

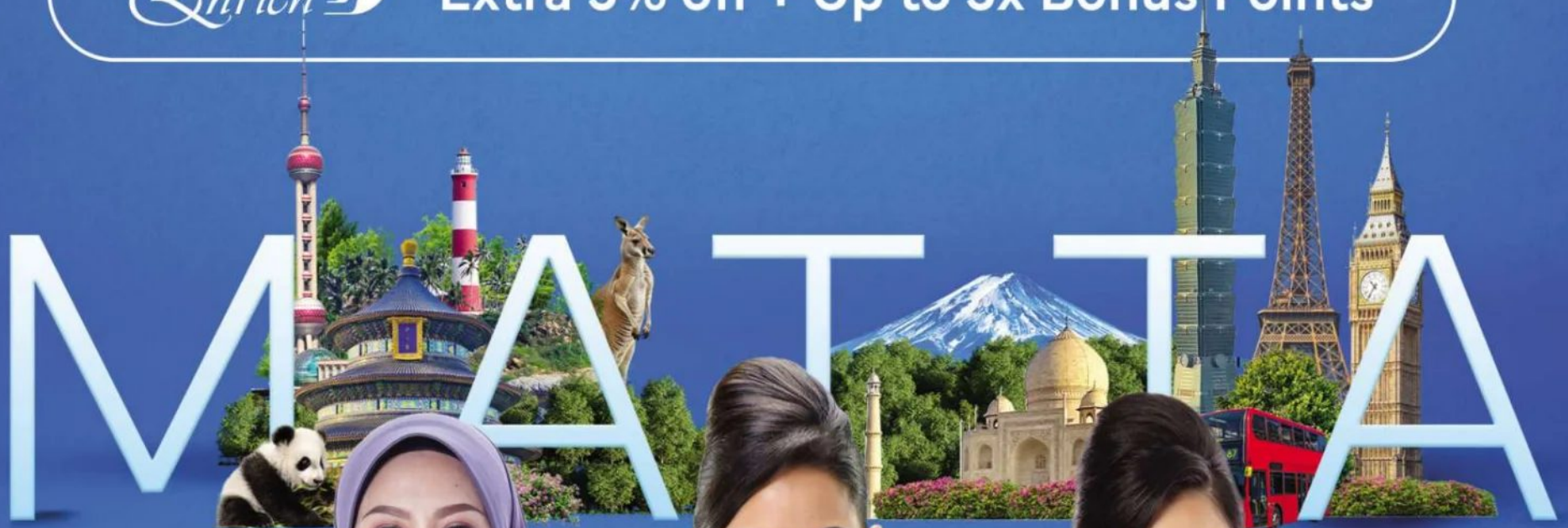
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Hyderabad	1,039	1,899
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Shanghai	1,039	3,759
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Mumbai	1,139	3,399
Chengdu	1,139	2,759
Seoul	1,739	4,199
Fukuoka	2,199	5,999
Osaka	2,299	6,199
Tokyo	2,299	5,999
Brisbane	2,319	8,319
Sydney	2,419	8,719
Melbourne	2,419	8,719
Paris	2,719	12,099
London	3,019	12,599
Auckland	3,419	9,919
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	Tawau	228
	Krabi	238
	Cebu	378
Subang	Alor Setar	108
	Penang	118
	Kota Bharu	118
	Johor Bahru	118
	Kuala Terengganu	118
	Langkawi	118
	Singapore (via Seletar)	168
Penang	Langkawi	78
	Kota Bharu	118
	Banda Aceh	178
	Phuket	188
Johor Bahru	Kuala Lumpur	78
	Subang	118



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Miracle rescue revives hope

Two workers pulled alive from tunnel after 10 days rekindle hope after Nepal's devastating disaster. >17

StarBiz 7

The leasehold dilemma

New leasehold projects attract strong demand, while ageing properties face growing challenges as tenures shorten.



StarLifestyle

Wanderlust wisdom

Seasoned travellers share insights on how travel style and preferences can evolve over the years. >2&3

Fomema's address ruling

Employers must now provide and verify accommodation details under a Fomema requirement that stakeholders say could improve tracking and accountability. But they also warn that it will increase administrative workload.

> Read reports on page 5 by
RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM



Poor visibility

Thick haze blanketing the main road in Serian, reducing motorists' visibility yesterday. Buildings, vehicles and roadside structures in the distance were barely visible through the smoky conditions. (Inset) Greenpeace and student activists protesting outside the Indonesian Embassy over the transboundary haze in Kuala Lumpur.

Photos: ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE/The Star and Reuters

Serian shuts down as API crosses 500

A state of emergency has been declared in Serian, Sarawak, after the air pollutant index there exceeded the very hazardous level of 500. Groups are calling for a Clean Air Act to extend environmental responsibility across borders. > Read reports on pages 2&3



Haze emergency declared in Serian

All workplaces in Sarawak town to be closed except for essential services

By GERARD GIMINO
and SHARON LING
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A state of emergency has been declared in Serian, Sarawak, due to the worsening haze situation there.

The Prime Minister's Office said His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, has consented to the declaration of the emergency.

"The decision was made after taking into account the advice of the Prime Minister and Premier of Sarawak, alongside related agencies, regarding air quality in the affected area," the PMO said in a statement.

It added that more effective measures will be taken to protect the health and welfare of affected residents.



"The government will continue monitoring the situation and ensure all necessary measures are taken immediately.

"These include mitigation measures as well as the dissemination of information and health advisories to the public," it said.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Deputy Premier Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas said the declaration of the haze emergency in Serian is meant to protect public health,

with only essential services allowed to operate.

He said the emergency is confined to Serian, where the air pollutant index (API) exceeded the very hazardous level of 500 yesterday.

"This emergency is not a lockdown like the movement control order during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is with the intention of keeping the public at home," he told reporters after chairing a Sarawak Disaster Management Committee meeting.

He said all government and private sector offices and other workplaces will be closed except for essential services such as supermarkets, petrol stations, banks and security forces.

"We hope that when the emergency is implemented, the public

in Serian will comply with it. Please take it seriously and look after your health," he said.

He added that Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Openg conveyed the state's request for an emergency declaration to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim when the API in Serian reached 521 at 2pm yesterday.

He said this was in accordance with the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) Directive No. 1, which stipulates the declaration of a haze emergency by the federal government with consent from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The emergency will remain in place until the API drops below 500, with the federal government to lift the emergency declaration.

Meanwhile, the state Education

Department said schools in 12 districts will remain closed next week in view of hazy conditions.

It said the temporary closure from Sept 7 to 11 affects 563 primary schools involving 108,477 pupils and 84 secondary schools with a total of 90,082 students in Kuching, Padawan, Bau, Lundu, Samarahan, Simunjan, Serian, Sri Aman, Lubok Antu, Kanowit, Julau and Meradong.

"Home-based teaching and learning will be implemented during the closure," it said in a statement.

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PM backs regulatory oversight on Tabung Haji

KUALA LUMPUR: The Prime Minister has backed a proposal by Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) to place its investment operations under regulatory oversight of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) or Bank Negara.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also Finance Minister, said the move would ensure that TH operations are subject to tighter regulation and to prevent power abuse and other governance-related issues in the future.

He said the initiative by TH's new management, led by its chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Hussain, is a positive step towards strengthening governance and accountability at the pilgrimage fund management institution.

"I have been briefed by them and support the measures, including several proposed amendments to the Tabung Haji Act 1995," he told reporters after performing Friday prayers at Masjid Bukit Indah in Ampang Jaya yesterday.

Anwar said the move would

ensure tighter oversight of TH's management by either the SC or Bank Negara, and prevent governance weaknesses from going unchecked.

On Thursday, Abdul Rashid said TH is refining a new regulatory framework to place its investment operations under statutory oversight of the SC.

He said the decision followed nearly six months of detailed deliberations by a joint task force established to examine the proposed regulatory framework.

The task force also comprises the SC chairman and Bank Negara Governor, with the aim of ensuring TH's investment management complies with Malaysia's capital market regulatory standards.

On another matter, the Prime Minister said he had asked the Rural and Regional Development and Finance Ministries to resolve issues concerning allocations, including delayed payments to contractors, through discussions.

"Let us discuss this amicably. I



Time to go: Anwar leaving Masjid Bukit Indah in Ampang Jaya after performing Friday prayers. — Bernama

have asked both ministries to resolve this properly," he said.

Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Johan Mahmood Merican had said there were no restrictions on the ministry's allocations for rural road projects, with the full allocation

for the projects having already been channelled.

He explained that constraints in the payment process to contractors are due to the current year's allocation having been almost fully utilised.

The issue arose following a statement by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi regarding problems faced by contractors following delays in payments for projects under his ministry.

Anwar to consider calling GE16 on an earlier date

KUALA LUMPUR: Calls for an earlier general election will be considered, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said the government is currently prioritising efforts to revive the economy, improve the people's well-being, and combat corruption and abuse of power.

Anwar also said the federal government is stable and has the mandate to continue governing and managing the country effectively.

"As I told the Cabinet on Wednesday, we have a mandate to govern the country, and to eradicate corruption and abuse of power," he said.

The Prime Minister said efforts to tackle corruption and power abuse are not based on race or aimed at protecting the position of any particular group.

"Whether they are Malay, Chinese or Indian, or from Sabah or Sarawak, this is not a matter of race, protecting positions or any particular group.

"Despite the risks and pressure I face, I ask the people to pray that we can continue our efforts to clean up the country," Anwar added.

Meanwhile, Barisan Nasional is still committed to the unity government and maintaining the country's stability as previously promised, said its secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

He said although Umno and Barisan may want an earlier election, it does not mean "we are

overconfident that we will win and form the government".

"Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has also stressed many times that this country needs to remain stable and he has made a clear commitment," Zambry added, referring to the Deputy Prime Minister and Barisan chairman.

"The question of poking holes in the roof does not arise at all because we are committed to maintaining this government until the election date is

announced," he said.

It was reported earlier that Ahmad Zahid had voiced support for an earlier 16th General Election.

The current 15th Parliament is expected to reach its full term on Dec 18, 2027.

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WEATHER

	GEORGE TOWN	K. LUMPUR	JOHOR BARU	KOTA BARU	K. KINABALU	KUCHING
AM	No rain	Haze	No rain	No rain	Haze	Haze
PM	Thunderstorms	Haze	No rain	Thunderstorms	Haze	Isolated thunderstorms

PRAYER TIMES

ALOR SETAR	PENANG	K. LUMPUR	JOHOR BARU	KUANTAN	KOTA BARU
Subuh 6:02	Subuh 6:03	Subuh 5:59	Subuh 5:52	Subuh 5:54	Subuh 5:55
Zohor 1:20	Zohor 1:20	Zohor 1:15	Zohor 1:07	Zohor 1:10	Zohor 1:12
Asar 4:21	Asar 4:22	Asar 4:21	Asar 4:15	Asar 4:16	Asar 4:14
Maghrib 7:25	Maghrib 7:24	Maghrib 7:19	Maghrib 7:09	Maghrib 7:13	Maghrib 7:18
Ishyak 8:35	Ishyak 8:34	Ishyak 8:28	Ishyak 8:18	Ishyak 8:22	Ishyak 8:23

Nationwide Air Pollutant Index (API) readings (As of 8pm yesterday)API reading categories: Good **0-50** | Moderate **51-100** | Unhealthy **101-200** | Very unhealthy **201-300** | Hazardous **Above 300**

498	298	245	183	154	69	67	78	75	62	32	35	59	81	93	155	153
Serian, Sarawak	Kuching, Sarawak	Seri Aman, Sarawak	Sibu, Sarawak	Miri, Sarawak	Cheras, FT K. Lumpur	FT Putrajaya	Johan Setia, Selangor	Shah Alam, Selangor	Petaling Jaya, Selangor	Sg. Petani, Kedah	Seberang Perai, Penang	Tanjung Malim, Perak	Seremban, N. Sembilan	Bukit Rambai, Melaka	Pasir Gudang, Johor	Larkin, Johor

Source: Air Pollution Index Management System (Apims)

'Take environmental action beyond borders'

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia should introduce a comprehensive Clean Air Act to hold citizens and businesses accountable when their overseas operations contribute to air pollution, environmental groups say.

Greenpeace Malaysia country representative Heng Kiah Chun said such legislation would deter irresponsible practices that increase fire risks, reinforcing public confidence that environmental responsibility extends across borders.

He said this was recommended by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) in its report titled "Silent Enemy: Haze Pollution and the Right to Clean Air".

Heng said the haze crisis is also a matter of corporate accountability and governance.

"Malaysia can demonstrate regional leadership by promoting responsible plantation practice and ensuring Malaysian-linked companies uphold the highest environmental standards wherever they operate."

While acknowledging that the Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution remains an important framework, Heng said further action is needed to address recurring haze episodes.

He noted that the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and the National Planetary Health Action Plan put Malaysia on the right track.

These recommendations, Heng stated, were also included in a letter that was sent to Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri

Arthur Joseph Kurup.

"The question is not whether another haze season will come, but whether we will act early enough to reduce its impacts on people, communities and the environment," said Heng.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia president Meenakshi Raman endorsed calls for a Clean Air Act, stating it would hold Malaysian entities accountable for transboundary impacts abroad.

"Both governments must explain why they cannot stop this. If Malaysian companies contribute to the problem, our authorities must act jointly with Indonesia to hold them accountable."

"Indonesian enforcement agencies must also act with greater rigour rather than allowing this annual problem – exacerbated by the El Nino phenomenon – to con-

tinue," she said.

Beyond the existing Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, Meenakshi proposed an additional regional platform incorporating civil society organisations.

"Asean environment ministers and the Asean Secretariat must act forcefully," she said.

This comes as Serian in Sarawak recorded an Air Pollutant Index reading of 521 at 2pm yesterday putting air quality there in the hazardous category.

It is also the highest API reading recorded ever since the transboundary haze episode began in the middle of this year.



NGOs hold haze protest at Indonesian embassy

KUALA LUMPUR: Two NGOs staged a protest outside the Indonesian Embassy here on the haze situation, expressing solidarity with the affected communities and concern over the loss of wildlife.

Greenpeace Malaysia and Himpunan Advocacy Rakyat Malaysia (Haram) also handed a memorandum urging the Indonesian government to make public critical information on fire locations, investigation findings and concession ownership.

"This protest is not about blaming Indonesia for the haze. We are here because the Indonesian government holds information that could help us understand who is responsible."

"We are asking them to publicly disclose that evidence," Greenpeace Malaysia campaign lead Heng Kiah Chun said in a statement yesterday.

If Malaysian companies were implicated, the organisation will demand that the Malaysian government holds them accountable.

"The haze does not stop at Indonesia's borders, and neither should accountability," he said.

Haram spokesperson Brendon Gan said there were loopholes in the system which enabled large-scale plantations to burn land with no legal repercussions.

"This is not a climate problem, it is an enforcement and political problem," he added.

In their memorandum, both organisations called on the Indonesian government to formally disclose concession maps, hotspots and fire investigation data, and other evidence in its possession identifying Malaysian-linked companies associated with fires and haze in Indonesia.

Greenpeace Malaysia and Haram also urged the Malaysian government to act on credible evidence shared by Indonesia to ensure Malaysian companies did not evade accountability for environmental harm.

It was reported that Indonesian authorities were investigating 19 companies linked to wildfires in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

Reports stated that Indonesia identified fires covering a total of 11,047ha across seven provinces in concessions managed by the 19 companies.



Air quality turns hazardous



Dangerous turn: The Sarawak Government Administrative Centre in Serian shrouded in thick haze. — ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE/The Star

API soars to 521 as haze crisis worsens across parts of S'wak

By **GERARD GIMINO**
gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The haze crisis in Sarawak is intensifying, with Serian recording an Air Pollutant Index (API) of 521 at 2pm – the highest recorded since transboundary haze impacted Malaysia this time.

The reading yesterday puts air quality firmly in the hazardous category in the Sarawak town located 64km south-east of Kuching.

At press time, two other locations in Sarawak – Samarahan and Sri Aman – recorded very unhealthy air quality with API readings recorded at 288 and 239 respectively.

Hazardous API readings range from 300 upwards, while very unhealthy readings range between 201 and 300.

Unhealthy air quality was

recorded at 13 locations nationwide, with API readings ranging between 101 and 200.

In Sarawak, the locations were Sarikei (183), Sibu (181), Mukah (178), Bintulu (159), Samalaju (153) and ILP Miri (152).

In Sabah, the three impacted locations were Tawau (153), Politeknik Kota Kinabalu (151) and Sandakan (128).

There were four locations with unhealthy air quality in Johor – Pasir Gudang (151), Kota Tinggi (129), Larkin (126) and Segamat (116).

The highest API readings recorded in Malaysia were in 1997, 2005 and 2013. In 1997, a reading of 839 was recorded in Kuching and eastern Sarawak, subsequently resulting in an emergency declaration.

A state of emergency was also announced in 2005 for Kuala Selangor and Port Klang when the

API exceeded 500.

In 2013, an emergency was declared in Muar and Ledang (now known as Tangkak) after API readings there exceeded 750.

In its latest update, the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) said scattered to widespread hotspots were detected in Kalimantan and the southern and central parts of Sumatra.

"Moderate to dense transboundary haze was observed over northern parts of Borneo and the southwestern parts of the Philippines."

"Moderate to dense smoke plumes were also observed in many parts of Kalimantan, central and southern parts of Sumatra and central parts of Sarawak," it said.

The ASMC said dry conditions were forecast over many parts of the southern Asean region, apart from northern parts of Peninsular

Malaysia, Sumatra and central parts of Borneo.

