



Ex-cop seeks new probe into alleged assault by border chief

Dismissed officer claims 2015 report was ignored and cost him his career.

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Govt mulls dedicated fund to assist Malaysians, particularly gig workers, hit by transboundary haze.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup said the proposal required further examination by his ministry and relevant agencies. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN



Govt to tighten starting salary rules

Move to stop bosses reclassifying roles to evade baseline graduate pay.

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RM409m frozen in 'corporate mafia' probe

Home minister says 70 individuals called for statements under Op Viking as of Sept 25.

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'Employers cannot sidestep graduate minimum wage'

Govt amending law to prevent reclassification of positions to justify lower salaries, says deputy minister

BY HARITH KAMAL
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KUALA LUMPUR: Employers will not be allowed to sidestep the proposed RM2,500 minimum starting salary for graduates by downgrading job requirements, with planned amendments to the National Wages Consultative Council Act 2011 set to make educational qualifications a factor in determining mandatory starting pay.

Human Resources Deputy Minister Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan said the amendments would close a potential loophole by preventing employers from arbitrarily reclassifying positions to justify lower salaries.

"Once this element is incorporated, employers cannot simply or arbitrarily disregard employees' qualifications when determining their positions," he told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

AT THE
DEWAN
RAKYAT

Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to Kuantan MP Wan Razali Wan Nor, who asked whether employers could circumvent the proposed wage requirements by downgrading positions traditionally requiring degrees to diploma or Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) level.

Khairul Firdaus said the National Wages Consultative Council was reviewing its starting salary guidelines based on the Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupations to establish a clearer wage structure that reflects workers' qualifications and skills.

He added that the revised guidelines are expected to be introduced alongside a new minimum wage order in June 2027, which will include a proposed monthly starting salary of RM2,500 for graduates and semi-skilled workers, as announced under Budget 2027.

Earlier, in response to Bukit Bendera MP

Syerleena Abdul Rashid, Khairul Firdaus said the amendments were necessary because the existing legislation did not specifically provide for mandatory minimum starting salaries based on educational attainment.

He said the government was also targeting a reduction in skills-related underemployment from 32.2% in 2024 to 30% by 2030 under the 13th Malaysia Plan.

He added that the rate edged down from 32.4% in 2023, highlighting the persistent mismatch between graduates' qualifications and the jobs available to them.

He also said the government was targeting higher wages of RM3,500 and an increase in employees' compensation to 40% of gross domestic product by 2030.

On efforts to align training with industry needs, Khairul Firdaus said the Skills Development Department had established 2,028 active National Occupational Skills Standards to guide training programmes in line with technological developments and labour market demands.

He added that the department also conducts industry-based training through 1,391 centres under the Akademi Dalam Industri programme.



Khairul Firdaus said the National Wages Consultative Council was reviewing its starting salary guidelines based on the Malaysia Standard Classification of Occupations to establish a clearer wage structure that reflects workers' qualifications and skills.

— AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

Proposed house arrest Bill in final stages of review

BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: The proposed house arrest Bill is in the final stages of review by the Home Ministry and the Attorney-General's Chambers, with its current scope focused on remand prisoners, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said.

He said the ministry and the Prisons Department were drafting the Bill as there was currently no specific legal provision allowing prisoners to serve their sentences at home under a house arrest mechanism.

"In this regard, the Home Ministry is drafting a Bill on house arrest, which focuses on remand prisoners and is currently in the final stages of review by the ministry and the Attorney-General's Chambers."

Saifuddin was speaking in a written reply to Ngeh Koo Ham (Beruas-PH), who asked him to specify the legal provisions under which a

prisoner could be allowed to serve a sentence under house arrest at their residence.

However, He said prisoners could be considered for a pardon, sentence reduction or commutation, or a reprieve from the execution of their sentences under Article 42 of the Federal Constitution.

"Such consideration is subject to the jurisdiction of the Pardons Board and the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the respective Rulers or the Yang di-Pertua Negeri, as applicable."

Saifuddin said a conditional pardon granted under the royal prerogative of mercy, on the advice of the Pardons Board, was distinct from house arrest provided for under specific legislation.

Last month, His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, the King of Malaysia, granted former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak a conditional pardon allowing him to serve the remainder of his sentence under house arrest

until Aug 23, 2028, subject to payment of a RM50 million fine.

The Prime Minister's Department said the decision was finalised at the 64th meeting of the Pardons Board for the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and Putrajaya.

Najib was convicted in 2020 in the SRC International corruption case, one of several major trials linked to the 1MDB scandal. He began serving his original 12-year prison sentence at Kajang Prison in August 2022 after the Federal Court dismissed his final appeal.

His sentence was subsequently halved to six years and his original RM210 million fine reduced to RM50 million following a review by the Federal Territories Pardons Board in 2024.

Saifuddin said Najib remained at Kajang Prison as he had yet to pay the RM50 million fine, one of the conditions attached to the house arrest arrangement.

Surge in exports to US

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's exports to the United States surged 69.1% to RM282.07 billion in the first nine months of 2026, fuelled by semiconductor demand linked to artificial intelligence (AI) and data centre expansion, even as US tariffs hit rubber gloves, furniture and medical devices.

The Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti) said bilateral trade rose 39.6% to RM378.70 billion between January and September, with electrical and electronics (E&E) products accounting for the bulk of Malaysia's exports to the US.

"The strong export performance was driven mainly by a surge in demand for E&E products, particularly semiconductors, following the rapid development of AI technology and data centres," it said in a written reply to the Dewan Rakyat.

Miti was responding to Amirudin Shari (Gombak-PH), who asked about the impact of US tariffs on Malaysian industries in 2026 and the alternative markets explored by the government to help local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) export their products.

It added that Malaysia's strategic advantage in securing exemptions from additional US tariffs on most semiconductor and E&E products had also supported export growth.

It also said the E&E sector accounted for about 64.2% of Malaysia's total exports to the US, with semiconductors making up 44% of E&E exports.

However, Miti said several other industries recorded declines in shipments to the US amid tariff pressures, adding that rubber glove exports fell 1.6% to RM5 billion, furniture exports dropped 19.2% to RM3.77 billion, while medical device exports declined 12% to RM8.74 billion.

It said the sectors were examined because the US accounted for between 32% and 47% of Malaysia's total exports of the respective products, which were subject to additional tariffs and did not qualify for tariff exemptions.

"This shows that although overall exports to the US continued to record positive growth, several key Malaysian industries faced pressure to absorb US tariff costs or offer discounts to buyers to remain competitive, sustain exports and maintain access to the US market."

Miti said to reduce the risks, the government is diversifying export destinations through free trade agreements and exploring non-traditional markets in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and South Asia.

It added that the strategy has yielded encouraging results, with exports of products affected by US tariffs recording growth in several alternative markets between January and September.

It said rubber glove exports rose 712% to Oman, 84.6% to Brazil, 80.8% to Sweden, 48.1% to Denmark, 43.7% to the Netherlands, 34% to Estonia and 18.4% to Canada.

It also said medical device exports increased 206% to South Korea, 74.9% to Singapore, 65% to Sweden, 59.1% to Brazil, 43.9% to Turkiye, 26.6% to Canada and 5% to the United Kingdom.

Miti said furniture exports also recorded strong growth in alternative markets, surging 586.1% to Guyana, 140% to Taiwan, 135.4% to Switzerland, 99% to Vietnam and 68.3% to New Zealand.

It added that the government was also supporting local industries, particularly MSME, through grants, targeted incentives and participation in trade and investment promotion missions to strengthen their export capabilities.

"Diversifying markets and reducing excessive dependence on any single market is the best approach to minimise exposure to external shocks and strengthen the resilience of the country's trade."

Miti said it would continue monitoring US trade policy developments and taking proactive measures to safeguard Malaysian exporters, maintain market access, diversify export destinations and strengthen the competitiveness of domestic industries.

— By Qirana Nabilla Mohd Rashidi

RM409m assets seized in 'corporate mafia' probe

PETALING JAYA: Police have frozen or seized RM409.21 million in assets in an ongoing investigation into an alleged "corporate mafia" accused of abusing enforcement powers to pressure businessmen into selling company shares below market value.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said 70 individuals under Op Viking as of Sept 25, with no Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) officers identified among those assisting the investigation.

In a written parliamentary reply, he highlighted that the assets comprised 70 share-trading accounts worth RM323.59 million and 404 bank accounts containing RM85.62 million.

Police have also identified eight properties, 11 vehicles and 417 Central Depository System accounts, although their values were not disclosed.

"Based on the backgrounds and identities of the witnesses called to give statements, no MACC officers were involved or identified for the purpose of assisting the investigation."

Saifuddin was responding to Pengkalan Chepa MP Datuk Dr Ahmad Marzuk Shaary, who sought details of the probe and whether enforcement officers are implicated.

The allegations were highlighted in a Bloomberg report on Feb 12, which reported claims that enforcement agencies had abused their powers to force businessmen to sell shares at discounted prices to facilitate corporate takeovers.

Saifuddin said police opened an investigation paper under Op Viking on Oct 14, 2025, through the Anti-Money Laundering Investigation Team.

The case is being investigated under Section 4(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

He said several individuals have been detained but did not disclose the number of arrests or whether officers from other enforcement agencies are among those being investigated.

In a separate parliamentary reply, Saifuddin said 2,097 police officers and personnel had been arrested for robbery, drug-related offences and corruption between 2021 and August this year.

Of these, 1,551 were arrested under the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, 64 for robbery and 482 by the MACC.

Responding to Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng, he said drug-related offences accounted for the largest number of arrests, with 357 in 2021, 248 in 2022, 245 in 2023, 310 in 2024, 256 in 2025 and 135 this year.

Robbery-related arrests stood at 10 in 2021, 10 in 2022, 11 in 2023, 13 in 2024, 10 in 2025 and 10 this year.

MACC arrests involving police personnel totalled 77 in 2021, 86 in 2022, 129 in 2023, 53 in 2024, 87 in 2025 and 50 this year.

Lim had also sought an update on allegations that 12 police personnel had robbed a group of Chinese nationals of cryptocurrency worth about RM200,000 in Country Heights, Kajang in February.

Saifuddin said police have opened an investigation paper into the incident.

The case is being investigated under Section 395 of the Penal Code for gang robbery. — **BY HARITH KAMAL**

Proposed fund for livelihoods affected by haze

■ **BY HARITH KAMAL**
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysians whose livelihoods have been disrupted by transboundary haze, particularly gig workers, could receive financial assistance under a proposed dedicated fund that the government is considering.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup said the proposal, along with possible financial aid for affected Malaysians, requires further examination by his ministry and relevant agencies.

He added that the government would need to assess existing assistance schemes, the needs of affected communities as well as the financial implications before introducing additional support.

Arthur was winding up a debate on Budget 2027 for his ministry in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He added that the government is open to exploring international legal

➤ Govt must assess existing assistance schemes, needs of relevant communities and financial implications: Minister

avenues to seek compensation for damage caused by transboundary haze, although the existing Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution does not provide a specific mechanism for such claims.

A comprehensive assessment of the haze's impact on public health, productivity and economic activities would be needed before further action could be determined, he stressed.

"The government is examining mechanisms to protect the interests of affected citizens and strengthen the principle that polluters should bear responsibility."

Arthur was responding to concerns raised by Bagan MP Lim Guan Eng, who proposed a permanent Asean task force to tackle

recurring transboundary haze, supported by a year-round emergency response team.

Lim highlighted worsening forest and land fires in Indonesia, claiming that about 300,000ha have been affected this year, an increase of 70% compared with 2023.

On proposals for legislation targeting companies responsible for cross-border pollution, Arthur stressed that his ministry has repeatedly examined the feasibility of a Transboundary Haze Pollution Act, similar to legislation adopted by a neighbouring country.

However, he said enforcement would face significant challenges, including establishing jurisdiction, obtaining and verifying evidence overseas, determining corporate liability and respecting other countries' sovereignty.

Arthur also said there is no conclusive evidence linking Malaysian-associated plantation companies to forest and land fires in Indonesia despite recent allegations involving 21 companies.

He stressed that his ministry and the Plantation and Commodities Ministry had reviewed the allegations but had yet to establish sufficient evidence of wrongdoing.

The allegations followed the release of a report titled "Who are Behind the Fires" by Indonesian environmental group Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia, which linked 21 companies with Malaysian business connections to fires between January and September.

Arthur said proposals to restrict financing for companies found responsible for the fires would require careful consideration of the legal basis, standards of proof, jurisdiction and potential implications for the financial sector.

He said Malaysia would boost bilateral and Asean cooperation on enforcement while exploring ways to ensure those proven responsible for pollution are held accountable.

AT THE
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M'sia mulls nuclear energy to meet data centre needs

■ **BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI**
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia may explore nuclear energy to meet the growing electricity needs of data centres, with the government first requiring a thorough assessment of safety, regulations, manpower and technology before considering it as part of the country's energy mix.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof told the Dewan Rakyat yesterday that any proposal must comply with International Atomic Energy Agency standards and be assessed with experienced international parties.

Fadillah, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation minister, was responding to Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal (PN-Machang), who asked how the government would protect public water and electricity supplies from rising data centre demand during droughts or supply disruptions.

The question covered possible emergency usage restrictions, development curbs in certain areas and requirements for operators to use recycled water.

Fadillah said the government would support business-to-business (B2B) partnerships between energy suppliers and data centre operators looking to exploring nuclear power.

He said Indonesia's cooperation with Russia's nuclear energy company Rosatom State Corporation involves mining companies rather than government contracts.

On water security, he said data centre operators must maintain at least two days' worth of on-site water storage, while proposed developments are assessed by the Data Centre Task Force, jointly managed by the Investment, Trade



The National Water Services Commission requires developers and operators to consider alternative cooling sources, including recycled and reclaimed water as well as rainwater harvesting. — **SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THE SUN**

and Industry Ministry and the Digital Ministry.

Areas with low water reserves would not be considered for new data centre developments, based on recommendations from state water operators, he said.

The National Water Services Commission also requires developers and operators to consider alternative cooling sources, including recycled and reclaimed water as well as rainwater harvesting.

Water operators have emergency response plans that include supplying water through tanker lorries, deploying static water tanks and arranging interstate assistance

coordinated by the commission.

"In cases of critically low supply, authorities could introduce scheduled water distribution or rationing as mitigation measures."

Fadillah emphasised that environmental assessments for data centre developments fall under the purview of the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry, which is responsible for ensuring projects meet relevant requirements, including applicable international standards.

"I believe these assessments are already being carried out before a data centre is allowed to be built."

He said data centre applications

are assessed by the Energy Focus Group under the Energy Commission before being referred to the Data Centre Task Force.

Operators are encouraged to generate their electricity through the Solar for Self-Consumption initiative to avoid passing additional costs to other consumers.

"The government has approved a requirement for data centres to source at least 30% of their energy from renewable sources."

Backup generators would provide an additional safeguard and could help manage demand when electricity operating reserves fell to critical levels, he added.

Former DAP chief sees chance in winning Bemban

BY T.C. KHOR
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➤ Split Malay vote and strong non-Malay support could keep party competitive

PETALING JAYA: Former Malacca DAP chairman Damian Yeo believes the party could win Bemban in the coming state election by fielding an Indian candidate, particularly if the Malay vote is split among PAS, Bersatu and Bersama.

His assessment differs from that of DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke, who said the party would not contest Bemban because its "chances of winning are slim."

Loke said DAP would concentrate its resources on seven seats, including the four it currently holds.

Yeo argued that a DAP candidate could draw strong support from Indian and Chinese voters while securing a share of the Malay vote.

Malacca DAP legal bureau chief Mathan Anandaram had been widely tipped as a potential candidate for Bemban ahead of the party's candidate announcement on Saturday at Hang Jebat Stadium in Krubong.

Yeo estimated that the candidate could win more than 85% of Indian votes, 70% of Chinese votes and 20% of Malay votes.

"The Malay votes are split

between the three parties."

He said Perikatan Nasional, of which PAS is a component party, and Bersama would each command a significant share of the Malay vote.

He added that Bersatu would take some of the remaining votes but would "probably lose deposit."

Yeo also argued that a DAP representative would be less likely to switch parties after being elected.

"At least when you put a DAP candidate there, we know they will not jump ship. The percentage of jumping is less than 20%."

He said DAP's third-place finish in Bemban in the 2021 state election was not a reliable measure of its current support because voter sentiment at the time was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The sentiment in 2021 is not a good yardstick," Yeo said.

He cited his experience in Duyong, where he narrowly lost that year despite drawing much of his support from Malay voters.

Yeo acknowledged, however, that national political sentiment could

work against Pakatan Harapan in the coming election.

"But we will never know. And if PH gets a chance to fight there, we still have a good chance of winning."

PH and Barisan Nasional have each announced 21 candidates for the 28-seat election, but neither included Bemban on its list.

It remains unclear whether DAP will contest the seat on its own or whether it will form part of a possible arrangement with Bersatu.

Yeo said DAP members and supporters in Bemban and Jasin were unhappy about the prospect of cooperation between PH and Bersatu.

The party's central leadership would have to explain any such arrangement to them, he added.

"If there is going to be cooperation with other parties or coalition, then the central leadership must explain it to the grassroots," he said, adding that it was appropriate to "call a spade a spade."

"Tell our grassroots that we are working with Bersatu. Then I will

keep quiet."

Several other parties have expressed interest in Bemban.

Bersama has named Dr Muhammad Solehin Saleh as its candidate, while Bersatu has said it wants to defend the seat.

Wawasan has also expressed interest and PAS has been linked to Bemban amid talks on electoral cooperation with BN.

The final seat allocation has yet to be confirmed.

Bemban had 25,597 registered voters on the fourth-quarter 2024 electoral roll, comprising about 62% Malays, 20% Chinese and 17% Indians.

Its electorate has grown by 38% from 18,573 voters in the 2021 state election.

In that contest, PN's Dr Mohd Yadzil Yaakub won with 4,211 votes. BN's Koh Chin Han received 3,883 votes and DAP's Tey Kok Kiew secured 3,095.

Voting patterns shifted in the 2022 general election, when PH won the largest share of votes across Bemban's polling districts at 39.5%, compared with about 30% each for BN and PN.

Nomination is on Saturday, early voting on Nov 10 and polling on Nov 14.

Dredging boosts flow at Sungai Golok estuary

KOTA BHARU: The RM22 million dredging of the Sungai Golok estuary was completed on Sept 6 and is expected to improve the river's flow into the sea, helping to reduce flood risks in Kelantan.

Kelantan Department of Irrigation and Drainage director Datuk Dr Siti Fairus Zakaria said the dredging was among several measures being carried out alongside infrastructure projects to improve drainage capacity and protect flood-prone areas.

The federal government is also implementing the Sungai Golok Integrated River Basin Development Project (PLSB) in three phases, with a total allocation of RM3.044 billion to protect vulnerable areas in Pasir Mas and Tumpat.

"The project aims to reduce flood risks and protect local communities and agricultural areas that are vulnerable to flooding."

"The Sungai Golok PLSB also includes the construction of a dual-purpose wall that will serve as a flood barrier and provide a safety measure. However, this component is still at the design and land acquisition stage," she told Bernama recently.

When tabling Budget 2027, Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that Phase Two of the project would be among the flood mitigation works implemented next year.

'Rampant development could cost votes in GE16'

GEORGE TOWN: Recurring landslides and floods, along with concerns over development in Penang, could affect voter sentiment towards DAP in the 16th General Election, said a political analyst.

Universiti Sains Malaysia political scientist Assoc Prof Dr Azmil Tayeb said these issues could shape how voters judge the party's performance, particularly if they remain prominent as the election approaches.

Dissatisfied supporters who are unwilling to back the opposition might instead stay away from the polls. "Not voting is also a political choice," he said.

Azmil cautioned, however, that the opposition's limited support on Penang island could make it difficult to turn public concern into electoral gains.

Turnout and winning margins in individual constituencies would be worth watching, while DAP's Pakatan Harapan partners, PKR and Amanah, could face different challenges in mixed and Malay-majority seats.

He said development and land-use concerns could also renew scrutiny of planning, monitoring and enforcement, given the state government's role in land matters and the appointment of local councillors. Effective oversight was needed to ensure projects met the relevant requirements and breaches were addressed.

"Stronger opposition can keep the government in check, along with elected local councillors," he said. Restoring local government elections, commonly known as the third vote, was also worth considering to strengthen accountability.

For now, Azmil said development



Azmil said effective oversight was needed to ensure projects met the relevant requirements and breaches were addressed.
—MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

concerns had not brought the opposition significant electoral gains.

Civil society groups, meanwhile, continued to draw wider attention to projects of public interest.

He said public perceptions of DAP's approach to development could also affect its relationship with supporters beyond Penang.

Turnout in DAP-held areas during recent state elections and the party's subsequent emergency congress were among the developments to consider when assessing its support.

In the 2008 general election, the Gerakan-led Barisan Nasional government lost Penang after nearly four decades in power.

The result came amid debate over development priorities, including hillside projects and the proposed Penang Global City Centre on the Penang Turf Club site, as well as other governance issues.

DAP's later electoral record, however, shows that major hillside incidents have not necessarily led to

immediate losses at the ballot box.

In Tanjung Bungah, DAP's Zairil Khir Johari retained the seat in the 2018 state election, months after a landslide at a construction site killed 11 workers in October 2017. He won by 9,343 votes in 2018, with his majority falling to 8,827 in 2023.

In Paya Terubong, where the latest fatal landslide occurred, DAP's vote share rose from 88.6% in 2018, when Yeoh Soon Hin contested the seat, to 91.6% in 2023, when Wong Hon Wai won.

Its majority grew from 31,189 to 36,802 votes.

The latest landslide occurred on Oct 25 behind a house in Paya Terubong, killing Dr Wong Kar Lin, 73. His wife and mother-in-law escaped.

The downpour, which coincided with a high tide, also caused flash floods at 10 locations across Penang island. Water reached about 500mm at Lorong Kulit, according to the Penang Island City Council.

Part of the elevated Paya Terubong paired road on Jalan Bukit Kukus was inundated by knee-deep floodwater, stranding two vehicles.

The council said Phase One of the RM114.8 million Sungai Pinang Flood Mitigation Project was 50.86% complete as of September and was scheduled for completion in September 2027.

It has since issued stop-work orders for the condominium and road projects near the landslide site.

Paya Terubong has experienced other serious hillside incidents, including the Jalan Bukit Kukus paired-road landslide in October 2018, which killed nine foreign workers, and a fatal rockfall on Jalan Paya Terubong in April 2025. — by T.C. Khor

205 ASEAN RECORDS AND ASIA RECORDS CELEBRATED IN ONE NIGHT

ASEAN Records and ASIA Records titles.

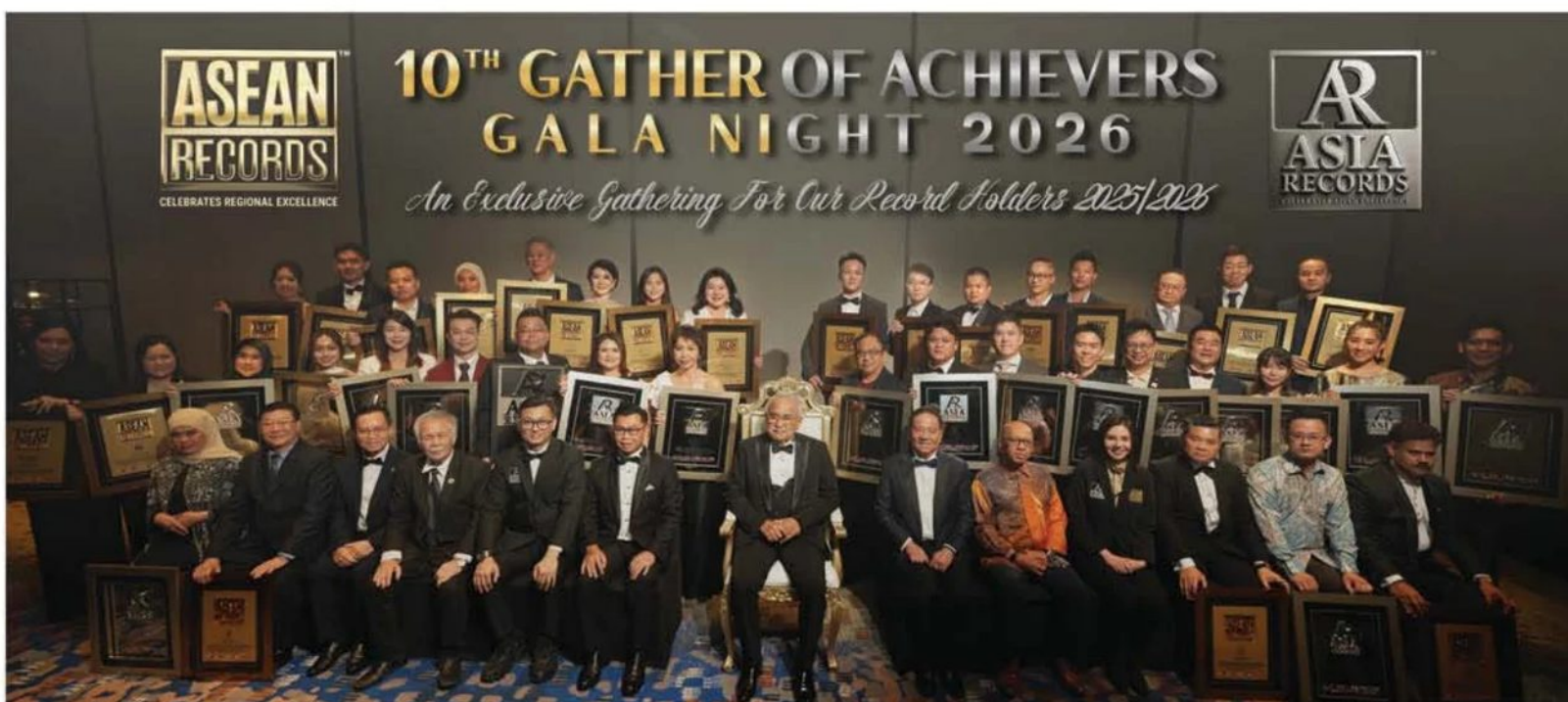
Evidence First

The night also marked a milestone for the two organisations. ASEAN Records and ASIA Records announced their ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification by SGS, accredited by UKAS and Standards Malaysia. The certification is valid until 30 September 2029 and covers how record applications are researched, verified and adjudicated.

"A record is not something you buy. It is something you prove," said Gillian Ooi, Founder, Director and Chief Adjudicator of ASEAN Records and ASIA Records. "Everyone in the ballroom saw two records measured in front of them. Every other title presented that evening went through the same standard of evidence before it reached the stage."

Eldrick Koh, Founder, Director and Chief Adjudicator, said independent auditing and consistent verification standards were what allowed the public to trust every recognised achievement. ASEAN Records and ASIA Records have regional offices in Hong Kong, Jakarta (Indonesia) and Bangkok (Thailand). ASIA Records® is a registered trademark in Hong Kong and Singapore, and ASEAN Records is a registered trademark in Indonesia, with further applications in progress in other markets. The group also runs Tourism Records, Food Records and Youth Achievement Records under the same umbrella.

"Behind every record is someone who refused to give up," the Founders said. "Our job is to make sure that when the public looks at that achievement, they can trust it completely. At every Gather of Achievers to come, we will hold to the same standard: evidence first, always."



Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka with ASEAN Records and ASIA Records holders at Gala Night 2026.

ASEAN Records and ASIA Records present 62 new records and welcome back 83 record holders before more than 400 guests, while marking their own ISO 9001:2015 certification

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 October 2026 –

A humanoid robot threw punch after punch against a trainer's pads. A performer switched faces faster than the audience could follow. More than 120 businesses, organisations and individuals were recognised as official record holders. All of it happened in a single evening at Hyatt Regency Kuala Lumpur, as **ASEAN Records and ASIA Records held the 10th Gather of Achievers Gala Night 2026.**

The night celebrated 205 records in total: 62 new records presented on stage, and 143 records held by 83 record holders from 2025 and 2026 who returned to be recognised in the opening session.

The Gala Night was graced by Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka.

YB Datuk Mohamad bin Alamin, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development, delivered the Keynote Address.

62 New Records

The 62 new records recognised achievements at ASEAN, ASIA and dual levels, including records presented through live attempts and a special artist presentation. The achievements spanned business, technology, education, culture, tourism, food and community work.

Welcoming Back 83 Record Holders of 2025/2026

The evening opened by welcoming back 83 record holders from 2025 and 2026, holding 143 records between them at ASEAN, ASIA and dual level. Among them were the Royal Malaysia Police, Zoo Negara Malaysia and Perbadanan Kota Buku.

Live Records, Verified On Stage

The evening's most watched moments came from two live record attempts, conducted and verified in front of the audience.

The UNITREE G1 Humanoid Robot Team, operating fully autonomously, delivered 90 punches across two 40-second rounds of pad work. That set the ASIA Records title for the Most Punches by a Humanoid Robot in Two Rounds of Pad Work.

Liew Mun Fung (Kimmy Liew) of Galaxy Event then combined the traditional art of face-changing with stage magic. He set the ASEAN Records and ASIA Records titles for the Fastest Synchronised Multi-Face Changes Alternated with Magic by a Single Performer.

Malaysian artist Wee Meng Chee (Namewee) closed the night with a medley performance and was presented with



About ASEAN Records and ASIA Records

ASEAN Records Sdn Bhd (202301047179) and ASIA Records Sdn Bhd (202501049089) are independent Malaysian record-verification companies founded by Eldrick Koh and Gillian Ooi. Both are certified to ISO 9001:2015 by SGS. They recognise measurable, verifiable achievements by businesses, organisations and individuals across Southeast Asia and Asia, and have certified 540 records to date.

www.ASEANRecords.com
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ASEAN RECORDS HOLDERS OCT 2025 TO OCT 2026



ASIA RECORDS HOLDERS OCT 2025 TO OCT 2026



Ex-cop urges fresh probe over alleged assault by border chief

► Ex-junior officer claims report on incident in 2015 went unheeded, leading to his eventual dismissal

■ BY **THESUN TEAM**
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PETALING JAYA: A former policeman is seeking a fresh investigation into an alleged assault by Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency director-general Datuk Seri Mohd Shuhaily Mohd Zain in 2015, claiming his complaint went unheeded and his career suffered after he reported the incident.

