding stakes of the criminal underworld to give the audience a cinematic experience that is both deeply felt and truly thrilling.”

Jamie’s involvement comes after a career spanning comedy, music, television and film, including his Academy Award-winning portrayal of Ray Charles in the 2004 biographical drama Ray.

He also starred opposite Tom Cruise in Michael Mann’s crime thriller Collateral, and played the title character in Quentin Tarantino’s western Django Unchained.

His other credits include Dreamgirls, Baby Driver, The Amazing Spider-Man 2 and Spider-Man: No Way Home, in

which he reprised his role as the villain Electro.

Jamie also returned to the screen alongside Cameron Diaz in Netflix’s action comedy Back in Action, marking Cameron’s return to acting after a lengthy absence from Hollywood.

The actor has recently returned to stand-up comedy with his Hulu special Jamie Foxx: Take Care of Yourself, released on 7 October, in which he discusses his career, personal experiences and recovery from a serious medical emergency in 2023.

During an interview with ABC News earlier this month, Jamie spoke about his return to performing after suffering a stroke.

He said: “Man, I almost died.”

Jamie added: “I’ve never been as creative as I am now.”

The actor is also starring in the forthcoming action thriller Deadlocked, which began production in Melbourne, Australia, this month.

Directed by Nikhil Bhat, the Amazon MGM Studios film follows a former Marine serving on a jury who becomes caught in a hostage crisis during a high-profile trial.

The cast includes Luke Hemsworth, Sasha Calle and KiKi Layne, with filming taking place across Melbourne, including Docklands and Port Melbourne.

In East of the River, Ben Barnes, known for playing Prince Caspian in The Chronicles of

Narnia films and Billy Russo in Marvel’s The Punisher, leads an ensemble cast.

Ben Ahlers, who appeared in HBO’s period drama The Gilded Age, also stars alongside Callie Hernandez, whose credits include Alien: Covenant and The Flight Attendant.

Maria Sten, who played Frances Neagley in Reacher and its spin-off Neagley, makes her first film appearance since starring in the television series.

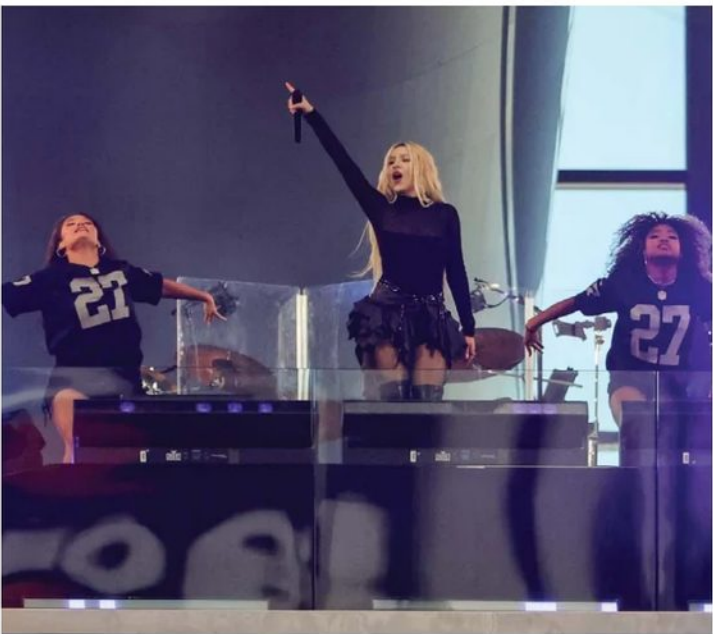
The supporting cast includes David Zayas, known for playing Angel Batista in Dexter and Dexter: Resurrection, John Bedford Lloyd from Ozark and The Bourne Supremacy, and Catherine Curtin, whose television credits include Stranger Things and Orange Is the New Black.

Nathan Wallace, who has appeared in Daredevil: Born Again and NCIS: Origins, also features alongside Gravesend actor Steven Gregory.

Former WWE wrestler James Storm and former NFL running back Dalvin Cook also appear in the production.

The screenplay was written by Elise Finnerty from a story by Jim Tamburino, with Ben Grant serving as director of photography.

Producers include Nicolas Alvo of Ruta 5 Films and Benjamin Wiessner of Vanishing Angle, alongside Dennis and Elise. — Bang Showbiz



HALFTIME SHOW

Singer Ava Max (centre) performs with dancers at halftime of a game between the Los Angeles Rams and the Las Vegas Raiders at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Rams defeated the Raiders 35-21. — AFP photo

Navarrette keen to ensure she transforms into her characters on screen

INDE Navarrette wants to do “everything humanly possible to look different” for The Waffle House Index.

The 25-year-old actress, who has become a household name and scream queen after playing Nikki in Obsession, is keen to make sure she transforms into her characters on screen rather than looking similar to her everyday appearance.

She told The Hollywood Reporter’s Awards Chatter podcast: “I think the future is looking like really hunkering down because I’m in a very specific opportunity in my career where I can kind of make it last as long as humanly possible or throw it all away.

“I really want to be specific with the next couple of my decisions to really solidify what I want to do in this industry.

“And what I want to do is play characters that are people and grounded and really thought-

through. And I really want to not look like myself in some characters.

“I attached myself to ‘The Waffle House Index’, and essentially I want with that character to either gain a lot of weight, lose a lot of weight, add eyebrow piercings, maybe shave my head, and do everything humanly possible to look different.”

The sci-fi thriller will focus on a Waffle House waitress who is already having a bad day even before a stranger with a gun turns up on her night shift.

From there, things take a turn for the worse, with a mass flood, killer crocodiles, a nuclear explosion, aliens, and a magical bunker under the restaurant.

The Waffle House Index takes its name from a real life informal metric measuring the severity of a hurricane.

It’s all based on how an area’s Waffle House - which are

Leisure

A5

Keanu Reeves in talks to star in ‘The Gangster, The Cop, The Devil’

KEANU Reeves is reportedly in talks to star in ‘The Gangster, The Cop, The Devil.’