"The hotspot and smoke haze situation is expected to stay elevated in fire-prone regions experiencing prolonged dry conditions, with a continued risk of severe transboundary haze occurrence," ASMC stated.

An image from National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Aqua satellite showed smoke covering much of Indonesia and Malaysia on Sept 1.

"Fires are smouldering on the surface and underground in Indonesia, which is in a severe and widespread drought."

"Some of these are tropical peatland fires, which burn slowly, release higher amounts of air pollution and are notoriously difficult to extinguish because they often burn underground," a caption accompanying the image uploaded on social media stated.

Budget 2027 a readiness test

Govt to empower youth in handling an ageing population

KUALA LUMPUR: The structure of the country's preparedness towards becoming an ageing nation will be examined under Budget 2027, says the Economy Minister.

Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir (pic) said this step is essential to ensure sustainable economic growth while empowering the next generation.

"The younger generation must shoulder greater responsibility for maintaining economic momentum and national growth.

"To delve into this issue, the Economy Ministry is examining the structure of the country's pre-

paredness for an ageing population, not only focusing on managing an elderly population but also preparing the younger generation for their future well-being," he said after officiating the *Junior Innovathon: Di Sini Inovasi Bermula* event here yesterday, Bernama reported.

Regarding youth development, Akmal Nasrullah said the ministry aims to broaden exposure to specialised programmes and highlight economic opportunities



he said.

The minister said education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) needed to be strengthened through talent

that were previously unclear to them.

"We want to create avenues for young people to explore sectors previously closed to them, particularly equity markets and asset ownership.

"This will allow them to gain experience and venture into emerging industries,"

development from the grassroots level.

"We are prioritising talent development by equipping youth with the skills needed for high-growth, high-value industries, while simultaneously boosting R&D funding for commercial application rather than purely academic pursuits," he added.

Junior Innovathon Season Two, an RTM-produced television show, begins airing on Sept 20.

The series features the top 50 teams selected from 2,092 entries, culminating in the final championship broadcast on Nov 1.

M'sia seeks greater e-commerce access in China

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has proposed a stronger two-way cross-border e-commerce partnership with China to enable more high-quality local products to penetrate the vast Chinese market.

Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Steven Sim (pic) said while

Malaysian consumers enjoy access to Chinese goods, a more balanced two-way trade mechanism would allow Malaysian businesses to directly reach Chinese consumers.

"Many Malaysian products are already well received in China, including durian-based items, bird's nest, white coffee, handicraft and batik.

"Malaysia wants to build on this demand through stronger e-commerce linkages," he said during the opening of the 21st China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair (CISMEF) and the launch of the Malaysia Pavilion in Guangzhou, China, yesterday.

Sim, who is currently leading an international trade mission to the city, also pursued the proposal during his visit to Alibaba Group to explore direct e-commerce linkages for local entrepreneurs.

Highlighting the trade performance of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Sim noted that Malaysian MSME exports reached RM214.5bil in 2025, up 10.5% year-on-year, accounting for nearly 15% of the country's total exports.

The figures demonstrate local MSMEs are capable of meeting global standards, and the key focus now is providing them with greater access to international markets, he said, Bernama reported.



Zambry urges human-centric AI study in varsities

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TheStarTV.com



KUALA LUMPUR: Artificial intelligence (AI) must be integrated into university curricula without compromising students' critical thinking and humanity, says Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

He noted that the upcoming Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint 2026-2035 will focus heavily on producing "human-centric" graduates.

"AI is an essential tool that is already reshaping our universities and workplaces.

"However, we cannot simply rely on AI at the expense of our humanity," he said after launching Asia Pacific University's (APU) AI Supercomputing Lab yesterday.

Zambry added that higher education institutions must continu-



Men and machines:

Zambry (second from left) attending the launch of AI Supercomputing Lab Powered by NVIDIA DGX Spark Spine at Asia Pacific University in Kuala Lumpur. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

ously review their curricula and pedagogies to adapt to AI's growing role in knowledge production and problem-solving.

Powered by NVIDIA infrastructure, the newly launched facility marks Malaysia's first university lab capable of locally processing

AI models with up to 200 billion parameters.

APU chief executive officer Datuk Parmjit Singh said the facility gives students, academics and researchers direct access to high-performance computing for generative AI, machine learning

and emerging agentic AI applications.

"This level of computing power allows students to experiment with larger models, tackle complex problems and turn ideas into working solutions for an AI-driven economy," he said.

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Foreign worker registration to get new address check

PETALING JAYA: Employers will be required to provide and verify the accommodation addresses of their foreign workers when registering them for the mandatory medical examination under a new requirement taking effect on Monday.

The requirement will be implemented through the Foreign Workers Medical Examination System (Fomema) online portal.

Employers and panel agencies will have to review and confirm the accommodation address of each foreign worker before completing the registration.

In a memo, Fomema said the requirement was aimed at ensuring the information submitted

through its online system was accurate and up to date.

"Employers and panel agencies must review and confirm each foreign worker's accommodation address.

"If the address is incorrect or no longer current, it must be updated before registration can proceed," it added.

The new requirement means employers will not be able to complete the registration process until the worker's accommodation address has been confirmed or, where necessary, updated.

Fomema also reminded employers and panel agencies to ensure that all information relat-

ing to foreign workers, including their accommodation addresses, was current, accurate and complete.

The move comes as the authorities continue to place emphasis on accurate information of foreign workers, particularly their employment and accommodation details.

Fomema is the private company appointed by the Health Ministry to manage the foreign worker medical examination system, which is part of the process for foreign workers seeking to work or continue working in Malaysia.

Under the system, employers and authorised agencies use the

Fomema online portal to carry out various administrative procedures related to foreign workers' medical examinations.

These include registering foreign workers, purchasing medical examination forms and insurance, requesting change of employers and submitting amendments to workers' information.

The portal also enables users to generate invoices for online registrations, submit refund requests, check medical examination results and monitor the status of appeals.

The accommodation address requirement will therefore form an additional step that employers

and panel agencies must complete before a foreign worker's registration can be finalised.

Fomema said registrations would not be allowed to proceed if the accommodation address had not been confirmed or updated.

Employers are therefore advised to check their foreign workers' records and ensure that the accommodation information submitted through the portal reflects their current place of residence before starting the registration process.

The Star has contacted Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan for comments on the new requirement.

Better tracking, heavier load

Bosses welcome address verification, but raise compliance concerns

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
raga@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A new requirement for employers to declare and verify foreign workers' accommodation addresses through the Foreign Workers Medical Examination System (Fomema) portal will increase administrative workloads but should improve worker tracking, stakeholders say.

Yayasan Nishana chairman Nivas Ragavan noted that requiring address confirmation helps authorities maintain an accurate database of migrant worker residences.

"This is important for worker welfare, enforcement, immigration management, public safety and emergency response," Nivas said.

"Having an updated address gives authorities far better visibility over worker movement and placement."

Under the directive, employers must submit and verify accommodation addresses when registering foreign workers for medical screening via Fomema's online portal.

He added that the system will help enforcement agencies track undeclared address changes or overcrowded housing.

"However, from an employer's perspective, this creates an ongoing compliance duty. Companies with large foreign workforces must ensure records are updated whenever housing changes," Nivas noted.

Yayasan Nishana is a Malaysian foundation providing business support, grants and loans to micro, small and medium enterprises.

Nivas warned that the directive could prove challenging for sectors with mobile workforces, such as construction, manufacturing, plantations, services and project-based operations.

"The core challenge lies in maintaining information accuracy on an ongoing basis rather than the initial registration.

"Employers must not treat this as a one-off exercise. They need internal monitoring systems to ensure Fomema records remain up to date," Nivas said.



Keeping record: A file photo of a purpose-built foreign workers' hostel in Batu Maung, Penang, that can house up to 9,000 workers. Under a new directive, employers must submit and verify accommodation addresses when registering foreign workers for medical screening. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

He welcomed the rule as a step towards stronger governance, provided implementation remains practical.

"It creates greater accountability for employers while improving visibility for authorities," he added.

"This initiative will also support national efforts to combat human trafficking and improve Malaysia's standing in the US Trafficking in Persons report."

SME Association of Malaysia national president Dr Chin Chee Seong, however, called for greater clarity on the directive, saying no reason had been given for the new requirement.

He urged the government to

defer implementation until consultation sessions are held with recruitment agencies and trade associations.

"This will be cumbersome for employers and agents alike," Chin said.

"Fomema is a medical screening body, whereas worker housing falls under the purview of the Human Resources Ministry."

Malaysian Employers Federation president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman supported the move, saying it was important to ensure all data on foreign workers remained accurate and current.

"As employers, we are account-

able for our labour force and we must be able to reach them anytime.

"This is good for all parties — employees, employers and the government.

"Data accuracy is mandatory to track foreign workers," he added.

Syed Hussain said the requirement was an administrative matter that could be managed with proper communication and record-keeping.

"We do not think this is a real challenge. It is administrative and can be managed if proper communication is given to the workers to update all personal data," he added.

MACC stops using orange lock-up attire for court trips

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has suspended the use of orange lock-up attire for suspects when they are brought to court, effective immediately.

MACC chief commissioner Datuk Seri Abd Halim Aman said the decision was made following recent developments and recommendations concerning procedures for handling suspects, particularly when they are brought to court.

"Suspects are allowed to wear their own clothes when brought to court, while lock-up attire will only be worn in the lock-up," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the use of handcuffs would depend on the circumstances, but they would not be used on elderly suspects, children, persons with disabilities and those who are frail.

"The commission remains committed to ensuring that all actions taken in handling suspects are carried out professionally, with integrity and prudence, as well as in accordance with the law and established procedures," he added.

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is of the view that individuals detained during an investigation do not need to wear the orange detention garb during the remand period before they are formally charged in court.

The Prime Minister said the practice should be reconsidered to avoid creating negative public perceptions of individuals who remain under investigation and have yet to face any charges.

"I have said that before prosecution, or before a person is brought to court and charged, there is no need to wear orange detention garb," he told reporters after Friday prayers at Masjid Bukit Indah in Ampang Jaya.

On Tuesday, a former minister was brought to court wearing the MACC's orange lock-up attire for a remand application in connection with an investigation into a hotel lease involving Lembaga Tabung Haji in Saudi Arabia.

Smart Durian Fast Track system being explored

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysian fresh durians could potentially clear customs in China within three to four hours under a proposed fast-track mechanism.

The mechanism is currently being explored by Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB), China Henan Aviation Group Co Ltd and Tropika Makmur Manufacturing Sdn Bhd (TMM).

According to MAHB, the proposed "inspect-on-arrival and release-upon-compliance" model under KUL-CGO Smart Durian Fast Track would enable the entire process, from aircraft arrival to document formalities

and cargo collection, to take only three to four hours.

The initiative is being explored under an MOU signed by the three parties at the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Show 2026 at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang yesterday, Bernama reported.

MAHB, in a statement, said the initiative aimed to facilitate faster, more visible and better-coordinated movement of Malaysian durians and other time-sensitive agricultural products between Kuala Lumpur International Airport and Zhengzhou Xingzheng International Airport.

"The Smart Durian Fast Track will explore improvements spanning handling and inspection, free zone access, customs coordination, permit and certification visibility," it added.

Moving forward, the two airports will use the Malaysia Durian and Tropical Fruit Export Centre as the pilot entity to jointly explore the establishment of the Smart Durian Fast Track.

MAHB said the initiative would involve developing a dedicated corridor and platform to optimise cross-border transportation and cold-chain logistics solutions for Malaysian fresh durians.

Its managing director Datuk Mohd Izani Ghani said the collaboration brought together the airport, aviation and agri-trade ecosystems to enable Malaysian perishables to move through the supply chain efficiently.

"Through this collaboration, we are bringing together the airport, aviation and agri-trade ecosystems to enable Malaysian perishables to move through the supply chain more efficiently, with greater visibility and predictability.

"Through the Smart Durian Fast Track, KLIA will serve as a practical test bed to advance a

more seamless cargo journey within the broader Transport Ministry-led Air Cargo Reform," he said.

TMM chairman Datuk Suffian Awang said Malaysia's durian exports had grown into a billion-ringgit industry, reaching RM1.51bil in 2023, with China accounting for RM1.19bil.

"By providing a shared platform that brings together handling, logistics and export processes, we hope to lower barriers to market, broaden participation and enable more Malaysian durian growers and traders to access China efficiently," he said.

Crystal clear memories of 2013 haze

Johor folk recall emergency and its dire impact on their lives

By **VENESA DEVI**
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JOHOR BARU: The haze situation in Serian, Sarawak, brought shudders to people in Muar and Tangkak, Johor, as they recalled how they endured a severe haze that blanketed the districts 13 years ago.

Watery eyes, sore throats and indoor confinement remain vivid memories for them.

Residents recalled how a state of emergency was declared in the districts of Muar and Tangkak (then known as Ledang) on June 23, 2013, after the Air Pollutant Index (API) exceeded 750 at 7am that Sunday morning.

Former banana fritter stall operator Amirudin Amat, 50, clearly remembers the acrid air.

"My eyes watered, and my throat felt sore and irritated. It was so uncomfortable that we avoided going outside unless necessary. I had never experienced such thick haze, and I never wish to again," he said.



Worst of times: Amirudin (left) and Woo remember how the haze made life difficult for them and their families back in 2013.

"We spent most of our time indoors. Even hanging laundry outside was impossible because clothes would be covered in ash and dust from the haze."

His daily income took a hit when he had to close his stall during the emergency, while his three children – then aged between eight and 12 – were forced to stay home.

Amirudin, who now supplies nipah leaves to otak-otak traders, recounted that visibility dropped to just a few metres.



Shady sight: Sandakan city centre appears hazy from Pantai Pasir Putih. The official Air Pollutant Index Management System recorded an unhealthy reading of 153 in the district. — Bernama



On June 23, 2013, an emergency was declared in Muar and Ledang after API readings there exceeded 750.

Based on the API, a reading of 0-50 is categorised as good, 51 to 100 (moderate), 101-200 (unhealthy), 201 to 300 (very unhealthy), and 300 and above hazardous.

Calvin Woo, 31, had just completed secondary school and was learning to drive while waiting for university intake when the haze enveloped his neighbourhood.

"My brother missed classes when schools closed and I had to postpone driving lessons as only essential businesses remained open," he said.

Woo, now a government agency director, said his family closely monitored official announcements.

"We were advised to stay indoors. Thankfully, we had air conditioning at home – a privilege not everyone shared – but even then, the air felt stifling and sleeping was difficult," he said, describing

it as the worst haze crisis he has ever experienced.

Salesperson K. Shalini, 31, then a college student in Tangkak, recalled anxiously checking every morning for signs of clear sky.

"The emergency lasted a couple of days, but the thick haze persisted both before and after the declaration," she said.

Remaining in her hostel with fellow students rather than travelling home, she watched the air remain heavy for far longer than expected.

"I still remember the sheer relief when clean air finally returned – it made me appreciate clean air so much more," she added.

Farmers feel the heat as vegetables and fruits wilt

By **TARRENCE TAN**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The hot spell is proving to be painful for vegetable and fruit farmers, too.

They are expecting lower harvests and profits as the plants wilt under the heat, and they have to water their fields more often.

The farmers have little choice but to water their fields more frequently and put up nets to shield their crops, further increasing their expenses.

Federation of Vegetable Far-

mers Associations Malaysia president Lim Ser Kwee said the hot weather was a concern for those cultivating leafy vegetables.

"Farmers are increasing irrigation, watering early in the morning and late in the afternoon, and using shade nets.

"They are also closely monitoring their crops and adjusting farming practices to minimise heat stress. However, these measures come with additional costs, especially for water, electricity, diesel and labour," he said.

Lim said water availability was also a concern in some areas.

"Without enough water, farmers may have no choice but to reduce planting or risk losing their crops," he added.

He hoped the government would assist farmers with irrigation and water storage facilities, or by cushioning the cost of electricity and diesel.

"Domestic vegetable production is directly linked to Malaysia's food security. During extreme weather, helping farmers survive will help ensure a stable supply of vegetables for consumers," he said.

Fruit Farmers Association

vice-president Nicholas Chong said their growers were also watering more frequently, particularly younger trees, and irrigating in the early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.

Chong said farmers with their own ponds or water storage facilities were better prepared than those relying on normal water supply.

"The main concern is not about having enough water, but whether the supply can last if the hot spell continues," he said.

He said a prolonged dry spell could stress trees, disrupt flower-

ing and fruit development, and affect profits.

"Farmers need assistance with irrigation and water storage facilities. Weather patterns are becoming less predictable, so they need to be better prepared," he said.

The hot and dry conditions coincide with the southwest monsoon season, which usually leads to lower rainfall between late May and September.

The situation could be further compounded by a super El Nino which is expected to be felt by the end of this year.

Six linked to pilot arrested

Suspects believed to have supplied drugs in trafficking case

By **FARIK ZOLKEPLI**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Six men have been detained in connection with a drug trafficking case involving a Malaysian pilot who was arrested in Indonesia for allegedly smuggling drugs worth RM45mil.

Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) director Comm Datuk Hussein Omar Khan (pic) said four of the six suspects tried to flee the country after learning of the 39-year-old co-pilot's arrest at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta.

"All six suspects, aged between 23 and 50, were arrested in a special operation conducted by the NCID between Aug 20 and 28.

"Of the six, who are all

Malaysians, four were found to have fled overseas, with two going to Thailand and another two to Vietnam," he said when contacted yesterday.

Comm Hussein said the duo who fled to Thailand were arrested after returning to Malaysia via ferry in Kuala Langkawi.

The two who fled to Vietnam were arrested upon their return at Penang International Airport in Bayan Lepas.

"The other two suspects were arrested in Bukit Mertajam and Klang," he said.