In a statement yesterday, lawyers Kamal Hisham Jaafar and

Muhammad Nor Tamrin said their client, Saifuddin Abdul Kader, lodged a police report against Mohd Shuhaily on Nov 19, 2015, when the latter was Hilir Perak district police chief.

They alleged that no action was taken on the report lodged in Teluk Intan, Perak, and said Saifuddin, then a junior officer, subsequently faced career difficulties that culminated in his dismissal.

According to the report, the alleged incident occurred at about 8.30am on Nov 17, 2015 while

Saifuddin was manning a guard post at the Hilir Perak district police headquarters.

Saifuddin claimed Mohd Shuhaily reprimanded him for failing to salute before repeatedly scolding him in front of other officers.

He alleged that Mohd Shuhaily punched his left wrist and threatened to transfer him to Sabah or Sarawak as well as take disciplinary action against him.

The lawyers said they had formally asked the attorney-general to review the complaint following Mohd Shuhaily's recent prosecution over a separate alleged assault involving two policemen at the KL International Airport.

They said the prosecution had renewed Saifuddin's hope of obtaining justice more than a decade

after the alleged incident.

"After seeing the principle of equality before the law upheld without discrimination through the attorney-general's decision to prosecute Shuhaily, Saifuddin believes he still has an opportunity to obtain justice under the current administration," they said.

The lawyers urged the authorities to review the 2015 report to ensure the rule of law was upheld.

On Oct 21, Mohd Shuhaily pleaded not guilty at the Sepang Magistrate's Court to two charges of voluntarily causing hurt to two policemen at Counter J, Terminal 1 of KLIA, on Sept 28. Both charges were framed under Section 323 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum jail term of one year, a fine of up to RM2,000, or both.

Move to end Shuhaily's tenure needs royal consent

■ BY **KIRTINEE RAMESH**
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SHAH ALAM: Any move to end or shorten Datuk Seri Mohd Shuhaily Mohd Zain's tenure as Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency director-general requires legal scrutiny and royal consent, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohd Khalid Ismail said.

He said the matter had been referred to the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) for legal advice and the Police Force Commission for further action, as Mohd Shuhaily's two-year assignment was a formal secondment from the police approved by the King.

"We are referring this matter to the AGC because Datuk Seri Mohd Shuhaily's assignment is for a period of two years.

"It is like a contract, and this contract was granted the consent of the King.

"If anything arises involving suspension from duty and similar matters, the action to be taken will depend on the AGC's advice.

"However, any decision involving termination of the contract and related matters must be submitted to the King for consent," he told reporters here yesterday.

Mohd Khalid was speaking after the National Conference on Bureaucratic Red Tape Reform 2026, organised by the Malaysia Productivity Corporation.

He said the legal review was necessary to ensure any action complied with the terms of Mohd Shuhaily's secondment and the requirement for royal consent.

Once the legal review and process to obtain royal consent are completed, the matter will be returned to police for further action, he said.

Mohd Khalid added that Mohd Shuhaily remained a serving police officer despite his post at the border control agency.

"Once he returns, I may provide a more detailed explanation of the matters that need to be addressed and the follow-up action to be taken, God willing," he said.

Meanwhile, the Home Ministry said Mohd Shuhaily's service matter was still being finalised in accordance with existing regulations and procedures.

In a statement, the ministry said it had taken note of public views on the border chief's service and would prioritise operational continuity while the matter was being resolved.

It said the border control agency, which is approaching its second anniversary, played an important role in strengthening the country's border control and protection.

The ministry said its priorities included strengthening border security, ensuring smooth operations, protecting national revenue and upholding integrity and discipline.

"The priority is to ensure it continues to perform its role optimally in safeguarding the country's security and sovereignty."

He added that it would also ensure the agency remained capable of carrying out its responsibilities effectively while the service matter was being finalised.

Chegubard gets four months for defaming King

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Port Dickson Bersatu division chief Badrul Hisham Shaharin, better known as Chegubard, was sentenced to four months' jail yesterday for making a defamatory statement that could harm the reputation of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, the King of Malaysia.

Sessions Court Judge Norma Ismail imposed the sentence after ruling that the defence had failed to raise reasonable doubt at the end of the defence case.

The court initially ordered Badrul Hisham, 48, to begin serving his sentence immediately. However, it granted his application for a stay of execution pending an appeal to the High Court and increased his bail by RM5,000 to RM15,000.

Deputy public prosecutor Nursyuhada Husna Sulaiman prosecuted, while lawyer Muhammad Rafique Rashid Ali represented Badrul Hisham.

On June 24 this year, High Court Judge Noor Ruwena Md Nurdin ordered Badrul Hisham to enter his defence after allowing the prosecution's appeal against an earlier decision by the Sessions Court to acquit and discharge him at the close of the prosecution's case.

On Nov 4 last year, Norma had acquitted and discharged him, ruling that the prosecution had failed to establish a *prima facie* case.

Badrul Hisham was charged on April 29, 2024 with making a defamatory statement, knowing that it could harm the reputation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The offence was allegedly committed at the Office of the Comptroller of the Royal Household at Istana Negara at 6pm on Jan 22, 2024.

The charge was framed under Section 500 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment, a fine or both upon conviction – Bernama



DIGITAL SOFTWARE HAUL ... Customs Department officers showing pictures of server units containing advanced AI chips during a press conference in Sepang yesterday. – **REUTERSPIC**

All 11 detainees probed over death of MMEA officer

KANGAR: All 11 people detained following the death of a Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) officer during an operation off Kuala Perlis are being investigated for murder, as authorities probe the incident beyond suspected immigration offences.

Kedah and Perlis Maritime director First Admiral Maritime Romli Mustafa said investigation papers had been opened under Section 302 of the Penal Code

against all 11 detainees.

Maritime Technical Leading Seaman Mohd Roshaimi Mohd Ridzuan, 41, was killed and three other MMEA personnel injured when their boat struck a concrete structure during the enforcement operation.

Romli said yesterday the incident occurred at 11.37pm on Monday when five MMEA personnel were attempting to intercept a boat suspected of carrying undocumented migrants in Kuala

Sungai Padang.

The 11 detainees comprise nine Myanmar nationals – seven men and two women – and two Thai men suspected of operating the boat involved in the illegal migrant operation.

All are suspected of being undocumented migrants from Myanmar and Thailand, respectively, and are being investigated over their alleged involvement in the incident. – Bernama

Police yet to receive psychiatric report in attack case

KUCHING: Police are still awaiting a psychiatric assessment report to determine the mental state of a 16-year-old male student who allegedly attacked a teacher with an axe at a private school here on Oct 21.

Sarawak Acting Police Commissioner DCP Saifullizan Ishak said without the report, police could

not draw any conclusions on the suspect's mental state at the time of the incident.

"Police are awaiting the forensic psychiatric assessment report to determine the suspect's mental state at the time of the incident," he told a press conference at the state police headquarters here yesterday.

Saifullizan said police had

completed their investigation and submitted the investigation papers to the Sarawak deputy public prosecutor's office on Oct 26 for further review, Bernama reported.

"Police have recorded statements from witnesses comprising students, teachers, security guards, medical experts and the suspect's parents."

Hegseth pledges stronger defence ties

➤ ‘US approach is strong, quiet and clear’

CEBU: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth sought to reassure Southeast Asian counterparts yesterday of Washington’s commitment to the Indo-Pacific, pledging that Washington would defend its interests and those of its allies and partners.

Hegseth, who is taking part in the two-day Asean defence ministers and related meetings in Cebu, Philippines, said the US would back that commitment with practical cooperation, including stronger maritime domain awareness, greater interoperability and cooperation among navies.

“These are not symbolic things. They are concrete demonstrations of what serious partners do,” he said. “Serious partners train together, learn together, plan together and build confidence and competence necessary to prevent conflict.”

Hegseth is visiting the region as governments in Southeast Asia and the wider Asian region weigh Washington’s ability to stay focused on the Asia Pacific as the Iran war strains US military resources and creates political pressure at home.

The defence secretary described the US approach as “strong, quiet and clear,” saying it would be “strong enough to deter coercion and aggression,” quiet enough to avoid “needless escalation or public theatrics,” and clear enough that friends and potential adversaries understood Washington’s position.

“We will defend our interests and the interests of our allies and partners. That is, by definition, peace through strength,” Hegseth said.

Hegseth also proposed developing a US-Asean framework for defence cooperation

to guide ties during what he said would be the “critically important next several years”, as the two sides mark half a century of formal relations next year.

Southeast Asia is grappling with the effects of the Iran war, while tension between the Philippines and Beijing has added another source of friction to a forum meant to promote dialogue and practical cooperation on security.

The Iran war, which began with US and Israeli strikes on Feb 28, has disrupted shipping and oil markets, exposing Southeast Asia’s vulnerability to imported-fuel shocks and pushing energy security further up Asean’s agenda.

Greg Poling, director of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, which tracks developments in the South China Sea, said Hegseth would get an opportunity at the gathering to tackle aspects regarding China, the South China Sea and Washington’s commitments to its treaty allies.

The topic is critical for the Philippines, a US treaty ally whose ties with Beijing have soured amid repeated confrontations in the disputed South China Sea, Chinese sanctions and, more recently, a summoning of the Chinese ambassador.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea while other countries in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia, claim parts of it.

China’s defence attache in the Philippines will attend the meeting, its Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

Days before the meeting, the Philippine military said it monitored and shadowed China’s *Liaoning* aircraft carrier group as it passed through waters off the southern Philippines toward the Celebes Sea.

Stronger signals were more likely to figure in talks among like-minded partners, added Poling.



Hegseth (left) is welcomed by Philippines Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro yesterday. – AFP/IC

The eventual chairman’s statement was likely to be more restrained than talks behind closed doors and would employ familiar Asean language, said Collin Koh, a security scholar at Singapore’s S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

Manila’s position as Asean chair while embroiled in a dispute with China was “particularly sensitive,” he said.

Poling said the Philippines had to balance “aspirational cooperation” on issues such as energy connectivity, the digital economy and coast guard cooperation against rising tension

with China and stalled progress on a South China Sea code of conduct.

“For the Philippines, the whole Asean chair year has been a difficult balance,” said Poling, who is also a fellow with the Southeast Asia Programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

“I’d expect tactical cooperation on the ADMM workstreams ... but no strategic alignment on the South China Sea or other thorny issues,” he said, referring to the bloc’s effort to tackle issues such as maritime security and counter-terrorism. – Reuters

Students protest over fires, policy

JAKARTA: Hundreds of students and civil society groups staged protests yesterday in cities including Jakarta against President Prabowo Subianto’s policies, including the handling of forest fires.

Protesters crowded a Jakarta landmark roundabout, with some wearing gas masks, holding up signs protesting over forest fires and demanding the government designate the blazes as a national disaster.

Other students, including from the University of Indonesia, were blocked by dozens of police and military personnel, leading to some scuffles.

Ezra Al Barra, a student from the University of Padjadjaran, said the fires were “our collective anger”, adding students came from other regions outside Jakarta.

Students also rallied in Makassar, in South Sulawesi, and Bandung, in West Java, with similar demands.

Protesters called for the the government halt spending on populist programmes such as Prabowo’s free meals scheme, among other demands.

Syahganda Nainggolan, chief of the government’s communications office, urged calm but said the government welcomed the protests and was open to input.

The protests, the second in a week, came as Prabowo’s approval ratings had fallen steadily since late last year, according to surveys by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting, two years into his presidency.

Indonesia has prosecuted companies allegedly linked to the fires and tried methods of modifying the weather to induce rain. – Reuters

Senator says bounty puts his life in danger

MANILA: Ex-Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte’s police chief said yesterday that a government bounty placed on his head put his life in “serious danger”, and asked the Supreme Court to stop his arrest.

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have named sitting Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa as one of eight “co-perpetrators” in the drug crackdown that killed thousands of drug suspects and drug users during the Duterte presidency.

The former national police chief has been in hiding since May, when officers attempted to serve an ICC warrant charging him with the crime against humanity of murder.

The Philippines designated him last week as an “armed and dangerous” fugitive, offered a 50 million peso (RM3.2 million) reward for his capture, and formed a police task force to find and detain him.

“In law enforcement practice, the designation signals to operating units that armed resistance

should be anticipated, which is precisely the setting in which lethal force is most likely to be used,” Dela Rosa said in a Supreme Court filing that he posted on his Facebook page yesterday.

“Coupled with a bounty and a declaration abandoning restraint, the designation places Petitioner Dela Rosa’s right to life in present and serious danger,” the 64-year-old said.

He asked the court to prevent law enforcement officers from arresting him and to block his surrender to the ICC.

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla welcomed the court filing, calling it “his right as a Filipino citizen”, before accusing the former top policeman of employing a double standard.

“Sadly, he did not afford the same rights to the thousands killed in the drug war. They never had their day to prove their innocence nor be proven guilty. He was judge, jury and executioner,” Remulla said.

Dela Rosa had ceased attending Senate sessions months before the ICC unsealed a

November 2025 arrest warrant against him in May.

He emerged from months of hiding on May 11 to take refuge inside the Senate building, but slipped out days later following a standoff between security guards and investigators attempting to arrest him during which shots were fired.

That same month, the Philippine Supreme Court rejected Dela Rosa’s bid for a temporary restraining order to prevent his arrest.

It still has to rule on his petition to have the ICC arrest warrant against him declared illegal.

Duterte was arrested in Manila on March 11 last year and handed over to the ICC the following day.

The 81-year-old will stand trial on Nov 30 on charges of committing crimes against humanity during a crackdown on the drug trade.

Philippine police have said they killed more than 6,000 drug suspects in self-defence during Duterte’s presidency from 2016 to 2022. – AFP

Asean envoy leads humanitarian mission to Myanmar

MANILA: Philippine Foreign Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro is leading an Asean humanitarian mission to Myanmar.

Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson for Asean Affairs Dax Imperial said Lazaro will visit Shan State and hold meetings in Naypyitaw as the bloc seeks to advance humanitarian efforts.

Imperial said there were no details on a possible meeting between Lazaro and Aung San Suu Kyi.

The mission comes as Asean presses for progress on its 2021 Five-Point Consensus, which

calls for an end to violence, inclusive national dialogue and the delivery of humanitarian assistance without discrimination.

The mission is in partnership with the Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) based in Jakarta and is joined by representatives from Asean missions and Japan based in Yangon.

The delegation will visit sites in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State, kicking off the distribution of aid to communities in Kayin State, Southern Shan State and Northern Shan State.

The AHA Centre and its implementing partner, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, will continue the delivery of food and essential non-food items to affected communities next month.

The operation is expected to deliver to more than 11,000 households 50kg bags of rice, family kits and personal hygiene kits.

Lazaro will lead the symbolic handover of a religious building and the distribution of school kits to new schools built with contributions from the Philippines following an earthquake that severely affected central Myanmar last year. – Bernama



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Cyclone Arnab slams into eastern India

180,000 evacuated from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha

HYDERABAD: At least three people were killed, dozens of houses damaged and crops destroyed as a powerful cyclone struck India's eastern coast from the Bay of Bengal yesterday, bringing heavy rain and strong winds, authorities said.

Cyclone *Arnab*, classified by the India Meteorological Department as a very severe cyclonic storm – the third-highest category on its scale – made landfall in Andhra Pradesh state early yesterday, with its centre then moving fully inland, the agency said.

"Andhra Pradesh has been most affected ... three people have lost their lives," said Narendra Singh Bundela, a top official at the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Heavy rain and high winds destroyed at least 180 houses, brought down 220 trees and disrupted power supply in several areas, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said in a letter to

Home Minister Amit Shah, updating him on the situation.

Two of the deaths were caused by a tree falling and electrocution, said officials in Naidu's office.

Neighbouring Odisha state was not as badly affected, Bundela said, adding that wind-speeds were expected to reduce as the cyclone moved inland.

More than 180,000 people had been evacuated in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha ahead of the cyclone's arrival.

Some schools were closed and some train and flight services cancelled along the eastern coast.

Several NDRF and state teams were working in the affected areas, Bundela said, adding that some neighbouring states were also likely to be affected by heavy rain.

Television images showed trees fallen on highways as workers in rain gear worked to clear the road of branches and leaves.

"No one knew whose house the water would rush into next, or whose home would be submerged," said Nagi, a resident of Andhra's Kakinada district.

"Trees have fallen, houses have been

damaged, and all our belongings, including our books, have been destroyed," said Nagi, who did not give a last name.

Fishermen along the coast had been advised against going out to sea, and the weather department said it anticipated losses to crops as well as damage to thatched houses and communication lines.

Winds of 125 kph to 135 kph and gusts of up to 150 kph are forecast, with a storm surge of 1m to 1.5m above normal tide likely to inundate low-lying areas of Andhra Pradesh, it said.

Operations at three Andhra Pradesh airports were suspended, India's Civil Aviation Ministry said.

In Nepal, authorities suspended the issuing of trekking permits to high mountain areas for three days because of the risk of rain and blizzards due to the cyclone, said Immigration Department information officer Gita Ghimire.

This is peak trekking season in Nepal with around 750 hikers getting permits per day.

Nepal warned tourists on Tuesday against venturing into high-altitude areas due to fears that *Arnab* could trigger torrential downpours, snowstorms and avalanches. – Reuters



A car lies damaged by a fallen tree in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh yesterday. – REUTERS/SPIC

Judges set to rule on mushroom killer's appeal

SYDNEY: Mushroom murderer Erin Patterson will learn tomorrow if she has succeeded in overturning her conviction for killing three people with a poisoned beef Wellington lunch.

Patterson, 52, was found guilty last year of murdering her husband's parents and an elderly aunt in 2023 by serving them a beef-and-pastry meal laced with lethal death cap mushrooms.

A judge sentenced her to life imprisonment, eligible for parole after 33 years.

In August, her lawyers argued before the Court of Appeal in Melbourne that she had suffered a miscarriage of justice.

They alleged a litany of irregularities in the trial, including an "oppressive" cross-

examination and unfair decisions on the admission of evidence.

Prosecutors also appealed, however, saying her 33-year non-parole period was "manifestly inadequate" and she should never be allowed to walk free.

The Court of Appeal will hand down tomorrow its decision on both appeals.

On the conviction, the judges must decide whether there are even grounds to give her leave to appeal.

If they agree to do so, the judges may dismiss the appeal or uphold it, in which case they may order a new trial or acquit her.

On her sentence, the court will either dismiss the prosecution's appeal or uphold it and re-sentence her.

Her trial last year drew podcasters, film crews and true crime fans to a courthouse in the rural town of Morwell, a sedate hamlet in Victoria better known for its prize-winning roses.

Audiences from New York to New Delhi followed every twist of what many now simply call the "mushroom murders".

The motive of the killings remains a mystery.

A 12-person jury found Patterson guilty in July last year of murdering her husband Simon's parents, Don and Gail Patterson, as well as his aunt, Heather Wilkinson, at her home in the Victorian farming village of Leongatha.

She was also found guilty of attempting to murder Heather's husband Ian, a pastor who fell gravely ill but eventually recovered. – AFP

Delhi vows action after protected cheetah shot dead

NEW DELHI: India has vowed "swift action" after a cheetah was shot dead, the first such killing since the country began reintroducing the animals in 2022, the government said yesterday.

The Environment Ministry said it had ordered a "high-level team for an on-ground investigation" into the shooting of the 19-month-old male, treating the incident with "utmost gravity".

The India-born cheetah – whose mother was among those introduced to India from Botswana, Namibia and South Africa as part of efforts to restore the planet's fastest land animal – was shot as it prowled in forests outside a protected national park.

Asiatic cheetahs were declared extinct in India in 1952. The critically endangered subspecies, once found across the Middle East, Central Asia and India, now survives in very small numbers in Iran.

Their African cousins were first reintroduced in September 2022 to India, to the Kuno National Park, 300km south of New Delhi.

The wounded cheetah was picked up on Sunday in forests in Madhya Pradesh state, outside Kuno's boundaries, and taken for veterinary care.

"During the surgery, five firearm pellets were recovered from its body," the Environment Ministry said.

Despite efforts, the cheetah died on Tuesday. "Medical examinations corroborated multiple internal injuries associated with the recovered firearm pellets," it said.

The high-profile project, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been dogged by criticism over the deaths of several of the cats.

But experts in animal reintroductions say they often result in more than 50% mortality, especially in the initial phases.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority, which oversees the cheetah project, said that survival rates and hunting successes are "comparable to other international cheetah reintroduction efforts, with recorded wild prey kills confirming successful adaptation to the Indian landscape".

The total cheetah population in the wild in India is around 60, including some 40 Indian-born cheetahs. – AFP

Man held over shooting claim

SYDNEY: Australian police have charged a man with falsely claiming he was injured in a mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach in an attempt to gain financial compensation.

A father-and-son duo allegedly carried out the gun attack at the beach in December last year, killing 15 people and wounding dozens.

"Detectives identified a 46-year-old man who allegedly made a false statement that he was injured in the Bondi shooting and made subsequent fraudulent claims for compensation in the aftermath," New South Wales police said in a statement yesterday.

Police said they arrested the man on Tuesday and charged him with publishing false and misleading material to obtain advantage.

He was given conditional bail, and is scheduled to appear in western Sydney's Parramatta Local Court on Nov 18.

One of the gunmen, Sajid Akram, 50, was shot and killed by police during the Dec 14 attack. An Indian national, he entered Australia on a visa in 1998.

His son Naveed, an Australian-born citizen, remains in custody facing a total of 78 charges including terrorism and 15 murders.

A Sydney court yesterday set Naveed Akram's committal hearing for Feb 24 next year, when he is set to appear by audio-video link from prison.

He has yet to enter a plea. – AFP



Bolsonaro, family flee Brazil

US State Dept ready to issue visas

SAO PAULO: Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro has left the country for the United States after losing Sunday's presidential election, three sources said, with the US State Department due to grant him and his family entry visas.

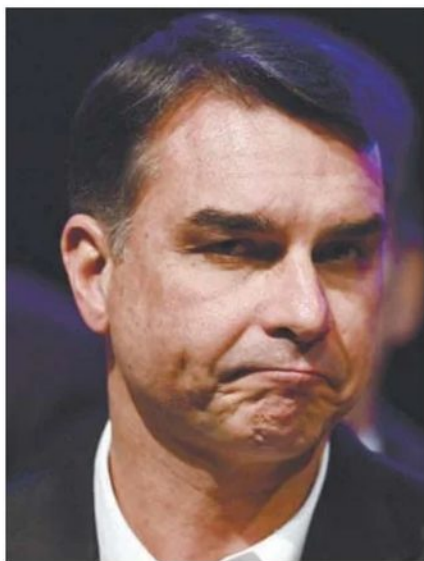
Bolsonaro, who has yet to concede to leftist incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, left Brazil after refusing to comply with a Supreme Court order to surrender his passports.

The ruling relates to a money laundering probe.

Argentina's Migration Department said yesterday that Bolsonaro and his family had briefly entered the country's Misiones province on Tuesday night through a road crossing, with valid travel documents, before boarding a private plane bound for Guayaquil, Ecuador late at night.

Argentina cited the flight plan, for the plane operated by air charter company Baires Fly, as the source for the aircraft's destination.

Speaking to reporters late on



Bolsonaro yet to concede defeat

Tuesday, US President Donald Trump had said that he had heard Bolsonaro was in Argentina.

"The State Department will issue visas to Flavio Bolsonaro and his family and allow them entry into the United States," a senior State Department official said.

Bolsonaro's departure threatens to deepen a rift between the two most populous nations in the Americas. Lula has accused Washington of colluding with the Bolsonaros to put them back in

power, and Reuters reported ahead of Sunday's election on a US State Department campaign to restore them to office.

Trump told reporters yesterday that he would approve of Bolsonaro coming to the United States.

Trump has previously alleged Flavio's father, former president Jair Bolsonaro, was a victim of judicial persecution in Brazil. The elder Bolsonaro also went to the United States after refusing to concede to Lula in 2022, when former US President Joe Biden was in office. He eventually returned but was later given a 27-year sentence for plotting a coup after his supporters stormed government buildings in Brasilia.

On Monday, Trump had said the Brazilian vote "looked like another rigged election".

Lula, speaking in Brasilia, said he had just heard that Flavio had left the country, and called it shameful, saying he should have stayed in Brazil and proved his innocence.

On Monday, he was given 24 hours to surrender his passports, which were cancelled after the deadline lapsed, two sources said. In a court ruling seen by Reuters, the Supreme Court cited the risk of Bolsonaro fleeing Brazil and his "significant financial resources" in

ordering his passports seized.

Bolsonaro, who loses his immunity from prosecution when his Senate term ends in February, had said on Monday he had no plans to flee.

"I have never thought about leaving the country," he said. "I will hand over my passports and defend myself against this travesty, which is a clear attempt to intimidate me."

His departure appeared to have caught his campaign manager off guard.

"We are surprised because, just yesterday, we discussed the need for Flavio, given the 60 million votes he received, to take on this role as opposition leader," said Senator Rogerio Marinho.

Although Bolsonaro has yet to officially concede defeat, saying on Sunday he would seek the annulment of the result over alleged voter irregularities, his Liberal Party said it acknowledged Lula's victory.

Eduardo Bolsonaro, Bolsonaro's younger brother who lives in the United States, said ahead of the vote that an election loss would require a move.

"If my brother does not win, I'm in favour that he would leave the country," he told podcaster Steven Crowder this month. - Reuters

Putin-Zelensky meeting very soon: Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said yesterday that a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky would be set up "very soon".

The announcement came as Trump's administration ramps up diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine war.

"There'll be a meeting set up very soon and I think a lot of progress could be made," Trump told reporters.

Zelensky said on Sunday that a trilateral meeting between Kyiv, Washington and Moscow would take place in November.

The Kremlin had previously said that a meeting between the three countries was planned to take place in the United Arab Emirates in November.

Putin, who ordered the February 2022 Ukraine military offensive, has consistently rejected face-to-face talks with Zelensky and insisted Moscow intends to seize the rest of eastern Ukraine.

Trump came to power in January 2025 promising to end the war in 24 hours but over a year of US-led talks have failed to produce a breakthrough.

In recent days Trump has once again pivoted away from Ukraine and back to Putin, trumpeting what he said was a deal for Russia to sell diesel and reduce prices sent soaring by his Iran war. - AFP

Netanyahu's bloc leads vote count

TEL AVIV: Benjamin Netanyahu won the support of an unexpectedly clear majority of Israeli Jews in an election billed as a major turning point in his nation's history, apparently ensuring he will survive as prime minister at least in a caretaker role.

With around 70.7% of votes tallied yesterday morning, Israeli media forecast Netanyahu's bloc of right-wing, far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties winning 54 seats in parliament, far surpassing 47 for the opposition bloc of rival Gadi Eisenkot. Parties representing Israelis of Arab descent would win 19.

The results could still change as counting continued, but a victory for Eisenkot appeared increasingly out of reach, as his bloc of anti-Netanyahu parties from centre-left to hard-right underperformed pre-election polls that forecast a tight race.

While Netanyahu lost his bloc's majority in the 120-seat Knesset, as expected, opponents were left with no hope of unseating him without some form of backing of Arab parties, which many have ruled out. Even then, he would remain as caretaker during any coalition negotiations, or until a new election next year.

Netanyahu called for the formation of "a strong, right-wing national government".

Eisenkot acknowledged that Netanyahu was still in office as a caretaker but said the prime minister had lost public support and urged him to retire. He also issued a warning that Netanyahu might use security for political ends. - Reuters

Vehicles belonging to Bolsonaro leaving his condominium in Brasilia on Tuesday. - AFP/IC



High-speed trains collide in Spain

MADRID: Two high-speed trains have collided in Spain on the line connecting Madrid to southern Andalusia, rail operator Adif said yesterday, killing at least 10 people.

The collision comes nine months after an accident between high-speed trains belonging to the same operators on the same line that killed 46 people.

That crash in January, which occurred after a train derailed and smashed into an oncoming train near Adamuz, in Cordoba province,

triggered a debate about the level of investment in railway maintenance.

"Traffic on the Madrid-Andalusia high-speed rail line has been suspended following a rear-end collision between two trains," Adif said in a message on X yestersday.

A Renfe and an Iryo train crashed just after 9am (4pm in Malaysia), causing two Iryo wagons to derail, a government spokesperson for the Castilla La Mancha region said, adding that the cause and number of injuries were still being determined.

At least 10 people died in the collision, a regional government source said.

Footage by regional Castilla La Mancha Television showed a derailed train with at least one carriage remaining on an elevated section of track while twisted metal, broken panels and wreckage could be seen strewn across an embankment beneath the line.

Rail operator Adif said the incident occurred on the line from Madrid to Seville.

Manuel Galan, mayor of the nearby town of Urda, told Cadena SER that emergency services had asked the town council to prepare emergency facilities, including a sports hall, to accommodate passengers and the injured.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's agenda, published on the Spanish government's website, had been cleared for the day. The opposition People's Party also cancelled all campaign events, a spokesperson said. - Reuters



COMMENT by Dr Hanaa Naji Saleh Samaha

Thin line between caring and control

"If you really love me, you will do that." This statement may sound like an expression of love, loyalty or commitment. However, beneath these seemingly loving words may lie emotional manipulation.

Such manipulation can pressure you into acting against your own wishes, needs and personal choices, putting you in a position where you say "Yes" when you really want to say "No".

The word blackmail is often associated with threats involving money, the exposure of secrets or the release of damaging information.