Horror legend James Wan is set to helm Paramount Pictures’ upcoming reboot of the original 2019 Korean action-crime thriller, which follows a police officer and gangster reluctantly teaming up in the hunt of a serial killer.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Reeves is in discussions to join the cast of the reimagined film.

It’s said he’ll be joined by Don Lee - AKA Ma Dong-seok - who is reprising his role as crime boss Jang Dong-soo in the remake.

The original Korean movie, which was written and directed by Lee Won-tae, premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2019.

The movie followed the unlikely duo as they come together to track down the killer.

They’ve each got their own motives for catching them, which results in plenty of double crossing and games of cat and mouse.

Wan is set to be at the helm of the remake, which will mark his first directorial effort since 2023’s ‘Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom.’

The Fantastic Four: First Steps’ Eric Pearson has penned the latest version of the script, with Resident Evil’s Shay Hatten and A Knight’s Tale scribe Brian Helgeland working on previous drafts. Hatten previously worked with Reeves on the John Wick



Keanu Reeves

franchise.

Late last year, it was confirmed Wan will also be working with Paramount on a new Paranormal Activity film.

He is set to produce the eighth film in the franchise, which comes after his Atomic Monster studio merged with Jason Blum’s Blumhouse.

He said at the time: “I’ve been a huge admirer of Paranormal Activity since the brilliant first movie, with its creeping slow burn and subtle ability to make the unseen terrifying.

“I’m looking forward to expanding on its legacy and helping shape the next evolution of this scary found-footage franchise.”

Meanwhile, Reeves was most recently seen in Jonah Hill’s comedy drama Outcome, which streamed on AppleTV.

Next year, he’ll be heard on the big screen as the voice of fan-favorite character Shadow in Sonic the Hedgehog 4. — Bang Showbiz

Michael Douglas wanted to be ‘killed off’ after his second ‘Ant-Man’

MICHAEL Douglas joined the Marvel Cinematic Universe as former S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Hank Pym - who was also the original Ant-Man - in the original 2015 blockbuster and before returning for 2018 sequel Ant-Man and the Wasp, Avengers: Endgame the following year, and 2023’s Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania.

The 82-year-old actor told the Happy Sad Confused podcast: “I would have been killed off after the second one, but they wouldn’t let me.”

The movie veteran was actually keen to work on a CGI-heavy film as a chance to try something new.

He explained: “I said, ‘I’ve never done a green screen movie.’

“I [told] all my agents, ‘I’d like to do one of these green screen movies to see what they’re like,’ you know? Because it’s amazing.

“It’s nothing, just a green screen, and they show you the pictures of what it’s gonna look like when it’s all finished.”

After his first MCU role, Douglas noted that it was “hard acting”, adding: “It’s coming at you here, this and that, you know?”

He joked about how he should have read the “fine print” in his contract.

Douglas noted that Paul Rudd “was a wonderful actor” and the rest of the cast was “lovely”.

However, he said: “But then you can’t get out of it.”

As well as his live action appearances, the actor also voiced Hank Pym in several



Michael Douglas

episodes of Disney+ animated series What If...? from 2021 to 2023.

In 2024, Douglas revealed his plans for his character’s on screen death.

Appearing on The View, he said: “[Getting killed off] actually was my request for the third one. I said I’d like to have a serious [death], with all these great special effects.

“There’s got to be some fantastic way where I can shrink to an ant size and explode, whatever it is. I want to use all those effects.”

The veteran actor had admitted in 2023 that he still had to “ask quietly” about certain topics in the MCU.

He told Digital Spy: “On the first one I knew nothing. I was not a comic book addict when I was a kid.

“I didn’t know the Marvel world, so they sent me a whole slew of the comics to get some idea. I didn’t have any idea about [the universe] and even now I still have to ask quietly because I don’t want to be an idiot.” — Bang Showbiz

Highlights

Bursa Malaysia ends lower on selling in utilities, banking heavyweights

BURSA Malaysia closed lower yesterday, weighed down by selling pressure in selected heavyweights, mainly utilities and banking stocks, alongside weaker performances across regional markets.

At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) dropped 7.20 points, or 0.45 per cent, to 1,604.36 from last Friday's close of 1,611.56.

The benchmark index opened 0.44 of a point firmer at 1,612.00, its highest level today, before hitting its lowest level of 1,600.45 during the late afternoon session.

However, the broader market was slightly positive, with gainers edging losers 549 to 514, while 508 counters were unchanged, 1,330 untraded, and 59 suspended.

Turnover fell to 2.90 billion units worth RM2.15 billion from last Friday's 3.18 billion units worth RM2.69 billion.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said selling pressure persisted in utility and banking heavyweights amid thin trading volume.

He noted that regional markets ended broadly lower, weighed down by weakness in technology stocks as investors questioned the sustainability of substantial spending on artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and the potential returns on such investments.

MyDCD IPO to raise RM268.8 mln ahead of ACE Market listing



Nur Atiqah Quratulaini

reporters@theborneopost.com

KUCHING: MyDCD Bhd is expected to raise RM268.80 million through its initial public offering (IPO) ahead of its planned listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd on Nov 17, 2026.

The engineering services provider specialising in mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection (MEPF) systems for critical infrastructure, particularly data centres, launched its IPO prospectus on Oct 26, 2026.

The IPO involves the issuance and offering of 480 million ordinary shares at RM0.56 each, comprising 335 million new shares expected to raise RM187.60 million for the company and an offer for sale of 145 million existing shares through private placement, expected to raise RM81.20 million for the selling shareholders.

Based on its enlarged share capital of 1.794 billion shares, MyDCD is expected to have a market capitalisation of RM1.00464 billion upon listing.

Its shares have also been classified as Shariah-compliant by the Shariah Advisory Council of the Securities Commission Malaysia.

Of the proceeds from the public issue, RM134 million, or 71.43 per cent, will be allocated



MyDCD prospectus launch.

for working capital, primarily to support project execution and fund performance bonds.

Another RM39.90 million, representing 21.27 per cent, will fund business expansion through additional recruitment, new office space rental and staff training, while RM5 million will be used to enhance its information technology systems. The balance will cover listing expenses.