The six were arrested based on information obtained during the



questioning of the pilot by a team of NCID officers sent to Jakarta on Aug 11 to 15.

The suspects are believed to be suppliers and couriers who provided drugs to the pilot.

They are held under the Dangerous Drugs (Special Preventive Measures) Act, which allows police to detain suspects for up to 60 days to facilitate investigations before further detention orders are issued.

Comm Hussein said some of the findings from the investigation would be shared with the Indonesian National Police.

The pilot was detained at the international arrival hall of

Soekarno-Hatta International Airport after arriving from Kuala Lumpur on Malaysia Airlines Flight MH727 in July.

Indonesian customs officers found 14 packages containing 70,114 ecstasy pills weighing about 25kg in his luggage, as well as 4g of methamphetamine in his carry-on belongings.

In a separate case, Comm Hussein confirmed that a 62-year-old Malaysian man from Selangor was detained in India after 3.42kg of hydroponic cannabis was found in a secret compartment of his luggage at Chennai International Airport.

NCID was informed by India's Narcotics Control Bureau about the arrest of the suspect, who had travelled from KL International Airport Terminal 2 on Aug 31.

T'ganu to hold talks on Pulau Redang reef damage

KUALA NERUS: The Terengganu government will hold an engagement session next week with stakeholders – including the Fisheries Department, tourism operators and researchers – to address coral reef damage at Pulau Redang.

Scheduled from Sept 7 to 9, the session aims to obtain an accurate assessment of the reefs and identify key measures to preserve the island's marine ecosystem.

Discussions will cover boat operations and relocation, alongside proposals to cap tourist numbers and diving activities, said state tourism, culture, environment and climate change committee chairman Datuk Razali Idris.

"We will examine all relevant issues. If we do not act now, I am convinced that in 20 to 25 years, Pulau Redang's underwater attractions could be lost forever," he told Bernama yesterday.

"I will spend three days there diving and inspecting the reefs, which are reported to have suffered severe damage."

However, Razali noted that preliminary Fisheries Department data indicates the damage remains manageable, though ongoing restoration is necessary.

He stressed that reef degradation in marine park areas stems largely from natural factors rather than tourism activities, contrary to recent allegations.

Call to reduce lighting along Rantau Abang

KUALA NERUS: Tourism operators and business owners along the Rantau Abang coastline in Terengganu have been advised to reduce lighting to avoid disturbing the expected return of nesting leatherback turtles.

State tourism, culture, environment and climate change committee chairman Datuk Razali Idris said the recent reappearance of the critically endangered turtles along Pasir Putih Beach in Marang had renewed hope for the state's conservation efforts and tourism sector.

Based on the experience and traditional knowledge of locals, the world's largest turtles usually come ashore at the same location three times during a nesting season to lay eggs.

"I visited the turtle hatchery in Rantau Abang on Thursday to observe the situation and advise tourism operators and residents to manage lighting and scale back activities during the nesting sea-



Making a comeback: A female leatherback turtle in Rantau Abang. The animals come ashore three times during a nesting season to lay eggs.

son along this stretch of coastline.

"According to the experience of those who have long worked with these turtles, they will return to the same location three times during a season.

"This means there are two more occasions before the turtle nesting season ends in November," he said

after the flagging-off ceremony for the Terengganu Merdeka Challenger programme yesterday, Bernama reported.

Razali said he had reminded fishermen to exercise caution to prevent turtle deaths caused by entanglement in fishing nets.

He said efforts to maintain

beach cleanliness and environmental sustainability must also be intensified to encourage leatherback turtles to return to Rantau Abang and revitalise the area as a key tourism attraction.

"In the 1980s, Rantau Abang was renowned as a nesting site for leatherback turtles.

"However, we were too reckless by holding festivals, using excessive lighting and even climbing onto the turtles' backs, which drove the animals to the brink of extinction," he added.

Climate Pause

Rising sea levels due to global warming can flood and erode the beaches that turtles use for nesting.

Keeping a statesman's legacy alive

KUALA LUMPUR: Efforts to preserve the legacy and contributions of former prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein will take centre stage at a special event.

Organised by the National Unity Ministry through the National Archives of Malaysia, "Remembering Statesman Tun Abdul Razak: Architect of National Development and Nation-Building" will be held at the Tun Abdul Razak Memorial.

It is an annual effort to elevate and appreciate the legacy and contributions of statesmen to the country, as well as serving as one of the components of the 2026 National Day and Malaysia Day celebrations.

"This initiative reflects the ministry's commitment to highlighting the role, contributions and services of Tun Abdul Razak as a statesman who laid the solid foundations for national development, public unity and nation-building," it said in a statement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will officiate the event on Sept 8.

National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang stressed that younger generations must study history to advance as a nation.

"History is not merely to be remembered, but appreciated and used as a guide," Aaron said.

Third teen's body found in Tanjung Lompat drowning

By **VENESA DEVI**
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KOTA TINGGI: The body of a third 16-year-old boy who went missing while swimming at Pantai Tanjung Lompat on Wednesday has been found.

Tanjung Sedili Maritime Zone acting director Maritime Commander Mohd Najib Sam said the body of Muhammad Adib Hafiy Kamal was recovered at about 11.15am yesterday.

"The victim was spotted by a Tanjung Lompat Recreation Association boat about 0.5 nautical miles (900m) south-east of Tanjung Siang," Mohd Najib said in a statement.

"The body was recovered by a Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) vessel before being transferred to a Fire and Rescue Department boat and brought ashore, where family members identified the victim."

Mohd Najib added that the



Still searching: Members of the search and rescue team attending a briefing before starting the search for the last missing teenager.

body was sent to Hospital Kota Tinggi for a post-mortem, while the search for the remaining missing teenager continues.

The search-and-rescue operation resumed at 7am, with the coverage area expanded to 103 square nautical miles (353sq km)

based on current drift assessments.

A total of 61 personnel from various agencies are participating in the operation, including the MMEA, Fire and Rescue Department, police, Marine Police, Civil Defence Force and

Health Ministry.

The effort is supported by the local community, with four boats from the Tanjung Lompat Recreation Association assisting.

Mohd Najib noted that the search radius will be adjusted continuously based on weather, sea currents and ground reports.

It was reported that six boys from a group of 15 who went camping at Pantai Tanjung Lompat near Tanjung Balau got into trouble while swimming on Wednesday.

Two of them, Mohamad Faqru Isqandar Abdullah and Muhammad Afiq Ruzaini Mazlan, both 16, were rescued by beach-goers.

The body of Alif Taquuddin Kamal Hasrul, 16, was found later that day, while the body of Muhammad Thaqif Rayyan Romainoor, 16, was found on Thursday.

Mohamad Haiman Fitri Supian, 16, is still missing.

History lessons one step at a time

Ex-teacher brings Ipoh's colourful past to life

By ANNABELLE LAWRENCE
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IPOH: Driven by a passion for teaching, S. Sundralingam has taken his lessons from the classroom to the pavement.

The former educator, who spent three decades in schools, now works as a full-time heritage guide leading walking tours through this historic former mining town.

For him, the walking tours bring history lessons to life along the streets of Ipoh.

Sundralingam enjoys sharing little-known local lore, such as the underground tunnel believed to connect the Ipoh Railway Station – nicknamed the “Taj Mahal of Ipoh” – to the High Court and the Ipoh Town Hall, which formerly served as a police station and lock-up.

Designed by British architect Arthur Benison Hubback and opened in the early 20th century, the station's subterranean link was built during the colonial era to move prisoners securely between the courthouse and nearby administrative buildings.

Visitors frequently ask about the station's construction materi-

als and the origin of its famous moniker.

According to Sundralingam, Hubback stopped in India in 1895 en route to Malaya, where he was inspired by Mughal architecture and its prominent domes.

Local residents noted the architectural similarities upon its completion and bestowed the nickname.

Another common query centres on where to find the best local cuisine.

Sundralingam routinely directs guests to Ipoh Old Town, pointing out eateries around Kong Heng Square and nearby Concubine Lane that serve iconic local dishes such as popiah, shredded chicken noodles and chee cheong fun.

Beyond culinary attractions, however, his favourite narrative involves Ipoh's transformation during the Kinta Valley tin-mining boom, an era that drew diverse communities and turned a quiet valley into a thriving commercial hub.

Sundralingam, 69, notes that Ipoh's blend of heritage, food and natural topography sets it apart from other Malaysian cities, with the Kinta River Valley and surrounding limestone karst hills

providing a distinctive backdrop.

Foreign tourists are especially eager to explore local history, with tour groups – ranging from solitary travellers to groups of 30 – attracting global visitors.

Notable past participants include an Australian TV presenter, US Air Force pilots, embassy officials, and a British High Court judge alongside his family.

“The old colonial buildings and pre-war structures usually surprise visitors,” he said.

Highlighting an overlooked landmark with a rich history, he points to a pre-war shophouse at 7 Hale Street (now Jalan Tun Sambanthan).

The building once housed the law firm of DR Seenivasagam, an illustrious lawyer and politician celebrated for his legal battles.

“It was in this pre-war building that the Seenivasagam brothers founded the People's Progressive Party (PPP) in 1953.”

Sundralingam first developed the heritage walks in 2010 while serving as secretary of the Perak Heritage Society.

He began conducting tours while still working as a teacher – shaping minds in History, English and Physical Education until his



Heritage walk: Sundralingam regaling visitors on his guided tour in Ipoh. — Photo courtesy of S. Sundralingam

retirement in 2017 – and now documents his excursions on his Facebook page, “Ipoh Heritage Walk Sunda”.

However, he sees threats to Ipoh's heritage from land clearing, industrial activity and the gradual loss of limestone hills.

Additionally, numerous pre-

war shophouses and colonial structures remain dilapidated due to prohibitive restoration costs, complex inheritance disputes and inadequate heritage conservation laws.

“The heritage pathway infrastructure has yet to be upgraded,” he added.

PETALING JAYA: The Star Outstanding Business Awards recently launched a new range of activities as part of its effort of “Powering Tomorrow: Driving Sustainable Growth”, the theme that defines what small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can expect for this year.

Called SOBA Next Wave, these events are designed to be masterclasses and workshops, where business owners can come together, mingle and learn from past SOBA winners, judges and even topic experts on how to take their businesses to the next level.

Organiser Star Media Group (SMG) has envisioned three separate sessions that cover “The Financial Advantage”, which was held on Aug 20 at Menara Star.

The upcoming two SOBA Next Wave events will take place tentatively on Sept 8 and Oct 1, in Menara Star.

In the inaugural event, four speakers presented on various topics, the first on how to “Unlock Your Business Potential: Financing Your Growth” by SOBA sponsor Credit Guarantee Corporation chief business officer Sean Tan, who was also the topic expert.

Next Wynkids Education Group founder and chief executive officer (CEO) Elwin Goh shared his “Best Practice” as past SOBA winner and ambassador, on the topic of “From Stability to Scale: Our Cash Flow Strategy”.

In the third session, finance topic expert and SOBA sponsor RHB Bank Bhd (RHB Bank) has its SME credit support head Lim Yew Kit present a masterclass and workshop on “Navigating Bank Approvals and Financial Assessment”.

New business event enlightens SMEs with financial strategies



Interesting info: SOBA Next Wave engages the crowd with (from left) RHB Bank SME banking head Kevin Ng, Lim, Tan and Goh. — Photos by YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

Last but not least, SOBA judge and Malaysia Digital Chamber of Commerce (MDCC) emeritus chairman Dr Chris Daniel Wong gave an insightful talk on “Evaluating Financial Strength: A Judge's Perspective”.

The presentations concluded with a mingling and networking session where the participants were able to exchange their thoughts and ideas at a deeper level with the speakers. They will also have the opportunity to perhaps forge alliances with one another.

According to Goh, the sustainable growth of any business starts with a solid cash flow strategy. “Use positive cash flow and the right expansion model to scale

your company healthily,” he advised.

While Tan cautioned that: “Risk is part of every business. The real difference is knowing how financiers see that risk, being financially ready to address it and showing how it can be managed.

“That is what turns risk into opportunity.”

Lim said “A successful loan application starts with clarity and preparation — from knowing what you need financing for to demonstrating sound cash flow and having the right documents.”

Wong pointed out that “Financial strength is more than strong numbers. It must be supported by consistent evidence, reliable documentation and



Making the mark: Wong presenting what judges look for in a SOBA entry.

conduct that stands up to scrutiny and stress.”

The upcoming Next Wave will focus on the subject of technology adoption, “SOBA Next-Wave 2 The Technology Advantage” on Sept 8, to be held at Menara Star.

The topics that SMG will explore will be on how artificial intelligence (AI) can augment the employees' efficiency at work, (“AI + People: A Smarter Way of Working” with topic expert Vernon Chua, who is Innergia Labs founder and CEO).

This will follow a best practice sharing session on “Beyond the Technology: Crafting a Winning Innovation Story” by SOBA winner and ambassador of Kanika (M) Sdn Bhd CEO Vinnie Ang. Then SOBA judge and advisor (former chairman)for Persatuan Industri Komputer dan Multimedia Malaysia (Pikom) Datuk Dr Sean Seah will be discussing “From Good to Outstanding: Evaluating Technology Stories”.

The third SOBA Next Wave (Oct 1) will focus on how SMEs can make use of “The Business Advantage”, with PKT Logistics Group chief operating officer Dr Jason Cheah to speak on “From Chaos to Control: How Strong Operations Drive Business Success”.

ICE Holidays Sdn Bhd managing director Mita Lim will present “Lessons From Building a Strong Market Presence as a SOBA Winner”, sharing best practices of a past SOBA winner and ambassador in the second session.

Then SOBA judge and MDCC secretary general Arlene Tan will enlighten participants on “What Defines an Outstanding Business in the Eyes of Judges”.

SOBA 2026 is organised by SMG with Credit Guarantee Corporation Bhd, PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd, RHB Bank, U Mobile Sdn Bhd as main sponsors while Great Wall Motor Company Limited Malaysia is co-sponsor, with Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) being the official trade promotion partner.

It is audited by BDO while radio stations 988 and Suria are official media partners.

SOBA 2026 submissions deadline is on Oct 15.

For more information, call the SOBA Hotline at 017-231 1789, or go to www.soba.com.my

Legal funds to help teachers

NUTP allocates RM1.5mil yearly for civil, criminal proceedings

KOTA BARU: The National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) allocates RM1.5mil annually to assist members facing legal action in the course of their duties as teachers.

NUTP president Aminuddin Awang, who revealed this, said the assistance covered civil suits and criminal prosecutions, with legal costs in some cases reaching RM80,000.

He said civil suits were increasingly being filed directly against teachers rather than the government or the Education Department.

"Sometimes, parents or members of the community file civil suits against teachers over matters that could actually be resolved without having to go to court," he told reporters after attending the 24th NUTP triennial delegates' conference here on Thursday

night, Bernama reported.

Aminuddin said NUTP also provided legal assistance to members facing criminal prosecution if the case involved an element of mistreatment against the teacher.

He said NUTP provided legal assistance in 16 cases as of last August, including three currently undergoing trial in Kelantan.

"Among the cases teachers often face are those under Section

323 of the Penal Code for intentionally causing injury to another person.

"Although it is a criminal case, we will still provide legal assistance to our members," he said.

Aminuddin said NUTP had a panel of law firms to handle cases involving its members and encouraged non-member teachers to join the union so they could get legal assistance when needed.

Suit over Covid-19 Parliament suspension dismissed

KUALA LUMPUR: Several legal actions challenging the suspension of Parliament during the 2021 Covid-19 emergency were thrown out by the High Court.

Justice Aliza Sulaiman dismissed the judicial review applications by Pasir Gudang MP Hassan Karim and Perak assemblyman Abdul Aziz Bari as well as originating summons filed by the Malaysian Bar and Bersih 2.0.

Justice Aliza, who has since been elevated to the Court of Appeal, ruled that the court could not grant declarations sought to invalidate provisions of the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance 2021, including Section 14, which suspended Parliament.

"This court is not persuaded that the declaratory relief sought by the applicants and the plaintiffs should be granted," she said before ruling that the applications and originating summons were dismissed with no order as to cost.

In their judicial review applications, the two lawmakers sought a court declaration that former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's advice to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to suspend Parliament during the Covid-19 pandemic through an emergency proclamation was unconstitutional and unlawful.

They named Muhyiddin and the government as respondents in the judicial review proceedings.

The applications and originating summons were first filed in 2021.

Previously, both the High Court and the Court of Appeal had dismissed them.

But in 2024, the Federal Court cleared the path for these challenges and remitted the case to the High Court for a full hearing on the merits.

The originating summons filed by the Malaysian Bar and Bersih raised several questions of law on the validity of the proclamation made under the Emergency Ordinance.

Two cyclists killed in highway crash

KOTA BARU: Two cyclists were killed when they were struck from behind by a car at KM18 of the Kota Baru-Keteroh highway.

"The victims were identified as Zamrie Rismawadi Mahmet and Nik Zaki Yamani Nik Abdul Aziz, both aged 49," Kelantan police chief Comm Datuk Mohd Yusoff Mamat said confirming the accident happened at 8.30am yesterday, Bernama reported.

Both victims died at the scene from serious injuries and their remains were taken to the Forensic Unit of Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II for post-mortem.

Comm Mohd Yusoff urged the public to share dashcam footage of the incident to assist police investigations.

Traditional lanterns still shine brightly

By LO TERN CHERN
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BUKIT MERTAJAM: It's a celebration that began more than 2,000 years ago.

So despite the rise of modern-day online shopping, many parents are taking their children to old-school shops to buy lanterns made the traditional way for the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"Purchases are increasingly driven by online promotions, but the experience of bringing the kids here to choose their own lantern is really something else," said Kelvin Fong, a third-generation owner of a lantern shop that has been operating since 1958.