However, not all forms of blackmail involve financial gain. A less visible form is emotional blackmail, in which words, phrases and relationships become tools to control decisions or influence behaviour within families, friendships, workplaces and the wider community.

The term "emotional blackmail" was popularised in the 1990s by psychotherapist Susan Forward, who identified three key factors that can make people vulnerable to emotional blackmail: fear, obligation and guilt.

Carefully chosen words can trigger fear, obligation or guilt, making you feel as though you have no choice but to comply.

What makes emotional blackmail particularly concerning is that it often goes unnoticed. Unlike direct forms of coercion, it can be disguised as love, care, loyalty or concern, leading you to sacrifice your own preferences, comfort and well-being to please others.

Fear

Fear is one of the strongest tools used in emotional blackmail. It involves anxiety about the negative consequences of refusing to comply with another person's demands.

This fear can take different forms, including the fear of losing a relationship ("I will leave you" or "I will never forgive you"), fear of conflict or anger ("I will get angry if you do not listen to me") and fear of rejection or abandonment ("I think we need a break from each other"). It can even involve threats of self-harm,

such as "I can live no more."

Fear-based messaging can also be seen in political communication. Following the Sept 11 attacks, former US president, George W. Bush, declared: "Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists."

The statement presented a stark choice that left little room for neutrality, creating social pressure to demonstrate support for the US-led war in Afghanistan.

Obligation

Obligation refers to a perceived sense of duty or indebtedness towards someone, even when no genuine obligation exists. In emotional blackmail, this can surface in everyday thoughts such as, "I must always support them because they are my family", "They helped me before, so I owe them", "I should put their needs above my own" or "A good daughter or partner would never refuse".

By creating emotional distress, the blackmailer undermines your ability to make independent decisions, leaving you feeling compelled to prioritise others' needs and preferences over your own.

Similarly, political leaders may use obligation-based language to encourage loyalty and collective action. For example, US President Donald Trump has used expressions such as, "We can't let them take our country", framing political action as a shared duty and appealing to a sense of collective responsibility to protect the nation against perceived threats.

Guilt

Guilt in emotional blackmail is not about having committed a genuine wrong but rather about feeling guilty because of another person's emotional pressure.

Unlike legal guilt, this form of manipulation often involves statements such as, "After everything I've done for you", "You should know better" or "Family always comes first".

Such expressions are designed to make you feel responsible for another person's disappointment, unhappiness or suffering.

"Understanding emotional blackmail is important because it can go unrecognised in everyday life. It often hides behind socially valued emotions such as love, loyalty, sacrifice and responsibility, qualities we have long been encouraged to practise."



Words, phrases and relationships can become tools to control decisions or influence behaviour within families, friendships, workplaces and the wider community. – AI-IMAGE GENERATED BY SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THE SUN

An example can be found in Princess Diana's famous 1995 BBC interview, when she stated, "There were three of us in this marriage." Her words conveyed deep emotional pain and were widely interpreted as an expression of marital distress that evoked public sympathy.

Understanding emotional blackmail is important because it can go unrecognised in everyday life. It often hides behind socially valued emotions, qualities we have long been encouraged to practise.

Recognising these language patterns can help us distinguish healthy relationships from toxic ones. Two strategies can help: awareness and rational responses.

Awareness strengthens emotional literacy and helps us establish healthier interpersonal boundaries. Responding

rationally, meanwhile, allows us to distinguish genuine responsibilities from obligations imposed through emotional manipulation.

Learn to communicate your boundaries firmly and respectfully, making it clear which behaviours are acceptable and which are not.

Ultimately, relationships should be built on respect, honesty and freedom of choice, rather than emotional coercion.

Knowing when and how to say "No" is essential, especially when your freedom to make your own decisions is being subtly undermined.

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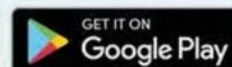
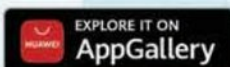
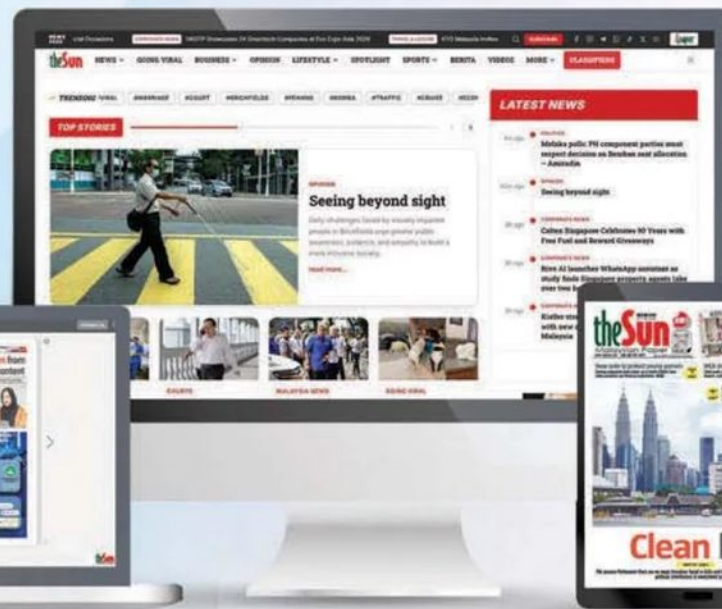


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COMMENT by Dr Tee Sze Chee and Dr Muhammad Ilham Abdul Hafidz

Don't be your own doctor: Seek advice

MALAYSIANS are remarkably good at finding explanations for stomach discomfort. Too much chilli, too much coffee, too much stress – there is always a reason ready and often an antacid within reach.

For occasional discomfort, that may be enough but when symptoms keep returning, worsen over time or stop responding to the usual remedies, what many call “just gastric” may need a closer look.

When one starts to feel persistent heartburn, bloating, nausea, epigastric pain, difficulty swallowing or recurring indigestion, it can point to a range of conditions – from gastritis and acid reflux to peptic ulcers or more serious concerns that warrant early attention.

An upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy is one of the procedures doctors may recommend to better understand what is happening inside the oesophagus, stomach and upper part of the small intestine.

Yet for many patients, an endoscopy can feel intimidating before it even begins. Questions around fasting, sedation, discomfort, biopsies and recovery often create more anxiety than the procedure itself.

Don't take persistent symptoms lightly

Upper GI symptoms are common and many Malaysians learn to live around them, dismissing them as part of daily life, especially when over-the-counter medication appears to offer temporary relief.

Lifestyle factors also play a role in how symptoms develop and persist. Spicy food, acidic beverages, caffeinated drinks, irregular meal timings, late-night eating and heavy meals can all contribute to bloating, reflux or indigestion – patterns that are deeply embedded in how many Malaysians eat and work. Stress and poor sleep can compound the picture further.

Antacids or dietary changes may help manage discomfort but they do not explain what is causing it. This matters because similar symptoms can point to very different conditions.

Persistent heartburn may be linked to gastroesophageal reflux disease. Recurring upper abdominal pain may be associated with gastritis, peptic ulcers or helicobacter pylori infection.

The challenge is that because symptoms tend to come and go, many patients delay seeking evaluation until the condition has begun to affect daily life.

Certain symptoms should not be repeatedly self-treated. Frequent heartburn, difficulty or pain when swallowing, persistent nausea, unexplained weight loss, reduced appetite, vomiting blood or passing black stool are all



Knowing what happens can make an endoscopy feel less uncertain. But the more important point is persistent symptoms should not be left to guesswork. – REUTERS/SPIC

symptoms that should be properly assessed by a doctor.

Sometimes these symptoms can mask underlying conditions that require medical attention.

An upper GI endoscopy provides the diagnostic clarity that symptom management alone cannot.

Using a thin, flexible tube fitted with a high-definition camera, a gastroenterologist can directly examine the lining of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum in real time.

This can provide a much clearer understanding of the root cause of the symptoms.

What is an endoscopy?

Much of the anxiety around endoscopies usually comes from not knowing what to expect. The two most common concerns – regardless of a patient's age or background – are fear of pain and the worry of waking up mid-procedure. In practice, both are largely unfounded.

➔ Before

Patients are typically required to fast for six to eight hours, so the stomach is empty for a clear examination of the upper digestive tract. Patients should also inform their doctor about any regular medications, allergies, existing medical conditions or previous

reactions to sedation.

➔ During

Sedation is administered intravenously before the procedure begins. Once the patient is comfortable and asleep, the endoscopy proceeds. They will not feel or remember anything during the procedure. The doctor then guides a thin, flexible scope through the mouth to examine the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum – a process that typically takes less than 10 minutes.

In some cases, a biopsy may be taken during the procedure. That biopsies are routinely used to test for H.pylori infection. They may also be taken if a visible abnormality – such as an ulcer, polyp or growth – is identified during the examination.

➔ After

Patients are moved to a recovery area and monitored while the sedation wears off. Mild bloating or throat discomfort can occur but these usually settle on their own. Some findings may be discussed shortly after the procedure. Biopsy results typically take a few days and are reviewed at a follow-up appointment, where the doctor will also outline the appropriate next steps based on what was found.

Why earlier detection is crucial

Knowing what happens can make an endoscopy feel less uncertain. But the more

important point is persistent symptoms should not be left to guesswork.

The challenge with upper GI symptoms is that they rarely announce their own severity. Persistent heartburn, recurring abdominal pain and ongoing bloating can all stem from easily managed conditions or they can be the earliest signs of something that requires more urgent attention.

On the surface, the symptoms look the same. The difference only becomes clear with proper investigation. This is where late detection becomes a real concern.

According to the Malaysia National Cancer Registry, more than 60% of cancer cases in this country are detected at stage three or four.

For upper GI cancers specifically, Globocan 2022 data shows that stomach cancer recorded 1,528 new cases in Malaysia in a single year alongside 1,223 deaths – a ratio that reflects how often the disease is caught too late to treat effectively and why earlier intervention matters.

Medication that works is not the same as a problem that is solved. Many of the conditions behind persistent upper GI symptoms are common and very treatable but some can be early signs of something more serious, including gastric cancer. The symptoms alone cannot tell you which one you are dealing with.

In practice, late detection does not just mean harder treatment. It often means we are discussing a different set of outcomes entirely. Earlier detection gives us options. When gastric cancer presents very late, it is not uncommon that little can be done towards cure. That is the reality we must try to change.

For those who have been putting off an evaluation out of fear, rest assured that there is nothing to fear. The procedure is very simple and straightforward – painless, quick and very safe.

Most patients are surprised by how manageable it turns out to be. Whether the symptoms are caused by something mild and treatable or require further attention, getting a proper diagnosis early can offer reassurance, guide the right treatment and prevent potential complications from being overlooked.

An endoscopy is not about expecting the worst. It is about understanding what your body has been trying to signal.

While “gastric” may be a familiar label, it should not be the reason patients put off getting proper answers.

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Choose lasting gains over short-term fixes

LETTERS

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EVERY federal budget announcement consistently prioritises short-term populist handouts over the structural reforms needed to resolve decades-old economic vulnerabilities.

Running continuous deficits has become an accepted norm, pushing our national debt past the trillion-ringgit threshold since 2018.

A sobering contrast can be seen in Thailand, which recently announced plans to trim its 1.7-million-strong civil service by 5% to curb public spending for a population of 71 million.

In comparison, Malaysia maintains a public sector of 1.3 million civil servants for a population half that size. While differences in workforce definitions and reporting periods

make a direct comparison imperfect, the figures raise legitimate questions about Malaysia's public-sector staffing levels, wage bill and scope for greater efficiency.

If Thailand can commit to a 5% reduction, Malaysia can easily afford an 8% consolidation, particularly given how modern automation has rendered manual processing obsolete.

Today, essential transactions like utility payments, quit rent and municipal assessments are seamlessly managed online.

While the introduction of the goods and services tax (GST) in 2015 was a highly effective measure to arrest federal debt, its subsequent abolition in 2018 severely derailed fiscal consolidation.

Amid recent calls by certain parties to reinstate a pure GST framework rather than a hybrid model, the current administration should seize the opportunity to implement GST

at a modest 5%, with clear exemptions for essential goods.

The rakyat expect more than just anti-corruption rhetoric; they require concrete structural measures to dismantle economic inefficiency.

All public contracts and major infrastructure projects must be awarded transparently through competitive open-market bidding.

Furthermore, a firm policy must be established to halt the unconditional bailing out of underperforming government-linked companies (GLCs).

Populist handouts become obsolete when state resources are managed efficiently. Capital wasted on artificial lifelines for failing GLCs should instead be channelled into building a robust economic foundation that naturally yields high-value job opportunities.

When domestic corporations thrive on

merit, market forces will drive wage growth upward without direct state intervention.

Given Malaysia's abundant natural wealth and favourable demographic scale, the nation possesses the latent capability to outpace its regional peers.

Achieving this potential hinges entirely on an educational framework that aligns human capital with an era defined by automation and artificial intelligence.

Consequently, reinstating the teaching of science and mathematics in English must be prioritised to cultivate a workforce equipped to lead on the global stage.

In a similar vein, GLCs must also transcend their reliance on protected state contracts and learn to compete aggressively in international markets.

Patrick Teh

MALAYSIA'S industrial future will not be shaped by land supply alone, but by the strength of the ecosystems that grow around it.

As the nation works towards the ambitions of the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030), the question facing policymakers, developers and investors is increasingly not only where factories can be built, but what environments can be created to enable high-value industries to grow and remain competitive.

I believe the answer lies in a broader shift from traditional industrial parks towards more integrated business ecosystems. Tanjong Malim, Perak, offers one relevant example of this transition.

The economic imperative

Manufacturing remains one of Malaysia's economic backbones, contributing 23% of GDP in 2025 and growing at 4.5% annually. This is poised to grow by 2030; the government is targeting manufacturing value added of RM587.5 billion by 2030, up from RM364.1 billion in 2022.

This is not incremental growth – it is industrial transformation. Achieving these ambitions will require more than additional factory capacity.

As such, forward-moving plans emphasise economic complexity, high-value job creation, stronger domestic linkages and ESG integration, all of which depend on stronger industrial clusters and the wider ecosystems that support them.

Land and infrastructure are no longer enough

For decades, industrial developments competed primarily on land cost, infrastructure, utilities and connectivity. Ultimately, these remain fundamental, but businesses are increasingly looking beyond them.

Today's manufacturers prioritise operational efficiency through proximity to suppliers, logistics hubs and customers within the same cluster. Workforce considerations also matter including access to housing, transport, schools and everyday amenities that can support talent attraction and retention.

Businesses also value commercial and business support that can reduce operational friction for employees, suppliers and vendors. Just as importantly, long-term scalability remains a key consideration, with companies looking for locations that can support expansion, new technologies and changing operational requirements over time.

National policy meets local execution

Towards this end, NIMP 2030 provides the strategic framework, but its success depends on local

The rise of industrial business ecosystems in Malaysia



Tanjong Malim Hi-Tech Park by Setia Awan Land adopts an integrated approach to industrial development, combining industrial land with commercial amenities to support businesses and their workforce.

execution. The plan identifies six core goals; of relevance here is the goal to develop new and existing clusters, which focuses on strengthening industrial clusters.

In Tanjong Malim, this broader cluster agenda is particularly relevant to the area's growing automotive and EV activity. Proton's dedicated EV assembly plant in Tanjong Malim began operations in September 2025. Following an expansion announced in 2026, Proton now aims to increase its annual capacity of EV assembly from 20,000 to 45,000.

Tanjong Malim's position as a growing automotive and industrial ecosystem is further strengthened by the Automotive Hi-Tech Valley project and the emergence of other automotive players and industrial

developments within the area. This includes potential new CKD facilities in the near future, with other automotive players still assessing their plans on this front and recently announced investments from other industrial manufacturers.

The investment environment is also being supported by initiatives such as the Muallim Speed Lane, which is designed to facilitate investment through faster approval processes and greater ease of doing business for companies establishing operations in the district.

Together, these developments are broadening Tanjong Malim's industrial base and strengthening the ecosystem around automotive, advanced manufacturing and supporting industries.

But the question to ask is, what will it take to cement Tanjong Malim's position as one that is capable of catering to the future demands of manufacturers and high-skilled workers alike? While the foundations for an expanded industrial complex are certainly there, it is the supporting ecosystems that must be addressed.

Tanjong Malim Hi-Tech Park: Applying ecosystem thinking

Within this context, Tanjong Malim Hi-Tech Park (TMHTP) by Setia Awan Land offers a practical demonstration of how industrial development can align with national policy while meeting market demands.

Having led the inception of the project, we took great care to ensure TMHTP took a different tact to the many ongoing projects in the vicinity. What distinguishes TMHTP is its broader approach to industrial development – the creation of a total industrial ecosystem that integrates industrial land with commercial amenities and supporting services that respond to the daily needs of businesses and the workforce.

This is why Ionera, TMHTP's commercial component, is so critical to our plan. It exemplifies this broader approach by providing everyday services and amenities for businesses, employees, and visitors within the development.

Beyond convenience, Ionera's masterplan puts high-tech at the core, with priorities on sustainability and green energy through the inclusion of solar panels and EV charging stations, which both cater to modern-day demands and ensure a space that is clean, conducive, and sustainable. Ionera also boasts an anchor grocer, modern cafes, and convenient daily amenities to support the needs of the industrial community.

Ultimately, for us at Setia Awan Land, the totality of the TMHTP project reflects a simple principle: industrial activity does not operate in isolation, and the environment surrounding factories increasingly matters to businesses and their workforce.

We did not see it simply as an ancillary development; in fact, it is core infrastructure.

Embedding commercial and lifestyle components directly into the

industrial ecosystem was a key priority when conceptualising TMHTP, as we knew it would address the talent attraction and retention challenges that have been earmarked as critical enablers. It also creates domestic linkages and local supply chain support that the NIMP 2030 plan emphasises.

Our previous projects have always prioritised connected living – TMHTP takes that principle and layers it onto industrial developments. Integrated planning requires masterplans that co-locate industrial, commercial and residential components to reduce commute times, enhance productivity and improve quality of life.

Beyond factories, towards ecosystems

The rise of industrial business ecosystems marks a pivotal evolution in Malaysia's industrial landscape. Tanjong Malim offers a useful lens on how national policy, local execution and market demand can converge to support a broader automotive and high-tech cluster, attract investment and create new economic activity around an established industrial anchor.

The game has changed. The opportunity is no longer simply about providing industrial land. It is about creating an environment that supports business growth, talent needs and the wider community – in line with NIMP 2030's ambition for a competitive, high-income and sustainable industrial economy.

For developers, this means looking beyond the factory gate and planning industrial locations that can support operations, attract and retain talent, and adapt as industries and business needs evolve.

As Malaysia moves towards 2030, I believe the developments that thrive will be those that recognise a simple truth: factories are necessary, but ecosystems are transformative.

The question for policymakers, developers, and investors is whether today's industrial environments are being planned only for immediate requirements or for the future needs of businesses, technologies, and the workforce.

This article is contributed by Setia Awan Land Sdn Bhd director Datuk Marcus Doh (pix).

Core PropTech records over RM158m in transaction value over 12 months

KUALA LUMPUR: Property technology company Core PropTech Sdn Bhd recorded more than RM158 million in property transaction value from over 150 units sold over the past 12 months, bringing its cumulative transaction value since launch to more than RM265 million.

In a statement, the company said its cumulative performance since 2023 has reached more than 240 units sold, with over 60% of its

reported cumulative unit volume and transaction value generated during the latest 12-month period.

Core PropTech connects property developers directly with licensed real estate agents via its digital platform, giving registered agents access to available projects, project information, commission details and sales updates.

The company said its personal sales model is designed to reduce

unnecessary layers in the traditional property sales process and allow agents to retain a higher share of commissions generated from their own sales.

CEO and co-founder JJ Liao said that reaching more than RM158 million in transaction value over the past 12 months is an important milestone for Core PropTech and reflects the growing adoption of our platform among property agents

and developers.

"Our focus has always been on making the property sales journey more structured, transparent and accessible by bringing key parts of the process into one platform," he said.

He said that as the company network continues to grow, they remain committed to building the infrastructure that helps agents discover opportunities, understand

their potential earnings and manage their sales more efficiently.

Core PropTech said that high-rise residential properties, including condominiums and serviced apartments, accounted for 79.8% of recorded transaction activity during the period.

As of Aug 19, the company said its network comprised 66 developers, 115 projects and 1,235 registered agents. – Bernama



Berjaya Construction to undertake Sanglang Port project

SANGLANG: Berjaya Construction Bhd is set to undertake the design-and-build works for the Sanglang Port development project in Perlis, a strategic maritime infrastructure initiative aimed at enhancing the state's maritime connectivity.

This complements the recently completed logistics infrastructure comprising the Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Free Commercial Zone - Perlis Inland Port (PIP) and the Chuping Valley Industrial Area.

The scope of works will encompass procurement, design development, engineering and construction delivery.

Working in collaboration with Mutiara Perlis Sdn Bhd, the owner cum developer of PIP and Sanglang Port, Berjaya Construction will leverage its technical expertise and project delivery capabilities to support the development of the Sanglang Port's infrastructure.

With an estimated total development cost of about RM1.2 billion, including the initial estimated construction costs of RM675 million, Sanglang Port is planned to be developed in stages.

The proposed development comprises two Multi-User Terminals, a Roll-on/Roll-off (RORO) Terminal and a General Cargo Terminal along the four-kilometre trestle with water depths of up to 11.9 metres. The master plan also provides for five key maritime activities including RORO operations, fisheries facilities, general cargo handling, an energy hub and multi-user facilities.

This integrated configuration is designed to accommodate a diverse range of cargo categories, shipping requirements and commercial

➤ Scope of works to encompass procurement, design development, engineering and construction delivery

operations, positioning Sanglang Port to serve as a potential maritime gateway for Perlis and the wider northern region.

The proposed facilities are expected to cater to fisheries and international tuna landings, commodities, petroleum-related cargo and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) activities.

The RORO terminal is also intended to enhance maritime connectivity between Perlis and Langkawi by facilitating the movement of vehicles and goods, with round-the-clock operations envisaged, thus spurring tourism-related activities in the surrounding areas.

The project is subject to the relevant approvals, implementation arrangements and construction milestones. The current estimated timeline for Phase 1, covering 2 to 4 kilometres of the trestle including the associated terminals, is 30 months, while Phase 2, covering the LPG landing facilities, is estimated to take 12 months.

The development of Sanglang Port is also expected to lay the foundation for further growth in Perlis' energy sector, complementing plans for the Perlis Energy Hub and Perlis Power Hub to support future energy and electricity requirements.

Mutiara Perlis founder and group executive chairman Datuk

Shabaruddin Ibrahim said: "Improved cargo-handling capabilities and access to wider markets with PIP and Sanglang Port could strengthen the state's attractiveness to investors in logistics, manufacturing, energy and related industries, thereby generating employment and business opportunities for local enterprises."

"With the appointment of Berjaya Construction as our Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning (EPCC) contractor, they will focus on integrating engineering, procurement, design development and construction delivery, with an emphasis on infrastructure quality, operational requirements and long-term functionality."

On the other hand, Tan Sri Vincent Tan Chee YOUN, founder of Berjaya Corporation Bhd, said: "The Sanglang Port Development Project underscores the importance of investing in strategic infrastructure to support Malaysia's long-term economic growth and strengthen regional connectivity."

"We believe that well-planned maritime facilities can unlock new opportunities for trade, industry and investment, while supporting local businesses and communities. Berjaya remains committed to working with our partners and the relevant authorities to support



(From left) Tan, Datuk Seri Diraja Syed Razlan Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, The Second Heir to the Perlis Syed Sirajuddin Areeb Putra Al-Haj Jamalullail, The Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, The Crown Prince of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Ibni Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail, Chief Minister of Perlis Abu Bakar Hamzah, and Shabaruddin attend the official launch of the Sanglang Port project.

initiatives that contribute to sustainable economic development and deliver lasting value to the nation."

Meanwhile, Berjaya Property Bhd group CEO Syed Ali Shahul Hameed said: "The Sanglang Port Development Project represents a significant opportunity to strengthen Perlis' maritime infrastructure, enhance regional connectivity and support the growth of trade and industry."

"Berjaya Construction is committed to leveraging its engineering expertise and project delivery capabilities to support the development of quality infrastructure that delivers long-term value."

"Through close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, we look forward to contributing to a project that could strengthen Perlis' position in maritime trade, logistics and energy-related activities while creating new opportunities for businesses and communities."

Strategically located at the northernmost tip of Peninsular Malaysia, Sanglang Port is poised to contribute to enhancing Malaysia's competitiveness in international trade and logistics while supporting more balanced domestic economic development by helping to narrow the economic disparities between Perlis and other states in Peninsula Malaysia.

Foreign investors have to deliver greater benefits to local businesses: Sim

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign investors have to deliver greater benefits to local businesses through stronger supply-chain links, as the government seeks to tie investment incentives more closely to economic outcomes, said Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong.

He said the government wanted to ensure that large investments generated wider economic benefits for Malaysians, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), through greater participation in supply chains and opportunities to become vendors to larger companies and multinational corporations.

"We want to make sure that all these big FDIs coming in will benefit Malaysians, will benefit locals, small businesses and companies," he said at

the Grant Thornton Tax Seminar on Budget 2027 here yesterday.

Sim said the government had begun moving towards this approach through the New Incentive Framework (NIF), under which investors would receive incentives based on their ability to meet key performance indicators (KPIs), rather than obtaining the full tax incentive upfront.

He contrasted this with the previous approach, which he said as allowing investors in sectors on a positive list to qualify for a 100% tax break.

"In the past, we used to have a positive list of investors. Foreign investors came in. As long as you met one of these positive-list sectors, you got a 100% tax break."

"But today, under the NIF, we say: we don't give you 100% first. We give you a certain amount. Then you meet certain KPIs," he added.

Among the outcomes cited by Sim were the creation of high-paying jobs for Malaysians and the development of local vendors, domestic supply chains and SMEs.

He said investors that met the relevant KPIs could qualify for progressively greater tax incentives, making the benefits available to them more closely linked to their contribution to the domestic economy.

"Then you will eventually get bigger and bigger tax cuts," he added.

Sim said the government wanted to embed expectations around local business participation more firmly in its systems, guidelines and regulations to ensure that investment incentives generated wider economic benefits.

"We want to make sure that foreign direct investments benefit Malaysians, particularly local businesses, SMEs and companies, by developing local vendors and

strengthening domestic supply chains."

"We want to build all these objectives into our systems, guidelines and regulations to ensure that the benefits of these investments reach local businesses," he added.

Strengthening local supply chains forms part of a broader effort by the ministry to address structural challenges facing SMEs, including productivity, bureaucracy, financing and access to markets.

Sim outlined the ministry's ABCD strategy, which focuses on accelerating productivity, reducing bureaucracy, improving capital accessibility and driving market access.

"Whatever you do in my ministry today ... whether you spend money, do a programme, organise a talk, hold a dialogue, or design one poster, ask yourself whether it fulfils A, B, C or D. If it fulfils one of them, go all out. If it doesn't, postpone it," he said.

Under the NIF, investment proposals are assessed using the National Investment Aspirations (NIA) Scorecard, which measures their expected contributions to six areas: increasing economic complexity, creating high-value jobs, strengthening domestic supply-chain linkages, developing industrial clusters, improving inclusivity and enhancing sustainability practices. Projects are assessed according to their commitments and contributions to these national priorities.

The framework provides two mutually exclusive tax-incentive options: a Special Tax Rate, which offers a preferential corporate income tax rate for a specified period, and an Investment Tax Allowance, which is based on qualifying capital expenditure. The incentive granted depends on the applicable criteria and assessment of the investment proposal.

Malaysia steps up AI cybersecurity push

BY JOHN GILBERT
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) is focusing on strengthening research and development (R&D), supporting technology commercialisation, and creating opportunities for Malaysian innovations to reach the market.

This is guided by the National Guidelines on AI Governance and Ethics (AIGE), which outline seven principles for the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence, to ensure emerging technologies are developed and adopted responsibly.

These include privacy, security, transparency and accountability, all of which are essential to building public confidence in AI technologies.

Mosti Minister Datuk Chang Lih Kang said that as artificial intelligence transforms industries, improves productivity and enables businesses to operate more efficiently, it is also changing the nature of cyber threats.

"Cybercriminals can now use AI to automate attacks, identify vulnerabilities and create increasingly convincing scams.

"Organisations face new risks arising from their own adoption of AI. Beyond protecting conventional IT infrastructure, they must also safeguard AI applications, models and the data that power them.

"This creates new responsibilities for businesses, technology providers and cybersecurity professionals," he said at the LGMS AI Cybersecurity Summit 2026 yesterday.

Chang said that in Budget 2027, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim reinforced Malaysia's commitment to advancing the digital economy, strengthening infrastructure and accelerating the adoption of artificial intelligence.

He said these priorities are aligned with Malaysia's ambition to become an AI Nation by 2030.

"However, as we accelerate digital transformation, we must also recognise the risks that come with it. Cybersecurity cannot be an afterthought. It must be integral to how we develop, deploy, and use technology. Without trust and security, even the most advanced digital systems will struggle to gain public confidence," Chang remarked.

He also emphasised that industry experts must move towards continuous monitoring, early threat detection and proactive security measures, adding that AI itself can become a powerful tool for cybersecurity professionals, helping them identify suspicious activities, analyse vulnerabilities and respond more effectively to emerging threats.

"If attackers are using AI to become faster and more sophisticated, we must ensure that our defenders are equipped to stay ahead.

"Ultimately, our objective should be to prevent cyber incidents wherever possible, rather than simply responding after damage has occurred," Chang said.

He further said that trust in AI depends not

➤ Experts must move towards continuous monitoring, early threat detection and proactive security measures: Minister



Fong speaking to media. On his left is MDEC chairman Ganesh Kumar Bangah.

only on what the technology can do, but also on how safely and responsibly it is used.