For the financial year ended June 30, 2026 (FYE2026), MyDCD recorded revenue of RM666.03 million and profit after tax of RM66.80 million, representing three-year compound annual growth rates of 52.80 per cent and 58.48 per cent, respectively, from FYE2023 to FYE2026.

As at Sept 30, 2026, the group had an outstanding order book of RM1.32 billion, comprising approximately RM1.27 billion from data centre MEPF integration projects and RM53.08 million from maintenance services.

The order book is expected to be progressively recognised as revenue up to FYE2032.

The group also had 76 active maintenance contracts as at

Sept 30, 2026, with contract durations typically ranging from one to five years.

MyDCD chief executive officer Chris Ow Yong said the company's experience covered data centre projects across Tier I to Tier IV classifications, with services spanning engineering support, supply and installation, testing and commissioning.

"As project requirements become more demanding, having the right technical capabilities, experienced personnel and working capital is essential.

"The IPO proceeds will help us meet these needs by supporting project execution, including performance bonds, as well as strengthening our teams and enhancing our systems to support our continued growth," he said.

According to the independent market research report in the prospectus, Malaysia's MEPF construction work grew at a compound annual growth rate of 15% between 2023 and 2025, reaching RM10.40 billion in 2025. The sector recorded further growth of

18.1 per cent in the first half of 2026 compared with the corresponding period a year earlier.

Malaysia also recorded RM385.70 billion in data centre-related investments from 2021 to the first half of 2026.

Ow Yong said growing artificial intelligence adoption was increasing data centres' requirements for computing power, cooling and energy management, making MEPF systems increasingly important.

He added that MyDCD would focus on strengthening its execution capabilities to meet evolving customer requirements as the industry developed.

TA Securities Holdings Bhd head of corporate finance Ku Mun Fong said the listing would provide MyDCD with access to capital to support its next phase of development.

"The company's technical capabilities and experience serving enterprise, co-location and hyperscale data centres would position it to pursue opportunities in the specialised market segment," he said.

Analysis: Astro deal could lift Maxis home base by 22 pct

KUCHING: Maxis Bhd's (Maxis) proposed acquisition of Astro's broadband business is seen as giving the group an avenue to execute its convergence strategy, though the immediate impact upon completion may be limited.

The research arm of MBSB Investment Bank Bhd (MBSB Research) in a note on Monday said the deal would help Maxis increase customer stickiness while utilising little funding given its existing war chest of more than RM800 million.

To recap, Maxis' wholly owned subsidiary Maxis Broadband Sdn Bhd had entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with MEASAT Broadcast Network Systems Sdn Bhd (MBNS), a wholly owned unit of Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd, to acquire MBNS' broadband business assets for up to RM83 million in cash.

Under the agreement, Maxis Broadband will acquire MBNS' entire broadband subscriber base, which stood at 178,631

active subscribers as of end-February 2026, alongside associated contracts, software, equipment and inventories.

The transaction excludes MBNS' brand name, trademarks and goodwill.

The research house said the final purchase price is subject to a tiered downward adjustment mechanism based on the actual number of subscribers transferred at completion, which is expected in the second quarter of 2027.

The acquisition will be funded through internally generated funds, with Maxis' cash reserves standing at RM804 million as at the second quarter of financial year 2026 (2QFY26).

Based on the 178,600 subscribers, the research house said Maxis' home connections could potentially increase by 22 per cent to 991,600.

It added that the average revenue per user (ARPU) of the acquired base could be similar to Maxis' current blended home ARPU of RM109.10 per

month.

Astro stopped new sales and subscriber acquisitions for Astro Fibre on February 1 this year, with its fibre packages previously ranging from RM99 per month for 100Mbps to RM189 per month for 800Mbps.

Based on Maxis' average monthly consumer home revenue of RM84 million as at 2QFY26, MBSB Research said the inorganic growth could potentially lift the segment's topline by slightly over 20 per cent.

However, it said this may only translate into around two per cent growth at the service revenue level.

"This, nonetheless, provides Maxis an opportunity to cross-sell and up-sell its existing services via its convergence strategy. We made no changes to our earnings estimates at this juncture pending completion of the transaction," it said.

The house has maintained its 'buy' call on Maxis with an unchanged target price of RM43.1.

Money Market

SHORT-TERM interbank rates remained stable today after Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) conducted operations in the financial system.

Liquidity in the conventional system rose to RM41.10 billion from RM40.94 billion yesterday morning, while liquidity in the Islamic system increased to RM30.50 billion from RM28.53 billion earlier.

Earlier, BNM conducted reverse repo tenders and an Islamic reverse repo tender.

Rubber

THE Kuala Lumpur rubber market closed mixed amid declining oil prices and supply disruptions in major rubber-producing countries, a dealer said.

She said market sentiment was also influenced by China's slower economic performance, especially weaker-than-expected domestic car sales in 2026.

Oil prices fell on yesterday as diplomatic efforts to ease the US-Israeli war with Iran tempered fears of further supply disruptions, although continued Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia kept geopolitical risks elevated.

TOP 20 GAINERS

STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
NESTLE	20.200	9,038.0	8,910.0	9,026.0	+ 72.0
MPI	31.200	4,058.0	3,952.0	4,058.0	+ 58.0
CARLSBG	561.900	1,320.0	1,264.0	1,298.0	+ 34.0
STRATUS	8,315,000	267.0	230.0	260.0	+ 26.0
VITROX	2,146,200	1,080.0	1,032.0	1,072.0	+ 26.0
PPB	380,500	910.0	870.0	902.0	+ 24.0
SIVEST	9,596,300	428.0	400.0	423.0	+ 23.0
ALLIANZ	138,600	1,928.0	1,894.0	1,928.0	+ 22.0
MNHLDG-WA55,600	370.0	350.0	370.0	370.0	+ 20.0
HLIND	56,300	1,658.0	1,626.0	1,650.0	+ 20.0
SAMAIDEN	2,583,000	301.0	280.0	300.0	+ 18.0
CYPARK-WA34,250,500	20.0	12.5	16.0	16.0	+ 15.5
MNHLDG	3,939,000	392.0	367.0	388.0	+ 15.0
SCGBHD-WA84,100	265.0	246.0	265.0	265.0	+ 15.0
BAT	133,100	431.0	412.0	431.0	+ 14.0
MI	2,255,900	666.0	635.0	665.0	+ 14.0
MULPHA	1,700	270.0	258.0	270.0	+ 14.0
PENTA	2,477,100	565.0	542.0	562.0	+ 12.0
GESHEN	951,000	144.0	126.0	137.0	+ 12.0
SCGBHD	4,675,600	290.0	276.0	290.0	+ 12.0