The thrill of being able to see, touch and handle the lanterns remains part of the attraction, he said.

"There was no social media in the past. Everything was more traditional. Children would go with their parents to choose lanterns, sometimes with friends and neighbours," said Fong, 52.

He said his shop had chosen not to sell online.

Most people, he said, would end up buying lanterns from him when they passed by his shop.

"They like that they can check out the different designs," he said, adding that some customers continue to buy directly from his shop despite cheaper options available on e-commerce platforms as they had been disappointed with the quality of lanterns bought online.

"Here at the shop, they can see the lanterns and feel the material."

Fong said the classic cellophane lantern remained a favourite alongside newer designs, including lanterns that could be assem-



Old school choices: Customers looking at a selection of traditional lanterns made from cellophane at a shop in Bukit Mertajam, Penang. — LIM BENG TATT/The Star

bled into dumpling-shaped or rattan-basket designs and other creative forms.

Ordinary designs are priced between RM1 and RM25.

A lantern seller in Butterworth, Tan Kok Leong, said some children already knew which designs they wanted based on what they saw online.

"But when they step into the shop, they often change their minds after seeing other lanterns," said Tan, 58.

"That is why I believe physical

shops still have a place."

Another lantern seller Lim Mei Ling said it was nice to see different generations choosing lanterns together.

"Traditional lanterns will never disappear because older customers still look for the designs they remember from their childhood."

Younger customers prefer lanterns with bright colours, cartoon characters or unusual shapes, said Lim, 45, whose shop is in George Town.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is

observed on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month.

This year, it falls on Sept 25.

Its roots lie in the ancient rituals of worshipping the moon and giving thanks for the autumn harvest.

Traditionally a time for family dinners, the festival is marked by gatherings to enjoy food and mooncakes.

Lanterns are particularly popular among children, who would carry them during evening walks and processions.

34 Sabah hotel operators fined over faulty fire alarms

KOTA KINABALU: Several hotel and accommodation operators here were issued compounds and given stern warnings over fire alarm systems.

State Fire and Rescue Department director Mohd Pizar Aziz said a total of 76 premises were inspected during a state-wide operation, Ops Trigger, on Thursday to check on fire alarm systems.

He added that this resulted in 34 compounds and warnings issued to the operators.

He said a fire warning alarm

must be kept functional and activated at all times.

"The alarm system acts as the first alert when a fire breaks out.

"It allows time for people to escape the premises," said Mohd Pizar.

He said operators should not use excuses such as technical issues to cover up their negligence.

While the total compound issued amounted to RM4,600, he said the goal was to educate and remind hotel and accommodation operators of the importance of taking fire safety seriously.



Important checks: Firemen checking a premise's electrical panels and paperwork.

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Najib, son get stay on bankruptcy

Court halts proceedings pending disposal of their appeals before tribunal

By **NURBAITI HAMDAN**
nurbaiti@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his son Datuk Mohd Nazifuddin have succeeded in their appeal to stay bankruptcy proceedings against them over failure to settle tax arrears amounting to billions of ringgit.

A three-judge panel chaired by Justice Dr Alwi Abdul Wahab unanimously allowed the stay application by Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin yesterday.

Other judges on the panel were Justices Dr Shahnaz Sulaiman and Ong Chee Kwan.

Justice Alwi, who read the decision, said the Judicial Commissioner (JC) who dismissed Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin's stay application had erred when

he held that the appellants suffer no irreparable harm on the basis of Section 111 of the Income Tax Act.

Section 111 guarantees a refund of any tax overpaid, should the appeal by Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin before the Special Commissioner of Income Tax (SCIT) on their tax arrears succeed.

"We concede with the appellants' submission that the JC's reasoning only confined to the recoverability of money.

"It does not and cannot address the distinct and irreversible consequences of an adjudication of bankruptcy as alluded to above.

"The learned JC's equation of irreparable harm with mere monetary loss was a misdirection," Justice Alwi said yesterday.

He also said the "Pay First, Dispute Later" mechanism under the Act must not be construed as an absolute statutory bar that overrides the court's discretion in granting appropriate reliefs under special circumstances.

"It is a procedural framework designed to secure revenue collection but it does not extinguish the court's inherent jurisdiction to intervene where the balance of justice so requires," Justice Alwi said.

He added that the present appeal before the court was precisely such a case where a stay was warranted and that a stay would not prejudice the government, as the respondent.

"In conclusion, for all the above reasons, the appeal is allowed

and bankruptcy proceedings are stayed pending disposal of the appeal before the SCIT.

"The decision and the order of the learned JC dated Nov 17, 2025 is set aside," Justice Alwi said.

The Court of Appeal also granted RM30,000 in costs to Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin each.

Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin were appealing the Nov 17, 2025 High Court decision that dismissed their application to stay bankruptcy proceedings against them.

The bankruptcy proceedings were initiated by the Inland Revenue Board (LHDN) following Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin's failure to settle tax arrears amounting to RM1.69bil and RM37.6mil, respectively.

In 2020, two High Courts

allowed LHDN's applications to enter a summary judgment to recover tax arrears of RM1.69bil from Najib and RM37.6mil from Mohd Nazifuddin for the period between 2011 and 2017.

On Oct 16, 2023, the Federal Court ruled that father and son must pay the arrears after dismissing their appeal to set aside the High Court decision.

Najib and Mohd Nazifuddin are disputing the tax assessment in two SCIT proceedings scheduled for September and October, respectively.

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Murder charges against eight in Shah Alam brawl

SHAH ALAM: Eight men, including two alleged secret society members, were charged at the Magistrate's Court with the murder of a man during a brawl here last month.

Soulami Ahimsha, 46; SR Hari-krisnan, 42; MK Puwaneswaran, 39; A. Rhubban, 37; K. Thivagar, 29; Shaik Hasanudin Ahlauwudin, 26; Sheikh Mauludin Ahlauwudin, 24; and R. Darvin Raj, 23; nodded after the charge was read out to them before Magistrate Cynthia Noor Haizean Sulaiman.

No plea was recorded from any of the accused as the case falls under the jurisdiction of the High Court, Bernama reported.

According to the charge, they, together with eight others still at large, are accused of murdering Ganesan, 23, at Jalan Mandolin, Taman Alam Megah, at 1.59pm on Aug 25.

They were charged under Section 149 of the Penal Code and are liable to punishment under Section 302 of the code.

A conviction carries the death penalty or jail for a term of 30 to 40 years, and if not sentenced to death, the offender shall also be liable to whipping of not less than 12 strokes.

The court denied bail and fixed Oct 13 for mention.



Armed guard: Some of the eight accused being escorted by police at the Magistrate's Court in Shah Alam. — Bernama

Delivery rider denies QR code scam

KUANTAN: A delivery rider pleaded not guilty in the Magistrate's Court here to six charges of cheating by using fake QR code payment transaction displays to purchase various items.

According to the charges, Mohammad Ruzaini Ruzi deceived two individuals by showing QR code payments for amounts ranging from RM36.40 to RM67.20 that did not tally with the actual transactions for the purchase of cigarettes, food and beverages.

He allegedly committed the offences at a petrol station here between Jan 19 and Feb 3, involving the purchase of items totalling RM356.50, Bernama reported.

He was charged under Section 420 of the Penal Code, which provides for imprisonment of between one and 10 years, as well as whipping and a fine, upon conviction.

Magistrate Ellyna Othman granted bail at RM12,000 for all six charges and set Sept 25 for mention.

Maju highway director and wife fail to obtain DNAA

By **BENJAMIN LEE**
benlkh@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd director Tan Sri Abu Sahid Mohamed and his wife failed to obtain a discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA) related to the prosecution's supposed delay in handing over documents vital for their defence.

Sessions Court judge Suzana Hussin dismissed the couple's application connected to their criminal breach of trust (CBT) and money-laundering charges.

The judge set Nov 20 for the deputy public prosecutor to submit the list of witnesses and to set

trial dates.

The prosecution would also have to submit the remaining documents by then.

At the outset of yesterday's proceedings, Abu Sahid's lawyer Datuk Jasbeer Singh made the DNAA application, saying it had been a year since his clients were charged but the key documents requested by the defence had yet to be provided.

"The volume of documents is not important, what matters now is whether the evidential issue has been covered under Section 51A of the Criminal Procedure Code pertaining to delivery of documents.

"There should not have been a

charge in the first place if the investigations were still ongoing or incomplete," he said.

This came after deputy public prosecutor Nidzuwan Abd Latif said the prosecution would submit another five volumes of documents but some were still pending submission.

"The delay in submission of the documents is due to the need to liaise with the relevant authorities and agencies," he told the court.

Nidzuwan also said any outstanding documents could still be provided before the hearing, giving the defence sufficient time to prepare its case.

He told the court that the prose-

cution is ready for the High Court to fix a trial date.

Suzana then dismissed the application, ruling that the use of DNAA was not relevant to this case.

On Sept 8 last year, Abu Sahid claimed trial to 17 counts of CBT and money laundering related to the proposed MEX II Highway project.

He was charged with a total of four counts of CBT involving RM313mil and 13 counts of money laundering involving RM139mil that was committed between May 2016 and October 2019.

MEX II is a proposed 18km highway project linking Putra-

jaya to the KL International Airport that began construction in 2016 and was scheduled for completion in December 2019 but was halted due to financial issues.

Abu Sahid also faces seven additional charges of misusing property involving RM145mil under Section 403 of the Penal Code.

His wife, Puan Sri Noor Azrina Mohd Azmi, was also charged on Sept 8 last year with receiving proceeds from unlawful activities totalling RM67.14mil into her bank account from an account belonging to Abu Sahid between March and November of 2017.

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PAS 'open' to GE16 pact

Hadi: Talks with Barisan ongoing

PETALING JAYA: There are positive signs in discussions between PAS and Barisan Nasional on political cooperation, with talks remaining open, says Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang.

The PAS president said the recent collaboration between the two parties in the Johor and Negri Sembilan polls was a factor in the talks.

"We are always ready to negotiate, including among parties that have strong Malay support," he said at a press conference yesterday during the 72nd PAS annual muktamar, *Sinar Harian* reported.

Abdul Hadi was asked to comment on the possibility of working with Barisan in the 16th General Election.

He said the talks are ongoing and had yet to be finalised.

Asked about the party's prime ministerial candidate for the general election, Abdul Hadi said one had been identified, but it is too early to reveal the individual's name.

"It is not time. We don't know yet who

will win many seats or who will win just a few," he said.

The final decision would be made after considering the number of seats won by parties contesting in the election, Abdul Hadi added.

Meanwhile, PAS secretary-general Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan confirmed that Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi did not attend the muktamar in Pengkalan Chepa, Kota Baru.

Although invited, he said Ahmad Zahid could not attend the gathering due to unavoidable last-minute matters.

“He was represented by Umno secretary-general Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, which shows a determined effort to make the agenda to unite the ummah a success,” he added.

Kelantan Umno chairman Datuk Seri Ahmad Jazlan Yaakub and Umno state division leaders also attended the meeting.

This was the second time Umno leaders had attended a PAS mukhtamar in Kelantan since 2019.



Fruity gift: Chan (centre) handing out free pineapples to visitors during Maha 2026 at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang. — Bernama

R&D partnership yields new pineapple products

SERDANG: A strategic research collaboration between the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has resulted in the development of two pineapple-based products.

This was done through a board-funded research and development grant.

The first product, Biosurfaktan Lestari, is an organic bio-detergent base developed from pineapple waste as an alternative to synthetic surfactants.

It demonstrated stable pH levels, effective cleaning power and good foaming properties.

The project, which was led by UMT's Prof Dr Fadzilah @ Adibah Abd Majid, took one year to develop.

Another project, led by Assoc Prof Dr Fauziah Tufail Ahmad, aims to commercialise MD2 pineapple puree as a fruit leather snack under the brand Pinebiotic Pineapple Strip.

Made with 90% MD2 pineapple puree, the fruit leather snack is meant to support digestive health while offering a

healthier option.

Both products were launched by Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Chan Foong Hin at Laman Agro Food Nanas in conjunction with the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Exhibition (Maha) 2026 at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang here yesterday.

Linda Buang, who is deputy director-general of the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board, said the project was carried out under the Pineapple Product Research and Innovation Study Programme of the 12th Malaysia Plan, with an allocation of RM4mil for the 2021-2025 period.

Speaking to Bernama, she said the high-impact programme aimed to facilitate technology transfer to entrepreneurs through 10 R&D studies and the development of five new products.

She added that the board would continue working with research institutions, government agencies and the private sector to enhance the marketability of local pineapple-based products.

OTHER

NEWS & VIEWS

Compiled by ALLISON LAI, ARFA YUNUS and R. ARAVINTHAN

Snack from S'pore to China

Man flies to republic to pick up RM41 worth of curry puffs

A CUSTOMER in China paid a Meituan delivery rider 2,400 yuan (RM1,443) to fly to Singapore and buy S\$13.50 (RM41) worth of curry puffs, *Kwong Wah Yit Poh* reported.

The incident became known on Aug 31 at the Hong Lim Curry Puff stall in Paya Lebar Quarter after a video of the rider in full uniform purchasing the pastries went viral online.

The rider, working for Meituan, a Chinese app providing a wide range of services, explained that

the customer covered his flight from China to Singapore, though he declined to reveal the size of his tip.

The stall's co-founder said she initially assumed he was a local delivery rider, only later learning he had flown in from abroad.

> The daily also reported that more than 600 people in Indonesia officially registered names inspired by characters from *Naruto*, according to population data as of June 30.

The report said 190 Indonesians

are registered as "Uzumaki", 157 as "Naruto", 158 as "Sasuke" and 152 as "Uchiha".

Other anime-inspired names include "Nobita" (181), "Doraemon" (16), "D. Luffy" (79), "Shinnosuke" (65), "Inuyasha" (23) and "Suneo" (eight).

The trend is attributed to the enduring popularity of Japanese anime in Indonesia since the 1980s with shows like *Doraemon*, *Dragon Ball*, *Sailor Moon*, *Naruto* and *One Piece*.

> A young couple left a hotel

room in Chengdu, China, piled high with rubbish after a 145-day stay, *Oriental Daily* reported.

The pair had repeatedly declined housekeeping services before checking out.

When staff finally entered, they found rotting takeaway containers and rubbish piled across the floor, leaving barely any room to move.

A deep clean and disinfection was required after cleaners removed 20 large bags of rubbish.

Barefoot mum wins race for daughters' education

A WOMAN in India won a 3km-race running barefoot and in a saree to get the prize money for her daughters' education, *Makkal Osai* reported.

Upon receiving the trophy and 3,000 rupees (RM128), 47-year-old Ramabai Ranveer touched people's hearts by saying she would use the cash to buy books for her children.

Ramabai, 47, who works as a cook, is raising her two daughters after her husband died.

On the day of the run in Maharashtra state, Ramabai turned up wearing a saree and rubber slippers.

She began at a steady pace while other runners rushed ahead, but soon overtook the pack after discarding her slippers when they began to slip.

She crossed the finish line in first place to loud cheers from spectators.

Her daughter Pooja, who attends the tuition centre where Ramabai works, came in second.

She had encouraged her mother to join the race but did not expect her to come first, Pooja said.

Illegal fish feed facility shut down in Seremban

A FACILITY processing animal organs into fish feed has been shut down for discharging liquid waste into a tributary near Kampung Mambau, Seremban.

The enforcement action followed complaints about foul odour and river pollution, Seremban mayor Datuk Masri Baharuddin said.

Following an investigation, Seremban City Council's Legal and Enforcement Department

raided the site and seized a water compressor, an induction motor and three fuses.

"During the raid, workers were caught discharging liquid waste into the tributary," Masri said in a statement, *Berita Harian* reported.

Masri noted that while the facility is locally owned, it was operated by two Myanmar men holding UNHCR cards.

The owner of the premises was

not present during the raid.

The council issued a compound for operating without a valid licence, alongside an immediate notice ordering the cessation of operations and closure.

> Despite being in the limelight for over two decades, actress Fasha Sandha believes she does not yet deserve to be called the "Queen of TV Dramas", *Utusan Malaysia* reported.

The 42-year-old actress said the

accolade was too lofty as she still has much to learn.

"I am grateful that even past the age of 40, audiences still want to watch my dramas," she said.

Fasha said an actor's success lies in complete character immersion.

"When we take on a role, we cannot do it half-heartedly.

"If a scene calls for anger, we must truly feel angry. Never do things by halves," she added.



Star 55

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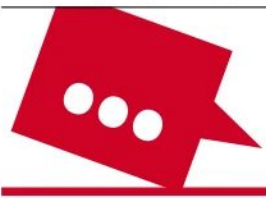
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EQUALITY is firmly embedded in Malaysia's Federal Constitution, alongside specific protections against discrimination. Yet among the grounds listed in Article 8(2) – religion, race, descent, place of birth, and gender – one word remains conspicuously absent: disability.

The country recognises disability through legislation, has made international commitments to protect persons with disabilities, and is strengthening mechanisms against discrimination. Yet our supreme law still does not expressly name disability as a protected ground under Article 8(2).

This is not a small constituency. According to the Statistics Department, 805,509 persons with disabilities were registered in Malaysia in 2024, equivalent to 2.4% of the population. These figures represent only registered persons and should not be interpreted as Malaysia's total prevalence of disability.

Nevertheless, more than 800,000 people formally recognised by the state make constitutional clarity on equality a matter of real consequence.

Malaysia already has an important legal foundation. The Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 covers individuals with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments whose participation in society may be restricted by the barriers they encounter. Malaysia became a party to the United Nations

Disability must be expressly protected



Photo: Filepic/Tribune News Service

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2010.