"Beyond governance, cybersecurity also presents significant opportunities for Malaysian technology companies.

"As demand for advanced security solutions grows, we want to see more local businesses developing proprietary technologies, building specialised expertise and expanding into international markets," he added.

Chang further added that developing competitive technologies requires more than research and investment.

"As Malaysia advances towards AI Nation 2030, we must strengthen our pool of cybersecurity specialists, engineers, researchers and AI professionals.

"Closer collaboration between universities, research institutions, government agencies and industry will be essential.

"We must ensure that our talent possesses the skills needed to address emerging threats while creating opportunities for Malaysian innovators to develop and commercialise their ideas.

"Ultimately, the 'Made by Malaysia' aspiration is not simply about producing technology locally. It is about creating high-value jobs, developing Malaysian intellectual property and ensuring that our country captures greater economic value from technological advancement," Chang said.

At the event, LGMS Bhd unveiled five advanced "Made by Malaysia" cybersecurity solutions aimed at helping Malaysian organisations move beyond traditional, periodic security testing towards continuous,

AI-driven protection as cyberattacks become increasingly sophisticated, automated and difficult to detect.

Researched, designed and developed entirely in Malaysia, these solutions address emerging vulnerabilities in AI applications, software systems, compromised credentials, exposed digital assets and active cyber intrusions, reflecting the growing need for more proactive approaches to cybersecurity.

LGMS managing director Fong Choong Fook said the five solutions marked a significant step in the company's efforts to address a changing cybersecurity landscape, where attackers increasingly use AI to automate malicious activities at unprecedented speed and scale.

"Cybersecurity has traditionally relied heavily on assessments conducted at certain points in time. However, attackers do not wait for an organisation's next security review.

"With AI, they can continuously probe systems for weaknesses, automate attacks and exploit vulnerabilities much faster than before," said Fong.

He said organisations need to move from reactive security testing towards continuous assessment, monitoring and earlier threat detection.

"Our five new solutions are designed to help address this shift, combining advanced technologies with the experience and judgement of cybersecurity professionals," he added.

LGMS delivers cybersecurity services to local, regional, and international clients across various industries.

Bursa delivers 13.5% Patami growth, driven by stronger market activity

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia Bhd delivered a solid performance for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2026 (9M2026), underpinned by stronger market activity, healthy fundraising momentum and focused execution of the Exchange's strategic priorities.

Profit After Tax, Zakat and Minority Interest (Patami) of RM70.2 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2026 (3Q2026) recorded an increase of 10.0% from RM63.8 million in the corresponding quarter last year.

This brought Patami for the nine months ended Sept 30, 2026 (9M2026) to RM214.8 million, 13.5% higher than RM189.3 million in the same period last year.

Operating revenue for 9M2026 rose 19.8% year-on-year (YoY) to RM620.8 million, mainly driven by higher trading activity in the securities and derivatives markets and listing fees. Operating expenses increased 23.4% YoY to RM349.0 million, reflecting continued investment in talent and technology, as well as regulatory fees.

In the Securities Market, Average Daily Trading Value (ADV) for On-Market Trades (OMT) increased 27.6% YoY to RM3.2 billion. Fundraising activity remained strong, with 47 initial public offerings (IPOs) raising RM6.1 billion and contributing RM28.7 billion in market capitalisation.

Bursa Malaysia led Asean by number of IPOs and funds raised during the period.

In the Derivatives Market, Average Daily Contracts (ADC) grew 19.3% YoY to 113,120 contracts, driven primarily by stronger trading activity in Crude Palm Oil Futures and FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI Futures.

In the Islamic Market, Bursa Suq Al-Sila' (BSAS) recorded an ADV of RM48.5 billion.

Bursa Gold Dinar maintained its growth momentum, with the value of gold transacted increasing 124.2% YoY to RM234.5 million.

Non-trading revenue, which accounted for approximately 37.0% of total operating revenue, increased 19.3% YoY to RM229.4 million.

The increase is also contributed by higher listing and issuer services revenue, which rose 64.1% YOY.

"The first nine months saw continued momentum across our markets, with stronger trading activity, continued fundraising and encouraging investor participation," Bursa Malaysia CEO Datuk Fad'l Mohamed said.

"The 47 IPOs during the period, together with the 27.6% increase in Securities Market ADV and 19.3% growth in Derivatives Market ADC during the period, point to healthy participation across our markets.

"With Bank Negara Malaysia projecting GDP growth of 4% to 5% in 2026, Malaysia's domestic fundamentals remain supportive of capital raising and investment activity.

"At the same time, geopolitical uncertainty and tighter global financial conditions mean investors are becoming more discerning about where they allocate capital.

"Against this backdrop, our focus remains on driving market vibrancy and participation, while investing in the resilience and reliability of our market infrastructure.

"The enhancements to the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI and FTSE Bursa Malaysia Mid 70 Indices, MY Value Up and efforts to deepen regional and international market linkages, including between Malaysia and Hong Kong, are among the strategic initiatives we are pursuing towards this end," the chief executive said.

BYD to strengthen high-power EV charging infrastructure

KUALA LUMPUR: Following the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between BYD Malaysia and Gentari, a clean energy solutions company wholly owned by Petronas at BYD's global headquarters in Shenzhen, both parties will explore opportunities to deploy BYD Flash Charging infrastructure in Malaysia.

BYD Flash Charging is designed to deliver its

fastest charging performance with vehicles equipped with BYD's Second Generation Blade Battery including the recently launched DENZA Z9GT, one of the first models in Malaysia to support the technology.

"BYD is committed to bringing the next generation of charging technology to Malaysia, and we are working towards making BYD Flash Charging available to our customers soon. This

marks an important step in strengthening Malaysia's EV charging infrastructure and making electric mobility more convenient for our customers," said BYD Malaysia managing director Jacob Ma.

The initial rollout will focus on selected DENZA luxury showrooms, providing early access to BYD Flash Charging for customers with compatible vehicles.

SIGNING CEREMONY

28 OCTOBER 2026



(From left) Vertex Material co-founder and advisor Aiden Lee; Nasdaq vice chairman, Asia Pacific chairman head, international listings head Bob McCooley; Lai; Sky-Dweller Group director Peter Dhillon Singh; Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Chang Lih Kan; and Vertex Material co-founder and technical director Datuk Frankie Tan Chin Teon.

Vertex Material secures US\$2.2 billion offtake deal

► Firm expands commercial reach into India, prepares for proposed Nasdaq listing

BY NIK ZARIF AZHAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian advanced-materials company Vertex Material has secured a 15 year offtake agreement valued at approximately US\$2.2 billion (RM9 billion) with US-based Sky-Dweller Construction LLC as it expands its commercial reach into India and prepares for a proposed Nasdaq listing in 2027.

The agreement builds on the companies' existing distribution arrangement in the United States and Canada, and is expected to strengthen Vertex Material's commercial pipeline as it scales up its planned manufacturing operations.

Sky-Dweller, part of Aurelius Materials, will support the expansion into India, targeting industrial manufacturing, electrical and energy infrastructure, and electronics-related thermal-management applications.

Vertex Material CEO Chris Lai said the agreement would strengthen the company's position as it expands its international reach.

"Our task is to turn the material we have developed here in Malaysia into products that global manufacturers can readily adopt.

"The expansion into the Indian market will further increase the viability of the US facility.

"This US\$2.2 billion offtake provides a solid foundation for that next stage in making Vertex Material

an industry player globally," he said at the Vertex Material Business signing ceremony yesterday.

Lai said the agreement would broaden the company's commercial opportunities through its partnership with Sky-Dweller while complementing its existing distribution network in North America.

"The offtake agreements allow Vertex Material's proprietary copper-composite material to be supplied to India, which broadens the commercial opportunities we can pursue through the partnership, complementing our established distribution footprint in North America," he added.

According to figures from the International Copper Association India reported by the India Brand Equity Foundation, India's copper demand rose 12% year-on-year to approximately 2.1 million tonnes in financial year 2026, driven by infrastructure development and growth in the automotive and construction sectors.

Vertex Material develops copper-composite materials designed to retain much of copper's thermal and electrical conductivity while offering corrosion resistance and improved machinability.

The technology aims to reduce the amount of pure copper required in suitable industrial applications amid concerns over tightening global supply.

The International Energy Agency

projects that mine supply from existing and announced projects could fall approximately 25% short of primary copper requirements by 2035.

Lai said the company was focusing on applications where its technology could improve material efficiency without compromising performance.

"The question is not simply how much copper a material contains, but whether it can do what is required. Our focus is on applications where we can make each tonne of copper go further while meeting the required performance," he added.

To support its growing commercial pipeline in North America and India, Vertex Material is evaluating potential sites in Arizona for a manufacturing facility with a targeted eventual annual production capacity of one million metric tonnes.

Commercial production is targeted to begin in 2028, subject to final site selection, financing and regulatory approvals.

Lai said the company's immediate priority was to establish its US operations before considering further expansion into other markets.

He said the United States was a strategic location for the planned facility as it offered access to copper supplies from nearby producers, including Canada, Chile and Peru.

Vertex Material is also targeting a proposed Nasdaq listing in the second or third quarter of 2027, through which it plans to raise between US\$300 million and US\$400 million.

Lai said the company had appointed the necessary advisers and was preparing its audits, regulatory filings and supporting documentation for the proposed listing.

"We are planning to raise close to about US\$300-US\$400 million

minimum," he told reporters at a press conference after the signing ceremony.

He said the company preferred Nasdaq over a local listing as it sought to tap into US government incentives and strengthen its presence in the American market.

The proposed Nasdaq listing remains subject to the relevant regulatory requirements and approvals.

Malaysia calls for stronger global cooperation to ensure gas supply security

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has called for stronger international cooperation to ensure stable global gas markets and reliable energy supplies, emphasising that energy security is fundamental to industrial competitiveness, investment confidence and sustainable economic growth.

The Ministry of Economy said in a statement yesterday that natural gas is not merely a transition fuel, but a strategic pillar of energy security, industrial competitiveness and sustainable development for Malaysia.

As renewable energy deployment accelerates, natural gas will continue to provide the reliability and flexibility needed to support electricity systems and industrial activities, particularly amid rising energy demand across Asia and Asean, said the ministry.

"Against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, supply disruptions and price volatility, Malaysia emphasised the importance of market transparency, predictable policy frameworks and sustained investment across the natural gas value chain.

"Greater cooperation between producers and consumers is essential to strengthening supply resilience and maintaining confidence in long-term energy investment," it said.

The ministry also said Malaysia reaffirmed the importance of deepening cooperation with members of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) and observer countries in market intelligence, liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, infrastructure development and technology exchange.

"Malaysia remains committed to a pragmatic and balanced energy transition that safeguards energy security, affordability and environmental sustainability, to attract high-value investment, strengthening industrial productivity and sustaining long-term economic growth," it said. — Bernama

Producer Price Index up 12% in September: DoSM

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Producer Price Index (PPI) increased by 12.0% in September 2026, from 10.7% in August 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM).

On an annual basis, DoSM said among the main sectors in PPI, mining recorded a substantial increase of 54.1% in September 2026, compared with 41.2% in the previous month.

"This was primarily driven by the extraction of crude petroleum, which increased by 74.2%," it said in its PPI Local Production report for September 2026.

The PPI measures changes in the prices domestic producers receive for their goods and services, before they reach consumers.

DoSM said the manufacturing sector increased by 9.4%, from 8.8% in August 2026, mainly contributed by the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (35.0%) and the manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (12.9%).

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector rose moderately by 2.9%, from 4.6% in the preceding month, with animal production up 11.9%.

"The utility sectors also recorded increases, with electricity and gas supply and water supply rising by 5.5% and 3.2%, respectively," it said.

On a month-on-month basis, the PPI Local Production rose 1.6% in September 2026, up from 1.0% in August 2026.

The mining sector recorded a 10.3% increase (August 2026: 6.7%), driven by the extraction of crude petroleum index (13.6%).

The PPI local production increased by 10.8% in the third quarter of 2026, from a 7.4% increase in the previous quarter; the increase was contributed by all sectors, particularly mining (41.9%) and manufacturing (8.8%) sectors.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the PPI increased by 2.8%, slower than a 6.8% increase in the second quarter of 2026. — Bernama

Iconic aims to almost double revenue to RM150m

► FY2027 target achievable due to strong property and manufacturing businesses, says chairman

GEORGE TOWN: Bursa Malaysia-listed Iconic Worldwide Bhd aims to almost double its revenue to RM150 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 (FY2027), driven primarily by strong market demand for Iconic Harmony, the group's high-rise mixed development in Bukit Mertajam, and supported by its manufacturing and hospitality segments.

In FY2027, the property development segment will continue to be the core activity spearheading the business direction of Iconic Worldwide. In addition, the group's hospitality segment, which provides management services to residential properties, is expected to continue contributing positively towards the Group's financial performance.

The construction of Iconic Harmony is progressing as scheduled, with completion expected in mid-2027. Iconic Worldwide anticipates all sold units of Iconic Harmony to be ready for delivery before the end of 2027. In the meantime, the group continues to work towards the launch of its next development project in Penang in the second half of 2027.

Executive chairman Datuk Seri Tan Kean Tet said (*pic*): "Following our strong performance in fiscal 2026, which saw the group deliver its best net profit in over a decade, we are now firmly on the growth track and are setting our sights on achieving greater heights."

For the 2027 financial year, he added they are aiming to achieve RM150 million in revenue, which will represent a near-doubling of their revenue on a year-on-year basis. This will position them to deliver an even stronger bottom-line performance.

"We believe our target of RM150 million is achievable as our property business alone is

expected to contribute up to RM120 million in revenue, driven by sales of Iconic Harmony. We also anticipate about RM30 million to RM40 million in revenue from our personal protective equipment (PPE) and baby care product manufacturing business, as well as the rental of one of our factories to Aperia Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd. As for our hospitality segment, we expect to record RM10 million in revenue from our hotel and serviced apartment management business," said Tan.

Iconic Harmony, which was launched in April 2024, has an estimated gross development value (GDV) of RM300 million. As of FY2026, about RM80 million in sales has been recognised as revenue, leaving more than RM200 million to be recognised over the next two fiscal years.

Going forward, Tan said their focus is on project delivery and growing their revenue base with stable, recurrent sources of income. Through the rental of their factory to Aperia, for instance, they expect to see fixed annual rental revenue of at least RM12 million.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (FY2026), Iconic Worldwide recorded RM87.61 million in revenue, an 84.8% year-on-year increase from RM47.40 million a year earlier (FY2025).

The surge in revenue was driven by the group's property segment, which recorded RM58.55 million in revenue, more than doubling year-on-year from RM24.42 million in FY2025.

In addition, the group recorded RM18.81 million in manufacturing segment revenue, supported by income from the lease of its factory to optical module contract manufacturer



Aperia Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

The remaining RM10.25 million in revenue was derived mainly from the group's hospitality segment.

With the increase in revenue, the group's net profit more-than-tripled year-on-year to RM9.75 million, from RM3.15 million in FY2025.

PayNet enables app users to make overseas DuitNow QR payments via Alipay+

KUALA LUMPUR: Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet) yesterday launched outbound DuitNow QR payment connectivity through Alipay+, the unified wallet gateway of Ant International.

Malaysians can now use supported local mobile banking apps to pay at participating Alipay+-supported merchants in five destinations: China, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines and Laos.

The initial three launch banks are Maybank, CIMB and Hong Leong Bank, with Bank Islam set to join soon.

The launch forms part of PayNet's long-term roadmap to extend secure and interoperable payment connectivity beyond Malaysia.

It aligns with Bank Negara Malaysia's vision for faster, more efficient and inclusive cross-border payments.

At participating merchants in the five supported destinations, customers can open the DuitNow QR payment function in their Malaysian banking app and scan the merchant's QR code displaying the Alipay+ logo.

They can then review and confirm the transaction within the same application, without downloading another app or creating an Alipay+ account.

"Cross-border payments should feel as familiar as paying at home. This connectivity gives Malaysians an easier way to pay abroad," said PayNet CEO Praveen Rajan.

"It also shows how collaboration between financial institutions and global payment partners expands the reach of Malaysia's national payment infrastructure beyond our borders.

"More broadly, stronger payment connectivity can help spending flow more easily across borders and strengthen Malaysia's economic links with the region."

The launch builds on PayNet's existing collaboration with Ant International through Alipay+.

The Alipay+ ecosystem connects more than two billion user accounts across over 50 international payment partners, with more than 150 million merchants in over 210 markets, including more than 10 national payment schemes such as PayNet.

"Our growing partnership with PayNet reflects a shared commitment to taking Malaysia's national payment infrastructure beyond its borders, connecting it more deeply with the global digital economy," said Ant International Alipay+ Global Growth Center general manager Danny Chung.

"At Alipay+, we empower national payment systems to strengthen two-way interoperable connectivity, so they can play a much greater role in enabling cross-border travel and commerce, expanding opportunities for businesses and consumers, and driving more inclusive digital economic growth."

The expansion comes amid growing cross-border payment activity. PayNet recorded nearly 30 million cross-border transactions in 2025, approximately 150% more than in 2024.

Transactions linked to China accounted for much of the growth.

AME Elite secures RM120m contract to build high-specification facility

JOHOR BAHRU: An integrated industrial space solutions provider AME Elite Consortium Berhad has secured a RM120 million contract to construct a purpose-built manufacturing and testing facility for BAC in Nilai, Negeri Sembilan.

The group's construction arm, AME Construction Sdn Bhd, was awarded the contract by the project owner, Rock Link Sdn Bhd. Spanning approximately 30,000 square metres, the facility is scheduled for handover within 14 months and will be operated by BAC Malaysia Sdn Bhd upon completion.

The facility will serve as the Asia Pacific (APAC) regional technical hub for BAC.

The plant will support the rapid growth of high-density data centres, artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystems, and advanced semiconductor manufacturing across the region.

AME Elite executive director and group CEO Dylan Tan Teck Eng said: "As global technology supply chains evolve, Malaysia is seeing growing demand for purpose-built industrial facilities that can be delivered efficiently and to high technical standards.

"Our in-house industrial construction capabilities enable us to deliver complex facilities within accelerated timelines while meeting the requirements of multinational customers.

"This project reflects our ability to support customers seeking to establish and expand their manufacturing and technical operations in the region, while reinforcing our position as an experienced partner in specialised industrial developments."



In-house industrial construction capabilities enable AME Elite to deliver complex facilities within accelerated timelines.

The project comprises a single-storey detached factory, a two-storey regional engineering office, and ancillary support buildings.

The contract adds to AME Elite's external construction and engineering order book, which stood at RM485.7 million as at June 30,

2026, prior to this latest award.

Together with the group's recent projects in the aerospace and advanced technology sectors, the latest contract further demonstrates AME Elite's capabilities in delivering specialised industrial facilities for multinational customers.

Boeing stock tumbles on weak forecast

➤ Aircraft maker delays production targets as investors question recovery pace

NEW YORK: Boeing shares plunged Tuesday as the company's cautious production growth timeframe surprised Wall Street, deepening questions about how fast recent plane certification and defence procurement wins will translate to the bottom line.

The aviation giant ended the day down 10.7%, the worst performer in the Dow index, as investors reacted poorly to forecasts from Boeing leaders at a conference call.

CEO Kelly Ortberg said the company does not expect 737 MAX output to reach 52 per month until the second half of 2027 as it must first "stabilise" output at 47 per month.

Raising 737 MAX output has been viewed by investors as central to revenue and profit growth. But Ortberg, who joined Boeing in the aftermath of safety disasters,

defended the approach.

"We're making progress, but we still have more work to do, and I'm expecting it'll take us into next year to get fully stable at this rate," Ortberg said of the 47 planes per month, citing the need for greater predictability in wing production and with the production of fuselages at its Kansas operation.

"It's more important that we do this ramp right than what particular month we achieve a rate break," Ortberg said.

Ortberg also put a timeframe on when the company will achieve US\$10 billion (RM41 billion) in annual free cash flow, saying it will reach the key target of financial health in 2029.

After Ortberg gave this timeframe, shares fell further, suggesting analysts had expected a

quicker pace.

"Everybody wants us to go faster. I get that, but we're going to stay disciplined as we ramp up here," Ortberg said.

Ortberg joined Boeing as CEO in August 2024 as the company struggled to move past a pair of deadly 737 MAX crashes and a near-catastrophic 737 MAX flight in January 2024 in which a window blew out mid-flight.

The company at the time faced criticism that the problems stemmed from a culture that chased quick payoffs while shortchanging safety.

Boeing is making "slow but steady" progress, aviation expert Richard Aboulafia of AeroDynamic Advisory said in an email to AFP. "But the supply chain remains a major concern and one that's only partly in Boeing's control."

Ortberg's comments came as Boeing reported a third-quarter loss of US\$116 million, compared with a loss of US\$5.3 billion in the year-ago period mostly from delays to certification of the 777X, the

latest generation in Boeing's long-range, wide-body commercial jet family.

The results translated into a larger earnings-per-share loss than analysts expected, but shares did not move significantly after the earnings press release was published.

Ortberg cited the Federal Aviation Administration's certification of the 737 MAX 7 and 737 MAX 10 as well as a "transformational" Pentagon award for the US Navy's next-generation fighter jets as evidence of momentum.

Revenues rose 4% to US\$24.2 billion behind increased deliveries in its defence, space and security business and higher sales in Boeing Global Services.

Revenues for commercial aircraft dipped from the year-ago period, with it delivering 161 aircraft in the quarter, just one more than in the 2025 period.

Boeing executives expressed confidence the much-delayed 777X would be certified in 2027, projecting deliveries of between 10 and 15 next

year of that aircraft.

"We're providing this with confidence that the team's ready to go execute," Ortberg said of the latest targets.

Ortberg expects free cash flow to gradually grow from about US\$2 billion in 2026 to US\$6 billion in 2028 to US\$10 billion in 2029 and higher levels after that.

"As I mentioned, over the last two years, we've made exceptional progress restoring trust, retiring risk, and transforming our culture and rebuilding the foundation of safety and quality that will help ensure durable success," he said.

"We have also been deliberate about not getting ahead of ourselves, given the range of outcomes tied to the production ramp, certification timing, and other critical programme execution," he said.

"But we appreciate that it's been difficult for share owners to assess how our progress will translate into financial performance. We're now at a point where the range of outcomes is narrowing." - AFP

Visa beats estimates as consumer spending stays strong

BENGALURU: Visa beat expectations for fourth-quarter results on Tuesday as customers continued swiping their cards to pay for travel, shopping and dining out despite macroeconomic uncertainty.

The results from the world's largest payments processor underscore a robust US economy in the face of persistent inflationary pressures as consumers continue spending, underpinned by a strong labour market and wage growth.

"Growth across consumer spend bands remained relatively consistent with prior quarters, with the highest spend band continuing to grow the fastest. We did not see signs of the lower spend consumer weakening in our volumes," Visa finance chief Chris Suh said in a post-earnings call.

Payments volume, a gauge of consumer and business spending on Visa's network, jumped 9% in the reported quarter on a constant-dollar basis, while processed transactions rose 10%.

Visa's extensive digital payments network, which spans more than 200 countries and territories, positions it to better endure economic downturns as billions of people globally rely on the card network for everyday spending and other purchases.

Client incentives jumped 21% to US\$5.1 billion (RM21 billion) in the quarter from the prior year, largely driven by new deals that were signed during the July to September period and early in the fourth quarter.

"The one thing to nitpick is client incentives, which were above expectations," Seaport analyst Jeff Cantwell said, adding the development likely impacted Visa's fiscal 2027 forecasts.

Suh told analysts incentives growth would step up in fiscal 2027 as Visa is expecting around 25% of its payments volumes to be renewed, including with several large clients. That compares with 20% in fiscal 2026.

The company anticipates fiscal

2027 profit per share growth between a low-double-digit and low-teens percentage, while net revenue growth is expected to be in the low-double-digit percentage.

"While some may be underwhelmed by the EPS guide, we think it likely reflects... (the management's) decision to keep investing in long-term strategic initiatives to extend the durability of top-line growth," KBW analysts led by Sanjay Sakhrani said.

Visa's shares fell about 1.4% in extended trading. The stock has gained 14.6% this year through the last close.

On an adjusted basis, it earned US\$3.48 per share in the three months ended Sept 30, beating an expectation of US\$3.44 per share, according to estimates compiled by LSEG.

Cross-border volumes excluding intra-Europe, a measure of international travel demand, were a bright spot as they jumped 14% in the quarter on a constant-dollar basis.

"It is reflective of strong consumer sentiment, strong demand for travel experiences, and the fact that e-commerce has also just expanded," Suh said.

Suh told Reuters travel in and out of the Middle East was also coming back closer to normal levels after being suppressed due to the Iran conflict.

The FIFA World Cup, which ran from June 11 to July 19, has also helped boost activity across Visa's network as it brought many visitors to the US.

"XB (cross-border) showed a nice step-up in growth sequentially, and that was one area we were watching for signs of potential weakness going into earnings," Seaport's Cantwell said.

Net revenue jumped 13% to US\$12.1 billion in the quarter. For fiscal year 2026, Visa hauled record net revenue of US\$46 billion.

Rival Mastercard is set to report quarterly earnings later this week.



Nita and Mukesh Ambani stand beside a framed photo of Dhirubhai Ambani ahead of the listing of Jio Platforms Ltd during its IPO at the National Stock Exchange in Mumbai, India yesterday. - REUTERSPIX

Ambani's Jio soars 21% on Mumbai debut

MUMBAI: Shares of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio Platforms soared 21% in their Mumbai debut yesterday, making it India's second-largest company by market capitalisation, valued at about US\$131.5 billion (RM537 billion).

Jio, whose telecoms business serves more than 530 million customers, is backed by Meta Platforms and Alphabet's Google. Its user numbers are second only to China Mobile on the basis of single-country subscribers.

The listing, the first for the Reliance conglomerate in two decades, furthers Ambani's plan to turn Reliance from an oil-and-chemicals conglomerate into an "everything company" spanning consumer products and technology.

The listing ceremony was

attended by Mukesh Ambani, Akash Ambani, his eldest son and Jio's managing director, and his wife Nita Ambani. Ambani's other children Isha and Anant Ambani also attended.

The stock opened at 1,358 rupees a share, compared with its 1,119-rupee offer price. Jio's market capitalisation overtook Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank, becoming the second-largest Indian firm by that metric.

Several brokerages see a potential upside for the Jio stock, but they flagged competition, heavy capital spending and changes in India's telecom rules, including those related to spectrum, licensing and fees.

"Jio has had a strong debut even despite geopolitical issues and turbulent market conditions ... the

revenues and earnings will lead the stock here onwards," said Kranthi Bathini, equity strategist at WealthMills Securities.

The Ambani family rang the IPO bell on stage at the National Stock Exchange in Mumbai. An emotional Mukesh Ambani was seen in tears as Anant traced Reliance's and Jio's legacies and journey in a speech at the ceremony.

Major Indian newspapers yesterday carried front-page ads from Reliance Jio, saying "Thank you, India."

India has become the world's busiest IPO market this year in terms of the number of deals, with 246 listings so far, though it ranked fourth by money raised at US\$13.5 billion, behind the US, mainland China and Hong Kong, LSEG data showed. - Reuters



China's growing wealth is driven by rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, semiconductors and robotics. – **SUNBIZ IMAGES**

Tech, AI leaders expand China's 2026 rich list

► Record 1,529 individuals now hold fortunes exceeding 5 billion yuan

BEIJING: The number of mega-wealthy people in China reached an all-time high this year, with tech tycoons including the founder of DeepSeek joining a closely watched rich list as the country expands its AI reach.

The number of people worth more than 5 billion yuan (RM3.1 billion) rose to a record 1,529, according to the annual Hurun China Rich List released Tuesday, dwarfing the previous high of 1,460 in 2021.

Liang Wenfeng, the founder of AI startup DeepSeek, made his debut at number seven with an estimated fortune of US\$41.7 billion

(RM170 billion) – one of 263 newcomers largely from sectors including semiconductors, AI and robotics.

His wealth was pumped up by DeepSeek's industry-shaking R1 reasoning model released last year, triggering a sell-off in US tech stocks.

This year's roster reflected China's "two-speed economy", which has seen tech fortunes surge as traditional wealth declines, said Rupert Hoogewerf, chief researcher at the Hurun Research Institute, which publishes the list.

Of the top 100, 60% made their fortunes in sectors targeted by China as part of a plan launched in 2015 to develop technological leadership within 10 years.

"This was the year 'Made in China 2025' came home," Hoogewerf said in a news release.

ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming, China's richest man in 2024, reclaimed the top spot

with an estimated fortune of US\$99.7 billion – a record for the list.

He overtook Nongfu Spring founder Zhong Shanshan, known as the "Bottled Water King".

ByteDance, which includes TikTok and Douyin, has faced growing regulatory pressure worldwide but its AI chatbot Doubao had nearly 420 million monthly active users – far ahead of domestic rivals.

CATL founder Robin Zeng, Tencent's Pony Ma, NetEase's William Ding and Cambricon's Chen Tianshi also made the top 10.

DeepSeek is reportedly close to completing a new funding round worth 100 billion yuan – a record for China's AI industry – which would value the company at around 500 billion yuan.

Hurun's list of China's richest women, which was released yesterday, saw Zhou Qunfang, founder of touchscreen maker Lens Technology, retain her top position, with a US\$18.9 billion fortune. – AFP

DBS: Nearly 90% of businesses adopt or test tokenised money

SINGAPORE: Global adoption of tokenised money is progressing faster than expected as businesses seek to improve liquidity management and gain access to new markets, according to Singapore bank DBS.

DBS group head of global transaction services Lim Soon Chong said a survey conducted by the bank found that 88% of businesses had either deployed or were piloting tokenised money use cases.

Conducted between June and July, the survey involved 422 global business and finance leaders from organisations with annual revenue exceeding US\$500 million (RM2 billion) across 11 markets, including the US, UK, Australia, China and Germany.