TOP 20 LOSERS

STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
UTDPLT	156,900	3,086.0	2,990.0	2,990.0	- 50.0
YTLPOWR	43,219,500	532.0	483.0	496.0	- 36.0
CVIEW	14,700	286.0	266.0	266.0	- 20.0
EG-CO	26,600	29.0	29.0	29.0	- 18.5
SWKPLNT	386,200	435.0	412.0	415.0	- 14.0
FAREAST	6,200	400.0	390.0	395.0	- 14.0
KGB	1,769,000	850.0	835.0	840.0	- 13.0
YTLPOWR-C1R9,791,900	56.0	39.5	44.5	44.5	- 13.0
KLK	1,776,100	2,056.0	1,970.0	2,040.0	- 12.0
BMGREEN-CA10,000	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	- 11.5
YTL	25,783,800	208.0	194.0	196.0	- 11.0
UMSINT	1,000	720.0	720.0	720.0	- 10.0
APM	8,000	245.0	242.0	242.0	- 10.0
YTLPOWR-C2C14,141,900	40.5	30.0	32.5	32.5	- 10.0
BNASTRA	501,800	274.0	265.0	265.0	- 10.0
BKAWAN	16,200	1,918.0	1,884.0	1,918.0	- 10.0
DUFU-C16	90,000	34.0	31.0	34.0	- 8.5
MAYBANK	3,462,300	1,006.0	998.0	998.0	- 8.0
GOHUB	188,200	106.0	101.0	101.0	- 8.0

Closing Indices

KLSE	FBMEMAS	11,977.00	(-16.45)
	FBM/KLCI	1,604.36	(-7.20)
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS	441.41	(+2.71)
	INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	175.41	(+0.01)
	CONSTRUCTION	312.78	(+0.59)
	FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,573.86	(-80.46)
	ENERGY	848.73	(+14.06)
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	380.31	(+5.09)
	HEALTH CARE	1,555.38	(+13.74)
	TRANSPORTATION	1,025.17	(+1.06)
	PROPERTY	979.52	(-1.41)
	PLANTATION	8,623.97	(-53.51)
	FBMSHA	11,974.79	(+31.22)
	FBMACE	5,393.66	(+47.52)
	TECHNOLOGY	74.52	(+1.11)

• S'PORE	STI	5,412.38	-9.78
• TOKYO	NIKKEI	62,189.65	-503.51
	TOPIX	3,972.98	+7.17
• HK	HANG SENG	23,211.81	+118.44
• AUST	ALL ORDS	8,926.60	+20.80

Commodities

PEPPER		Date: 26.10.2026	
* Average Pepper price (RM/tonne)		SOUTHERN REGION	
KUCHING SERIAN SR AMAN BEHONG			
BLACK G1	24,460	24,710	24,980
WHITE G1	35,820	35,480	34,500
NORTHERN REGION			
SARIKEI BINTANGOR SIBU KAPIT BINTULU MIRI			
BLACK G1	24,180	25,250	23,960
WHITE G1	35,500	36,250	34,400
Source: Malaysian Pepper Board		http://www.mpb.gov.my	

COCOA		Dealer's buying prices of dry cocoa beans (RM/MT)	
		Centres in Sabah & Sarawak	
		SMC 1 SMC 2	
		High	Low
KUCHING	13,500	13,500	13,500
SARIKEI	13,500	13,500	13,500
SIBU	13,500	13,500	13,500
TAWAU	14,000	14,000	13,800
TENOM	14,000	14,000	13,800

* Not Graded
Source : Malaysian Cocoa Board

Ten Most Active

COUNTER (MI)	VOL (SEN)	HI (SEN)	LO (SEN)	L/DONE (SEN)	+/-
HSI-CWU4	161,020,400	8.5	7.0	8.5	unch
ZETRIX	156,552,500	7.5	6.5	7.5	unch
AXTERIA	84,218,200	20.0	15.5	19.5	+ 5.5
HSI-CWWP	62,519,200	13.0	11.5	12.5	unch
NIHSIN	56,042,700	49.0	46.5	47.5	- 1.5
NEXGRAM	55,027,500	6.0	5.0	6.0	+ 0.5
HSI-PWXN	49,505,100	16.0	14.5	14.5	- 1.5
JAKS	47,145,200	16.5	14.5	15.0	- 1.5
YTLPOWR	43,219,500	532.0	483.0	496.0	- 36.0
HSI-CWWL	35,031,000	19.0	16.5	19.0	+ 1.0

Interbank Rates

KUALA LUMPUR INTERBANK OFFER RATES: OCT 26		HIBOR(HK\$)	
1M	3.02	1M	2.75000
2M	3.35	2M	2.91637
3M	3.55	3M	3.25167
6M	3.58	6M	3.50143
12M	3.79	12M	3.97441

Gold

THE PHYSICAL PRICE OF GOLD AS AT 5 PM STOOD AT RM510.42 PER GRAMME, DOWN 77 SEN FROM RM511.19 AT 5 PM LAST FRIDAY.