Protection against workplace discrimination is also reflected in the Employment Act 1955.

Existing constitutional protection is equally important. In January 2025, the High Court ruled in a case involving a councillor with a disability seeking permanent public sector employ-

ment. The decision affirmed the relevance of Article 8(1), which provides that all persons are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law.

The absence of disability from Article 8(2), therefore, does not mean persons with disabilities have no constitutional protection.

The real question is why disability should depend on this

broader guarantee when other grounds of discrimination are expressly named. For a modern Malaysia, that distinction matters.

This discussion comes at an opportune moment. In June 2026, Malaysia informed the United Nations' Conference of States Parties to the CRPD that consultations with stakeholders had begun as part of efforts to strengthen the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 and ensure it remains responsive to changing needs and new challenges.

If Malaysia is already reconsidering its principal disability legislation, this is an appropriate moment to consider whether the constitutional framework should evolve alongside it.

There is precedent for doing so. Gender was not originally among the prohibited grounds in Article 8(2). It was expressly added through constitutional amendment in 2001. That history demonstrates that constitutional protection can evolve as our understanding of equality changes.

Adding disability to the

Constitution would not eliminate discrimination overnight. Effective enforcement, reasonable accommodation, accessible workplaces and schools, and meaningful remedies remain essential.

Nor should constitutional amendment replace efforts to strengthen the Persons with Disabilities Act; the two should complement each other.

Malaysia already has much of the necessary architecture: an OKU (orang kurang upaya, or disabled person) Act, commitment to the CRPD, recognition of multiple forms of disability, an employment discrimination mechanism, and an ongoing review of the Persons with Disabilities Act. What remains is constitutional clarity. Explicit recognition would carry significance beyond the addition of a single word.

The question is no longer whether Malaysia recognises persons with disabilities. Clearly, it does. The more urgent question is whether our Constitution should say explicitly that disability must never be a reason for unequal treatment. We have updated Article 8 before when our understanding of equality demanded it. Perhaps it is time to do so again.

**DR AFRIZA HANI
MOHD SINON**
Senior research fellow
National Institute of Public
Administration (Intan)

Where is the legal recourse for victims of transboundary haze?

I FULLY agree with Petrus C. Mojuntin's "Call for regional accountability on transboundary haze" (*The Star*, Sept 4; online at bit.ly/4ct4Fpm).

The writer refers to the Customary International Law ("No-Harm Rule"), established under the historic Trail Smelter principle and reaffirmed in Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, under which states must not cause environmental damage to neighbouring states.

Sadly, little is known of the Trail Smelter case that resulted, in 1941, in the historic no-harm rule; but another transboundary

air pollution case was brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) more than 60 years later that offers more detail.

The latter case is recorded as Aerial Herbicide Spraying (Ecuador v Colombia) (the Aerial Spraying case, details at the ICJ website). Ecuador sued Colombia in March 2008 for alleged aerial spraying of toxic herbicides at locations near, at, and across its border with Ecuador.

Ecuador contended that the spraying had caused serious damage to people, to crops, to animals, and to the natural environment on the Ecuadorian side of the frontier and posed a

grave risk of further damage over time.

The aerial herbicide spraying was allegedly carried out as part of Colombia's plan to eradicate illegal cocaine crops.

In that case, it was contended that Colombia's failure in carrying out due diligence in enforcing its rules regarding the spraying operating parameters constituted a breach of the no harm principle.

To explain a little further, under the principle, a state is responsible for carrying out due diligence in regulating and controlling activities within its jurisdiction, including private conduct, to refrain from causing

significant harm to the territory of other states or areas beyond its own territory.

The principle has been recognised as customary international law, as rightly noted by Mojuntin, and endorsed by Article 3(1) of the Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution 2002, which came into force in 2003.

Using the aerial spraying case as a precedent, Indonesia could be sued for its failure to regulate and enforce rules regarding the conduct of oil palm and pulpwood plantations and farmers, conduct which has caused, and continues to cause, significant transboundary damage to

neighbouring countries, including Malaysia.

Sadly, a suit might never happen.

Asean has its own way – the Asean way, which emphasises, among others, "informal and non-legalistic procedures" ("The Long Peace of Asean" by Tivo Tivimaki, *Journal of Peace Research*, 2001).

But after all this time, isn't it time for the Asean way to give way? Transboundary haze victims in South-East Asia have been without remedy for decades now.

HAFIZ HASSAN
Bukit Baru, Melaka

A voice for abolishing nuclear weapons has fallen silent

FROM Nov 30 to Dec 4, the United Nations will host the First Review Conference on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). This is the inaugural review conference of the treaty that came into force in January 2021.

One of the foremost advocates for this treaty was Malaysia's own Datuk Dr Ronald Stephen McCoy, who died on Tuesday at 96.

For decades, he had championed abolishing nuclear weapons. He conceived the idea for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Ican), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

Long before that, he founded Malaysian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War group in 1987 and later served as co-president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War group for eight years; this body too was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for raising awareness of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war.

He was truly one of our nation's most eminent peace advocates who won the respect and admiration of people the world over.

To honour his memory, I hope that Malaysia, as a TPNW state party, will send a high-level dele-

gation to the first TPNW Review Conference, and once again make a strong stand calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

We must continue fighting for the cause that Dr McCoy had striven for his entire life.

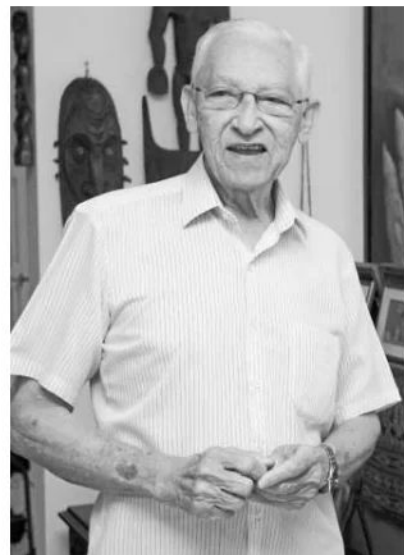
Malaysia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Datuk Dr Ahmad Faisal Muhammad, wrote in his statement to the General Debate of the 11th Review Conference on the Treaty for the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held earlier this year: "In today's environment of heightened geopolitical tension, the risks of miscalculation and escalation are real and

growing. Malaysia is deeply concerned that evolving doctrines risk normalising the notion that nuclear weapons confer security, when in reality they exacerbate insecurity for all."

Malaysians can be proud to have had such a champion of peace like Dr McCoy.

I hope that the government and people of Malaysia will cherish the spirit of the TPNW to safeguard the right of the world's people to live, and strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons at the earliest possible opportunity.

DINESH CHANDRAN
Petaling Jaya



A peacekeeper: Datuk Dr Ronald Stephen McCoy (1930-2026).



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Miracle rescue after 10 days

Two workers pulled alive from tunnel, reviving hope after devastating floods

Nepal TWO hydropower workers were pulled alive from a tunnel buried by debris in Nepal, a rare ray of hope on the tenth day of rescue efforts after catastrophic Himalayan flooding.

Rescuers cheered as one man was pulled through a muddy opening, a video released by the energy ministry showed.

He was helped to his feet by rescuers, and later carried on the backs of the emergency workers, raising his hand as they took him towards a helicopter.

A photograph showed the second man caked in mud, his hands pressed together in prayer, as rescuers carried him on a stretcher.

"As long as there is breath, there is hope!" Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha said.

"Rescue operations are continuing in all the affected tunnels. Let everyone's efforts and prayers continue. We have not lost hope."

Rescuers called it a "miracle" after the Aug 26 glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border that has killed at least 1,280 people and left more than 5,500 missing.

"I am so happy, my heart is lighter," Amir Maharjan, the brother of rescued worker Kabir Maharjan, said.

The men, both Nepali, were named as Sanjay Shah, 30, a mechanical foreman, as well as Maharjan, 45, a mechanical supervisor, by Home Minister Sudan Gurung.

The prime minister's office said that Shah was in a "stable condition", and that Maharjan was in intensive care.

Lakshmi Naini, who said Maharjan is her brother-in-law, waited outside a hospital in Kathmandu, where he was rushed to by helicopter.

"It's a miracle! I am very happy," she said. "I heard he is alive through social media, and I could not believe it."

"I have no words to express how I feel," said another relative, Shyam Maharjan, 45.

The two were among hundreds of hydropower workers who had been missing since a wall of mud and debris swept through the region on Aug 26.

Searches were continuing at the Trishuli 3A tunnel where the two men were rescued, as well as multiple other sites, with at least 12 hydropower projects smashed by the floods.

The government had initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive inside multiple tunnels.

Nepali rescuers, aided by experts from India, China and South Korea, have continued searching for survivors feared trapped inside hydropower tunnels, but teams had repeatedly hit walls of hard-packed debris.



In safe hands: Army personnel carrying Kabir out of the Trishuli 3A tunnel in Rasuwa district. — Handout/Nepal army/AFP



Until yesterday, none of the tunnel workers had been confirmed alive.

Australian rescue expert Arnold Dix, who has been supporting the operation remotely, said that the rescue efforts were "back in miracle country" after a "week of 24/7 heartache".

Earlier yesterday, Dix said teams at the Trishuli 3A hydropower project believed they had heard a faint response from inside the tunnel.

"They believe they received a faint response from inside saying, 'hunchha', yes or OK," Dix, president of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, said, adding that he was en route to Nepal to join the rescue effort.

He said rescuers had called into the tunnel: "Don't worry, we are rescuing you."

Dix was a key adviser during the Himalayan rescue effort that successfully freed all 41 Indian

workers trapped inside a collapsed under-construction road tunnel in 2023.

Dix said teams had dug through debris blocking the tunnel for 50 to 60m and had been hoping for a breakthrough at any moment.

Less than an hour later, rescuers pulled the two men to safety.

Some Nepali families who were searching for their missing loved ones had begun holding symbolic funerals in the last few days, in a sign of dimming hope

for survivors.

Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has called the gigantic wave triggered by a rock and ice avalanche a "Himalayan tsunami".

Floods tore through mountain districts, destroying roads, bridges and multiple hydropower dams that day.

Reporters flying by helicopter over the valley of destruction on Thursday saw entire sections of settlements swept away, leaving the landscape resembling a puzzle with pieces missing.

The United Nations has warned that the "magnitude of the destruction" makes delivering aid an immense challenge, with cargo drones and porters being considered to reach isolated communities.

"Access has been very, very, very difficult," UN chief in Nepal Lila Pieters Yahia said.

Nepal's disaster authority says the number of bodies recovered is 1,259, with 5,083 people missing.

In China, state media say 21 people had been killed, and 541 people are missing.

That takes the overall toll to 1,280 people, with 5,624 missing.

More than 800 foreigners from at least 34 countries are among those missing, including tourists and pilgrims, in both Nepal and Tibet in China. — AFP

Hope not lost: Rescuers transferring Shah after he was rescued alive in Rasuwa district. — Handout/Nepal army/Xinhua

Rights body calls for probe into 2,000 free meal poisonings

Indonesia THE nation's top human rights body urged police to investigate several new outbreaks of food poisoning linked to President Prabowo Subianto's flagship programme to provide free meals to students, which made 2,000 people sick this week.

In separate cases across at least three major Indonesian islands, more than 2,000 students and teachers fell ill after eating lunch issued by the government as part of a scheme to eradicate malnutrition launched by Prabowo last year.

"Rights to food, especially safe-to-consume food, are human rights," the Indonesian independent rights body known as Komnas

HAM said in a statement.

"Without a rigorous sanitation standard ... the nutrition intervention that the state is doing will lose its moral legitimacy," it said yesterday.

Komnas HAM called on the police to launch a probe into the poisoning cases.

The rights group also called on the National Nutrition Agency, which oversees the programme, to suspend the kitchens allegedly responsible for the poisoning outbreaks.

Some 170 students and teachers in the South Sulawesi region of Tana Toraja also fell ill after eating the free meals on Thursday, local government head Zadrak Tombeg said, following more

than 1,700 cases spread across the provinces of Central Java, East Java, and West Sumatra.

Another 256 students in an East Java region also fell sick after consuming the meals this week, news website CNN Indonesia reported yesterday.

The overseeing agency was slated to hold a press conference yesterday, but delayed it without providing a reason or a rescheduled time.

As of Sept 1, 50,000 individuals had been affected by food poisoning, lawmaker Charles Honoris said on Wednesday, citing health department data, with some previous cases blamed on improper food storage and the late delivery of cooked meals. — Reuters



New wave: Students resting while receiving treatment for food poisoning at the regional general hospital after eating government-sponsored free school meals in Sidoarjo, East Java province. — Reuters

Saudel floods coastal spots

Typhoon's third landfall batters communities in Fujian, Guangdong

China THE southern coastal provinces of Fujian and Guangdong braced for further torrential rain, after severe downpours linked to Typhoon Saudel triggered flooding in urban and rural areas, swamping vehicles and causing a three-storey brick building to collapse.

In Fujian's city of Fuding, known for its tea plantations and lush greenery, firefighters waded through waist-deep floodwaters to carry elderly people to safety.

In nearby Jinxi village, a tea-growing community surrounded by mountains, raging floodwaters inundated residential buildings and brought down a three-storey house.

Local authorities have shut schools, suspended public transport and enforced emergency flood protocols across multiple coastal areas.

Saudel made its third landfall along the coast of Fujian on Thursday morning after intensifying again over the South China Sea.

It is the seventh typhoon to hit China this year and the third to strike the city of Yuhuan in eastern Zhejiang in less than two months.

The meteorological sequence is extremely rare, according to the China Meteorological Administration, and one that experts say is closely linked to El Nino.

During an El Nino year, the Western Pacific subtropical high is exceptionally strong and positioned further north, guiding typhoons along a northwest



Wicked weather: Search and rescue personnel evacuating people affected by Typhoon Saudel in Minhou, Fuzhou, eastern Fujian province. — CNS/AFP

trajectory directly toward China's eastern coast.

The United Nations warned on Thursday that the El Nino was set to intensify further into 2027 and could be the strongest ever, raising the risk of prolonged extreme weather.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been relocated across

Zhejiang and nearby provinces since late August, including more than 83,000 residents evacuated in Fujian alone as Saudel tracked inland and soaked surrounding areas.

In Putian, a city in Fujian where the Mulan River flows through the urban core, floodwaters spilled over main highways, damaged

bridge structures, and inundated residential buildings, according to social media videos shared on China's RedNote.

Local authorities are organising rescue teams to evacuate trapped residents, state broadcaster CCTV reported yesterday, adding that some people are missing. — Reuters

Two US Navy men sent back to ship after drunken Pattaya brawl

Thailand TWO sailors from the US aircraft carrier making a port call to Thailand were sent back to the ship after a drunken altercation, Thai police said.

Police were alerted to a "small scuffle" involving the sailors in the early hours of Thursday near Pattaya's nightlife hotspot Walking Street, city police chief Anek Srathongyoo said.

"The sailors were drunk and they were fighting, making loud noise," he said yesterday.

He described the incident as "trivial" and said local residents had only called police to prevent it from escalating.

The unidentified sailors were not charged as "they did not violate any Thai law", Anek said.

The US Navy sent the pair back to the ship, he added.

The *USS Abraham Lincoln*'s arrival has drawn interest after reports of deteriorating living conditions on board after more than 280 days at sea.

It has also put the spotlight on Pattaya, a resort popular with tourists with a reputation for its nightlife, including sex tourism.

Authorities cracked down on sex workers ahead of the ship's visit, although they denied it was linked to the arrival.

Nattakamol Chartmontri, who has worked in Pattaya for several years, said many of the sailors appeared "young, well-behaved and rule-abiding".

Pattaya businesses had been hoping for a windfall from the visit, which comes during low season, but Nattakamol, 48, said it had so far stayed quiet.

US lawmakers have called for an investigation into conditions on the *Lincoln* following reports of food shortages, broken plumbing and mental health crises.

President Donald Trump dismissed the concerns, which have fuelled criticism of his dragging conflict with Iran, although the *Lincoln* was replaced in the Middle East by the *USS George Washington*. — AFP

Seoul mulls military deployment to Hormuz Strait

South Korea SEOUL said it was weighing "contributions" to US security efforts in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, potentially including a military deployment, but noted that no decision has been made yet.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly pressured ally South Korea to provide help for the conflict in the Middle East, saying Seoul rejected his request for assistance in securing the water-

way key to global oil supplies.

"Contributions to the Strait of Hormuz could be managed within limits that do not compromise military readiness," a South Korean presidential official told reporters yesterday.

The president's office added in a separate statement that the "references made during today's briefing regarding military contributions — such as combat participation, non-combat roles, and search operations — were merely

general descriptions of various options".

"Please be advised that nothing has been decided yet concerning actual contributions," it added.

The comments came a day after local broadcaster JTBC reported that South Korea's government was "leaning toward" dispatching troops to the strait and reviewing details ahead of seeking parliamentary approval.

Broadcaster SBS reported that the Defence Ministry was consid-

ering deploying a maritime patrol aircraft, a naval logistics support ship and an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team.

The maritime patrol aircraft would be tasked with monitoring submarines and surface vessels belonging to potential threats, SBS said, citing a senior military official.

The EOD team would be expected to conduct joint operations with foreign naval forces if deployed, the report added. — AFP

Hlaing makes diplomatic push



Off to Hanoi: Hlaing (right) shaking hands with his military chief before leaving for Vietnam at the Naypyidaw international airport. — AP

Hanoi visit aims to strengthen ties

Vietnam MYANMAR'S coup leader turned civilian president Min Aung Hlaing touched down for the latest stop on a regional diplomatic tour shaking off his post-putsch pariah status.