Roughly two-thirds of respondents said their businesses had either fully deployed tokenised money at scale or begun using it in selected locations.

Stablecoins emerged as the most widely adopted tokenised instrument at 63%, followed by tokenised deposits at 53% and tokenised money market funds at 52%.

"Our interpretation is that there are significant benefits that stablecoins offer," Lim said.

"Stablecoins, as you know, offer better fungibility across payment intermediaries, not just across banks. They are less cumbersome from a permissioning standpoint," he added.

The survey also found that Southeast Asia was the most preferred destination for businesses seeking to expand into new markets, followed by Australia and New Zealand, with India ranking third.

Meanwhile, more than half of respondents in both Australia and the UK said they were considering using the Chinese renminbi for trade settlement over the next one to two years.

DBS said the renminbi's recent appreciation was making settlement in the Chinese currency more attractive to Chinese exporters, who were increasingly offering better commercial terms for transactions denominated in the renminbi.

"The Chinese authorities are clearly pushing the internationalisation of the renminbi, so we expect this to go up," Lim said. – Reuters

Anthropic's record IPO faces some big questions

SAN FRANCISCO: No startup has ever grown so fast. In five years, Anthropic has become an AI giant valued at US\$1 trillion (RM4.1 trillion), and it is now aiming for a record-breaking stock market debut.

But it faces three threats: rivals that are catching up, prices that are collapsing, and bills that keep climbing.

Anthropic spells out the risks in its Wall Street prospectus, published Monday.

The first is commoditisation: "the degree of differentiation among advanced AI models may narrow," the company warns.

The San Francisco-based firm also says "substantially all of our revenue" comes from its AI tools. Unlike Google or Meta, it has no advertising empire to fall back on if business takes a hit, and no cloud business like Microsoft's or SpaceX's.

Investors have already grown nervous. In mid-August, shareholders were floating a valuation of US\$2 trillion.

But quarter-on-quarter growth slowed from 145% in the second quarter to 45% in the third, cooling expectations to around US\$1.5 trillion.

So-called open AI models, which anyone can download and modify, are close behind closed models such as Claude or ChatGPT, which are available only via their owners' paid services.

The performance of open models trails by only about four months on average, according to research institute Epoch AI.

They include Kimi K3.1 Pro from Chinese company Moonshot, which costs half as much as Claude Opus 5.5, Anthropic's current flagship.

And among paid models from Anthropic, OpenAI and Google, none has stayed on top for long.

Anthropic also acknowledges it is holding itself back: its safety measures "could slow our capability gains relative to competitors that do not adopt similar constraints."

Still, the company says each new version of Claude has boosted sales. More than 80% of its revenue last quarter came from models less than six months old.

When products look alike, prices fall. According to Morningstar, the price of having AI process the same amount of text, at the same

level of performance, has dropped 97%, from US\$17 at the end of 2024 to 50 cents today.

Anthropic itself cut the price of Claude Opus by 20% in September, and OpenAI cut the price of one of its flagship models by a factor of five in July.

The effect is already visible at Vercel, a developer platform that routes requests across AI models.

In August, more than half of the text it handled was processed by open models, up from 13% in April.

Even so, Anthropic still captured nearly two-thirds of spending on the platform.

Even a 90% price cut would not shrink total spending on AI as long as usage keeps growing at its current pace, said Malik Ahmed Khan, a senior equity analyst at Morningstar.

Anthropic's costs, by contrast, are largely locked in. To stay ahead, each new Claude model has to be bigger than the last, trained on more data using more computing power.

Since late 2025, the company has committed to paying at least US\$417 billion to rent chips and servers.

That is nearly 13 years of sales at its first-half 2026 pace, and the total could nearly double if cancellable or planned contracts are included.

These commitments are due no matter the state of its business, Anthropic warns.

The bet involves the entire industry: Google and Amazon are at once Anthropic's shareholders, its suppliers and its resellers.

If AI turns out to be less profitable than expected, the International Monetary Fund fears a "triple whammy" from these intertwined investments: falling stock prices, debts that are harder to repay, and promised revenue that never materialises.

To pay these bills, Anthropic is counting on money from the stock market, which is not unlimited. SpaceX, Elon Musk's rocket and AI company, raised record sums there in June, while Google and Meta, which are pouring fortunes into data centres, are also seeking fresh capital.

OpenAI, whose chief Sam Altman called a listing "ill-advised" this year, has chosen to wait until 2027, giving it time to see how Wall Street treats its big rival. – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: OCT 28

28-Oct-2026

Bursa Malaysia

Trade Statistics

Net (in RM million):

Participation

Retail

+9.50

30.31%

Local Institution

-126.86

42.83%

Foreign Institution

+117.36

26.86%

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Berjaya Research

Preliminary statistics (excluding trade amendments). For final data, please refer to [www.bursamalaysia.com](#).

Inter-Pacific Securities Sdn. Bhd. is now rebranded as Berjaya Securities Sdn. Bhd.

Berjaya Securities

(formerly known as Inter-Pacific Securities Sdn Bhd)

- Quick updates on market news, statistics & information
- Monthly Traders' Talk for directions & positioning
- Company coverage & trading insights
- One-to-One trading coaching (available upon request)



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

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

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

Bursa Indices		
INDEX	CHANGE	
FBMEMAS	12,067.00	+27.71
FBMKLCI	1,613.87	+2.02
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	443.18	+1.35
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	179.03	+2.12
CONSTRUCTION	317.61	+2.72
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,579.24	-21.79
ENERGY	846.37	+0.63
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	380.97	+0.51
HEALTH CARE	1,587.69	+1.93
TRANSPORTATION	1,020.96	-1.30
PROPERTY	976.26	-4.70
PLANTATION	8,646.83	-7.43
FBMSHA	12,080.71	+30.98
FBMACE	5,481.92	+63.29
TECHNOLOGY	76.82	+1.38
TURNOVER: 3.159 bil		VALUE: RM2.284 bil

Late buying lifts Bursa Malaysia to close slightly higher

LATE buying in selected heavyweight stocks, particularly utility counters, lifted Bursa Malaysia to close marginally higher yesterday, in line with regional markets.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI rose 2.02 points, or 0.13%, to 1,613.87 from Tuesday's close of 1,611.85.

The benchmark index opened 2.64 points higher at 1,614.49 and moved between 1,609.44 and 1,615.87 during the trading session.

The broader market was positive, with gainers outpacing losers 658 to 418, while 524 counters were unchanged, 1,267 untraded, and 104 suspended.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said regional markets were mostly firmer, tracking overnight gains on Wall Street, with strong semiconductor earnings reinforcing optimism over artificial intelligence (AI) demand.

Among the heavyweight stocks, YTL Power International gained 17 sen to RM5.27, while YTL Corporation added 10 sen to RM2.15. Maybank and CIMB were flat at RM9.99 and RM7.11, respectively, while Public Bank slid four sen to RM4.71.

In active trade, Zetrix AI and MAG were flat at 8.5 sen and 15.5 sen, respectively, V.S Industry rose one sen to 35.5 sen, Top Glove added half a sen to 97 sen, while GIB Holdings eased 2.5 to 71 sen.

Nestle led the top gainers, adding RM3.70 to RM97.98, Malaysian Pacific Industries improved 84 sen to RM42.14, ViTrox rose 24 sen to RM11.06, while Sarawak Oil Palms and Fraser & Neave added 22 sen each to RM5.50 and RM19.90, respectively.

Among the top losers, United Plantations dipped 38 sen to RM29.32, Hong Leong Industries slid 28 sen to RM16.22, Ayer Holdings shed 25 sen to RM7.75, Westports slipped 20 sen to RM6.88, and Dufu Technology erased 16 sen to RM3.01. – Bernama

Top 20 Actives				
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
ZETRIX	0.085	-	-	3,916,895
HSI-CWU4	0.060	-0.005	-7.69	1,526,394
HSI-PWV4	0.120	-0.010	-7.69	1,157,281
VS	0.355	+0.010	+2.90	544,214
MAG	0.155	-	-	475,500
HSI-CWWQ	0.150	+0.005	+3.45	427,766
TOPGLOV	0.970	+0.005	+0.52	415,526
GIB	0.710	-0.025	-3.40	297,931
LANDMRK	0.055	+0.015	+37.50	256,605
CGB	0.860	-0.005	-0.58	252,073
M&G	0.300	-0.005	-1.64	251,363
JAKS	0.160	-	-	248,137
DNEX	0.450	+0.010	+2.27	237,351
HSI-CWWB	0.055	-	-	237,256
HSI-PWVQ	0.520	-0.010	-1.89	233,541
NATGATE	2.220	+0.060	+2.78	230,725
GAMUDA	5.000	+0.090	+1.83	230,320
NWEBHD	0.200	+0.015	+8.11	213,402
ICONIC	0.115	+0.005	+4.55	192,004
BUSCAP	1.010	+0.165	+19.53	190,923



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	97.980	+3.700	1,684
MPI	42.140	+0.840	2,624
HEIM	13.040	+0.300	3,419
DUFU-C15	0.565	+0.250	9,000
VITROX	11.060	+0.240	26,796
F&N	19.900	+0.220	2,046
SOP	5.500	+0.220	5,358
CARLSBG	12.780	+0.180	1,038
YTLPOWR	5.270	+0.170	122,772
BUSCAP	1.010	+0.165	190,923
FAREAST	4.100	+0.150	5
MI	6.900	+0.150	72,001
PMETAL	6.860	+0.140	33,037
UWC	7.590	+0.140	37,703
SKYECHIP	2.800	+0.130	28,966
PEKAT	3.000	+0.120	22,758
PPB	8.920	+0.120	591
FRONTKN	5.170	+0.110	47,551
KERJAYA	3.510	+0.110	11,095
KOBAY	2.270	+0.110	14,667

Top 20 Gainers (By %)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HUAHONG-C1	0.040	+166.67	1,000
AIMAX	0.010	+100.00	50,884
ASIAPLY-WC	0.020	+100.00	3,390
CAPITALACIS	0.010	+100.00	2,341
CME	0.010	+100.00	11,611
DPS-WC	0.010	+100.00	5,010
MRCB-WB	0.010	+100.00	12,349
ZETRIX-CDK	0.020	+100.00	2,102
ZETRIX-CDL	0.030	+100.00	1,000
DUFU-C15	0.565	+79.37	9,000
YTL-C2S	0.035	+75.00	29,005
GENM-C4C	0.025	+66.67	8,500
MICROLN-WA	0.025	+66.67	10
ZETRIX-CDM	0.025	+66.67	1,333
YTL-C2T	0.055	+57.14	500
FBMKLCI-CRS	0.070	+55.56	351
COMPUGT	0.015	+50.00	30
DNEX-C55	0.045	+50.00	200
EG-CW	0.045	+50.00	8,000
JPG-CU	0.015	+50.00	75

World Stocks/Commodities			
INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	52,377.57	15.99	0.03
S&P 500 (US)	7,722.60	45.83	0.6
NASDAQ (US)	26,477.81	308.43	1.18
NYSE (US)	24,210.68	23.82	0.1
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	6,163.00	-1.69	-0.03
FTSE 100 (UK)	10,662.36	-24.18	-0.23
DAX (GER)	25,592.23	1.46	0.01
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	63,954.19	685.82	1.08
TOPIX (JPN)	3,991.71	-5.66	-0.14
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	23,094.83	53.51	0.23
CSI 300 (CHN)	4,083.87	34.32	0.85
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	260.17	1.99	0.77
SH SE COM (CHN)	3,681.47	33.17	0.91
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	6,012.44	374.1	6.63
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	73,359.46	-239.21	-0.33
ASX 200 (AUS)	8,847.30	-2.8	-0.03
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	8,971.45	2.67	0.03
FBM KLCI	1,613.87	-0.1	-0.01
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	5,400.70	3.67	0.07
WTI (US\$/BBL)	101.34	1.44	1.44
BRENT (US\$/BBL)	115.24	1.36	1.19
GOLD (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	4,062.60	-12	-0.29
SILVER (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	54.05	-0.47	-0.86
PLATINUM (US\$/T OZ)	1,538.91	-5.94	-0.38
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	664.6	-0.65	-0.1
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US\$/MT)	14,474.50	147	1.03
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	450	1.25	0.28
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	610	-0.25	-0.04
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	66.5	-0.21	-0.31
COCOA (ICE) (US\$/MT)	5,577.00	87	1.58
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	249.6	1.3	0.52

As at 6pm, Oct 28.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
UTDPLT	29.320	-0.380	3,058
HLIND	16.220	-0.280	509
VITROX-C34	0.150	-0.270	8,000
AYER	7.750	-0.250	9
HSI-CWYC	0.400	-0.210	2,050
WPRTS	6.880	-0.200	48,426
UWC-C32	0.235	-0.185	4,000
DUFU	3.010	-0.160	86,653
KLCC	8.140	-0.160	2,795
ECOSHOP	1.280	-0.150	89,176
GENTINGC4U	0.060	-0.140	12,601
ITMAX	4.430	-0.140	2,238
MAXIS	3.510	-0.140	48,307
HENGYUAN-WA	2.940	-0.130	20,752
ALLIANZ	19.240	-0.120	185
ECOSHOP-C15	0.030	-0.120	1,000
HENGYUAN	3.990	-0.120	71,471
LPI	13.080	-0.120	1,229
MBSB-C1C	0.035	-0.115	200
HIBISCS	2.310	-0.110	51,133

Top 20 Losers (By %)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
ECOSHOP-C15	0.030	-80.00	1,000
MBSB-C1C	0.035	-76.67	200
GENTINGC4U	0.060	-70.00	12,601
VITROX-C34	0.150	-64.29	8,000
WCT-C55	0.020	-63.64	213
BURSA-C10	0.015	-62.50	800
VITROX-C35	0.060	-60.00	17,100
ECOSHOP-C14	0.020	-55.56	15,180
ECOSHOP-C8	0.035	-53.33	14,387
ECOWLD-C63	0.070	-53.33	4,000
AAGB-C47	0.005	-50.00	9,948
HGBLOB	0.015	-50.00	173,059
MBL-WB	0.015	-50.00	2,926
PERMAJU	0.005	-50.00	324
PESTEC-WA	0.005	-50.00	20
SINARAN-WB	0.005	-50.00	1
UWC-C32	0.235	-44.05	4,000
YINSON-HA	0.020	-42.86	20,000
ECOSHOP-C10	0.065	-40.91	21,475
HSI-CWUP	0.025	-37.50	2,000



MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

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

Compiled by **SunBiz Team**

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Three states account for 80.5% of September trade: DoSM

KUALA LUMPUR: Penang, Johor and Selangor accounted for 80.5% of Malaysia's total trade in September 2026, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM).

In its Export-Import Statistics by State, September 2026 report released yesterday, DoSM said Malaysia's total trade amounted to RM396.5 billion, comprising exports of RM215.1 billion and imports of RM181.4 billion.

"Penang remained the leading exporting state, accounting for 52.6% of Malaysia's total exports, followed by Johor (17.5%), Selangor (11.7%), Sarawak (5.3%) and Kuala Lumpur (3.3%).

"Penang also accounted for the largest share of Malaysia's imports at 35.3%, followed by Johor (24.2%), Selangor (19.5%), Kuala Lumpur (6.8%) and Kedah (4.3%)," it said.

DoSM said exports rose by RM75.9 billion, or 54.5%, to RM215.1 billion in September 2026 from the same month a year earlier.

The increase was driven by higher exports from Penang, which rose by RM55.5 billion, followed by Johor (RM10.2 billion), Selangor (RM4.1 billion), Sarawak (RM3.5 billion), Kuala Lumpur (RM2.1 billion) and Negeri Sembilan (RM707.7 million).

Exports also increased in Perak (RM641.8 million), Pahang (RM297.7 million), Labuan (RM133.1 million), Kedah (RM73.5 million) and Kelantan (RM61.2 million).

Meanwhile, imports rose by RM62.6 billion, or 52.7%, in September 2026 compared with the same month a year earlier.

The increase was led by Penang, where imports rose by RM37.2 billion, followed by Johor (RM15.2 billion), Selangor (RM5.6 billion), Kedah (RM2.1 billion), Perak (RM870.4 million), Pahang (RM574.1 million), Sarawak (RM521.4 million) and Negeri Sembilan (RM374.9 million). – Bernama

Ringgit gains against dollar on economic confidence

THE ringgit rebounded to close higher against the US dollar yesterday amid confidence in Malaysia's economic fundamentals, supported by optimism over artificial intelligence (AI)-related investments and expectations of sustained domestic growth, an analyst said.

At 6pm, the ringgit rose to 4.0745/0790 against the US dollar from Tuesday's close of 4.0865/0900.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said that while the US dollar remains firm ahead of the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision, the ringgit's resilience suggests that domestic fundamentals may be providing an important buffer against external uncertainties.

"Looking ahead, expectations surrounding the possible normalisation of the overnight policy rate (OPR) could lend further support to the local currency, although the near-term direction will remain sensitive to developments in US monetary policy and geopolitical risks," he told Bernama.

Against major currencies, the ringgit strengthened against the British pound to 5.4130/4190 from 5.4412/4458 at Tuesday's close, gained vis-a-vis the Japanese yen to 2.5812/5843 from 2.5903/5927 and rose against the euro to 4.5337/5387 from 4.5524/5563.

The ringgit was also mostly higher against its Asean peers.

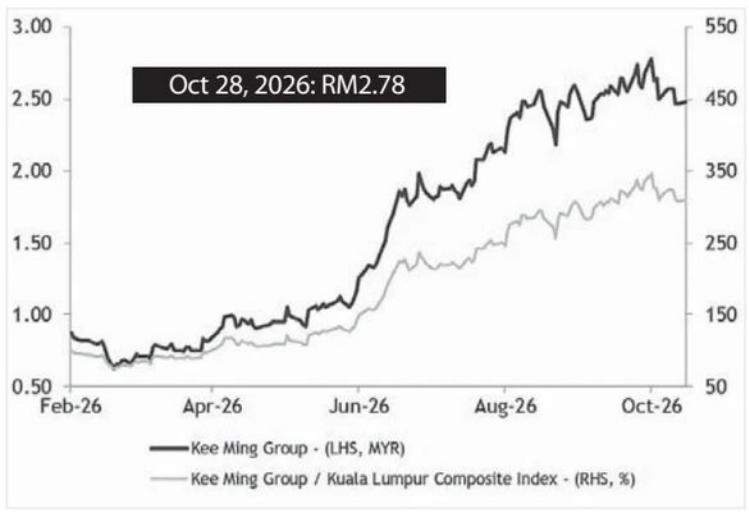
It rose against the Singapore dollar to 3.1775/1813 from 3.1883/1913 at Tuesday's close, and the Indonesian rupiah to 224.0/224.4 from 225.0/225.3.

It also gained against the Thai baht to 12.0726/0902 from 12.1010/1160, but the local note remained unchanged vis-a-vis the Philippine peso at 6.36/6.37.

Exchange Rates			
FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.1600	4.0140	4.0040
1 Australian Dollar	2.9430	2.8250	2.8090
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2400	3.1390	3.1310
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9540	2.8710	2.8590
1 Euro	4.6240	4.4740	4.4540
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.3680	2.2800	2.2640
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2400	3.1390	3.1310
1 Sterling Pound	5.5300	5.3540	5.3340
1 Swiss Franc	5.0400	4.8250	4.8100
100 UAE Dirham	114.2900	108.3700	108.1700
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.4120	3.1800	2.9800
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.6600	60.0000	N/A
100 Danish Krone	63.4200	58.3500	58.1500
100 Hongkong Dollar	53.4600	50.7800	50.5800
100 Indian Rupee	4.4600	4.1400	3.9400
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0239	0.0211	0.0161
100 Japanese Yen	2.6520	2.5290	2.5190
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	45.6700	42.0100	41.8100
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5600	1.3900	1.1900
100 Philippine Peso	6.5900	6.2000	6.0000
100 Qatar Riyal	115.0800	109.2500	109.0500
100 Saudi Riyal	111.7700	106.1100	105.9100
100 South Africa Rand	25.8500	23.3500	23.1500
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3100	1.1500	0.9500
100 Swedish Krona	43.0300	39.1900	38.9900
100 Thai Baht	12.8200	11.3700	10.9700

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Kee Ming Group Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM3.10



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

KEE MING Group (KM) is principally engaged in the provision of M&E engineering solutions, with core expertise across industrial, DC, and RE projects. KM possess integrated capabilities in both mechanical and electrical engineering, providing full-fledged M&E solutions to its industrial clients.

We expect Kee Ming to deliver stronger QoQ earnings of RM7.9 million in Q2'27 (Q1'27: RM6.4 million), representing a potential 16-40% sequential improvement, supported by accelerating progress from its on-going DC electrical fit-out and solar interconnection facility (IF) projects.

We understand that KM's tenderbook further grew 27% QoQ to RM2.8 billion, underpinned by new opportunities across a diverse range of industrial, DC, and high voltage (HV) power infrastructure (including TNB and solar IF) projects. Looking ahead, we are also anticipating a ramp up in solar IF project in relation to Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (CRESS) to be called in Q4'27 supporting our expectation of higher job replenishment across FY28-29, underpinned by KM's synergies with Solarvest, which has historically secured 30% market share in utility-scale solar projects. We take this opportunity to raise our replenishment forecast to RM370-570 million (from RM350-470) across FY27-29, reflecting its stronger on-going and future tender pipeline.

We raise our FY27-29 earnings forecast by 9-22% to reflect i) higher replenishment assumption, and ii) higher PAT margin of 11% (from 10%) underpinned by operating leverage and growing pipeline from existing clients.

BUY with RM3.10 TP. – **Maybank Investment Bank, Oct 28**

PGF Capital Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM2.64



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

PGF's Q2'27 core PATMI, excluding fair value gain on derivatives and gain on disposal, came in at RM7.7 million (+26.7% YoY, +0.5% QoQ), bringing 1H'27 core PATMI to RM15.4 million (+10.5% YoY), accounting for 53% of both our and consensus full-year estimates. 1H'27 revenue rose 8.1% YoY, supported by steady insulation demand from Oceania. EBIT margin improved 3.6ppts to 26.5% (1H'26: 22.9%), driven by better operating leverage. The stronger AUD also provided support, with average AUD/MYR rising to 2.86 in Q2'27 from 2.75 in Q2'26.

Construction of PGF's new Kulim plant is completed, with operations expected to begin in Nov 2026, a month later than planned due to pending electricity supply from TNB. We expect a gradual production ramp-up, hence minimal impact on FY27 earnings. The proposed minimum wage hike should also have limited impact, with additional staff costs estimated at just ~0.5% of COGS. Meanwhile, PGF's Tg. Malim housing project should benefit from Budget 2027's tax incentives for automotive vendors relocating to Automotive High-Tech Valley (AHTV). PGF is finalising utility clearance with Lembaga Air Perak ahead of planning approval. We have already factored in property contributions from FY28.

We maintain our FY27 forecasts, as the plant delay and higher wage costs are unlikely to materially affect earnings. We continue to like PGF for its two growth drivers with manufacturing backed by steady demand and capacity expansion, and property earnings kicking in from FY28.

BUY with RM2.64 TP. – **Maybank Investment Bank, Oct 28**

ViTrox Corp Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM12.80



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

WE believe ViTrox's outlook remains robust, signalled by sustained demand from incoming orders. From our channel checks, ViTrox's backlog remains partly fulfilled due to capacity constraints as incoming orders continuing to signal robust demand. The current wave is still mainly driven by US-based hyperscalers, AI servers and chips to OSATs and EMS players.

We anticipate the next wave emerging from China as HBM capability matures and AI data centre build-out accelerates, a trend, we believe, is already underway and likely to intensify into next year, further supported by humanoid and AI inferencing demand. Book-to-bill is expected to sit comfortably above 1x as capacity unlocks, with revenue growth guidance of 7-17% QoQ across ABL and MVS appearing conservative in our view.

Campus 2 and 3 are currently running at >90% utilisation. To unlock additional capacity, ViTrox is building new warehouses to free up floor space, while its China operations are targeted to reach mass production by 1H'27, serving local customers and relieving pressure in Penang. These measures should provide sufficient capacity for at least the next 12 months, after which a new 500k sq ft facility, on track for completion by 2028, should come onstream to support its next leg of growth.

We raise FY26-28 forecasts by 32-51%, which is 19-37% higher than consensus, driven by stronger order deliveries, tax benefits (6% ETR in FY27), and incoming capacity additions. Key risks include rising costs, RM strength, and intensifying China competition.

BUY with RM12.80 TP. – **Maybank Investment Bank, Oct 28**



**WEEKLY
FOCUS**

MONDAY

Technology and
social media

TUESDAY

Family
and parenting

WEDNESDAY

Fashion
and beauty

THURSDAY

Home
and living

FRIDAY

Travel
and leisure

SATURDAY

Food
and beverage

English words, Malay origins

From amok to orangutan - P22

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Publisher drops Canadian
author over use of AI

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Veteran M'sian producer on
way forward for filmmakers

p25

Street Fighter: Stupid,
messy, over-the-top fun



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MALAYSIANS borrow English words so regularly that we can attend a meeting, discuss a deadline and complain about parking without finishing a sentence entirely in Malay. But English has been borrowing from our side of the world too, sometimes disguising the evidence with a different spelling.

Amok, compound, orangutan, pangolin, paddy and rattan all have Malay connections. Their histories stretch across the wider Malay-speaking region and predate modern Malaysia, reflecting centuries of contact between languages. Some remain recognisable, while others require a little detective work.

How *amuk* became *amok*

The phrase “run amok” now gets used for everything from destructive behaviour to children making a mess. Its history, however, is considerably darker than a classroom getting out of hand.

English acquired amok through the Portuguese *amouco*, from Malay *amuk*, associated with attacking furiously. Early Portuguese accounts from the Malay world described armed individuals launching frenzied attacks on people around them, sometimes continuing until they themselves were killed.

The word therefore reached European readers in accounts of extreme violence. These descriptions came through outsiders’ interpretations of the



Before ‘run amok’ became an everyday expression, the word appeared in accounts of violent rampages.



Few English speakers would suspect that a residential compound shares its linguistic roots with a *kampung*.

Malay words English borrowed

➤ From *amuk* to orangutan, discovering local terms that have gone global

societies they encountered and should not be treated as a general description of Malay behaviour.

Over time, English broadened its use. Someone running amok might still be committing violence, but the expression can also describe disorder, recklessness or anything getting beyond control. The familiar connection to *mengamuk* remains, even when the English phrase is used

far more casually.

Kampung behind gates

Compound is a less obvious borrowing. In the sense of an enclosed area containing buildings, the word traces back to *kampung*, also spelt *kampong*.

That gives a residential or military compound a linguistic connection to a word Malaysians associate with

villages and hometowns. The spelling has travelled far enough that most people would never think to connect them.

There is one catch: This origin applies to the enclosed-place meaning. Chemical compounds and the verb meaning to worsen a problem have separate histories. Sharing a spelling does not mean sharing a family tree.

Animals with Malay names

Orangutan needs little explanation once broken into *orang* and *hutan*: person of the forest. English speakers use the name for the great ape found in Borneo and Sumatra, often without knowing its literal meaning.

Pangolin is less immediately recognisable. Its name comes from *pengguling*, connected to *guling*, meaning to roll. The name describes the animal’s ability to curl into a protective ball.

Malaysians generally call it *tenggiling*, which helps explain why its English name might not immediately register as another Malay borrowing. Both names carry descriptions of the animals into English.

From *padi* to *rotan*

Paddy comes from *padi*, referring to rice growing in a field or grain before milling. Its Malay ancestry is particularly easy to hear in the familiar expression “paddy field”.

Rattan comes from *rotan* and refers to climbing palms and the stems used for furniture and woven goods. Browse an English-language furniture catalogue and the word appears quite naturally.

From rice fields to living rooms, Malay vocabulary has travelled well beyond the conversations where it began.



Known locally as *padi*, the crop lent its Malay name to the English vocabulary of rice farming.



Of the Malay words that entered English, orangutan wears its origins most openly. – PICS FROM 123RF

Zeppo Youngsterz crowned Haru 2026 champions in South Korea

MALAYSIAN dance crew Zeppo Youngsterz recently emerged as champions at Haru 2026 in Seoul, South Korea, beating 16 competing groups from South Korea, China, Switzerland, Japan, Vietnam and Germany.

The 24-member crew spent three months preparing for the international competition, refining its choreography and coordinating rehearsals ahead of the event.

The winning performance was based on a concept developed by Zeppo director Faris Azim, with Spanish choreographer Larkin leading its creative development and choreography.

Preparations suffered a setback when dancer Danial Fuad sustained an injury that ruled him out of the competition.

Khai Zun was brought in as a replacement, leaving him just one

week to learn the choreography before joining the team for another week of rehearsals in South Korea.

The crew also relied on online training sessions and practice videos to coordinate rehearsals and ensure the dancers were familiar with the routine.

Despite the disruption, Zeppo Youngsterz went on to secure the championship title against an international field.

Faris said the victory was particularly meaningful given the difficulties the team faced in the weeks leading up to the competition.

“Winning Haru 2026 means a lot to us, especially after everything the team went through during the preparation.

“We had to adapt to unexpected challenges and make difficult adjustments at the last minute, but everyone continued to give their best

and trusted the process.

“I’m proud of the entire team for staying committed and working together until the end. This win is not just about the result, but about the journey, the sacrifices and the people who made it possible.

“We hope to continue bringing our work to international stages and make Malaysia proud.”

Following its victory in South Korea, Zeppo Youngsterz is now looking towards The Vibe, an international dance competition held in the US.

The crew hopes to bring its Haru-winning performance to the competition in 2027, although its participation has yet to be confirmed.

The Haru victory adds to Zeppo Youngsterz’s growing international experience as the Malaysian dance crew seeks further opportunities to compete overseas.