Exchange Rates

EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: OCT 26

	SELLING	BUYING	BUYING
	TI/OD	TI	OD
1 US Dollar	4.1560	4.0080	3.9980
1 Australian Dollar	2.9310	2.8120	2.7960
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2440	3.1420	3.1340
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9580	2.8740	2.8620
1 Euro	4.6560	4.5030	4.4830
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.3720	2.2830	2.2670
1 Papua N Guinea Kina	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2440	3.1420	3.1340
1 Sterling Pound	5.5530	5.3740	5.3540
1 Swiss Franc	5.0620	4.8440	4.8290
100 UAE Dirham	114.180	108.200	108.000
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.4390	3.1830	2.9830
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.5600	59.8800	N/A
100 Danish Krone	63.8500	58.7100	58.5100
100 Hongkong Dollar	53.4200	50.7200	50.5200
100 Indian Rupee	4.4600	4.1400	3.9400
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0240	0.0212	0.0162
100 Japanese Yen	2.6610	2.5370	2.5270
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	45.6500	41.9700	41.7700
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5600	1.3900	1.1900
100 Philippine Peso	6.6200	6.2200	6.0200
100 Qatar Riyal	114.940	109.120	108.920
100 Saudi Riyal	111.620	105.970	105.770
100 South Africa Rand	25.8500	23.3400	23.1400
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3100	1.1500	0.9500
100 Swedish Krona	43.0700	39.2000	39.0000
100 Thai Baht	12.8200	11.3600	10.9600

Scoreboard

	UP	DOWN	+/-	TRADED
CONSUMER PROD & SERV	60	37	60	157
IND-PROD & SERVICES	66	50	72	188
CONSTRUCTION	21	16	17	54
TECHNOLOGY	25	18	14	57
FINANCIAL SERVICES	6	15	9	30
PROPERTY	27	22	28	77
PLANTATION	10	19	7	36
REIT	7	7	6	20
CLOSED END FUND	1	0	0	1
ENERGY	16	11	12	39
HEALTH CARE	12	5	4	21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	10	3	4	17
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	6	10	6	22
UTILITIES	4	4	4	12
BUSINESS TRUST	1	0	0	1
STRCWARR	199	218	167	584
ACE-MKT	72	77	94	243
BOND&LOAN	0	1	2	3
ETF	5	1	2	8
LEAP-MKT	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	549	514	508	1,571

IMT-GT study to strengthen rubber city network

KUALA LUMPUR: A study on rubber city network collaboration under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) is underway to strengthen ties between producers and suppliers and expand Kedah Rubber City's (KRC) global market reach.

Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shahar Abdullah said the study conducted under the Working Group on Trade Investment Facilitation (WGTF) will assess the common challenges faced by rubber cities in the three countries.

He said the study will also analyse global rubber price fluctuations, the technology gap, and differences in quality standards among the three countries.

"Most importantly, we must strengthen the alignment of quality standards among these three countries to ensure that the integration of downstream products yields high value," he said during the Questions for Oral Answers session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was replying to a supplementary question from Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap) about the ministry's measures to elevate KRC into a world-class rubber industry hub and a preferred choice for investors, following the 32nd IMT-GT Ministerial Meeting held in Indonesia last month.

On the study's status, Mohd Shahar said the appointed consultant has signed the letter of acceptance, and the study will take six months to complete, expected to finish by the second quarter of 2027.

He expressed confidence



The federal government has allocated an investment of RM613 million for the development of the KRC, covering land acquisition and the provision of infrastructure. — Bernama photo

that the study's findings will strengthen the synergy of the rubber city network among the three countries.

Meanwhile, replying to Nurul Amin's original question regarding the long-term planning for the Kedah Rubber City project in Padang Terap in relation to the industrial support ecosystem, such as the downstream rubber industry and industrial traffic, Mohd Shahar said the federal government has allocated an investment of RM613 million for the development of the KRC, covering land acquisition and the provision of infrastructure.

"KRC encompasses approximately 1,250 hectares of land owned by the Federal Lands Commissioner, which has been leased to the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) for long-term industrial development.

"To facilitate matters for investors at KRC, the NCIA

has established an Integrated Business Centre (IBC) with an allocation of RM15 million, which will serve as a centralised service and reference hub," he added.

Mohd Shahar said investor entry into KRC is now aligned with developing local supply chains, while business matching and vendor development programmes are being implemented in packaging, logistics, and maintenance services.

"Meanwhile, a preliminary study for the road upgrading project connecting KRC to the town of Kuala Nerang, Kedah, has been approved under the Second Rolling Plan for 2027, as part of the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP).

"The scope of the study encompasses land surveying, soil investigation, and technical reports, including a traffic impact assessment and a road safety audit," he said. — Bernama

Govt to implement NDI approach in 2027 for aid eligibility assessment

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will implement the Net Disposable Income (NDI) approach in 2027 to ensure that the assessment of eligibility for aid takes into account demographic factors and liabilities, in addition to income.

Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shahar Abdullah said this approach is more equitable, as it considers basic expenditures and sociodemographic factors when evaluating a household's financial standing.

"The government will ensure that everything we implement takes into account not only the lower-income group but also encompasses the entire spectrum of Malaysian society," he said during a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday in reply to a supplementary question from Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias (BN-Jelebu) on whether the government intends to implement a specific action plan to strengthen the economic position of the middle class, covering income growth, the alleviation of financial pressure from basic commitments, and the

expansion of social protection.

Earlier, in response to Jalaluddin's question regarding the government's assessment of the true status of the middle class, Mohd Shahar said policy-making cannot rely solely on gross income estimates.

"The Economy Ministry is currently in discussions with relevant agencies to implement a pilot project aimed at understanding the impact of adopting the NDI approach on the nation's fiscal position," he added.

He noted that based on the 2024 Household Income Survey conducted by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), the M40 group has a monthly gross income ranging from RM5,860 to RM12,679, with an average of RM8,744 per month.

Meanwhile, regarding expenditure, he noted that data from the DOSM indicates that nearly 70 per cent of the M40 group's income is spent on basic costs comprising 22.7 per cent for housing and utilities, 34.1 per cent for food, and 10.6 per cent for transportation.

"After accounting for medical protection commitments, the

remaining income at the end of the month is very little," he said.

While awaiting the finalisation of the new measurement methodology, Mohd Shahar said the government, through Budget 2027, has introduced measures to alleviate the burden on the public, including the middle class, covering areas such as housing, education, healthcare, taxation and wages.

He said some government aid has begun shifting toward a wider approach, such as BUDI95 and the Early Schooling Assistance, which benefits Malaysians in general, including the middle class.

Regarding the income thresholds for the B40, M40, and T20 categories, he explained that these limits are adjusted based on household income and expenditure surveys, which are conducted twice during each Malaysia Plan.