He and his wife Kyu Kyu Hla landed to a red carpet welcome in Hanoi, Myanmar government images showed, at the start of a three-day visit aimed at boosting political and business ties with the one-party state.

Hlaing is due to meet Vietnam's President To Lam, attend a business forum and visit "digital and electronic technology industries", the Myanmar presidency said.

Myanmar's junta leaders were shunned in many quarters after the 2021 coup, but Vietnam sustained its investments.

Major Myanmar telecoms operator Mytel is jointly owned by a firm backed by Vietnam's defence ministry and a Myanmar military conglomerate.

Activist organisation Justice for Myanmar accused Vietnam of "corporate complicity with the junta".

"The Myanmar military's ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity are

supported by revenue, technology and surveillance support from Vietnam through Mytel," said a spokesman in a statement.

Hlaing is considered by rights groups an architect of a military crackdown on the Rohingya minority starting in 2017, which is being weighed by the International Court of Justice as potential genocide.

His pariah status deepened after he led the coup five years ago that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government and plunged the country into civil war.

But highly restricted elections completed in early 2026 shifted the dynamic, with Hlaing installed as civilian president.

Many monitors dismissed the vote as a charade – excluding Suu Kyi's party as well as voters in huge areas of rebel-held territory, and punishing dissent with prison time.

Defending the decision to host the Myanmar leader in Bangkok last month, Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow told reporters: "It's not about legitimacy, it's about reality." — AFP

Air India probe flags hydraulic loss, pilot drug test

India AN Air India flight that plunged last month, injuring passengers, suffered a temporary loss of hydraulic systems, but its pilot tested "non-negative" for psychoactive substances, investigators said.

The Airbus A320, carrying 137 passengers and eight crew, suddenly lost altitude on Aug 4 while flying from Phuket, Thailand, to New Delhi, injuring 24 people before stabilising and landing safely.

India's civil aviation ministry classified it as a "Serious Incident".

Both Airbus and France's civil aviation safety agency, the BEA, said they are assisting the Indian investigation into the flight.

A preliminary report released by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) said the flight-control system detected the loss of three hydraulic systems for several seconds.

"The aircraft encountered altitude upset," it read.

"Initially, it gained 113m and fell by 89m," it added.

The hydraulic failure caused the autopilot to disengage and triggered a two-second stall warning, before the systems recovered and the aircraft returned to normal operation.

"Subsequently, the aircraft operation returned to its normal operating condition," the report read.

But the report also addressed whether the pilot in command had tested positive for drugs.

"The PIC (pilot in command) was found non-negative for psycho-active substance in the confirmatory test," the report added.

"The confirmation of use of psycho-active substance is a serious concern."

Following the incident, India's aviation ministry said the regulator was considering tighter screening rules for psychoactive substances.

Air India ordered a mandatory one-time drug screening of all of its pilots. — AFP

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Wildfires ring Nusantara

Officials urge urgent action as flames spread across nearby areas

Indonesia WILDFIRES have begun spreading near the country's under-construction new capital, prompting project authorities to urge the disaster mitigation agency to carry out cloud-seeding and water-bombing operations, officials said.

Indonesia has intensified efforts to contain haze in six provinces hit the hardest by forest and land fires in Borneo and Sumatra islands, which so far have reached 73,311ha.

Wildfires have been raging in a number of spots on Borneo Island,

but the eastern part, where the new capital, Nusantara, is located, has been relatively safe in the weeks since the fires began to worsen with the onset of the dry season in July.

Now, however, fires have spread to some areas around the capital, prompting the request for action from the authority overseeing the project, said Agus Riyanto, director for emergency response at the disaster mitigation agency.

Disaster response and mitigation teams in the South-East Asian archipelago are facing the most

challenging dry season in a decade, exacerbated by a "super El Nino" phenomenon.

The biggest of the fires in the new capital territory, Agus said, was at a forest park at Bukit Suharto, or Suharto Hill, named after the autocratic former president, where around 300ha have burned.

Bukit Suharto is around 50km from the city centre, which houses a number of major projects built over the last few years for the new capital.

In total, fires had burned around 400ha surrounding

Nusantara as of Sept 2.

Indonesia has 53 aircraft currently carrying out water bombing and seeding activities.

Japan has also sent over aircraft and personnel to assist, authorities said.

The disaster mitigation agency said a helicopter would be sent from neighbouring South Kalimantan to carry out water bombing around Nusantara.

Clouds in the area were still insufficient for seeding, but the disaster agency would do so when it was possible, Agus said. — Reuters



Duterte faces warrant over alleged Marcos death threat

Philippines A LOCAL court issued an arrest warrant for Vice-President Sara Duterte (pic) over an alleged death threat against the country's president, with her defence team saying she would "exercise all her legal remedies".

Duterte was charged last month with "grave threats" stemming from a late-night news briefing in which she claimed to have hired a hitman to kill President Ferdinand Marcos, his wife and a former congressman cousin should she be cut down first.

The alleged assassination threat also forms a crucial element of her ongoing Senate impeachment trial, where a guilty verdict would see her removed from office and permanently banned from politics.

Under the Philippine legal code, a criminal conviction on the charge would carry a jail term of up to six months.

Justice department spokesman Polo Martinez confirmed the warrant had been issued yesterday, noting that a court in Metro Manila's Quezon City had quashed a motion to defer it.

But the warrant seemed unlikely to result in Duterte being taken into custody.

Paolo Tamase, associate dean at the University of the Philippines College of Law, said that Duterte's lawyers could now be expected to file for bail, perhaps before day's end.

"The easiest thing for VP Sara to do is to file for bail with the regional trial court," Tamase said, noting Duterte would likely not need to be present.

He added that the warrant could yet be challenged at a higher court.

"She can potentially question the issuance of the warrant of arrest, which means she would go up to the Court of Appeals or potentially the Supreme Court," he said.

Duterte's legal team issued a statement saying she had "no intention of evading the law and will continue to exercise all her legal remedies".

Justice department officials have rejected arguments by her legal team that she cannot be prosecuted for offences that are also tied to her impeachment.

Duterte was impeached in May by the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of parliament, on charges that also included graft and corruption. — AFP

Philippines



Canine couture

Dogs in colourful costumes during a 'Dog Pawshion Show' in Manila, an event promoting responsible pet ownership and community stewardship while celebrating canine creativity. — AP



52 S'poreans arrested in China over pyramid scheme

Singapore CHINA has arrested 52 Singaporeans in the southern region of Guangxi in a law enforcement operation targeting suspected pyramid scheme activities and related offences, the city-state's Foreign Ministry said.

Sim Ann, Singapore's second minister for foreign affairs, yesterday said the island state is in contact with Chinese authorities

to obtain more information on the matter.

She said staff from the Singapore Embassy in Beijing have visited the 52 detainees and are providing them with consular support.

The ministry said Chinese authorities are continuing their investigations. It didn't provide details on when the Singaporeans were arrested, their identities or

the amount of money involved.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun yesterday said that China investigates and handles criminal cases involving foreign citizens in accordance with the law.

Sim said Singapore's government doesn't intervene in other countries' judicial processes and investigations, but that "due process should be accorded to our

citizens," according to a transcript of her remarks on the Foreign Ministry's website.

Sim urged Singaporeans to exercise caution when considering business or investment schemes, especially those involving the recruitment of new participants, the upfront payment of substantial sums of money or promises of unusually high returns. — AP

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LOT 1 Reserve Price: RM 189,600 KUALA LUMPUR CONDOMINIUM UNIT (1,000 SQ. FT.) Unit No. B-10-3, Blok B, Pangsapuri Damai Vista, Jalan Damai Perdana 1/1, 56000 Kuala Lumpur. Assignor/Customer: Mohd Faizol Bin Saaid Solicitor: M/S The Lai & Lai Partnership (Tel: 03-2163 3233) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 2 Reserve Price: RM 360,000 KUALA LUMPUR SERVICE APARTMENT UNIT (1,055 SQ. FT.) Unit No. C-23A-1, Plaza KLTS, Jalan Gombak, Setapak, 53000 Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur. BUMI LOT Assignor/Borrower: Kasyfull Azim Bin Samsudin Solicitor: M/S Sidek Teoh Wong & Dennis (Tel: 03-2692 3000)	LOT 3 Reserve Price: RM 540,000 KUALA LUMPUR SERVICE APARTMENT UNIT (1,582 SQ. FT.) Unit No. B-31-1, The Elements @ Ampang, Blok B, Jalan Bemban, Off Jalan Ampang, 55000 Kuala Lumpur. Assignor/Customer: Durga Prasac Swayampakula Solicitor: M/S Dennis Nik & Wong (Tel: 03-2284 7188) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 4 Reserve Price: RM 405,000 PUCHONG SERVICED APARTMENT UNIT (990 SQ. FT.) Unit No. A-10-12, Blok A, Residensi O'Hako, Jalan Pipit, Bukit Tandang, 47170 Puchong, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Chong Chee Meng & Loh Wai Fong Solicitor: M/S Che Mokhtar & Ling (Tel: 03-2274 0413)	LOT 5 Reserve Price: RM 68,400 BATU CAVES 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT (634 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 4-3B, Jalan Pinggiran 1/1, Taman Pinggiran Batu Caves, 68100 Batu Caves, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Simmaselam A/L Ramaloo & Mariamma A/P Ramakrishnan Solicitor: M/S Raja Eleena Siew Ang & Associates (Tel: 03-2143 3411) <i>Note: The Successful Bidder shall be solely responsible to pay all the fees and charges imposed by the Liquidator and comply with all the procedure and documentation as required by the Liquidator.</i>	LOT 6 Reserve Price: RM 75,000 BANDAR PUNCAK ALAM CORNER APARTMENT UNIT (657 SQ. FT.) Unit No. C-3-7, Rumah Pangsa Saujana Teratai, Jalan TAJ 1/1, Taman Alam Jaya, 42300 Bandar Puncak Alam, Selangor. Assignor/Borrower: Prak Pan A/L Ai Lom Solicitor: M/S The Lai & Lai Partnership (Tel: 03-2163 3233)
LOT 7 Reserve Price: RM 465,750 KUALA LUMPUR CONDOMINIUM UNIT (WITH 2 CARPARKS) (1,475 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 13A-05, Kondominium Royale, Jalan 3/61, Bukit Segambut, 51200 Kuala Lumpur. Assignor/Borrower: Chin Kim Wai Solicitor: M/S Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel: 03-2710 8283)	LOT 8 Reserve Price: RM 315,000 SHAH ALAM CORNER CONDOMINIUM UNIT (WITH A CARPARK) (1,029 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 2-1-1, Kondo Sri Permata, Jalan Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah 9/6, Seksyen 9, 40100 Shah Alam, Selangor. Assignor/Borrower: Pathooraman Bin Abu Solicitor: M/S Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel: 03-2710 8283)	LOT 9 Reserve Price: RM 162,000 BANGI APARTMENT UNIT (WITH A CARPARK) (990 SQ. FT.) Unit No. KV-10-23, Kristal Villa, Jalan Kajang Villa, Taman Kajang Villa, 43000 Bangi, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Tee Then Tai & Chai Chiaw Yun Solicitor: M/S The Lai & Lai Partnership (Tel: 03-2163 3233)	LOT 10 Reserve Price: RM 128,000 RAWANG APARTMENT UNIT (661 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 1-2-6-A, Blok 1, Jalan Rawang Mutiara 1, Taman Rawang Mutiara, 48000 Rawang, Selangor. Assignor/Borrower: Gurdev Singh A/L Nanth Singh Solicitor: M/S Che Mokhtar & Ling (Tel: 03-2274 0413)	LOT 11 Reserve Price: RM 291,500 KUALA LUMPUR STRATIFIED OFFICE LOT (1,504 SQ. FT.) Unit No. D-7-2, Menara Uncang Emas, Jalan 5/93, Taman Miharja, Off Jalan Loke Yew, 55200 Kuala Lumpur. Assignor/Borrower: Wong Chee Yung Solicitor: M/S Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel: 03-2710 8283)	LOT 12 Reserve Price: RM 495,000 KUALA LUMPUR STRATIFIED OFFICE UNIT (1,894 SQ. FT.) Unit No. A3-11, Block A, Plaza Dwtasik, Jalan Sri Permaisuri 1, Bandar Sri Permaisuri, 56000 Kuala Lumpur. Assignor/Borrower: Rabiha Binti Ibrahim Solicitor: M/S Sidek Teoh Wong & Dennis (Tel: 03-2692 3000)
LOT 13 Reserve Price: RM 1,070,000 KUALA LUMPUR SERVICE APARTMENT UNIT (818 SQ. FT.) Unit No. R25-18-06, Pavilion Damansara Heights, No. 3, Jalan Damanlela, 50490 Kuala Lumpur. Assignor/Borrower: Lee Yen Yen Solicitor: M/S Iza Ng Yeoh & Kit (Tel: 03-2182 8138)	LOT 14 Reserve Price: RM 108,000 PETALING JAYA APARTMENT UNIT (689 SQ. FT.) Unit No. E-406, Blok E, Apartment Impian, No. 5, Jalan PJU 10/1F, PJU 10, Damansara Damai, 47830 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Abdul Shukur Bin Annang & Rohani Binti Ismail Solicitor: M/S Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel: 03-2710 8283) <i>Note: A Private Caveat was entered by PUBLIC BANK BERHAD (196501000672) (Company No. 6463-H) vide a Presentation No. 002810473/2020 dated 25th September 2020.</i>	LOT 15 Reserve Price: RM 145,000 PETALING JAYA 3 BEDROOM LOW-COST APARTMENT (646 SQ. FT.) Unit No. A-14-02, Blok A, Impian Baiduri, No. 6, Jalan 224, Seksyen 51A, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Choy Hon Win & Tan Siew Mei Solicitor: M/S The Lai & Lai Partnership (Tel: 03-2163 3233)	LOT 16 Reserve Price: RM 172,800 PETALING JAYA APARTMENT UNIT (850 SQ. FT.) Unit No. E-10-12, Blok E, Flora Damansara, No. 1, Jalan PJU 8/9, Bandar Damansara Perdana, 47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Assignor/Customer: Ho Kok Kit Solicitor: M/S Ravi Moorthi, Noriza, Mala & Partners (Tel: 03-7491 0748) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 17 Reserve Price: RM 237,600 PETALING JAYA OFFICE (1,066 SQ. FT.) Unit No. E503A, East Wing, Metropolitan SQ, Jalan PJU 8/1, Bandar Damansara Perdana, 47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. BUMI LOT Assignor/Customer: Nursuriyati Binti Johari Chua Solicitor: M/S Che Mokhtar & Ling (Tel: 03-2274 0413) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 18 Reserve Price: RM 288,000 PETALING JAYA OFFICE UNIT (1,033 SQ. FT.) Unit No. E311, East Wing, Metropolitan SQ, Jalan PJU 8/1, Bandar Damansara Perdana, 47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. BUMI LOT Assignor/Customer: Nursuriyati Binti Johari Chua Solicitor: M/S Che Mokhtar & Ling (Tel: 03-2274 0413) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD
LOT 19 Reserve Price: RM 129,600 SHAH ALAM OFFICE SUITE (48 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 22-31, Avenue Crest, No. 2A, Jalan Jubli Perak 22/1, Seksyen 22, 40300 Shah Alam, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Yung Soon Fook & Lim Kim Yin Solicitor: M/S Dennis Nik & Wong (Tel: 03-2284 7188)	LOT 20 Reserve Price: RM 112,000 PUCHONG 3 BEDROOM LOW-COST APARTMENT (650 SQ. FT.) Unit No. D-05-02, Pangsapuri Ceria, Jalan TK 4/5, Taman Kinrara, Seksyen 4, 47100 Puchong, Selangor. BUMI LOT Assignor/Borrower: Johari Bin Karim Solicitor: M/S Dennis Nik & Wong (Tel: 03-2284 7188)	LOT 21 Reserve Price: RM 195,000 PUCHONG APARTMENT (852 SQ. FT.) Unit No. G-07-25, Pangsapuri Vista Lavender, Persiaran Kinrara, Seksyen 3, 47190 Puchong, Selangor. Assignor/Customer: Muhammad Harry Bin Arin Solicitor: M/S Ravi Moorthi, Noriza, Mala & Partners (Tel: 03-7491 0748) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 22 Reserve Price: RM 288,000 CHERAS SERVICED APARTMENT UNIT (1,023 SQ. FT.) Unit No. B-09-03A, Damai Hillpark, Jalan 6/1F, Bandar Damai Perdana, 56000 Cheras, Selangor. Assignor/Borrower: Nicholas Yap Chee Kong Solicitor: M/S Sidek Teoh Wong & Dennis (Tel: 03-2692 3000)	LOT 23 Reserve Price: RM 350,000 AMPANG CONDOMINIUM UNIT (1,001 SQ. FT.) Unit No. B-08-06, Ampang Prima Condominium, Jalan Wawasan 2/5, Bandar Baru Ampang, 68000 Ampang, Selangor. Assignors: Lee Kok Hai & Kwek Sok Chin Borrower: Lee Kok Hai Solicitor: M/S Ravi Moorthi, Noriza, Mala & Partners (Tel: 03-7491 0748)	LOT 24 Reserve Price: RM 180,000 KAJANG SMALL OFFICE HOME OFFICE (SOHO) UNIT (452 SQ. FT.) Unit No. A-14-22, Blok A, Residensi Rimbun, Jalan Zamrud Utama, 43000 Kajang, Selangor. Assignor/Customer: Mohd Hishamudin Bin Adzhari Solicitor: M/S Ravi Moorthi, Noriza, Mala & Partners (Tel: 03-7491 0748) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD
LOT 25 Reserve Price: RM 672,300 KAJANG 3 STOREY STRATIFIED SHOP (4,370 SQ. FT.) Unit Nos. A-G-02 & A-1-02, Centrum Residences, Jalan Ikram-Uniten, Taman Unipark Suria, 43000 Kajang, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: Azman Bin Mohd Salleh & Nor Ainna Binti Ibrahim Solicitor: M/S Iza Ng Yeoh & Kit (Tel: 03-2182 8138)	LOT 26 Reserve Price: RM 129,600 SERI KEMBANGAN SOFO (SMALL OFFICE FLEXIBLE OFFICE) (517 SQ. FT.) Unit No. B-11-21, Block B, 3 Elements, Persiaran Putra Permai Selesa, Pusat Bandar Putra Permai, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor. Assignors/Borrowers: K. Subash Shanthan A/L V. Kanthasamy & Shirley Tan Solicitor: M/S Ravi Moorthi, Noriza, Mala & Partners (Tel: 03-7491 0748)	LOT 27 Reserve Price: RM 81,000 NEGERI SEMBILAN APARTMENT UNIT (1,020 SQ. FT.) Unit No. V1A-02-01, Block 1, Sri Palma Villa, Persiaran UTL, Bandar Universiti Teknologi Lagenda, 71700 Mantin, Negeri Sembilan. Assignors: Ilias Bin Yaakop & Qaisara Neelum Rani Binti Abdullah Borrower: Ilias Bin Yaakop Solicitor: M/S Zairina Loh & Wong (Tel: 03-2710 8283)	LOT 28 Reserve Price: RM 209,200 PAHANG OFFICE UNIT (1,197 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 18-C, Menara Zenith, Jalan Putra Square 6, Putra Square, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang. Assignor/Customer: Ng Pei Ling Solicitor: M/S Iza Ng Yeoh & Kit (Tel: 03-2182 8138) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 29 Reserve Price: RM 350,000 PAHANG OFFICE UNIT (2,003 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 19-G, Menara Zenith, Jalan Putra Square 6, Putra Square, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang. Assignor/Borrower: Ng Pei Ling Solicitor: M/S Iza Ng Yeoh & Kit (Tel: 03-2182 8138)	LOT 30 Reserve Price: RM 130,000 MELAKA STRATIFIED OFFICE LOT (872 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 45-1, Jalan TU 49A, Kompleks Komersial Boulevard, Taman Tasik Utama, 75450 Hang Tuah Jaya, Bukit Katil, Melaka. KOD B Assignor/Customer: Hermee Bin Ramli Solicitor: M/S H.S. Chew & Co. (Tel: 06-283 8293 / 313 7898) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD
LOT 31 Reserve Price: RM 500,000 MELAKA STRATIFIED 2-STOREY SHOP/OFFICE (2,949 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 4 & 4-1, Jalan Kompleks Niaga Vista Kirana 1, Kompleks Niaga Vista Kirana, Bukit Katil, 75450 Hang Tuah Jaya, Melaka. Assignor/Borrower: Grandhouse Venture Sdn. Bhd. Solicitor: M/S William Chua, Kon & Associates (Tel: 06-9525843)	LOT 32 Reserve Price: RM 350,000 NEGERI SEMBILAN 2 STOREY SHOPOFFICE (1,539 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 25 & 25A, Jalan DS 1/2, Dataran Satria 1, 73400 Gemas, Negeri Sembilan. Assignor/Borrower: Wisdom View Sdn. Bhd. Solicitor: M/S Arthur Lee & Company (Tel: 07-335 1928 & 333 1911)	LOT 33 Reserve Price: RM 350,000 NEGERI SEMBILAN 2 STOREY SHOPOFFICE (1,539 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 26 & 26A, Jalan DS 1/2, Dataran Satria 1, 73400 Gemas, Negeri Sembilan. Assignor/Borrower: Wisdom View Sdn. Bhd. Solicitor: M/S Arthur Lee & Company (Tel: 07-335 1928 & 333 1911)	LOT 34 Reserve Price: RM 350,000 NEGERI SEMBILAN 2 STOREY SHOPOFFICE (1,539 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 27 & 27A, Jalan DS 1/2, Dataran Satria 1, 73400 Gemas, Negeri Sembilan. Assignor/Borrower: Wisdom View Sdn. Bhd. Solicitor: M/S Arthur Lee & Company (Tel: 07-335 1928 & 333 1911)	LOT 35 Reserve Price: RM 430,000 JOHOR RENOVATED 2-STOREY TERRACE HOUSE WITH A MEZZANINE FLOOR (958 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 27, Jalan Tiong 8, Taman Scientex, 81700 Pasir Gudang, Johor. Assignor/Customer: Ikhamd Nor Faezie Bin Tarmiz Solicitor: M/S Azizuddin, Kwang & Co (Tel: 07-224 0388) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 36 Reserve Price: RM 204,120 PENANG 3 BEDROOM LOW MEDIUM COST FLAT (753 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 11C-13-3, Persiaran Halia 3, E-Garden, 10470 Penang. Assignor/Customer: Hafizul Bin Pawan Chick Solicitor: M/S Wong & Loh (Tel: 04-310 2989 / 313 7898) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD
LOT 37 Reserve Price: RM 295,250 PULAU PINANG RETAIL SHOP/SHOP LOT (360 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 33-G-59, Jalan Dr. Lim Chwee Leong, Prangin Mall, 10100 Pulau Pinang. Assignor/Borrower: Cosmic Simulator Leisure Sdn. Bhd. Solicitor: M/S Wong-Chooi & Mohd. Nor (Tel: 04-539 8855)	LOT 38 Reserve Price: RM 500,000 PULAU PINANG CORNER 3 BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM (1,100 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 1C-26-1, Persiaran Halia 3, The Peak Residence, 10470 Pulau Pinang. Assignor/Borrower: Won Eng Soon Solicitor: M/S Ong And Manecksha (Tel: 04-250 5811)	LOT 39 Reserve Price: RM 550,000 PULAU PINANG 3 BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM (1,098 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 1088-20-06, Eco Terraces, Jalan Paya Terubong, 11060 Air Itam, Pulau Pinang. Assignor: Ooi Bee Sin Customers: Ooi Bee Sin & Lim Teik Leng Solicitor: M/S Wong & Loh (Tel: 04-2286989) *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	LOT 40 Reserve Price: RM 800,000 PULAU PINANG 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT (1,496 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 3B-18-3, Persiaran Sungai Emas 1, Ferringhi Residence 2, 11100 Batu Ferringgi, Pulau Pinang. Assignor/Borrower: Kho Wei Jie Solicitor: M/S Wong & Loh (Tel: 04-2286989)	LOT 41 Reserve Price: RM 400,000 AMPANG CONDOMINIUM UNIT (1,249 SQ. FT.) Unit No. B-6-6, Kondominium D'Suria, Jalan D'Suria, Taman D'Suria, 68000 Ampang, Selangor. Assignor: Senthil A/L Raja Manickam Borrowers: Senthil A/L Raja Manickam & Raja Manickam A/L R M N Naresa Pillay Solicitor: M/S Khong & Son (Tel: 05-5486810)	LOT 42 Reserve Price: RM 550,000 KEDAH SERVICED APARTMENT UNIT (1,528 SQ. FT.) Unit No. 17-8, G-Residence, Jalan Stadium, 05100 Alor Setar, Kedah. Assignor/Borrower: Chan Chee Way Solicitor: M/S Jayadeva & Kamal (Tel: 04-777 1161)
LOT 43 Reserve Price: RM 900,000 KELANTAN 4 STOREY SHOPOFFICE (1,496 SQ. FT.) Unit No. PT 1427, Kota Hartamas, Bandar Baru Tunjong, 15150 Kota Bharu, Kelantan. DI DALAM KAWASAN REZAB MELAYU Assignor/Customer: Muhammad Ikmal Opat Bin Abdullah Solicitor: M/S Wrigglesworth & Co. (Tel: 09-748 2533 / 09-744 4808) <i>Note: (1) Caveats: 1) A Private Caveat was entered on land by Public Islamic Bank Berhad vide Pres. No. 1654/2021 dated October 5, 2021. 2) A Private Caveat was entered on land by Cahaya Muhibbah Sdn Bhd. vide Pres. No. 3403/2025 dated December 9, 2025.</i> *PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD	The subject properties will be sold on an "as is where is" basis, subject to the respective reserve price and Conditions of Sale. All intending bidders are required to deposit with the Auctioneer the sum equivalent to 10% of the fixed reserve price for the property by bank draft in favour of respective bank or via RENTAS or online banking transfer (FPX) by 5PM, AT LEAST ONE (1) WORKING DAY BEFORE AUCTION DATE. For further particulars, please contact the respective Solicitors or the undermentioned Auctioneers. For further information in respect of the proclamation of sale and conditions of sale, steps to bid online and deposit payment, please visit our website at www.ngchanmau.com.				