Months of preparation pay off as Zeppo Youngsterz takes home the top prize at Haru 2026. – HANDOUT PIC

Publisher drops writer who used AI

Thelyson Orelie had previously denied allegations regarding novel's authenticity

THE publisher of top-selling Haitian-Canadian writer Thelyson Orelie said recently it had confirmed that he used artificial intelligence (AI) to help write his novel *It Was Either That or Die*.

Orelie has denied allegations that he used AI on his breakthrough novel and up till recently, Canadian publisher Boreal said it was standing by the 38-year-old writer.

But now, Boreal said it had conducted a further investigation into the allegations.

"New information, confirmed over the past few days, indicates that AI was used in the writing process" of the novel, a Boreal statement said.

The publisher announced it was "ending its professional relationship" with Orelie.

Boreal said it did not know the extent of AI's use in the writing process "and we will likely never have a definitive answer."

It said it gathered all the working versions of the novel and hired an outside party to analyse the various drafts.

"The results obtained this week revealed traces of AI tags in the metadata of certain documents," Boreal said.

Before conducting this analysis, the publisher said it had tried to work with Orelie to gather the evidence necessary to prove his innocence.

That effort was inconclusive and Orelie "subsequently announced that he would not provide any further information," the publisher said.

The novel about migration, known by its original French title *C'était ça ou mourir*, had been scheduled for translation in more than 20 countries.

'Slander and heresy'

The book was shrouded in suspicion and withdrawn from the shortlist for France's top book prize, the Goncourt, after tests with AI detector



Orelie says he only used AI for 'historical research'. – AFP/IC

Pangram indicated a 100% probability it contained computer-generated text.

In a statement made earlier this month, Orelie called the allegations "slander and heresy."

He said in the statement sent exclusively to AFP: "Here and there I did use tools for research, particularly for foreign idioms."

"But not a single sentence in this book was created by a machine, nor the meaning or the structure of a story that comes from my gut."

He stood firm recently, telling the French newspaper *Liberation* he

used AI "in the creative process" for "historical research."

"I've explained everything to those close to me, but at the moment I don't think my words count for anything," he said, adding that what he is currently experiencing has "gone way too far."

Orelie said he started writing the book in late 2017 "on the corner of a table" and completed a first draft in 2019 of more than 300 pages, several years before the advent of AI services such as ChatGPT.

The author fled his native Haiti following a 2010 earthquake that

struck the Caribbean island, already ravaged by poverty and unrest.

In response to separate allegations of plagiarism, Orelie admitted to making "unacceptable mistakes" in the past in his writing, without mentioning specifics.

"I was just over 20, I was probably a little too impatient, without really understanding how much I still had to learn. I wanted to write, I was reading a lot."

"But admiring someone does not give you the right to take, to claim as mine texts that are not my own," he wrote.



C'était ça ou mourir has been embroiled in controversy over its authenticity. – REUTERS/IC

370 books in 20 months: S. African author defends using ChatGPT, Claude

SOUTH African writer Coral Hart has published more than 370 books since February 2025 using artificial intelligence (AI), a process she passionately defends despite criticism and threats.

"Grifter", "villain" – insults abound on social media to describe the author who, in her 40s, has become the symbol of AI's arrival in publishing.

Coral Hart – a pseudonym she uses to protect her real name – told AFP in an interview she had received "tens of thousands" of hate messages and several death threats.

In this hostile environment, few authors using AI agree to speak publicly and show their faces.

"I chose to be the one to step up and say, these are conversations we need to start having."

"This is here... They're not going to switch it off or unplug it because a bunch of authors said so," Hart said.

Before she started writing with AI around 20 months ago, Hart had been working in publishing for 14 years and written several dozen works without the technology.

It took her three months to familiarise herself with the various AI models and build a framework capable of producing a book.

Now, she juggles between

ChatGPT, which is "really good at dialogue, terrible at prose"; Claude, "really good story structure, terrible at sex drives" and others such as Grok, "completely unhelped", but good on "spicy scenes".

"If you say, ChatGPT, write me a book, or, Claude, write me a book, you're going to get a flaming dumpster fire of trash back because it doesn't have anything (to work with)," Hart said.

The author defines the story concept, a style, details of the characters and chapter outlines. And only then will her system generate the books.

Hart said when she started, "we could write one paragraph at a time. I usually took two or three prompts to do that."

"I can now draft the whole book in one sequence."

Since last year, AI models have "improved vastly".

"The prose has improved. The syntax has improved. The sentence structure has improved," Hart said.

'Books are selling'

The first draft of a book is generally not good, the writer said.

It is run through AI for "developmental edits" and then again,



Hart poses for a portrait at the Cape Town public library. – AFP/IC

"to fix any continuity issues, story issues, flat middles, character arcs that are incomplete, plot threads that have been dropped, people whose eye colour has changed."

At the end of this process, a human proofreader reads through the text to fix any "AI tells that have slipped through" and do some rewriting. "And it's usually ready to go."

Although one of her novels made it into Amazon's top 100 bestsellers, the vast majority of her 371 titles – many of them romance – are tailored to certain readers based on rigorous market research.

She has sold more than one million books, by her own estimate, in digital, print and audio formats, earning more than US\$1 million (RM4 million)

so far this year.

The South African now heads an operation that has trained several hundred people in her method and is preparing to launch software for AI authors called Authoritym.

As for her own production, she mentions her use of AI only when required by a sales platform.

"For the last 16 years, nobody's asked me what my creative process was," said Hart, who publishes under more than 10 other pen names.

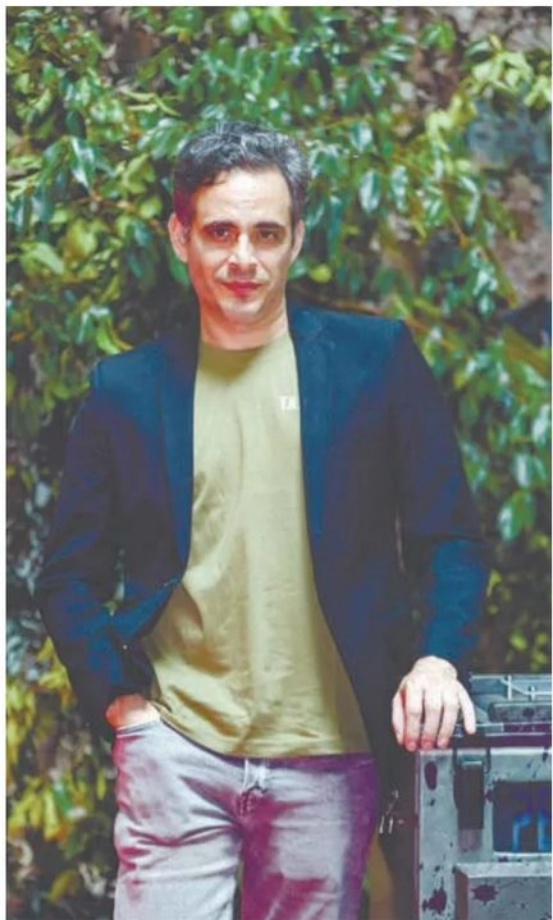
Now, she was ready to make it public "for the right reasons."

Regularly accused of contributing to "AI slop" – low-quality AI-generated content in text, video, music or images – Hart points to the ultimate yardstick: "Books are selling."

"Readers don't read rubbish books – they return them," she said.

The writer has followed the debate around a novel by Haitian-Canadian Thelyson Orelie that was withdrawn from the shortlist for France's Goncourt prize after accusations that he used AI, which his publisher confirmed recently.

Critics had praised the book and sales were strong before the controversy, she said, asking: "If you need an AI label to hate something, do you hate it or do you hate AI?"



Josiah says being a good actor requires understanding the character one plays. —BERNAMAPIC

Josiah Hogan believes opportunities can bring out actors' potential

JOSIAH HOGAN believes all actors should be given equal opportunities to demonstrate their acting abilities, rather than having roles allocated based primarily on popularity.

The 40-year-old actor said that given sufficient room to perform, an actor could deliver a performance that exceeds expectations.

Referring to his own experience of rarely being a production's first choice, Josiah said he had worked hard to prove his capabilities, as demonstrated by his portrayal of SAC Kamal in the film *Takluk 2: Op Daulat*.

"I am often the second, third or fourth choice for a role. Even for SAC Kamal, I was the fourth choice, but my scene with Datuk Eman Manan went viral.

"We do not necessarily have to cast actors whose schedules are packed (popular actors). We can also consider those who are available because an actor who is less busy may be more focused and deliver a much better performance," he told reporters after the pre-launch of *Takluk 2: Op Daulat* recently.

Josiah said a similar situation was common in Hollywood, where actors who were not the first choice had managed to create magic on screen, turning films into major hits.

Sharing his views on the craft of acting, he said the key to successfully portraying a character lay in an actor's ability to understand the character's mood and demeanour when delivering lines, rather than merely memorising the dialogue.

"As actors, the challenge lies in understanding a character and switching according to the situation. When we focus too much on the dialogue, we sometimes forget the character's own mannerisms," he said.

Directed by Zulkarnain Azhar, the film is inspired by the 2013 Lahad Datu incursion and *Ops Daulat*, during which Malaysian security forces defended the country's sovereignty. It is a continuation of *Takluk: Lahad Datu*, which was released in 2024.

Takluk 2: Op Daulat, scheduled to hit cinemas on Nov 26, also stars Syafiq Kyle, Datuk Remy Ishak, Kamal Adli and Sara Ali. — Bernama

Bigger audiences, bolder ambitions for M'sian cinema

► 'Asia's Filmmaker Godmother' suggests route forward for local directors

MALAYSIAN cinema has no shortage of stories or creative talent to reach wider audiences through stronger storytelling and regional partnerships, despite the challenges of an increasingly competitive film industry.

For veteran Malaysian film producer Lorna Tee, the outlook is promising, particularly as filmmakers explore new collaborations and markets.

However, she said the next chapter of the country's filmmaking journey will depend on understanding audiences, attracting investment and developing stories with wider appeal.

As such, she said Malaysian filmmakers seeking to enter Indonesia's market must develop stories that resonate with audiences across both countries.

"If we want to work with Indonesia and to penetrate the Indonesian market, we need to find ways where the stories and the talents can intersect," she told Bernama in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of the fifth World Conference on Creative Economy in Jakarta, which she attended as part of Communications Minister Datuk Seri Fahmi Fadzil's delegation.

Dubbed "Asia's Filmmaker Godmother", Tee, who serves as the Asian Film Alliance Network secretary-general, has spent much of her career nurturing emerging filmmakers and connecting Asian productions with international markets.

Having worked with major film festivals including Berlinale in Germany, CinemAsia in the Netherlands and the International Film Festival & Awards Macao, which she co-founded, Tee believes successful co-productions require clearly defined audiences rather than attempts to combine elements that might appeal to neither market.

"The stories must work organically for the target audience. Don't try to cater to two audiences and end up with a mixture that suits neither Malaysia nor Indonesia," she said.

Tee said authentic local stories with universal emotional appeal offered the strongest potential for cross-border success.

However, she noted structural differences between the two film industries.

Malaysia's market is more fragmented across Malay, Chinese and Indian audiences, while Indonesia's larger market was dominated by Indonesian-language productions, with regional films also gaining ground.

Unlike Malaysian producers who often relied on government financing, Indonesian filmmakers generally sought investment and distribution opportunities.

Tee said competition for cinema screens in Indonesia posed another challenge, with the country producing about 300 films annually.

"Even Indonesian films struggle to secure enough screens. It's not just Malaysian films. Foreign films, including Hollywood productions, face the same problem because there's just a lot of Indonesian films being made," she said.

Tee said Malaysian films also faced challenges in reaching Indonesian audiences because local actors were less familiar to them, while certain jokes and cultural



Tee says films such as *Khadam* are good examples of cross-country productions. —IMDBPIC

references might not translate across the border.

"The stories can have a strong local flavour, but the drama and emotional core must be something everyone can understand," she said.

Despite these challenges, Tee, whose producing credits include *Rain Dogs*, *At the End of Daybreak* and Indonesia's *Postcards from the Zoo*, pointed to existing collaborations such as the Malaysian-Indonesian horror film *Khadam*, directed by Shamy! Othman, as encouraging examples of closer industry ties.

She also highlighted *Ratu Melaka*, an

upcoming Indonesian production involving Malaysia's Astro Shaw and filmmaker Angga Dwimas Sasongko, which is expected to be released during the Hari Raya period next year.

Tee, who has also mentored filmmakers through international initiatives including the London Film School, European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs and Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab, sees talent exchanges and joint story development as important avenues for strengthening regional filmmaking cooperation.

"In the near future, we hope that the producers from both sides can talk more to each other through some programmes organised by two ministries to develop stories together. And in the long term, it's to find ways where policies of the two countries will enable greater regional exchange of our films and series and other content," she said.

Her remarks followed Fahmi's four-day working visit to Indonesia, which concluded recently and focused on film co-productions, talent development and a proposed cross-ministerial High-Level Committee (HLC).

During the visit, the minister also discussed Malaysia's potential as a post-production hub with Netflix representatives, while MyCreative Ventures signed two memoranda of understanding with Indonesian creative industry partners.

Tee welcomed the proposed HLC, but stressed that industry representatives must be involved to ensure practical outcomes.

"If we can have the high-level committees work and execute the ideas that have been done, it would really help towards building the bridge to connect the two countries," she said.



Tee is sometimes called 'Asia's Filmmaker Godmother'. —BERNAMAPIC

MOVIE REVIEW

BY AMEEN HAZIZI

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KITAO Sakurai's *Street Fighter* has people throwing fireballs, fighters with gravity-defying hairstyles and an alarming number of arguments settled with a punch. Anyone expecting a serious martial arts drama has clearly wandered into the wrong cinema.

Director Sakurai's latest adaptation of Capcom's fighting game franchise is loud, ridiculous and occasionally impossible to follow. It is also enormously entertaining. For all its faults, there is an obvious affection for the games running through the entire production, and that enthusiasm goes a long way.

Set in the 1990s, the story follows estranged fighters Ryu (Andrew Koji) and Ken Masters (Noah Centineo), who find themselves drawn into another World Warrior Tournament. Chun-Li (Callina Liang) recruits them while the villainous M. Bison (David Dastmalchian) has his own sinister plans for the competition.

That is the basic story, although the film constantly wanders off to introduce another familiar fighter, another joke or another excuse for somebody to get kicked in the face.

A game brought to life

The best thing about *Street Fighter* is how proudly it embraces its video game origins. There is no attempt to explain away the absurd costumes, spectacular special moves or larger-than-life personalities in pursuit of some supposedly realistic interpretation.

Characters look like characters from *Street Fighter*. They fight like characters from *Street Fighter*. When someone unleashes a recognisable move, the film wants audiences to enjoy it in all its ridiculous glory.

The supporting cast gets in on the fun, from Cody Rhodes as the square-jawed Guile to Jason Momoa as the monstrous Blanka. Dastmalchian's Bison is another suitably bizarre presence, although the film rarely gives everyone enough room to make a lasting impression.

Sakurai also gives the movie a wonderfully excessive visual identity. Neon lights, striking colours, exaggerated camera angles and energetic editing make it feel like an arcade cabinet has exploded across



At two hours long, *Street Fighter* packs its runtime with colourful characters, chaotic fights and plenty of absurd humour.

Ready, fight!

► *Street Fighter* embraces its ridiculous roots

the cinema screen. Hollywood could use more films willing to look this distinctive.

The animated sequences by Titmouse are particularly excellent. These anime-inspired passages recount parts of the characters' histories with expressive movement and gorgeous imagery, providing some of the film's strongest moments. Frankly, an entire *Street Fighter* feature made in this style would be worth watching.

There is something infectious about seeing a major production invest so much effort into being unapologetically strange. Even when the jokes are painfully stupid, the cast seems entirely committed to the madness.

Where it misses

Unfortunately, enthusiasm cannot hold every part of the screenplay



Rhodes plays Guile.

together. With so many characters demanding attention, the story often resembles a succession of loosely connected encounters. Some fights



From left: Dan (Schulz), Chun-Li (Liang), Ryu (Koji) and Ken (Centineo) form an unlikely team in *Street Fighter*. – ALL PICS FROM IMDB

arrive with barely any explanation.

The nightclub sequence is a particularly baffling example. It looks fantastic, with the same visual excess that makes the rest of the movie appealing, but why does everyone suddenly start fighting? The scene seems to exist largely because the filmmakers wanted a nightclub brawl.

There is also the treatment of Ken. Centineo brings considerable energy to the part, yet this interpretation leans so heavily into the obnoxious, fame-hungry celebrity routine that he begins to resemble Johnny Cage from *Mortal Kombat*. Ken has always had an arrogant streak, but he deserves

a personality beyond being the comic relief.

The movie's two-hour running time also exposes how thin some of its character development is. A few confrontations deserved more attention, while several detours could easily have been shortened.

Street Fighter is stupid, messy and utterly uninterested in highbrow filmmaking. It has heart, personality and enough visual imagination to make its numerous missteps easier to forgive.

There is room for better writing in any video game adaptation. There should also be room for one this gloriously over-the-top.

► Director:

Kitao Sakurai

► Cast:

Andrew Koji, Noah Centineo, Callina Liang, David Dastmalchian, Cody Rhodes, Jason Momoa, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Joe Anoa'i, Andrew Schulz, Eric Andre, Vidyut Jammwal, Mel Jarnson, Orville Peck, Olivier Richters, Hirooki Goto and Kyle Mooney

E-VALUE

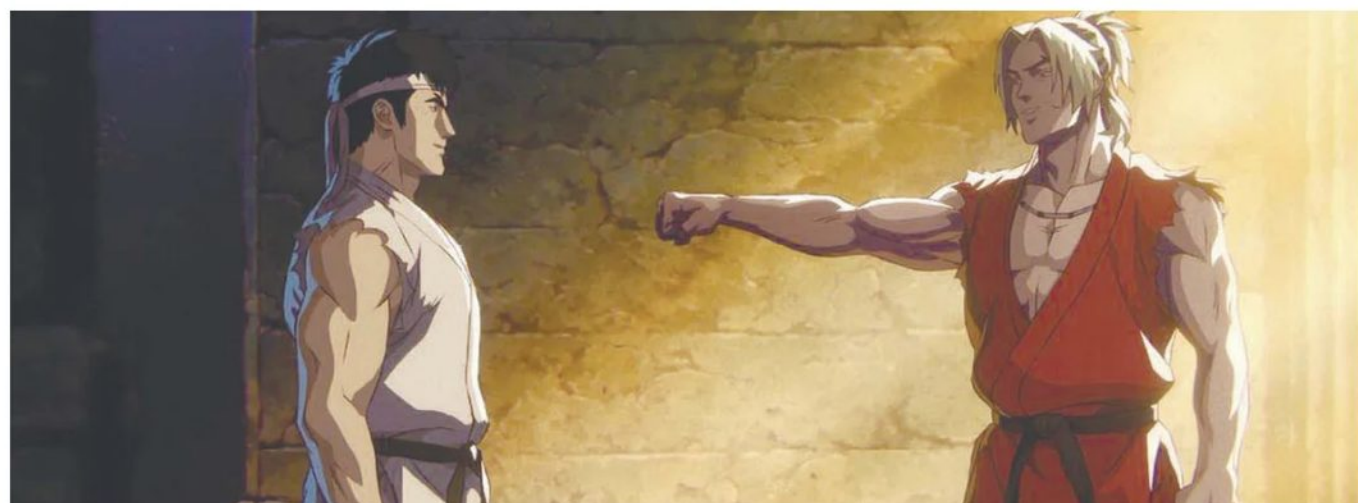
7

ACTING

6

PLOT

5



The animated flashbacks explore the fighters' troubled pasts while paying tribute to the franchise's Japanese roots.



Ken (left) has always had an arrogant streak, but he deserves a personality beyond being the comic relief.



Clayface gets under skin of superhero genre

SUPERHERO cinema has flirted with the grotesque before, but rarely with the level of blood-soaked commitment seen in *Clayface*, DC Studios's new film from the *Batman* universe.

At a time when the superhero genre is struggling to excite audiences, DC's shape-shifting *Batman* supervillain aims for something uniquely visceral.

"I don't want just clockwork scares, jump scares, I don't want mechanical scares, I want scares that get under people's skin."

"Body horror is possibly one of the most relatable scares, because we all have fears for what can go wrong with our bodies," British director James Watkins told AFP.

Welsh actor Tom Rhys Harries, 36, who plays rising film star Matt Hagen whose face is horrifically disfigured by a mob boss and sets out to wreak

» New DC Studio film featuring Batman rogue delves into disturbing body horror

revenge, sees the character as a natural fit for the genre.

"Clayface as a character is sort of like uniquely suited to the body horror genre," he said.

It was his first foray into horror, but he treated the challenge as any other form of acting, although he spent hours in the makeup chair ahead of some shoots.

"Where I could shoot something with a prosthetic, often we would do that," Watkins said, rather than using visual effects.

"If you need to augment it, you've got a very strong base. But also by shooting it for real, you've got real-time reactions from everybody."

Impatient to be free of the

prosthetics, Harries admitted to ripping them off at the end of each shoot and getting scolded by the makeup team.

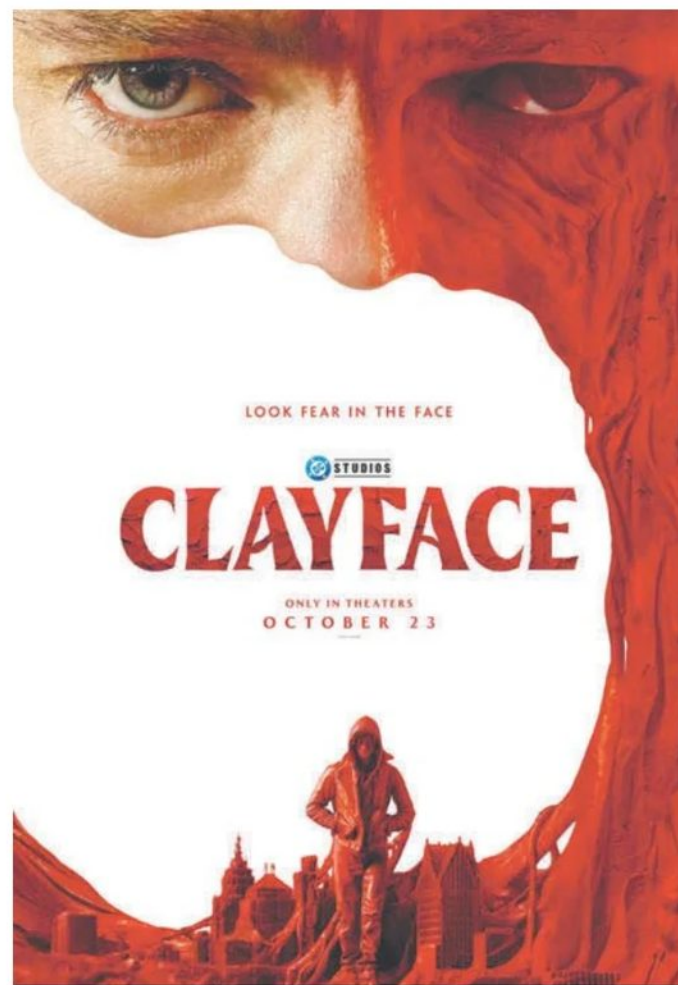
"Somewhere, there's a costume store, which has like clumps of my face in (the) pockets," he joked.

The same commitment to texture shaped the setting of the film in northern Liverpool, which morphs into Gotham City.

"When you're alongside the Mersey and the rain's coming in and it's heavy atmospheric, you just feel it."

"It creates a vibe, a mood, but you can't create that on a soundstage," Watkins said.

It is a philosophy he extends to



Clayface tells the story of an actor that ends up being part of Batman's rogues gallery.

– IMDBPIC

the industry's anxieties about artificial intelligence.

"I still feel that conversations I

have with people are with people because the films come down to

human emotion," he insisted.

Alexander Skarsgard dons 'masterpiece' woven costume in offbeat *Wicker*

ACTORS Olivia Colman and Alexander Skarsgard have both played eccentric characters before, but say their new film, in which Skarsgard transforms into an Adonis woven from wicker, is "in quirkiness levels, quite high".

In *Wicker*, an absurdist romantic comedy set in a medieval village, Colman portrays an outcast known as the Fisherwoman who longs for a companion. She approaches a basket weaver, played by Peter Dinklage, who creates her a supernatural husband.

Initially jeered, the wicker man surprises the Fisherwoman and the judgemental villagers with his sensitivity and skills, slowly turning life in the conservative community upside down.

"I'd just never seen anything like that before. It was totally original," said Colman, who won an Oscar for her performance in 2018's *The Favourite*.

It took artists at the Weta Workshop in New Zealand around 18 months to design Skarsgard's suit. The Stockholm-based actor witnessed the costume coming to life over e-mails and video calls before trying it on some two weeks before shooting began in Budapest.

"That was definitely a moment I'll never forget, when I got to step into him."

"I really want the audience to know that it was practical and that it wasn't CGI... It was a masterpiece," Skarsgard said.

Skarsgard credited the team for shortening the costume and make-up application process from an initial "quite a few hours" to under two hours. Acting in it was a learning curve, he said, and required accented movements.

"It had different pieces, elements



Colman (left) and Skarsgard attend a premiere for *Wicker* in Los Angeles, California. – REUTERSPIC

to it, glued to my face, and little added lips and eyelashes made out of flax and hair.

"It definitely didn't feel very organic because you had to really exaggerate everything," he said.

The film is adapted from Ursula Wills-Jones's short story *The Wicker Husband*.

Elizabeth Debicki plays the Tailor's Wife, who takes the lead in a campaign against the Fisherwoman and her unconventional husband.

"There are some lessons in the film that are done very gently.

"The position of women, which is getting challenged in certain quarters, alarmingly so, and it's just a lovely comment on an equal relationship and kindness and the patriarchy and feminism. It's also enormous escapism, which is also really important at this time," said Colman.

"It's a commentary on our society and the world we live in, but hopefully done in a very entertaining way," added Skarsgard.

Wicker began its global cinematic roll-out recently. – Reuters

John Cena hits gas in *Matchbox*

JOHN Cena spent much of his childhood playing with Matchbox cars, so when the chance came to hit the gas in *Matchbox: The Movie*, he jumped behind the wheel.

The action-comedy film, released recently on Apple TV, follows the reunion of a group of childhood friends – a gathering that veers unexpectedly when they are caught in the middle of a wild mission to recover a nuclear warhead.

Starring Cena, Jessica Biel, Arturo Castro, Sam Richardson and Teyonah Parris, the movie directed by Sam Hargrave melds high-octane scenes with more humorous moments.

It also taps into nostalgia for the toy cars, which originated after English engineer Jack Odell designed the first model to comply with a 1952 British school rule requiring toys to fit inside a matchbox.

"If you have childhood memories like me of Matchbox, I think you're going to appreciate all the Easter eggs in there. And if you don't know anything about Matchbox or the Mattel franchise, you're going to sit down and really enjoy this movie," Cena said to journalists.

The action scenes proved difficult for Cena and his co-star Biel.

Training focused more on learning to move in new ways and doing fight scenes with greater fluidity, Cena said.

And, of course, to "gain the courage to jump off a building," he added.

Adrenaline rush

Biel said it was the driving that propelled her out of her comfort zone.

"I've never learned how to spin a car, you know, in a 180 and stop it on a mark," she said.

The experience proved an adrenaline rush, Biel added.

She said: "(Driving) was the



A poster for the film. – IMDBPIC

coolest stuff I got to do.

"Going 60 plus miles an hour on a freeway with a bunch of camera cars everywhere, and guys on motorcycles and gals in giant semis... There was a really major sense of being safe for everyone else's sake."

Given the demanding action scenes, both actors said the direction of Hargrave was crucial.

The filmmaker is known for his stunt work and coordination on Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

"He was such a big draw to this movie because of his experience and his expertise in the stunt world, and how he likes to do things practically," Biel said.

For the actors, it was also an opportunity to reflect on the importance of friendship and to share stories from behind the wheel.

Cena, who is himself a car collector, recounted spending US\$825,000 (RM3.4 million) trying to fix the most significant car purchases of his life – "a fake Lamborghini" – that he had bought for cheap.

But he learnt a valuable life lesson. He said: "If you think it's too good to be true, it's too good to be true." – AFP

theSun

Malaysian Paper

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 - Set sales targets, monitor KPIs, analyse sales performance, and prepare management reports with recommendations for revenue improvement.
 - Manage sales forecasting, pipeline development, and overall commercial performance.
 - Collaborate closely with editorial, digital, creative, and other internal teams to deliver effective integrated commercial campaigns.
 - Represent the company at client meetings, presentations, networking events, and industry functions while ensuring excellent client service and issue resolution.
 - Lead, coach, and develop the Sales & Marketing team to achieve departmental goals and foster a high-performance culture.

- Requirements:-**
- Bachelor's Degree or Diploma in Marketing, Business Administration, Sales, Communications, or a related field.
 - Minimum 6 years of experience in sales, marketing, business development, media, or advertising.
 - Proven leadership experience in managing a sales and marketing team.
 - Strong track record in achieving sales targets and developing new business opportunities.
 - Excellent communication, negotiation, presentation, and relationship management skills.
 - Strong analytical, strategic planning, and business management skills.

WEB NEWS EXECUTIVE :

- Job Descriptions:-**
- Has basic understanding of news, including local, crime, sports, entertainment and international news.
 - Knows how to use Canva to create social media content such as Instagram posts and simple videos.
 - Able to upload strong volume of articles daily, including stories from staff reporters and news agencies.
 - Can write reports / articles on breaking news, trending topics, entertainment an other general affairs.
 - Has basic understanding of Malaysian politics and current affairs, including key national leaders and the local entertainment industry.
 - Has basic understanding of using a Content Management System (CMS).
 - Ensures articles are published with little to no errors, including proper spelling, accurate facts, effective links and correct photo captions.
 - Communicates effectively with reporters, sub-editors and the social media team to ensure news updates are consistent across the website and social media platforms.
 - Willing to work on a rotating shift schedule, including 7am, 9am, 11am and 2pm shifts, as required by the newsroom's operational needs.