For instance, Mohd Shahar noted that the income range for the M40 group increased from RM5,250–RM11,819 in 2022 to RM5,860–RM12,679 in 2024.

The next survey will be carried out in 2027, with the results to be published in 2028, he added. — Bernama

KEB IPO priced at 35 sen, set to raise RM48.49 million

KUCHING: Property developer KEB Bhd (KEB) is set to raise RM48.49 million from its initial public offering (IPO) after launching its prospectus for a listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia.

The group in a statement on Friday said the IPO involves the issuance of 138.54 million new shares at an issue price of RM0.35 per share.

Of the proceeds, RM19 million will go towards the acquisition of landbank for development, while RM14.89 million is for working capital for project development.

Another RM8.50 million is for repayment of bank borrowings, and RM6.10 million for defraying listing expenses.

Applications for the public issue will close on November 2, and KEB is scheduled to be listed on the ACE Market on November



Lim (third left) with M&A Equity Holdings Bhd Datuk Bill Tan (second left) and Khoo (right) at the group's prospectus launch on Friday.

16.

KEB, which ventured into property development in 2004, focuses on residential, industrial, commercial and mixed-use developments in Malaysia.

It is supported by its in-house construction arm, KEB Utama Sdn Bhd, a CIDB Grade G7 registered contractor, which the group said lets it keep greater control over project execution,



Industry leaders and HLB senior management convened at the Business Matters with HLB SME customer forum to unpack the Budget 2027 beyond the headlines.

HLB forecasts Malaysia's GDP growth at 5.0pc in 2027



KUCHING: Hong Leong Bank (HLB) has forecast Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 5.0 per cent in 2027, maintaining a positive outlook on the country's economic prospects.

The bank considers the government's GDP growth projection of 4.2 to 5.2 per cent for 2027 realistic and achievable, supported by Malaysia's economic fundamentals, manageable inflation and sustained capital inflows.

The outlook was shared at HLB's recent small and medium enterprise (SME) customer forum, Business Matters with HLB: Budget 2027 Unpacked, which examined the budget's implications for businesses and the country's economic outlook.

HLB also expects the ringgit

to appreciate gradually to 3.97 against the US dollar over the next 12 months, supported by the country's economic fundamentals and capital inflows.

In his opening remarks, HLB managing director of Business and Corporate Banking Yow Kuan Tuck said Budget 2027's focus on productivity, workforce development and targeted support could help businesses strengthen their operations and competitiveness.

"We recognise the Government's decisive push to help Malaysian businesses sharpen their capabilities, elevate productivity, and build lasting resilience.

"Between shifts in global supply chains, rising overheads, and evolving workforce dynamics, the core challenge for businesses extends beyond merely absorbing cost adjustments like higher minimum wages, and now includes strengthening operations to deliver higher-value output and top-line growth," he said.

Yow said HLB remained committed to supporting its clients with capital and advisory services to help them build long-term competitiveness.

The bank said targeted financing guarantees, tax measures and support for artificial intelligence (AI) and automation could provide businesses, particularly SMEs, with opportunities to improve productivity and access new markets.

The forum featured insights from Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Johan Mahmood Merican, Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Malaysia (SAMENTA) president Datuk William Ng, PwC tax partner Ang Wei Liang and HLB economist Choong Yin Pheng.

Budget 2027 outlines measures aimed at accelerating high-value economic growth while maintaining fiscal discipline and improving Malaysians' wellbeing, with an emphasis on productivity, workforce development and targeted business support.

Matrade: Pahang Export Day showcases 70 entrepreneurs, MSME companies

KUANTAN: The second edition of Pahang Export Day 2026 today brought together nearly 70 entrepreneurs and companies – specifically micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) – from various industrial sectors in the state.

Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) chief executive officer Datuk Abu Bakar Yusof said local entrepreneurs have great potential to penetrate international markets through their diverse products.

He said that although most MSMEs in Pahang are in the food and beverage (F&B) sector, some also produce high value-added industrial products, including construction materials.

"For example, one of the award recipients at today's event produces a silicone sealant product used in the construction industry.

"This shows that MSME products are not limited to F&B, but also encompass industrial products with high value-added," he said during the event's press conference.

Abu Bakar said F&B entrepreneurs must also focus on research and development, innovation, and digitalisation to boost product value and

competitiveness in the global market.

He said Matrade, through the Matrade Academy, will guide local entrepreneurs to enhance their products' value, including packaging, certification, and labelling, to meet international regulations and standards.

"What needs to be done is to ensure that the product has added value and appeal for global buyers and importers," he said.

He said Pahang recorded a trade surplus of approximately RM5 billion to RM6 billion last year, and efforts to boost exports are expected to continue contributing to the state's economic growth.

Meanwhile, Pahang Investment, Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation Committee chairman Datuk Mohamad Nizar Najib welcomed Matrade's initiative to help local entrepreneurs enhance their capabilities and competitiveness to penetrate international markets.

He said the state has an advantage in its transport and logistics network, which can open more opportunities for local exporters to expand their businesses internationally.

"The advantages include the development of the East Coast

Rail Link (ECRL), which connects Kuantan Port with Port Klang, and is expected to enhance logistics capacity and open up access to global markets," he said.

He said exporters can utilise Kuantan Port to ship products to markets in East Asia and North Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan, while Phase 2 of the ECRL (Gombak-Port Klang) has the potential to facilitate the transport of goods to Port Klang for export to the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

Mohamad Nizar said the shipping sector at Kuantan Port also benefits exporters, following the commencement of operations by Konsortium Perkapalan Timur Sdn Bhd, which provides vehicle shipping services to Kuching using Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) vessels.

"This is still in the initial stage, and we hope the relevant shipping company will be able to expand its services to include container shipping, as well as open up more routes to other destinations, including China and Asean countries," he said.

He said the service expansion could boost regional trade and give local entrepreneurs more logistics options to market their products abroad. — Bernama

gross development value (GDV) of about RM1.36 billion, along with two future projects with an estimated total GDV of about RM382.73 million.

Together, the six projects represent an estimated GDV of about RM1.74 billion.

The group also has a total landbank of about 60.01 acres, including one joint venture arrangement with landowners, to support its future development plans.