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People walking past billboards by drugmakers at a metro station in Shanghai, China. — Reuters

“I rarely see pharmaceutical companies promoting prescription drugs for hypertension, tumours, and other diseases in public settings, or even through indirect advertising.”

Jia Hepeng

Pharma's subtle sell in China

WEIGHT-LOSS drugmakers, vying to tighten the belts of Chinese consumers, are promoting obesity awareness in metro stations, exercise studios and football stadiums as local restrictions prevent the direct advertising of prescription medicines in the world's second-largest drug market.

China's rate of overweight or obese people could reach more than 65% by 2030, the country's National Health Commission has said.

Novo Nordisk, Eli Lilly, Pfizer and local firm Innovent Biologics are competing for market share with their versions of once-weekly GLP-1 weight-loss injections in China. Eli Lilly led the once-weekly GLP-1 sales on Alibaba's Tmall e-commerce platform and JD.com in the second quarter, according to Jefferies.

China does not allow drug companies to advertise prescription medicines directly to consumers.

They can provide information to the public about the risks of specific diseases and recommend that they engage with doctors.

Campaigns cannot mention product names, but might indirectly encourage people to seek help.

“Don't forget to pay attention to Dad's snoring and promptly visit a respiratory department or sleep centre,” a banner with a Lilly logo advised commuters recently at a metro station in Shanghai's central Jingan district.

Snoring is a common symptom of sleep apnea, which is strongly linked to being overweight.

Eli Lilly's GLP-1 drug has been shown in clinical trials to alleviate the condition.

Ads from Innovent and e-commerce

giant Meituan displayed on a wall in the same station said “scientific weight management” can reverse fatty liver disease.

Another ad at a football stadium in Suzhou during a July match said “Innovent Biologics weight loss amazing!” repeatedly, a stream on the Weibo social media platform showed.

Gym chain Supermonkey touted via social media platform Xiaohongshu a partnership with Pfizer to launch a “healthy weight loss party” in June and July.

A Pfizer employee told a crowd at one such party in Shanghai that the company hoped to help them build a lasting, healthy way of life.

Afterward, a trainer led a weightlifting session for attendees, a post by the drugmaker on Xiaohongshu – which was later deleted – showed.

The communication efforts of drugmakers go well beyond campaigns related to other medicines, said Jia Hepeng, a professor of science communication at Soochow University in Suzhou.

“I rarely see pharmaceutical companies promoting prescription drugs for hypertension, tumours, and other diseases in public settings, or even through indirect advertising,” Jia said.

Social media promotions, along with recommendations from friends and family, have led some patients to seek specific weight-loss medicines by name, said employees at hospitals in Shanghai and Guangzhou.

At first, patients asked for Novo's semaglutide, but recently Eli Lilly's tirzepatide and Innovent's mazdutide, have been requested more frequently, said Zhao Xiaolong, an endocrinologist at the

Shanghai Public Health Clinical Centre.

Matching competitors

Novo launched the first once-weekly GLP-1 for weight management in China in late 2024.

Eli Lilly and Innovent followed in January 2025 and July 2025, respectively, while the first prescriptions for Pfizer's Xianweiyang were issued in April.

Sales of GLP-1 therapies for weight management could reach 30 billion yuan (US\$4bil) in the next five to seven years, up from an estimated three billion to four billion yuan at present, said Yang Huang, JP Morgan's head of China healthcare research.

Novo executive Cai Yan became the firm's Greater China president in March. She soon heard from doctors in China that the company's communications were weak compared with its competitors, Cai said.

Some Novo rivals were more bold, talking about the benefits of a drug more directly in their messaging, she said.

“I focus very much on what we should do and what is the right thing to do, what we can learn from competitors,” she said.

“If you feel a competitor is much better in communication, layman language to the public, then we have to transform the way, how we communicate, from (a) medical educational perspective.”

She said Novo is changing its approach to not only focus on doctors in hospitals, but to reach patients with information on obesity via different types of media.

The drugmaker aims to make the language in its public communication more accessible. Novo and state

broadcaster CCTV held a health exhibit on a street in Beijing with group dancing in July, Novo said on WeChat.

Text displayed at the exhibit said some GLP-1 therapies have been validated in multiple, large-scale clinical studies, a separate post from one Xiaohongshu user showed.

Some weight-management campaigns could also cross a line into drug advertising, medical and legal experts said.

For example, Innovent and Meituan's subway billboards might lead consumers to associate them with a specific prescription weight-loss drug, said Chen Zhenggang, a partner at DeHeng Law Offices in Beijing.

The billboards did not explicitly display the names of Innovent's product but included what appeared to be a mascot with a similar-sounding name: “Madudu”.

“On one side, they're definitely trying to be compliant ... On the other side, you have drugs and you want to sell,” said JP Morgan analyst Huang, referring to obesity awareness and educational programmes in China.

Earlier this year, Eli Lilly paused its local obesity awareness campaign in India after the nation's drug regulator said the company's awareness campaign there had coincided with the drugmaker's India launch and could potentially promote the drug to consumers.

In a statement, Eli Lilly said its educational activities do not promote any specific medicines and it is “consistent” with China's health strategies.

Pfizer, Innovent, Meituan and China's market regulator declined or did not respond to requests for comment.

— Reuters



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THE STAR, SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

Outrage over wedding strike

US launches probe as Iran hits military bases in revenge

TEHERAN: Iran said it hit US military bases in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, vowing to avenge a wedding attack it blamed on Washington as US Vice-President JD Vance said the strike was being investigated.

The new clashes, which began with US raids last Sunday, have deepened the impasse in the six-month conflict, as Iran maintains a stranglehold on the strategic Strait of Hormuz and Washington presses its counter-blockade of Iranian ports.

Kuwait's army said on Thursday that it intercepted a missile and drone attack from Iran, with the Iranian army reporting that it hit

US assets at the Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base "with missiles and drones".

Kuwait called the strikes a "grave breach of the rules of international law".

Iran's army also said it struck Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates, but the Gulf country reported no such attack.

The strikes came after the Iranian Red Crescent said a missile attack on a wedding in the Iranian coastal town of Kuhestak killed four people on Tuesday night, including a child, and wounded more than 50.

Vance said Washington was probing the alleged strike but cast

doubt on reports out of Iran.

"I know that we're investigating," he told a White House briefing.

"I will say that the Iranian state media has not been a very good scribe about what's happened in the conflict thus far. So I'm extremely sceptical of this."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards chief Ahmad Vahidi vowed on Thursday to avenge the victims of the attack.

US Central Command (Centcom) spokesman Tim Hawkins said "the US military never targets civilians, unlike the IRGC", referring to Iran's Guards.

Extensive US bombardment of

sites across Iran killed at least 19 Iranians between Tuesday and Wednesday, after President Donald Trump said his military was prepared to attack Iran "any time we want".

Iran's Tasnim news agency added on Thursday that six members of the Iranian army's naval forces were killed by US attacks this week, but it was not immediately clear if the six were among the 19 dead.

Teheran retaliated with strikes across the Middle East this week, saying it targeted US bases and forces in the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Iraq's Kurdistan region. — AFP

'Venezuela needs more than money after US oil deal'

CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition figure Maria Corina Machado has called for a democratic transition in her country after the interim government struck a massive oil deal with the United States.

The agreement grants US access to more than 65 billion barrels – almost 20% – of oil in Venezuela, which holds the largest proven reserves in the world.

Celebrating the "historic" pact on Wednesday, US President Donald Trump and Venezuelan interim leader Delcy Rodriguez both sidelined the notion of elections in the near future.

Machado, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, said genuine development required a democratic transition.

"The oil sector is only one part of the immense reconstruction we must undertake in Venezuela," she said on Thursday.

The South American country "requires colossal investments," she said, "but it needs much more than money".

"No development is possible without solid institutions and a government elected by popular vote," added Machado.

The deal comes as US Republicans brace for possible losses in November midterm elections over spiralling fuel costs brought on by the US-Israel conflict with Iran.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright travelled to Venezuela on Wednesday to oversee the signing of deals between Caracas and oil major Chevron, GE Vernova – a General Electric offshoot – and Italy's ENI.

He insisted that the United States was not "stealing Venezuelan oil" in comments to AFP and other media outlets.

"All we're doing is taking an idle, underground asset that isn't doing anything for Venezuelan people and bringing the money, the technology to develop it." — AFP

BEIRUT: Israel has announced the release of five civilians captured in southern Lebanon, where it is at war with the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group, with one man already handed over to the Lebanese army.

Lebanon said its army had received a man returned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the first since Beirut called in August talks for the release of an initial group seized since the start of the 2024 Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

"It was decided to release five Lebanese civilians who were arrested in areas under (Israeli army) control in southern Lebanon," the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement on Thursday.

"After their interrogation was completed, it became clear that they are civilians who are not members of any terrorist organisation, have not engaged in terrorism, and there is no reason to continue holding them in Israel."