- Requirements:-**
- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Mass Communication or related field.
 - Executive: 1 years of experience in Journalism or related field.
 - Senior: 3 years of experience in in Journalism or related field.
 - Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply for Assistant Executive post.
 - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Kindly email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com
Call or WhatsApp No : 018-7616626

322 Notices

CONCRETE MATERIALS LABORATORY SDN. BHD. (199301020822 (275560-A)) (Incorporated in Malaysia) (Under Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL GENERAL MEETING UNDER SECTION 459(1) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a final general meeting of the Company to be held at Lot 306, 3rd Floor, Tower 2, Faber Towers, Jalan Desa Bahagia, Taman Desa, 58100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan on 30th November 2026 at 11.00 a.m.

Agenda

1. To receive and consider the Liquidator's account of receipts and payments and statements showing how the liquidation has been conducted and any explanations arising therefrom.
2. To resolve that the affairs of the company were fully wound up.
3. To resolve that upon the dissolution of the Company, the Liquidator be released and discharged from all liabilities in respect of any act done or default made by them on the administration of the affairs of the Company.
4. To resolve that under Section 518(3) (b) of the Companies Act, 2016, all books and papers of the company and of the liquidator that are relevant to the affairs of the company at or subsequent to the commencement of the winding up of the company shall be destroyed after the expiration of three(3) months from the date of the dissolution of the company.

Dated this 29th October 2026
TIEW SZE HANN
Liquidator

Note: A member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. The instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at the Liquidator's office at Lot 306, 3rd Floor, Tower 2, Faber Towers, Jalan Desa Bahagia, Taman Desa, 58100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting.

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KUALA LUMPUR
DALAM WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN SIVIL NO:
WA-A72NCvC-3665-09/2026

ANTARA

CAH BUKIT JALIL SDN BHD
[No. Pendaftaran: 202201020536 (1466233-H)]
... PLAINTIF

DAN

MOHAMAD FAIROZ BIN OTHMAN
(No. K/P: 790318-14-5429)
... DEFENDAN

PENYAMPAIAN GANTI-BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada: -

MOHAMAD FAIROZ BIN OTHMAN (No. K/P: 790318-14-5429)
4 Jalan Kencana 2,
Taman Kencana Cheras,
56100 Kuala Lumpur.

Ambil perhatian bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu dalam Writ No. **WA-A72NCvC-3665-09/2026** oleh Plaintiff **CAH BUKIT JALIL SDN BHD** (No. Pendaftaran: 202201020536 (1466233-H)) yang berniaga sebagai Columbia Asia Hospital Bukit Jalil yang beralamat di No. 9, Jalan Jalil Perkasa 7, Bukit Jalil, 57000 Kuala Lumpur bagi tuntutan untuk jumlah sebanyak **RM 7,669-35** dengan faedah 5% setahun ke atas jumlah penghakiman mulai tarikh pemfailan Writ Saman sehingga tarikh penyelesaian sepenuhnya.

Dan bahawa telah diperintahkan bahawa penyampaian writ itu dalam tindakan tersebut kepada kamu kena dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela dalam tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah memasukkan kehadiran di Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Lumpur dalam masa tujuh (7) hari dari tarikh tersiarnya iklan ini, termasuk hari penjaran itu. Jika kamu ingkar berbuat demikian, satu penghakiman ingkar kehadiran boleh diberikan terhadap kamu. Kes ini ditetapkan untuk **Pengurusan Kes** pada **10.11.2026 jam 9.00 pagi secara e-review** di hadapan Majistret.

Bertarikh pada 21 Oktober 2026.

-T.T-
.....
Peguamcara Plaintiff

Penyampaian Ganti (Bentuk Iklan) ini difailkan oleh **Tetuan Kelvin Wong, Phang & Associates**, Peguamcara dan Peguambela bagi **Plaintiff** yang dinamakan di atas yang mempunyai alamat penyampaiannya di Block J-3A-04, Setiawalk, Pusat Bandar Puchong, 47160 Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel: 603-8600 2162; Email: ghhooi@gmail.com; (Ruj kami: LIT/KWPA/5226/CAH(BJ)/FAIROZ/h)

322 Notices

IN THE SESSIONS COURT AT SEPANG IN THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO.: BK-A54-64-08/2026

In the matter of the Tenancy Agreement between the Plaintiff and the Defendants dated 28.1.2025;

And

Under the matter of Section 28(4) of the Civil Law Act

And

In the matter of Section 7(2) of the Specific Relief Act 1950;

And

In the matter of Order 7 and/or Order 37 and/ or Rule 4 Order 92 of the Rules of Court 2012.

BETWEEN

PANG AH CHAI (NRIC NO.: 600307-05-5233) ...PLAINTIFF

AND

1.MOHD HAFIZ BIN MOHD ZAINI (NRIC NO.: 870505-56-6261) trading as partnership under the name of MH VISION ENTERPRISE (Registration No.: 201403126664 / NS-0130463-K)

2.MOHD HAFEZ BIN ABU KASIM NRIC NO.: 871015-05-5041) trading as partnership under the name of MH VISION ENTERPRISE (Registration No.: 201403126664 / NS-0130463-K) ...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE

To:-

Mohd Hafeez bin Abu Kasim
No. 47-1 & 47-2, Jalan Warisan Sentral 1, KIP Sentral Kota Warisan, 49300 Sepang, Selangor.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you as the Second Defendant in the Sepang Sessions Court via Originating Summons No.: BK-A54-64-08/2026 by **PANG AH CHAI** wherein the Plaintiff is seeking the following reliefs, inter alia, a declaration that the Tenancy Agreement dated 28.1.2025 has been breached by the Defendants and lawfully terminated, together with an order for the Defendants to deliver vacant possession of the premises at No. 47-1 & 47-2, Jalan Warisan Sentral 1, KIP Sentral Kota Warisan, 49300 Sepang, Selangor within seven (7) working days, failing which, the Plaintiff shall have the right to lawfully re-enter and repossess the said premises. The Plaintiff is also claiming, inter alia, a monetary sum of approximately RM59,378.67 comprising rental arrears, agreement preparation costs, and double rental. Furthermore, the Plaintiff claims the right to forfeit the existing rental and utility deposits, maintaining continuous double rental payments until full vacant possession is delivered, as well as damages to be assessed by the Court, interest at the rate of 5% per annum on the judgment sum, total legal and disbursement costs on an indemnity basis, and any further and other reliefs that this Honourable Court deems fit and reasonable.

AND IT IS ORDERED that the service of the said Originating Summons dated 12.8.2026 and the Affidavit in Support of Pang Ah Chai affirmed on 6.8.2026 on you be effected, inter alia, by way of this advertisement pursuant to the Order dated 9.10.2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the hearing date for the said action is fixed on 18 November 2026 at 9:00a.m. physically at the Sepang Sessions Court before Sessions Court Judge Puan Husna binti Dzulkifly. Should you fail to attend the said scheduled hearing, the Court may grant such order in favour of the Plaintiff in your absence.

Dated 13 October 2026

T.T.
.....
Messrs. A. Chong & Co.
Solicitors for the Plaintiff

This Notice is issued by Messrs. A.Chong & Co., solicitors for the Plaintiff with address of service at No. 18-2, Jalan Selasih J U12/J, Taman Cahaya Alam, 40170 Shah Alam Selangor. (Email: general@achong.co/ / Tel.: 011-2330 2385) (Ref.: 2026/PACL/1208)../jm/ks

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BONAFIDE TRADERS SDN. BHD.

Company Registration No. 199401042155 (327843-X)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETNG

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016, the Final Meeting of the Members of the Company will be held at the Liquidator's Office at 3rd Floor, No. 122, Jalan Thamby Abdullah, Off Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur on the 30th November 2026, Monday, at 11.00 a.m. for the following purposes: -

AGENDA:

- 1.To receive and consider the accounts from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanations thereof.
- 2.To resolve by ordinary resolution that the books, accounts and documents of the Company and that of the Liquidator, shall be disposed off after the expiration of three (3) months from the date of the final meeting.

Kuala Lumpur
29/10/2026

NAGARAJAN A/L THAMBAIAH Liquidator

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) COMPANY WINDING UP PETITION NO.: WA-28NCC-830-08/2026

In the matter of Section 465 (1)(e) and Section 466 (1)(a) of the Companies Act, 2016

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding Up) Rules 1972

And

In the matter of ARI USAHA MURNI SDN. BHD. (Company No: 0516824D / 200001014218)

BETWEEN

CCK SCAFFOLD & TRANSPORT SDN. BHD. (Company No: 1515673H / 202301021750) ... PETITIONER

AND

ARI USAHA MURNI SDN. BHD. (Company No: 0516824D / 200001014218) ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the above named Company by the High Court dated 6th day of August 2026, presented by CCK SCAFFOLD & TRANSPORT SDN. BHD. (Company No: 1515673H / 202301021750), the above said Petitioner and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court of Malaya sitting at Kuala Lumpur at 9.00 a.m. on the 17th day of November 2026; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at No.31, Jalan Kuari, Kg. Cheras Baru, 56100 Kuala Lumpur.

The Petitioner's Solicitors are Messrs. Law Chambers of Lee J. X., having an address for service at No. 15-1, Jalan PJS 8/11, Dataran Mentari, 46150 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Signed
.....
Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTE— Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to Messrs. Law Chambers of Lee J. X. at No. 15-1, Jalan PJS 8/11, Dataran Mentari, 46150 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, a notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitors (if any), and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 16th day of November 2026 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the Petition).

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF COLLECTIVE ENTREPRENEUR SDN. BHD.

[Company Registration No. 199401042156 (327844-W)]
(Incorporated in Malaysia) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016, the Final Meeting of the Members of the Company will be held at the Liquidator's Office at 3rd Floor, No. 122, Jalan Thamby Abdullah, Off Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur on the 30th November 2026, Monday, at 11.00 a.m. for the following purposes: -

AGENDA:

- 1.To receive and consider the accounts from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanations thereof.
- 2.To resolve by ordinary resolution that the books, accounts and documents of the Company and that of the Liquidator, shall be disposed off after the expiration of three (3) months from the date of the final meeting.

Kuala Lumpur
29 October 2026

NAGARAJAN A/L THAMBAIAH Liquidator

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) ORIGINATING SUMMONS NO.: WA-24NCC(SOA)-6-04/2026

In the matter of **Komplek Seri Kulim Sdn Bhd (In Liquidation)** (Company No.: 199301010190 (264927-V))
And

In the matter of a proposed Scheme of Arrangement between Komplek Seri Kulim Sdn Bhd (In Liquidation) and its Scheme Creditors pursuant to Section 366 of the Companies Act 2016.
And

In the matter of Sections 366, 367 and 369 of the Companies Act 2016.
And

In the matter of Order 7 Rule 2, Order 28 and Order 88 of the Rules of Court 2012.

KOMPLEK SERI KULIM SDN BHD (IN LIQUIDATION) (Company No.: 199301010190 (264927-V))
... APPLICANT

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD ADAM BIN ABDULLAH

ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 IN CHAMBERS ORDER [Enclosure 8]

UPON THE APPLICATION of the Applicant named above AND UPON READING the Notice of Application dated 29 July 2026 (Enclosure 8) and all documents filed herein AND UPON HEARING Jakskeerat Kaur together with Vincent Ong, solicitors for the Applicant, IT IS THIS DAY ORDERED THAT:-

- 1.The Applicant's Scheme of Arrangement and Compromise as annexed hereto as **Annexure A** be and is hereby sanctioned and approved by this Honourable Court and shall be binding upon the Applicant and the Scheme Creditors as provided therein;
- 2.This Sanction Order shall take effect immediately;
- 3.An office copy of this Order shall be lodged with the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM);
- 4.Pursuant to Section 366(7) of the Companies Act 2016, the Applicant shall annex a copy of this Order (excluding Annexure A) to the constitution of the Applicant, if applicable, for a period of one (1) year from the date this Order is lodged with the Companies Commission of Malaysia;
- 5.Service of this Order shall be deemed duly effected by way of a single publication in an English language newspaper and a single publication in a Bahasa Malaysia newspaper respectively ("the Advertisements"), and this Order shall be deemed served upon every Scheme Creditor one (1) day after the Advertisements; and
- 6.The Applicant shall be at liberty to apply for further orders or directions, including the abridgement or extension of any time period prescribed by any order made in these proceedings.

Dated this **23rd day of September 2026**.
.....
Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court of Malaya
Kuala Lumpur

This **ORDER** was filed by **MESSRS SUSAN LEE & CO**, solicitors for the Applicant/Plaintiff, whose address is No. 23, Jalan INR 1, Taman Industri Nautical Rawang, 48000 Rawang, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Tel: 03-6992 1764
Email: general@susanleeco.com
Ref No.: SL/CV/NSR/2604/001/R

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT ALOR SETAR IN THE STATE OF KEDAH DARUL AMAN COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KA-28NCC-43-09/2026

In the matter of Sections 464, 465 and 466 of the Companies Act 2016

And

In the matter of Regulations 8, 22, 23, 23A, 24, 25 and 26 of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

And

In the matter of Synergy Distribution Sdn. Bhd. [Company No. 202001031570 (1387890-T)]

BETWEEN

MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD [COMPANY NO. 200701029411 (787435-M)] ... PETITIONER

AND

SYNERGY DISTRIBUTION SDN. BHD. [COMPANY NO. 202001031570 (1387890-T)] ... RESPONDENT

Advertisement of Petition

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of SYNERGY DISTRIBUTION SDN. BHD. by the High Court was, on the 21st day of September, 2026, presented by MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD of Regional Corporate Remedial Management Penang / Kedah / Perlis, 2nd Floor, No. 447, 448 & 449, Jalan Permatang Rawa, Bandar Perda, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang. And that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Alor Setar, Kedah at 9.00 a.m. in the forenoon on Monday the **21st day of December, 2026**; and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said petition may appear at the time of himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at Regional Corporate Remedial Management Penang / Kedah / Perlis, 2nd Floor, No. 447, 448 & 449, Jalan Permatang Rawa, Bandar Perda, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang

The Petitioner's solicitor is MESSRS WONG & LOH of No. 44, Jalan Cantonment, 10350 Georgetown, Penang.

T.T
.....
Messrs Wong & Loh
Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTE:

Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed Solicitors for the Petitioner, MESSRS WONG & LOH, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitors (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than 12.00 o'clock noon of the **20th day of December, 2026** (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the Petition).

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016, AND IN THE MATTER OF TOA COATING SDN. BHD. Co. No. 200401008938 (647442-K)

(IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 459, Companies Act, 2016, that the Final Meeting of Members of the above company will be held at Suite 1603, Level 16, Plaza Pengkasan, Batu 3 Jalan Tiong Off Jalan Ipoh, 51200 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur on 29th November, 2026 at 11.00 am to consider the following:

- 1.To receive and consider the Liquidators Statement of Accounts and any explanations therefrom.
- 2.To consider the disposal of the books, accounts and documents of the company.

Signed
.....
Taufik Bin Mohd Salleh
Liquidator

Dated 29th October, 2026

322 Notices

MEDAN CAHAYAMAS SDN BHD (Company No. 201601027826 (1198765-P)) (IN VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 459(1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016, a final meeting of the members of Medan Cahayamas Sdn Bhd ("Company") will be held at No. 1, Tingkat 1, Persiaran Golf, Saujana Resort, Seksyen U2, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan on **Tuesday, 1 December 2026** at 10.00 am to receive an account from the liquidators showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to hear explanations that may be given by the liquidators.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

BY ORDER OF THE LIQUIDATORS
Khoi Hoay Ling & Karen Yong Syew Ciin

Shah Alam,
Selangor Darul Ehsan
Dated: 29 October 2026

Rybakina looking to clinch top spot in Tokyo

ELENA RYBAKINA said yesterday that she had "definitely got more attention" since becoming world No. 1 as she looks to clinch the year-end top ranking this week in Japan.

The Moscow-born Kazakh player became world No. 1 for the first time last month after winning the US Open, replacing Aryna Sabalenka at the summit.

The achievement punctuated Rybakina's rise in a year in which she also won the Australian Open in January and now has three Grand Slam career titles.

The 27-year-old said she was exhausted mentally and physically

after her US Open win but she bounced back to claim her fourth title of the season last week at the Ningbo Open in China.

She has already secured her place at next month's season-ending WTA Finals at Indian Wells.

Rybakina can also clinch the year-end No. 1 ranking if she beats fellow Kazakh Yulia Putintseva in her first match at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo.

"The earlier I can confirm it the better," she said.

"For me it's important just to get some matches and be prepared for the final eight.

"If I can make sure here after a win that I am going to stay number one then great, if not I will have another chance at the

final eight."

Rybakina took some time off after the US Open and returned at the China Open, losing to 118th-ranked Alina Charaeva in the first round.

She missed the Wuhan Open with a foot injury before beating Leylah Fernandez in the Ningbo final.

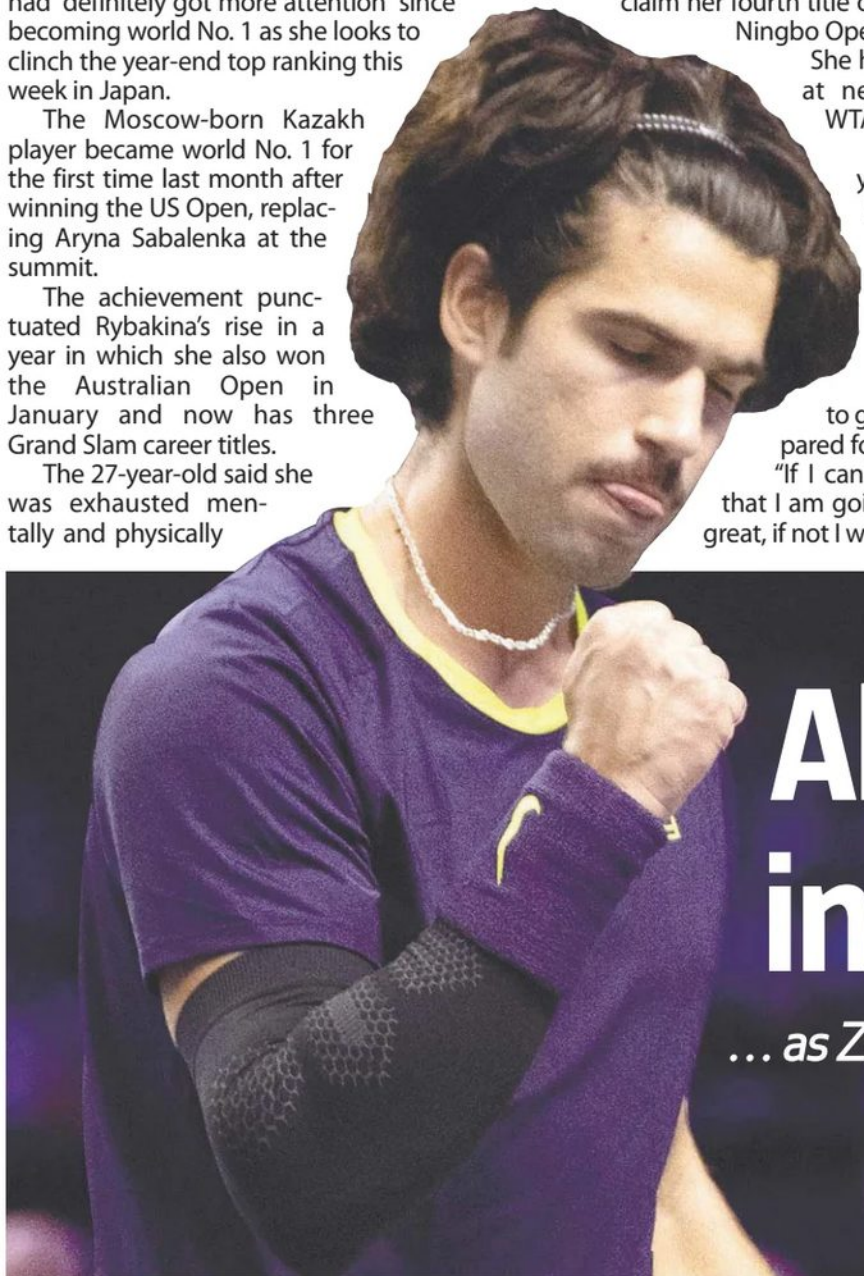
Rybakina said being world No. 1 was not enough to satisfy her.

"It was another goal which I achieved which is great, and now there is another one," she said. "Definitely I got more attention, no matter where I go, which is nice."

Rybakina said she was still dealing with her foot issue but was "getting better every day".

"After the US Open I didn't do much and in Beijing I wasn't at my best at all," she said.

"Physically, mentally I was really tired so I feel like these tournaments now are really good practice for me." — AFP



Alcaraz shines in Vienna

... as Zverev survives to keep world No. 1 bid alive

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz reacts during his match against Russia's Karen Khachanov (not pictured) at the 2026 Erste Bank Open in Vienna, Austria yesterday. — AFP/PICT

CARLOS ALCARAZ won his opening match at the Vienna Open with a straight-sets victory over Karen Khachanov yesterday, while Alexander Zverev survived four match points to beat Martin Landaluce in a marathon encounter.

World No. 3 Alcaraz saw off the former eighth-ranked Russian 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) in their first-round meeting.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion added the ATP 500 event in the Austrian capital to his schedule at short notice, having not competed in Vienna since 2021.

Sidelined from mid-April to the end of August due to a wrist injury, Alcaraz has produced mixed results since his return, including a third-round exit at the Shanghai Masters in his last tournament earlier this month.

"I really enjoyed it, even though I had to run, had to fight, had to sweat a lot. We both played great shots, great points. I would say it was a great match to watch and I'm really happy about it," Alcaraz said.

The Spaniard also praised the Vienna crowd, saying the atmosphere had lived up to his expecta-

tions from his previous appearance five years ago.

"It was amazing. I didn't really know why I loved playing here in 2021.

"I left the court, left this tournament, thinking this crowd has something special. I experienced that today. Packed stadium. It was incredible," he said.

Alcaraz had to dig deep against the 30-year-old power-hitter, recovering from a break down to take the first set.

He missed opportunities to close out the match in the second set before regaining control, winning a tight tie-break with a perfectly weighted drop shot.

"Those match points, I would say I could play them a little bit better. I overplayed a couple of match points, and then it was a few mistakes," he said. "But I was still happy with the level I was playing."

The 23-year-old will next face Georgian Nikoloz Basilashvili or local player Jurij Rodionov in the round of 16.

In another thriller, Zverev kept his bid to become world No. 1 alive with a 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (13-11) victory over Landaluce after three hours and

five minutes.

"(I was pushed) to the absolute limit," Zverev said.

"Martin played a hell of a match. The first forehand after the serve was unbelievable, I barely touched a ball. So, definitely credit to him. He played an amazing match."

The German admitted he had room for improvement despite the dramatic victory.

"I know I have to improve, for sure. It was not perfect from me, but he pushed me today, absolutely," he said.

Zverev broke the 20-year-old Spaniard late in the opening set, but Landaluce responded by taking the second to force a decider.

Landaluce saved two match points in the 12th game of the third set to force a tie-break, where he then held four match points of his own. Zverev fought them all off before converting his fifth match point when Landaluce sent a forehand wide.

If Zverev beats either Tallon Griekspoor or Brandon Nakashima to reach the quarterfinals, he will overtake the injured Jannik Sinner to become world No. 1 in Monday's updated rankings. — AFP

Osaka unveils crane outfit in Tokyo before win over Paolini

NAOMI OSAKA paid tribute to her Japanese heritage with a crane pattern outfit before beating Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) in her tournament opener in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The former world No. 1 is appearing at the Pan Pacific Open for the first time in four years and she came onto the court wearing a blue robe with long kimono-like sleeves.

She said the crane pattern was a nod to her mother's home in the northern island of Hokkaido and that the occasion "felt like a homecoming".

"It felt like on the fashion side I was always giving these great moments to the Slams, and I felt like coming home I wanted to do something special here too," the four-time Grand Slam winner said.

Osaka is known for grabbing headlines with her flamboyant custom-made outfits. She channelled NBA fashion trailblazer Allen Iverson at the US Open and wore an audacious "jelly-fish-inspired" outfit in Australia. She also drew on her Japanese heritage with a kimono-inspired white dress at Wimbledon.

She said her latest Tokyo outfit was made by the same designer.

Asked if she planned to unveil more outfits this week, she replied: "It would be fun if you watch it and then be surprised."

Osaka's last appearance at the tournament in 2022 ended with her pulling out with abdominal pain before her second-round match.

She has since become a mother, taking 15 months away from the sport after the birth of her daughter Shai before returning in 2023.

The 29-year-old, who is now ranked 18 in the world, said she had "changed a lot" since her last appearance in Tokyo.

"In that period of my life I was not panicked but stressed all the time," she said. "Now I'm pretty calm, and I do think that has to do with my daughter. She balances me up and it's made me understand that this is my job."

Osaka had a tough opening assignment against world No. 35 Paolini, who won their only previous encounter.

Osaka's power and accuracy were too much for the Italian in the first set but the second was a much closer affair.

Osaka said she was "pretty confident going into the tiebreaker" after hitting seven aces in the match.

"I knew my serve was better than her serve," she said. "I felt like I knew what to do and what not to do." — AFP

INSIDE EDGE

Starc leads Aussie fight back

MITCHELL STARC said a "reset at lunch" led to an Australian fightback after South Africa made a flying start on the first day of the third Test at Newlands yesterday. Starc finished with six for 72 as South Africa were bowled out for 329 shortly before the close in a match which will decide a series between the two leading Test nations. It was a performance which looked unlikely as South Africa raced to 140 without loss at lunch after being sent in. Starc was one of the bowlers punished, with the tall left-arm pacer conceding 39 runs in seven overs, including four successive boundaries by Marques Ackerman, who went on to score a rapid 95. "We probably expected more out of the wicket," said Starc. "It

was quite slow, with tennis ball bounce. They came at us hard. We didn't have our best stuff in the first two hours but the last two sessions were right up there. It's what we expect from this group. We had a reset at lunch and just tried to change the momentum in the field." Ackerman, 30, said South Africa would probably have been happy if they had been offered a total of 329 before play. But he admitted: "We probably left a few runs out there."

England out of tri-series final after Sri Lanka thrash Pakistan

PACE BOWLER Dilshan Madushanka grabbed a career best 5-34 as Sri Lanka cruised to a thumping eight-wicket win over Pakistan in Lahore on Tuesday which ends England's hopes of reaching the tri-series final. The left-arm was well

supported by spinner Sahan Arachchige, who took 2-24, to dismiss Pakistan for a paltry 110 in just 25.3 overs. The Sri Lankan batters reached the target in just 18.1 overs. The victory is Sri Lanka's second in three games, enough to deprive the third team England of a spot in Sunday's final, for which Pakistan have already qualified with three wins. The English, who have contrived to lose successive matches against Sri Lanka and Pakistan from winning positions, needed the hosts to win to have any hope of joining them in the final. Consequently, today's match between Sri Lanka and England is a dead rubber.

Abhishek stars as India smash NZ

AN aggressive partnership by Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi propelled India to a

six-wicket win and a series victory over New Zealand in Wellington on Tuesday. India sewed up the five-match series with two games to spare, chasing down New Zealand's total of 198 in just 13.2 overs, Abhishek blasting 113 and Sooryavanshi 45. The opening pair combined for a 133-run partnership in just 7.1 overs, obliterating the New Zealand bowling attack with one of the most destructive partnerships in T20 history. The first Jacob Duffy over went for 26 runs, and the openers never let up. Abhishek hit nine fours and 11 sixes in his 38-ball knock, receiving a standing ovation when he eventually fell to the bowling of Kyle Jamieson. By that stage, India had reached 178-2 after just 10 overs. "Getting 100 in five overs, have not seen that before at the international level," India captain Shreyas Iyer said. "Credit where it is due, the way they played is exceptional."



Five epic cup shocks

ARSENAL suffered a stunning League Cup fourth round defeat at fourth-tier Fleetwood yesterday. The Premier League champions lost 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in one of the greatest shocks in the history of English football. Here's a look at five other epic cup upsets:

Wrexham 2 Arsenal 1 (1992 FA Cup)

The previous season 90 places had separated the two clubs in the English Football League, with Arsenal having claimed their second title in three seasons under manager George Graham. Alan Smith put the Gunners in front, but Mickey Thomas's freekick levelled matters with 10 minutes remaining and Steve Watkin astonishingly claimed a late winner.

Chelsea 2 Bradford 4 (2015 FA Cup)

Chelsea won the FA Cup five times between 2006 and 2018, but Jose Mourinho's Blues were humbled by third tier Bradford at Stamford Bridge. The Premier League leaders went 2-0 up through Gary Cahill and Ramires. But Bradford stormed back and goals from Jon Stead, Filipe Morais, Andy Halliday and Mark Yeates left Chelsea in tatters.

Hereford 2 Newcastle 1 (1972 FA Cup)

The fourth-round tie that had everything: pitch invasions by Parka-clad fans and Ronnie Radford scoring one of the FA Cup's greatest FA Cup goals. Malcolm Macdonald put Newcastle ahead eight minutes from time and it seemed as if there would be no fairytale for the non-league outfit. But Radford equalised with a screamer from 25 yards and Ricky George won it for Hereford in extra-time.

Liverpool 0 Wimbledon 1 (1988 FA Cup)

Wimbledon's "Crazy Gang" were given no chance to stop Liverpool from claiming a league and cup double in the final at Wembley. Wimbledon had been a third-tier side four years earlier and Liverpool had won the title by a margin of nine points. But Lawrie Sanchez headed home from Dennis Wise's freekick before Wimbledon keeper Dave Beasant saved John Aldridge's penalty to seal the upset.