"Over the years, we have built our property development business on a combination of development experience, disciplined execution and a focus on delivering projects that meet market demand," said managing director Datuk Lim Kim Chong.

He said the IPO will strengthen the group's financial position and give it more resources to expand

its landbank, support project development activities and enhance its capacity to pursue future growth opportunities.

Eco Asia Capital Advisory Sdn Bhd group chief executive officer Datuk Kelvin Khoo said the prospectus launch is an important step for KEB as it prepares to access the capital market.

"With a clear project pipeline, available landbank and proceeds earmarked for expansion and balance sheet strengthening, KEB is well positioned to reinforce its presence in the domestic property development landscape and execute its medium-term plans," he said.

M&A Securities Sdn Bhd is the principal adviser, sponsor, placement agent and underwriter for the IPO, while Eco Asia Capital Advisory is the financial adviser.



Sibu SEZ: Better air links, high-tech infrastructure

SIBU: Improved air connectivity and high-tech infrastructure must be prioritised under the proposed Sibu Economic Zone (SEZ) to attract investment, skilled talent and high-value industries to central Sarawak, says local entrepreneur Dr Gregory Hii Sui Cheng.

The executive chairman of Delta Leasing Bhd said expanding Sibu Airport and upgrading its facilities would be crucial to strengthening the town's accessibility and attracting professionals, researchers and industry experts to collaborate with local higher education institutions and industries.

He said the SEZ should also focus on developing advanced digital and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure to meet the future energy demands of data centres and other technology-driven industries.

"Sibu, being in the central region of Sarawak, should concentrate on building high-value digital and AI infrastructure to meet the future energy needs of data centres and other industries," the former banker told Bernama.

Hii also proposed establishing a new small and medium enterprise (SME) industrial park specialising in robotics development through collaboration with China and technologically advanced European countries.

Another priority, he said, should be the development of a modern agricultural park equipped with advanced farming technologies to produce high-value agricultural products.

Welcoming Putrajaya's involvement in the Sibu SEZ, Hii said federal financial support would be an important component in turning the proposed development into reality.

His proposals come as the federal and Sarawak governments prepare to hold formal negotiations on the establishment of the economic zone, following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement during the tabling of Budget 2027 on Oct 9.

The negotiations will focus on investment incentives, the establishment of a one-stop investment facilitation centre and strategic infrastructure requirements to support the SEZ.

Hii had earlier described the Sarawak government's initial RM1.5 billion allocation for the SEZ as a much-needed economic boost for Sibu, which he said had lagged behind Kuching, Bintulu



Welcoming Putrajaya's involvement in the Sibu SEZ, Hii said federal financial support would be an important component in turning the proposed development into reality. — Bernama photo

Sibu, being in the central region of Sarawak, should concentrate on building high-value digital and AI infrastructure to meet the future energy needs of data centres and other industries.

Dr Gregory Hii Sui Cheng

and Miri in development over the past two decades.

He had also called for stronger air connectivity, including direct flights between Sibu and Singapore and the restoration of the Sibu-Kota Kinabalu route through Sarawak's own airline, AirBorneo.

Meanwhile, Bawang Assan assemblyman Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh has stressed that the success of the Sibu SEZ must be measured by actual investments, sustainable businesses, better-paying jobs and higher incomes rather than the size of its development allocation.

"We must therefore move quickly from announcement to planning, from planning to implementation, and from implementation to measurable results," he said when debating the Sarawak Budget 2027 at the State Legislative Assembly on Oct 15.

Wong proposed a five-year roadmap from 2027 to 2031, beginning with the establishment of governance mechanisms, infrastructure planning and investor engagement.

Under the roadmap, the SEZ should begin delivering tangible results by 2029, including operational businesses, industrial facilities and new employment opportunities.

He also proposed setting up a development consultative council comprising government representatives, business chambers, private sector players, educational institutions and community stakeholders to ensure coordinated implementation and greater local participation.

Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg has identified high-value manufacturing, downstream processing, agro-industry, logistics and the green economy as the key sectors that will drive the Sibu SEZ.

Envisioned as a new economic growth engine for central Sarawak and the Rajang Basin, the initiative aims to attract domestic and foreign investment, create skilled and better-paying jobs and open new markets and supply chains for local SMEs. — Bernama

Propel Global unit inks MoU to explore Sabah oil and gas engineering projects



James Wong

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KUCHING: Propel Global Bhd's (PGB) subsidiary Best Wide Engineering (M) Sdn Bhd (BWE) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Labuan Shipyard & Engineering Sdn Bhd (LSE) and Teguh Energy Sdn Bhd (Teguh Energy) to establish a framework for strategic collaboration in oil and gas engineering projects.

PGB in a filing said the MoU, signed on Oct 23, would see the parties explore opportunities relating to oil and gas engineering projects and such other infrastructure, energy or industrial projects.

Under the MoU, the parties intend to jointly identify and evaluate project opportunities, as well as prepare and submit tenders, proposals or expressions of interest. They will also share relevant expertise, technical

knowledge and resources, engage with government authorities, regulators and relevant stakeholders, and develop project implementation strategies and operational frameworks.

The MoU will remain in force for two years from the date of signing unless otherwise terminated in accordance with its terms.

The collaboration is non-exclusive, with any party free to independently pursue the projects with any third party.

"The MOU provides an opportunity for the Parties to combine their respective expertise and resources in exploring potential opportunities in oil and gas engineering projects," it said.

The MoU is non-binding and is intended to be an outline of the basic principles of the collaboration.

It covers oil and gas engineering projects including but not limited to engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) projects, offshore and onshore works,

fabrication, maintenance and related engineering services within the maritime area of Sabah only.

BWE, incorporated in 1994, provides engineering and technical works for the oil and gas industry, mainly EPCC of new plants and plant modification works, design and supply of skidded process systems and engineered equipment for onshore plants and offshore platforms, as well as project management and engineering consultancy services.

Meanwhile, LSE, incorporated in 2005, is principally involved in shipbuilding, ship repair and oil and gas offshore facility fabrication.

Teguh Energy, incorporated on 2023, is involved in oil and gas extraction service activities, provision of manpower, and repair and maintenance of industry machinery and equipment.

The group said the MoU will not have any financial effects until the signing of definitive or binding agreements.

Singapore-Malaysia energy regulators renew partnership to boost sector cooperation

SINGAPORE: Singapore's Energy Market Authority (EMA) and Malaysia's Energy Commission (ST) today renewed their partnership to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector during the 19th Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW).

In a joint statement, the regulators said the renewed memorandum of understanding (MoU) provides a framework for both regulators to strengthen technical cooperation, regulatory exchanges and knowledge sharing.

"The areas of cooperation include the planning and reliability of electricity and piped gas systems, regulation of wholesale and retail electricity markets, implementation of cross-border electricity trading projects, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), and interconnection capacity.

"The MoU will also strengthen collaboration on solar and energy storage systems," they said.

The exchange of the MoU between EMA and ST was witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister, and Singapore Energy, Trade and Industry Minister (Energy and Industry) Dr Tan See Leng at the opening of SIEW 2026 yesterday.



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof delivers his ministerial keynote address at the Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW) 2026 on Monday.

Meanwhile, EMA has granted conditional approval to Sembcorp Utilities Pte Ltd to import 1.3 gigawatts (GW) of electricity to Singapore with its consortium partners, MY Energy Consortium (MYEC), comprising Petrolia Nasional Bhd (Petrinas), Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), and PetroVietnam Technical Services Corporation (PTSC).

The approval came following a joint development agreement signed on the sidelines of the 46th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in May 2025.

The approval will allow Singapore to source and integrate

low-carbon electricity from regional and domestic resources, including offshore wind from Vietnam and solar power from Malaysia.

"Sembcorp Utilities is working towards commencing import of electricity from the project by 2035.

"Over the next few years, the consortium will continue to develop the project, including to obtain all requisite approvals from relevant jurisdictions, conclude power purchase agreements with buyers, and secure sufficient financing," said EMA in a separate statement. — Bernama

EXIM Bank allocates over RM1 bln to boost export competitiveness under Budget 2027



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KUCHING: Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Bhd (EXIM Bank) will implement strategic initiatives worth more than RM1 billion under the National Budget 2027 to strengthen Malaysian businesses' international competitiveness and support their transition

towards sustainable operations.

The initiatives will provide financing, export credit protection and support for businesses seeking to expand their capacity, enter new markets and manage international trade risks.

EXIM Bank, a subsidiary of Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd (BPMB) Group, said the allocation would complement the group's broader mandate of more than RM7 billion in strategic initiatives entrusted by

the government.

As Malaysia's official export credit agency, EXIM Bank will draw on its expertise and that of the group to strengthen exporters' competitiveness and resilience, while prioritising measurable development impact and effective delivery.

Under the initiatives, the Local Acceleration and Growth Programme, worth RM300 million, will provide affordable financing to manufacturers, service providers and local

vendors to expand capacity, improve productivity and strengthen competitiveness.

The programme will also support businesses participating in the value and supply chains of multinational corporations and leading local companies, including those in strategic sectors under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030.

Meanwhile, the RM500 million Export Leap Scheme will help Malaysian entrepreneurs and exporters develop the capabilities

and skills needed to enter new international markets or expand their presence in existing markets, including frontier and non-traditional destinations.

The scheme will also support businesses in responding to heightened competition and rising costs amid global economic and geopolitical uncertainty.

To complement these efforts, the Malaysia Global Connect (MGC) GoExport Cover, a RM5 million grant, will provide aspiring and existing exporters

with protection against commercial trade risks in new and non-traditional markets.

EXIM Bank will also allocate RM400 million to Dana Kelestarian Alam 2.0 to finance low-carbon initiatives and help businesses incorporate sustainability into their investments and operations.

The programme is intended to advance Malaysia's environmental, social and governance objectives through responsible development finance.

Plastic packaging sector earnings set to moderate in 2H26 following bumper second quarter — Kenanga Research



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KUCHING: Malaysia's plastic packaging sector is expected to see earnings moderate in the second half of 2026 (2H26) following an exceptionally strong second quarter (2Q), although demand and profitability are expected to remain healthy, according to the research arm of Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd (Kenanga Research).

In its latest sector update from Oct 26, the research arm noted that plastic packaging manufacturers had benefited from a sharp increase in resin prices, stronger average selling prices (ASPs) and higher order volumes amid supply uncertainties arising from the Middle East conflict.

"We believe that results for 2Q26 would have been the strongest quarter for the year," it said.

"Looking ahead, some normalisation is expected for 2H26 but sales and profitability should remain healthy on higher

selling prices," it added.

Kenanga Research noted that plastic packaging players under its coverage, excluding Scientex Bhd (Scientex) whose property business remains the larger earnings contributor, recorded quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) surges of between 144 and 223 per cent in core net profit (CNP) during 2Q26.

Both BP Plastics Holding Bhd (BP Plastics) and Thong Guan Industries Bhd (Thong Guan) also reported earnings that slightly exceeded expectations.

The strong performance was largely driven by manufacturers

drawing down lower-cost resin inventories purchased before the Middle East conflict, allowing them to benefit from higher selling prices without an immediate corresponding increase in production costs.

Resin prices had surged by approximately 80 per cent or more following the escalation of the conflict, while supply uncertainties encouraged customers to build up their plastic packaging inventories.

However, Kenanga Research cautioned that the favourable margin environment was

unlikely to persist at the same magnitude into 2H26 given low-cost inventory bought before the Middle East conflict erupted has largely been depleted.

Nevertheless, the research arm expects demand to remain relatively resilient as customers continue replenishing inventories, while elevated crude oil and resin prices should help sustain higher ASPs.

It has revised its Brent crude oil price forecasts upwards to US\$91 per barrel for 2026, from US\$80 previously, and to US\$85

for 2027, from US\$74.

Despite the relatively favourable operating outlook, Kenanga Research downgraded its call on the plastic packaging sector to 'neutral' from 'overweight', citing a recent run-up in valuations in anticipation of stronger margins and demand.

The research house also highlighted several persistent challenges facing the sector, including heightened competition, excess production capacity and uncertainties arising from global trade tensions.*