Grimsby 2 Manchester United 2 *Grimsby won 12-11 on pen* (2025 League Cup)

United trailed 2-0 as Grimsby duo Charles Vernam and Tyrell Warren scored to expose the flaws in their supposedly superior opponents. Bryan Mbeumo and Harry Maguire managed to take the second-round tie into extra time. But Grimsby won on penalties to leave then-United boss Ruben Amorim shell-shocked.

AFP

Blinded by applause

United take wrong lesson to leave Carrick with thankless task

BY RICHARD JOLLY

MANCHESTER UNITED'S decision-makers took the decision not to make a decision. Perhaps that was typical. If some of their failings in recent years have stemmed from the choices they have made, some have been the result of the times when they did not act.

And so, just when it felt inevitable they would sack Michael Carrick, they did not. Carrick was at Carrington on Monday along with chief executive Omar Berrada and sporting director Jason Wilcox.

He took training on Tuesday. He will be in charge against Chelsea on Saturday and given the chance to turn an increasingly wretched situation around.

It is all the more remarkable as Carrick appeared to have gone beyond the point of no return: on a run of eight games without a win, in consecutive defeats to Como and Bournemouth that were embarrassing surrenders, in a falling-out with Bruno Fernandes that saw the captain criticise the tactics and the manager respond by benching the reigning Footballer of the Year.

Perhaps it says something for Carrick's character that he is still in his post. His calmness and essential decency are reasons why few – with Fernandes seemingly a notable exception – can take offence to him.

Whereas Ruben Amorim was seen inside the club as erratic and emotional, the likeable Carrick, with his willingness to assume responsibility, is scarcely a toxic presence.

On Friday, he said he was happy to serve as an "umbrella". He could not shield Wilcox, Sir Jim Ratcliffe and the Glazer family from derogatory

chants on Sunday; but the scrutiny on them would be still greater with a sacking and the confirmation another managerial appointment was a failure.

But maybe they took the wrong lessons from the scenes after the final whistle, the choruses of Carrick's name and the Stretford End's backing of him, which stood in stark contrast to the boos directed at his feckless players when the manager disappeared from sight.

It seemed to come – from the fans anyway – with the implicit understanding it was a goodbye; they appeared to be thanking Carrick, the Geordie who became a United season-ticket holder, the man who made 464 appearances, won five Premier Leagues and played in three Champions League finals, who is a reminder of better times. But when United supporters do not turn on their managers, it does actually rely on the board to dismiss them.

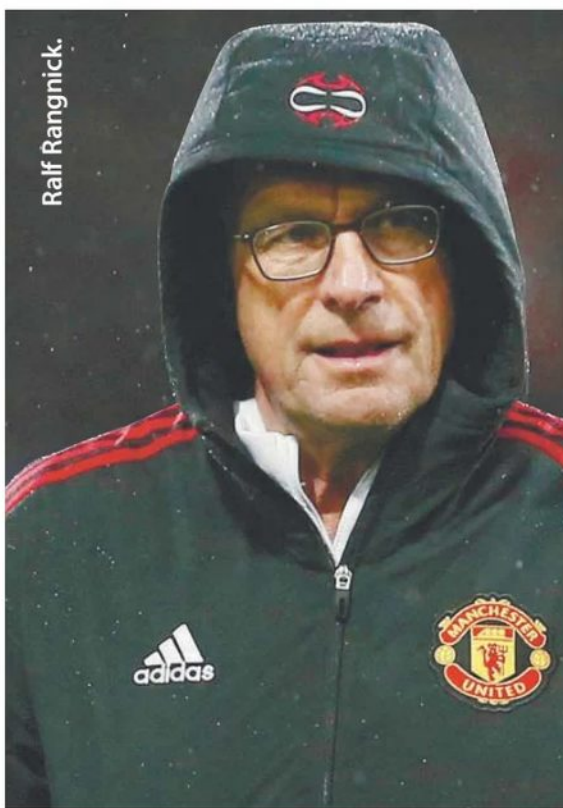
And keeping Carrick *in situ* for a little longer could be giving him a thankless task. If there is little in the performance levels, or the apparent effort of his players, to indicate he will turn this around, the fixture list offers little optimism either.

United go to Chelsea next; with a quick turnaround in a Champions League week, there may not be time to act after that.

Then they face Roma, then Aston Villa, who are both in form.

The cynical interpretation might be that they are sacrificing Carrick in the next three games, not giving him a chance for salvation. After that, United may be winless in 11, with perhaps four or even five defeats in the last five.

The international break can be a logical point to move on; thereafter, United have Liverpool and Sporting CP. The schedule still looks forbidding.



Ralf Rangnick.

Rangnick's advice Devils ignored

THE inescapable nature of Manchester United's latest crisis could be felt as Michael Carrick exited Old Trafford following a humiliating 3-0 home defeat to Bournemouth on Sunday.

Eight matches without a win and staring at another managerial change just months after Carrick has delivered the feel good factor once again following the turbulent reign of Ruben Amorim.

Now braced for 14 years without a Premier League title, following the Sir Alex Ferguson era, 16th and just a point above the relegation zone after eight matches.

During Ralf Rangnick's time as interim manager of United, from 2021-22, the German offered some prescient advice on what it will take to overhaul the club, with Erik ten Hag and Amorim's doomed spells in charge following over the next four years.

"It's crystal clear, it's not that difficult, you

The powerbrokers have put Carrick in an awkward position in other respects. He now faces a decision: whether to recall Fernandes, whether to try and repair relations. On Sunday night, that felt an issue for someone else.

The United hierarchy may have frozen when they had to make a decision. If so, it would not be first time, perhaps because they always appear unprepared for what comes next.

An oft-heard criticism is that they sack too many managers. It is true, yet truer that most should have been sacked sooner. The last two seasons have featured false starts because they ducked decisions.

In the summer of 2024, they spoke to a host of other managers but, after winning the FA Cup, stuck with Erik ten Hag, giving him a new contract and new players. Somewhat predictably, they ended up sacking him in October.

In the summer of 2025, despite ample evidence from the final six months of the previous season and a 15th-place finish that was United's lowest in more than three decades, they persevered with Amorim.

He was gone in January, and if Carrick executed a fine rescue act then, there is no guarantee of a repeat.

Examine the Ineos era and, given the dismissals of Ten Hag and Amorim became obvious, when it is glaringly apparent the Portuguese was a mismatch – as Dan Ashworth thought, before they fired him – and there is a lone managerial decision they have got right: choosing Carrick for the final four months of last season.

It was understandable, and meritocratic, that he was given a new contract in the summer, but it now looks a mistake. – The Independent

don't need glasses to analyse it and see where the problems are," Rangnick famously stated back in 2022.

"So now it's only about how we solve them. It's clear, not enough to do some little, minor amendments, and issues here and there. Some minor cosmetic things.

"In medicine, you would see, this is an operation at the open heart. This is also something that not one single person, as a manager, can do.

"All respect to Jurgen and Pep, I'm sure that they didn't do all the things themselves, there were other people involved.

"If people want to work together, it makes sense, I still believe, it doesn't take two to three years to change those things. This can happen within one year."

United now face more turbulence, with Eddie Howe among the favourites to succeed Carrick, should the club opt for another change.

After already exiting the Carabao Cup, United have a midweek break and a trip to Chelsea in the Premier League on Saturday up next. – The Independent

Conte to Old Trafford bombshell as Howe hints at wanting job

MANCHESTER UNITED boss Michael Carrick has been given a stay of execution after the Englishman was initially expected to get sacked this week.

United have won two of their opening 12 matches across all competitions, and are currently eight games without a victory of any kind.

The writing was on the wall for Carrick as he trudged off the Old Trafford pitch following the latest humiliation at the weekend.

It capped off a truly miserable week for the Red Devils, during which they conceded seven goals in back-to-back maulings against Como and Bournemouth.

The Bournemouth thumping felt like the final nail in the coffin, but Carrick has survived and barring another change of heart between now and Saturday, will be in charge vs Chelsea. One of the

reasons for this, according to *The Sun*, is that United's board were unable to settle on a replacement.

Eddie Howe and Antonio Conte are top candidates to replace Carrick, but United haven't even reached out to the latter. Conte, who has been out of work since leaving Napoli in the summer, has not received any contact from the Premier League side.

The Italian recently flirted with the idea of taking over a club like United, telling *The Athletic*: "There are many clubs that have somewhat lost sight of their history. I'd like to go to one of these clubs to dust off that history and make it shine once more."

That is why the news that United supposedly haven't even made contact comes as a surprise, given he all but threw his hat in the ring. Speaking of which, the outlet also reports Howe has offered

hints he could be keen to take over from Carrick.

The former Newcastle head coach has reportedly begun due diligence on the 20-time English champions should an offer come his way. Howe might already have been given the job if former sporting director Dan Ashworth was still in his post.

Ashworth left the club just under two years ago and was a supporter of Howe following their time together at Newcastle. Meanwhile, Sir Dave Brailsford, another board member, is said to have been open to hiring Howe, but he left in mid-2025.

Following the Chelsea match this weekend, United return to Champions League action, this time against Serie A high-flyers Roma. Their final outing before the November international break comes against Aston Villa at Old Trafford. – Express Newspapers

SHORTS

Espanyol sack Gonzalez following shock Sestao defeat

ESPANYOL have sacked coach Manolo Gonzalez following their Copa del Rey defeat by fourth-tier Sestao River Club, the LaLiga side said yesterday. Gonzalez, who admitted before the match that his future was at stake, paid the price for Espanyol's 4-3 extra-time loss to Sestao. "RCD Espanyol, on behalf of club president Alan Pace, and its Board of Directors, wish to express our gratitude to Manolo Gonzalez for the work, commitment, and effort he has shown since taking charge of the first team," Espanyol said in a state-

ment. "The club particularly values the professionalism and dedication he brought to his role, as well as the way he tackled the various sporting challenges he faced." Appointed in March 2024, Gonzalez guided Espanyol to promotion within months of taking charge and then kept the Catalan club in LaLiga over the following two seasons. "(I'm) feeling really down, completely shattered, and bearing the full weight of responsibility for everything," Gonzalez told reporters after the defeat to Sestao. "It's one of the worst

days of my life, without a doubt."

Sabitzer strike sends Dortmund past Bremen

MARCEL SABITZER scored deep into stoppage time as Borussia Dortmund fought off Werder Bremen 3-2 in the second round of the German Cup yesterday. With the hosts two goals up thanks to goals from Serhou Guirassy and Carney Chukwuemeka, former Dortmund striker



Borussia Dortmund's Marcel Sabitzer (centre) celebrates scoring a goal with his teammates during the German Cup match against Werder Bremen yesterday. - AFP/IC

Niclas Füllkrug came off the bench and scored twice in four minutes to level the scores. With the match headed for extra-time, the one-time Bayern Munich and Manchester United midfielder Sabitzer curled a superb free kick into the top left corner to see Dortmund through to the next round. "I'm really happy it went in. My right foot has always been pretty decent. It's good for the team, but also good for me," Sabitzer told Sky Germany. On a season-long loan from West Ham, Füllkrug has now scored in his past seven Bremen games and has 11 goals in nine matches this season, having scored just three times in 18 months at the London stadium. In earlier matches, Christoph Baumgartner scored twice in the final 12 minutes to rescue a 10-man RB Leipzig in a 2-1 win at third-division Rot-Weiss Essen. Robin Koch, Jonathan Burkardt and Younes Ebnoutalib scored as Eintracht Frankfurt cruised to a 3-1 win at three-time winners Hamburg while Germany starlet Said El Mala scored a brace as hosts Cologne eliminated Union Berlin 5-0.

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS
DRAW NO: 6205/2026 DATE: 28/10/2026 (WED)
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL					
	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize		
	7986	3692	4564		
Special		Consolation			
6545	6533	8841	4519		
1829	7194	0261	4489		
3897	7866	7817	4877		
0604	1136	2494	8658		
5024	8418	8186	2277		
					
Jackpot 1		RM 14,517,303.22			
7986	3692	3692	7986		
7986	4564	4564	7986		
3692	4564	4564	3692		

4D Fireball 4	
1st Prize	7986 + HORSE
2nd Prize	3692 +
3rd Prize	4564 +
4th Prize	Special Prize +
5th Prize	Consolation Prize +
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL															
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3RD	4 5 5 6 or 5 6 2 4
4TH	4 5 5 or 6 2 4
5TH	4 5 or 2 4

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POWER 6/55	(3) (21) (23) (37) (38) (52)
Jackpot	RM 21,002,642.03
STAR 6/50	(2) (14) (16) (17) (21) (32) + (18)
Jackpot 1	RM 1,947,677.33
Jackpot 2	RM 100,000.00

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Floriani opens account

ROMANO Floriani Mussolini scored his first Serie A goal as Lazio stormed to the top of the Italian league with a 6-2 thrashing of 10-man Sassuolo yesterday.

The rightback, great-grandson of Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, struck in the 16th minute as Lazio continued their impressive start under Gennaro Gattuso, who has guided them to 25 points from nine matches.

Kenneth Taylor opened the scoring after just two minutes before Kristian Thorstvedt equalised for Sassuolo. Gustav Isaksen and Floriani restored Lazio's advantage before Thorstvedt was sent off in the 31st minute.

Sebastiano Eposito reduced the deficit again before halftime, but Mattia Zaccagni restored Lazio's two-goal cushion in stoppage time. Tijjani Noslin then struck twice in the second half to complete the rout, despite Lazio missing two penalties.

"I'm really happy to have scored that first goal, but even more so about this win, which is crucial for us," Floriani said.

He added that the travelling supporters had inspired the team, saying they needed to repay their fans for their support.

Gattuso, however, warned his players against becoming distracted by their position in the standings.

"We mustn't look at the standings, otherwise we'll get a headache and start thinking we're very good," he said. "We must not stray from our path, the path of hard work, of taking it one match at a time."

Lazio moved three points clear of reigning champions Inter Milan, who visit bottom side Venezia overnight.

Roma consolidated third place with a 4-2 home victory over Cagliari, scoring twice in the closing stages after the visitors

... as Lazio thrash Sassuolo to go top of Serie A

had threatened to take a point. Cagliari took an early lead through M'Bala Nzola's penalty, but Emanuele Lulli equalised before Niccolo Pisilli put Roma ahead in the 21st minute.

Daniel Maldini restored parity in the 81st minute, only for Rodrigo Mora to head Roma back in front four minutes later. Donyell Malen sealed the win in the 87th minute.

Roma coach Gian Piero Gasperini acknowledged his side had been made to work hard for the points.

"There was a bit of fatigue, but winning this match makes the achievement even greater," he said.

Meanwhile, Como moved into fourth place after recovering from a goal down to beat Torino 3-1 away.

Che Adams gave Torino the lead in the first half, but Jacobo Ramon equalised in the 81st minute before Nico Paz completed the turnaround six minutes later. Martin Baturina added a third in stoppage time to seal Como's victory.

In related news, Napoli coach Massimiliano Allegri was yesterday banned for two Serie A matches and fined following his red card late in his team's 3-3 draw against Roma last weekend.

He will miss the overnight match at Monza and Sunday's trip to Juventus.

"I've decided not to appeal because you never know - instead of a two-match suspension, I could end up with four," he said.

"In any case, whoever is on the bench will surely do a better job than I would," added Allegri, who has been criticised since his arrival in Naples this year. - AFP

WINNING NUMBERS damacai

Draw Date: 28/10/26 (Wed)		Draw No: 6152/26	
1+3D SUPER1+3D			
1st Prize		2694	
2nd Prize		6382	
3rd Prize		3450	
Starters		Consolation	
9734	8339	1488	4289
7257	8614	9732	8227
5042	9088	1544	5147
1252	9886	0862	3811
9108	6365	6598	8100

1-3D Jackpot	
Jackpot 1	RM9,743,537.70
2694+6382	6382+2694
2694+3450	3450+2694
6382+3450	3450+6382
Jackpot 2	RM839,548.80
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.	

3-3D Bonus	
1st Prize	Bonus
552 694+	DOG
1st Prize Bonus	RM818,333.30
2nd Prize	Bonus
226 382+	MONKEY
2nd Prize Bonus	RM1,460,114.60
3rd Prize	Bonus
063 450+	TIGER
3rd Prize Bonus	RM2,133,339.00

Starters	Consolation
579 734 408 339	331 488 764 289
467 257 128 614	869 732 788 227
875 042 279 088	071 544 085 147
641 252 069 886	050 862 973 811
879 108 466 365	846 598 598 100

3D		
1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
694	382	450

3D Jackpot	
Jackpot	RM664,529.30
694 + 382 + 450	382 + 450 + 694
694 + 450 + 382	450 + 694 + 382
382 + 694 + 450	450 + 382 + 694
Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.	

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Munoz praises JDT's tactical maturity

JOHOR DARUL TA'ZIM (JDT) head coach Xisco Munoz praised his side's tactical maturity and relentless intensity after the Southern Tigers secured a convincing 3-0 victory over Thailand's Port FC in their third AFC Champions League Elite (ACLE) Group A match at Sultan Ibrahim Stadium in Iskandar Puteri on Tuesday night.

Despite dominating the first half and creating several scoring opportunities, JDT had to wait until the second half to break the deadlock.

Jonathan Silva opened the scoring with a volley inside the penalty box in the 53rd minute before Bergson Da Silva doubled the advantage with a header nine minutes later.

JDT sealed the win in the 86th minute when a swift counterattack involving Marcos Guilherme and Matias Nahuel ended with Juan Diego Molina Martinez, better known as Stoichkov, finding the net.

Munoz was pleased with his players' overall performance, particularly their ability to control the tempo and dictate the tactical aspects of the match.

"Congratulations to the players because it was an amazing night. It was a very good performance, and I think they had control in all aspects of the game," he said during the post-match press conference.

However, the victory was tempered by concerns over Bergson, who was substituted late in the match. Munoz said the coaching staff were awaiting official medical feedback and hoped the striker's injury was not serious, with a demanding run of important fixtures ahead.

Port FC head coach Bozidar Bandovic acknowledged JDT's superiority and said the Malaysian side deserved the victory.

"I must congratulate the opponent. They were better on the field. In the first half, they dominated. They had some crosses and shots from outside the box, but they were better," he said.

The victory lifted JDT to second place in Group A with seven points, two behind leaders Vissel Kobe of Japan. The Southern Tigers will next travel to South Korea to face Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC at Jeonju World Cup Stadium on Nov 3. - Bernama

First time's a charm for Pimnipa

■ BY ADDAM KAMAL

MAKING her debut at the Maybank Championship, Thai golfer Pimnipa Panthong is relishing the opportunity to gain valuable experience against some of the world's best players.

The tournament marks a significant milestone in the 28-year-old's career, as she prepares to compete in her first LPGA-level event.

"Obviously, I'm very excited, and I think this will be a great learning experience for me. I'm really looking forward to it.

"I will try to enjoy it as much as I can and perform as I have been preparing for throughout the year. I will give my best, enjoy the atmosphere and gain as much experience as possible from this tournament," she said.

Pimnipa was speaking at a press conference ahead of the Maybank Championship at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club (KLGCC) on Wednesday.

Having only turned professional in February 2024, Pimnipa will face a stern test against a field featuring established international players. However, rather than being intimidated by the occasion, she is embracing the challenge as an opportunity to learn and improve her game.

"This will be a completely different experience from a normal tournament because this is a world-class event, and it's my first time competing in one.

"I'm definitely very excited and really looking forward to playing. Hopefully, I can learn a lot from all the world-class players competing here," she said.

Pimnipa secured her spot in the 2026 Maybank Championship by finishing with a total score of 4-under 140 in the qualifier event for the high-profile ladies' tournament.

The 2026 Maybank Championship Asean Qualifier drew a record field of 78 players from five nations across Southeast Asia, up from 69 in 2025.

Liyana ready to shine

Third-time contender banks on experience, family support and mental strength to tame KLGCC

■ BY ZIKRY MARZUKI

EXPERIENCE will give national golfer Liyana Azizan Durisic an advantage as she prepares to compete in the Maybank Championship for the third time, with the tournament running from today until Sunday.

However, thorough preparation, particularly on the mental side, will be crucial to keeping her focused throughout the competition at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club (KLGCC).

Liyana is counting on the support of her family and friends, as well as the return of her brother, Daniel Durisic, as her caddy, to boost her confidence.

"I will go out there and enjoy having my family and friends around to help me with the mental side of the game. Plus, having my brother on the bag will be a massive confidence boost and help me enjoy the experience.

"He first caddied for me in 2024 before I decided to have another caddy coach last year. But I have brought Daniel back on the bag this year," she said.

Daniel, 29, an amateur golfer himself, is expected to help Liyana with her game plan as she takes on the challenging course.

Liyana will begin her campaign today morning alongside Belgium's Manon de Roey and Australia's Robyn Choi.

The 25-year-old Malaysian will be aiming to improve on last year's performance, when she finished tied for 72nd with a total of 292 strokes, 4-over par.

She hopes to build on her experience of playing the tournament and approach this year's challenge with greater composure.

"My third Maybank Championship, I think I would have learned everything about the course, including the ins and outs of it.

"I think it's more of a mental game and just trying to go out there and enjoy it, because I play my best when I'm prepared mentally," she added.

Established as a marquee event on the LPGA Tour, the 2026 Maybank Championship features several of the world's leading players, including defending champion Miyu Yamashita of Japan and China's Yin Ruoning.

Aaron-Roy King, Xin Yee-Carmen advance in Germany

NATIONAL men's doubles pair Aaron Tai-Yap Roy King and women's doubles combination Ong Xin Yee-Carmen Ting made winning starts to their Hylo Open 2026 campaigns in Saarbrücken, Germany, yesterday, while professional duo Chia Weijie-Teo Ee Yi were forced to retire from their opening match.

Aaron-Roy King, ranked world No. 74, needed just 28 minutes to defeat German hosts Malik Borakkadi-Kenneth Neumann 21-11, 21-12 in their first-round match at the Saarländhalle.

The victory continued the Malaysians' positive run following their Arctic Open Super 500

triumph in Vantaa, Finland, three weeks ago, which marked their first title since being reunited under national men's doubles head coach Herri Iman Piengadi's reshuffle.

The Hylo Open is their fourth consecutive European assignment, following appearances at the Denmark Open and French Open, where they exited in the second round.

Aaron-Roy King will face either Indonesian top seeds Sabar Karyaman Gutama-Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani or England's world No. 40 pair Alex Green-Zach Russ in the second round today.

Meanwhile, Xin Yee-Carmen took 35 minutes

to overcome England's Abbygael Harris-Estelle Van Leeuwen 21-12, 21-17 to book their place in the women's doubles second round.

The Malaysian pair will next meet Hong Kong's eighth seeds Yeung Nga Ting-Yeung Pui Lam, who defeated Taiwan's Lin Chih-Chun-Yang Chu 21-13, 21-9.

However, it was an unfortunate outing for Weijie-Ee Yi, who were unable to complete their men's doubles opening-round match against England's second seeds Ben Lane-Sean Vendy.

The Malaysians lost the first game 14-21 before retiring while trailing 7-11 in the second game after 20 minutes of play. - Bernama

RESULTS & STANDINGS

CARABAO CUP (4th round): **Bradford 2** (Gillespie 13, Phillips 67) **Peterborough 0**, **Fleetwood 1** (Loupalo-Bi 21) **Arsenal 1** (Gyokeres 50) - Fleetwood won 5-3 on pen.

COPA DEL REY (1st round/selected): Cuarte 0 Girona 2, Sestao 4 Espanyol 3, UD Pinatar 1 Elche 3, Manacor 0 Villarreal 5, Recreativo Huelva 2 Rayo Vallecano 3, Sporting de Alcazar 0 Malaga 3.

GERMAN CUP (2nd Round/selected): Bochum 2 Mainz 05 0, Sonnenhof Großaspach 2 Augsburg 4, Hamburger SV 1 Frankfurt 3, Rot-Weiss Essen 1 RB Leipzig 2, Dortmund 3 Werder Bremen 2, M'gladbach 2 Karlsruher SC 0, Cologne 5 Union Berlin 0.

SERIE A: Sassuolo 2 (Sutalo 7-og, Esposito 43) **Lazio 6** (Taylor 2, Isaksen 13, Floriani 17, Zaccagni 45+1, Noslin 55, 65), **Roma 4** (Lulli 15, Pisilli 21, Mora 85, Malen 87) **Cagliari 2** (M'Bala Nzola 10-pen, Maldini 81), **Torino 1** (Adams 24) **Como 3** (Ramon 81, Paz 87, Baturina 90+2).

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	9	8	1	0	22	7	25
Inter Milan	8	7	1	0	23	10	22
Roma	9	6	3	0	23	8	21
Como	9	6	2	1	17	8	20
AC Milan	8	5	3	0	16	7	18
Frosinone	8	4	2	2	17	13	14

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1947 2014	1740 2912
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2148 7338	7278 9153
3797 0416	5184 6598

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8243 + 9987 | **8243 + 2051**
9987 + 8243 | **9987 + 2051**
2051 + 8243 | **2051 + 9987**

Jackpot 2 **RM164,384.83**

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Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 **RM134,507.48**

PARTIALLY WON

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	4 3 8 7 5 1	
GROUP 2	4 3 8 7 5	OR 3 8 7 5 1
GROUP 3	4 3 8 7	OR 8 7 5 1
GROUP 4	4 3 8	OR 7 5 1
GROUP 5	4 3	OR 5 1
	OR 8 7	
GOLDEN NUMBER	1 2	

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit to www.magnumd4d.my for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY



Fleetwood whack

Arteta rues 'very sad day' as fourth-tier minnows dump Arsenal out of Carabao Cup



Fleetwood Town players celebrate after defeating Arsenal on penalties in the Carabao Cup fourth round at Highbury Stadium yesterday, while Gunners manager Mikel Arteta reacts to the result. – AFP/IC/REUTERSPIC

MIKEL ARTETA described Arsenal's stunning Carabao Cup defeat by fourth-tier Fleetwood as "a very sad day" after the Premier League champions suffered one of the most embarrassing results in their history.

Arteta's side crashed out 5-3 on penalties in an incredible fourth-round upset after the tie finished 1-1 in normal time, with goalkeeper Jay Lynch saving Bruno Guimaraes' spot-kick before Conor Haughey converted the decisive penalty.

Aaron Loupalo-Bi's first half goal had put Fleetwood ahead before Viktor Gyokeres equalised after the interval, but Arsenal could not find a winner despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances.

The Gunners' hopes were further damaged when 16-year-old Max Dowman was sent off in the closing stages for violent conduct following an altercation with Harrison Neal.

Arteta, who made nine changes with a Premier League trip to Liverpool looming, accepted that his side had failed to make their superiority count.

"First of all, congratulations to Fleetwood for going through the next round. The manner that they have done it, and for us a very sad day," he said.

"There is nothing to criticise the players for their attitude, their application. The determination, you could see that was there from the start, even with 10 men.

"But we conceded a really poor goal to start with that gave them some momentum. Obviously we have so much of the ball, so many chances, so many shots, and if you want the margins to be bigger than going to the penalties, you need to capitalise on that. And we didn't."

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard admitted the team had failed to meet expectations and urged his teammates to respond quickly.

"It's very frustrating to go out. Obviously, the way we've played was not on the level. We need to do much, much better than we did today," he said.

Odegaard acknowledged Fleetwood's achievement but said Arsenal had to take responsibility for their performance.

"They did well so we have to give them credit, but I think today was about

us not being on our level, we need to do better."

He added that the players must put the disappointment behind them with a major league fixture approaching.

"We can't feel sorry for ourselves. We need to move on – we have a big game at the weekend, so bounce



"Zero problem attitude-wise. Otherwise, I would be here absolutely fuming. I'm sad, I think we are all sad."

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta

ing back at the weekend is all we can do now."

Arteta insisted that a lack of effort was not the reason for the defeat, but admitted his players had failed to turn their dominance into goals.

"Zero problem attitude-wise. Otherwise, I would be here absolutely fuming. I'm sad, I think we are all sad," he said.

"We have a massive responsibility to carry this badge in the best possible

way. You don't capitalise, then you cannot go through to the next round. Unfortunately, we are out."

Asked about Dowman's dismissal, Arteta said he wanted to review the incident before making a judgement.

"It's difficult to see on the cameras like that, so I prefer to watch it back properly and then I can assess the situation," he said, adding that the teenager would learn from the experience.

For Fleetwood manager Matt Lawlor, the result was a landmark achievement against opponents ranked 84 places above them in the English football pyramid.

"I just can't believe it. The biggest night in the club's history in terms of opposition coming to town and we've managed to beat the champions," he said.

Lawlor acknowledged that his side could not expect to match Arsenal's quality by playing an expansive game, instead choosing to frustrate the visitors and exploit opportunities on the counter-attack.

"We're not stupid enough and not egotistical enough that you think we're

going to out-play the best team in the country and the most organised team in the country," he said.

"So we had to ride our luck, we had to deny space, we had to deny options for them. And I think we did that really, really well in terms of the majority of the game."

Lawlor also revealed that Fleetwood had not practised penalties before the shoot-out, making their composure from the spot all the more remarkable.

"We haven't practised once!" he said. "A 19-year-old centreback took the last one, and buried it!"

Lynch, who played a crucial role in the shoot-out, said the victory meant a great deal to the club and its supporters.

"My voice has gone! The whole team was magnificent, every one of them," the goalkeeper said.

The defeat ended Arsenal's hopes of winning the Carabao Cup for the first time since 1993, while Fleetwood advanced to the quarterfinals after a night of celebrations at Highbury Stadium.

For Arteta, attention must now turn quickly to the League campaign, with Arsenal needing to recover from a result that will rank among the most painful setbacks of his tenure. – AFP/Agencies