A Lebanese official said on Thursday that the release of the four other civilians – two Lebanese and two Syrians – was postponed to yesterday.

Their release is a prelude to the continuation of Lebanon-Israel talks in Rome, the official added,

Israel frees first of five Lebanese detainees



Volley of violence: Smoke rising as Israeli forces strike homes in Mansouri village, southern Lebanon. — AP

requesting anonymity.

Lebanese authorities have not officially announced the number of citizens Israel seized during that conflict and a subsequent 2026 conflict, but a list of more than 30 people has been compiled by their families and a committee working on their cases.

The list includes at least one

Syrian national and several Hezbollah fighters.

Netanyahu's office said the decision followed "extensive efforts" by Israel and Lebanon to locate and return the bodies of leaders of Lebanon's Jewish community abducted and killed in the 1980s during the country's 15-year civil war.

After the latest round of Lebanon-Israel talks in Rome last month, a Lebanese official said Israel gave Beirut a list of individuals to demand the return of their remains.

The Israeli military said in August it recovered the remains of a soldier killed in eastern Lebanon in 1982. — AFP

US hits Cuba with new sanctions as island's crises multiply

HAVANA: The US government has slapped new sanctions on Cuba in a fresh push to strangle the island's economy and deepen its multiple crises.

Among those hit with sanctions are Fidel Ernesto Castro, grandson of former president Raul Castro, and Cuba's Oil Industry Supply Import Company, known as Abapet.

The company is responsible for importing special equipment and spare parts needed to sustain Cuba's crumbling power grid.

The sanctions aim to push Cuba's critical machinery offline

and exacerbate its energy crisis, said Brett Erickson, a sanctions expert and managing principal at Obsidian Risk Advisors, a consulting firm.

"The United States is trying to really tighten the screws as much as possible.

"The Trump administration seems to have no seriousness to accept any change from Cuba other than a toppling of regime. Marco is not going to let that go," he added, referring to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Erickson anticipated that Cuba's government would try to circum-

vent the sanctions "because they have to".

"They'll get creative in how they try to procure these maintenance parts," he said, warning that it would be costlier, which in turn would raise inflation and further hurt Cuba's economy.

Islandwide blackouts have become increasingly common, while daily outages in Cuba now surpass 24 hours as the ageing grid fails and fuel reserves dwindle ever since US President Donald Trump in late January threatened tariffs on any country that sells or provides oil to

the island.

"The goal in theory is to create so much civilian hardship and suffering that they have no option but to essentially rise up and topple their government," Erickson said. "It is an attempt to cause a humanitarian crisis."

Talks earlier this year between the United States and Cuba have since halted, while sanctions have increased in recent months.

The United States has previously sanctioned entities including Cuba's state-owned oil and gas company.

The US State Department made

the announcement just hours after Cuban officials held a press conference to share more details on the historic economic reforms approved in June.

When asked about the current situation in Cuba, Oscar Perez-Oliva Fraga, Cuba's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign investment, blamed the US government.

"This past year has been very complex, and we know why," he said before the sanctions were announced.

"The blockade is a genocide." — AP

'Falkland Islands are British'

UK asserts unshakeable hold after Argentina presses claim

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina): Britain insisted that the Falkland Islands "are British" after Argentine President Javier Milei said the "winds of change" favoured his country's claim to the archipelago, citing Washington's readiness to review its neutrality in the dispute.

Britain and Argentina fought a 10-week war in 1982 over the South Atlantic islands, a British overseas territory which Argentines call Las Malvinas.

The fate of the islands hit headlines again in recent days after US President Donald Trump threatened to wade into the dispute, and a British-Israeli oil project near the islands caused anger in Argentina.

In an address on national TV, Milei assured that Argentina would not "stand idly by" in the face of the oil project and

announced sanctions on firms linked to oil extraction "in Argentine territory under British occupation".

"There are winds of change in the world that are favourable to our claim," he said, alluding to Trump's threat to withdraw support for Britain's sovereignty.

Control of the Falklands is a highly emotive issue in Argentina, even though the islanders themselves voted overwhelmingly in 2013 to remain British.

"The Falklands are British because Falkland Islanders choose to be British," British Defence Secretary Wes Streeting responded in a social media post yesterday, calling Milei's statement a result of "domestic politics".

"Our commitment to the Falklands is absolute and unshakeable," Streeting added.



Site of contention: View of Stanley, Falkland Islands in this 2019 file photo. Britain and Argentina fought over the islands in 1982. — AFP

The Falklands War began in April 1982 when Argentine forces invaded the islands ruled by Britain since the 19th century, prompting then-British prime minister Margaret Thatcher to send a naval task force to reclaim them.

The conflict left 649 Argentines, 255 Britons and three islanders dead.

On Tuesday, Argentine Falklands War veterans and environmental lawyers filed a lawsuit to halt the oil project, which is promoted by the British company Rockhopper and the Israeli company Navitas.

Milei said the project violated a United Nations resolution calling on both sides to desist from unilateral actions in the islands.

"If we allow it, we will be creating an incentive for the British government to deepen the occu-

pation of the islands and the exploitation of our resources," he said.

He added that companies involved in Falklands' projects "behind the back of the Argentine government" would be barred from operating in Argentine territory.

His address came as his approval ratings plummet, just over a year before he seeks re-election.

Polls show only around 34% of Argentines supporting his drastic belt-tightening and deregulation policies.

Trump's announcement on Monday that the United States was reviewing its position on the Falkland Islands came amid reports Washington is threatening to oppose Britain's sovereignty in the region if it does not increase defence spending. — AFP

Trump moves against race-based programmes in schools

NEW YORK: President Donald Trump's administration proposed new regulations that would strip schools of tax-exempt status if they offer targeted support to specific racial groups.

The rules proposed by the US Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service are the latest salvo in the administration's campaign to eradicate diversity programmes and end what officials say is discrimination against white students in favour of students of colour.

Civil rights advocates say diversity practices help address historic inequities for marginalised ethnic minorities who were legally discriminated for decades.

The proposal, which is subject to a public comment period and would likely draw legal challenges if implemented, draws on recent US Supreme Court rulings that limited how colleges and universities can consider race in admissions.

Treasury's proposal would cover admissions, educational policies, scholarships and loans, athletics and "every other school-administered or school-supported programme". It would apply to programmes that consider race "for any purpose," including mitigating past racial discrimination.

"Schools rebranding race-based preferences as equitable, inclusive, or diversity-enhancing does not change their discriminatory nature," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

The American Association of University Professors, which advocates for academic freedom and has sued the Trump administration to block funding cuts, said it is considering legal action in response to the proposal.

"This is not neutral enforcement of civil-rights law. It is an affirmative attempt to turn civil-rights law against the very people it was enacted to protect," AAUP president Todd Wolfson said. "For half a century, federal policy recognised that measures intended to dismantle entrenched racial exclusion are not equivalent to policies designed to preserve it."

The Treasury estimated the change could affect as many as 18,000 schools at all education levels and 750,000 students who may qualify for race-based scholarships. — Reuters

A single juror may prevent a verdict in Clancy trial

PLYMOUTH (Massachusetts): A deadlocked jury returned for the seventh day of deliberations in the Lindsay Clancy trial, a day after the jury's foreperson told the judge a single juror won't follow the court's instructions about reasonable doubt.

The extraordinary disclosure made Thursday in the form of a note delivered to the judge offered the clearest glimpse yet of what may be keeping jurors from reaching a verdict on whether the Massachusetts mother is criminally responsible for killing her three children.

The jury has twice told Judge William Sullivan that it is unable to agree on a verdict. On Thursday, Sullivan brought in each juror individually and questioned them in private.

Clancy's lawyer, Kevin Reddington, then asked Sullivan to dismiss the juror from the case, arguing the person had refused to follow the judge's instructions. Prosecutors objected, and Sullivan declined to remove the juror.

"I don't feel it is proper for me to side with one side or the other of the deliberations," the judge said. "I don't feel it's appropriate for me to say, 'I agree with one juror or the 11.' I have asked if they are able to follow my instructions. They swore earlier that they could." — AP



15 minutes of feline fame

French journalists interacting with Larry the cat as Britain's Prime Minister hosts France's President for a meeting, in Downing Street, London. Larry has served as Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office since 2011. — AFP

Airport near-miss involved 'high-fatigue risk' controllers

SYDNEY: Several air traffic controllers on duty when two Qantas aircraft nearly collided at Sydney Airport in July had been flagged as facing a high risk of fatigue, according to internal records and a call recording obtained by Reuters, a staffing situation one shift manager described as "a bit insane".

The July 27 incident, in which a landing Qantas turboprop narrowly avoided a Qantas Boeing

737 that had been cleared to cross the runway, was the first of six near-misses at Sydney Airport in about a month, drawing further scrutiny of air traffic control staffing amid global shortages.

Of the 10 controllers on duty at the time, five were rated "H" for high fatigue risk under Australia's fatigue-management system, according to an internal log reviewed by Reuters. One was rated "M" for medium risk and

one was "L" for low risk. The other three were not ranked as at risk of fatigue.

"We've got like five high fatigues on this morning. It's a bit insane," a controller shift manager told an air traffic management director in an internal call after the near-miss.

"Thankfully, they didn't hit, but it was pretty close and everyone up here is pretty rattled by it," he said in a recording.

Two of the three controllers directly involved in the incident were "high fatigued" and the third was "medium fatigued," the shift manager said.

The fatigue-risk ratings and the internal call, neither of which has previously been reported, occurred as aviation authorities worldwide grapple with concerns about overstretched air traffic control workforces and the risk of accidents. — Reuters

Reform faces fresh crisis

Officials quit after allegations over prohibited overseas funding

BIRMINGHAM: British hard-right leader Nigel Farage's Reform UK party gathered for its annual conference engulfed by a fresh scandal over allegations it flouted donations rules.

The Brexit figurehead was hoping to use yesterday's meeting to move on from multiple controversies over financial gifts that has dented his anti-immigration party's standing in opinion polls.

But just hours before Farage's keynote address, two senior Reform officials resigned following an undercover investigation aired by Channel 4 News that alleged they had conspired to secure a foreign donation – barred under UK electoral law.

Reform said in a statement that James Orr and Dan Jukes had stepped down from their roles pending the outcome of an internal probe.

The ruling Labour party was among rival parties to say they had reported Reform to police



Money trail:

A bus stop displays a poster placed by protest group Climate Resistance as part of its 'Resist Reform' campaign, highlighting Farage's and Reform's financial links to Harborne, in Birmingham. — Reuters

over claims it took funding from a US firm for three opinion polls it commissioned earlier this year.

The purported donors were in

fact undercover reporters for investigative journalism group Verbatim.

London's Metropolitan police said it was "aware" of the reports.

Farage, 62, insisted in an interview with LBC radio that Reform had "broken no laws" and was the victim of "entrapment".

The firebrand politician, who has been eyeing the keys to No.10 Downing Street, is seeking to regain the momentum that saw Reform chalk up significant success at May local elections.

Until late July, Reform had led centre-left Labour in polls for over a year, but it has recently slipped behind with Farage facing intense scrutiny over his finances and Labour enjoying a bounce under new Prime Minister Andy Burnham.

Parliament's sleaze watchdog is investigating a £5mil donation from British crypto-currency billionaire Christopher Harborne to Farage, who has said the money was for his security.

He says it was received before he was elected and therefore did not need to be declared to parliamentary authorities. — AFP

Man gets 20 years in 1986 'Texas Killing Fields' death

HOUSTON: A man convicted over a "Texas Killing Fields" death was sentenced to 20 years in a rare trial related to the bodies of dozens of women found near Houston beginning in the 1970s.

James Dolphs Elmore Jr was given the maximum sentence on Thursday by a Galveston County jury a day after they found him guilty of manslaughter in the death of 16-year-old Laura Miller, whose body was found in the infamous area in 1986.

What became known as the "Texas Killing Fields" refers to a stretch of land along Interstate 45 southeast of Houston where the bodies of more than 30 girls and young women have been found.

Most of the deaths remain unsolved, and investigators believe multiple people may be responsible.

Laura's body was found 17 months after she went missing. After the long search for her and frustration with authorities, her father, Tim Miller, started Texas EquuSearch, a non-profit that helps search for missing people.

"I begged, I pleaded for somebody to do something," Tim told jurors. "I knew something happened to Laura, I just knew it. I just didn't know what it was."

Elmore, 61, had approached Tim several years ago, telling him he was there when Laura died, and the two men met dozens of times. During the trial, jurors watched a video produced by Tim showing the two men visiting locations connected to his daughter's death.

Elmore was arrested this year, accused of preparing the dose of cocaine that killed her.

Laura was one of four young women whose bodies were found between 1984 and 1991 in a rural field off a desolate dirt road in League City, southeast of Houston.

The other three were: Audrey Cook, Heidi Fye-Villareal and Donna Prudhomme.

Elmore was accused in an indictment of preparing a vial of cocaine that was administered to Laura by Clyde Hedrick, who authorities have alleged was the person responsible for the deaths of the four women and had been Elmore's long-time friend.

The district attorney's office said it planned to seek indictments against Hedrick, but the 72-year-old died by suicide before the grand jury hearing. — AP

Roach milk, buried briefs win science glory

ZURICH: Ten research teams were honoured at a satirical science awards ceremony that was hosted outside the United States for the first time due to travel concerns.

Researchers who studied milk from cockroaches and analysed soil health using underwear received Ig Nobel prizes celebrating unusual and imaginative contributions to science.

The awards organised by a digital magazine called the *Annals of Improbable Research* shifted to Europe after 35 years in the United States over concerns about attendees being able to get visas.

At a convention centre in Zurich, Switzerland, research teams received a custom trophy resembling a cross between a mushroom and a human foot.

Among them were Matilda Brindle and Stuart West from the University of Oxford and the Florida Institute of Technology's Catherine F. Talbot, who reconstructed the evolutionary history of kissing, and the late Dr Tokuji Unno, who investigated the science of blowing one's nose.

Another research team buried 1,000 pairs of underwear in more than 25 countries to study how critters in the soil helped them decompose.

As per tradition, audience members fashioned paper airplanes and hurled them towards



Science's odd side: As part of a long-standing Ig Nobel tradition, audience members tossing paper airplanes during the 2026 Ig Nobel Prize ceremony in Zurich. The tongue-in-cheek awards, a parody of the Nobel Prizes, honour 10 unusual or seemingly trivial achievements in scientific research each year. — AFP

the stage to kick off the show.

For future ceremonies, organisers plan to alternate between Zurich and other European countries. The 2027 ceremony will be held in the Belgian city of Antwerp.

Previous iterations took place

at Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University, but there are no immediate plans to return to the United States.

"During the past year, it has become unsafe for our guests to visit the country," Marc Abrahams,

master of ceremonies and editor of the magazine, said in an e-mail in March.

The Nobel Prizes, which have no relation to their cheekily named counterpart, will be announced at the start of October. — AP

Missouri GOP candidate charged in alleged rival drug-planting plot

SILVER SPRING (Maryland): The Republican nominee for a Missouri statehouse seat has been charged in federal court with conspiracy to distribute narcotics, accused of plotting to plant drugs on his primary election rival in the final months of the race.

Thomas Christopher Ross, 37, who won the Republican primary for the 161st district of the Missouri House of Representatives by

a mere 33 votes in August, was charged in a single-count criminal complaint filed by federal prosecutors on Wednesday.

The case was announced on Thursday by the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri.

According to prosecutors, Ross spent weeks hatching a plan with his campaign manager to frame his opponent, Louise Secker, by

surreptitiously placing a black nylon glove containing a bag of cocaine and a capsule of the prescription stimulant Adderall into her car or purse.

Under the alleged scheme, outlined in a seven-page FBI affidavit, the campaign manager would then alert law enforcement through "an anonymous tip" that Secker had drugs in her possession.

The plot, which apparently was never carried out, was to be acted on while Ross was away on vacation in South Carolina in June 2026, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit said Ross and the campaign manager, who was not named in court documents, communicated through text messages in coded language, including one in which Ross referred to the

desired outcome as "extreme egg on the face" of his opponent.

According to the affidavit, the investigation began when the campaign manager alerted police in Joplin, Missouri, who turned the case over to the FBI.

The campaign aide provided the bag containing the drugs that he said Ross wanted planted on Secker, as well as texts he had shared with his boss. — Reuters

Putin sees hope for peace deal

US envoys set Moscow and Kyiv visits as talks intensify

VLADIVOSTOK: Russian President Vladimir Putin said there was a chance of reaching an agreement to end the war in Ukraine, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said US negotiators trying to broker a deal would soon visit both Moscow and Kyiv.

Putin, speaking at an economic forum in Russia's far east on Thursday, said a number of countries including the United States and China were ready to support a peace settlement.

"Ultimately, however, the problem must be resolved by the countries involved in the conflict - Russia and Ukraine," he said.

"We are grateful to everyone attempting to contribute to a settlement. Is there a chance? In my view, yes, there is."

In Kyiv, Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address that preliminary dates had been set for a

visit by US negotiators.

"We expect to see representatives of the US president here in Kyiv," Zelenskyy said.

"There will be a meeting with them in Moscow and in Kyiv. We are expecting a meeting with them in the coming days. It is very important. It is important that America continues to be active."

In Washington, US President Donald Trump said he wanted to see an end to the war and losses sustained by both sides.

"I just want to see that end. I think we'll get it," Trump told GB News in an interview that aired on Thursday, a day after telling reporters he wanted a summit with Putin when the Kremlin leader is ready for a peace deal.

After four and a half years of Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II, it is rare for either side to offer an upbeat assessment of peace prospects. They



War's toll: Ukrainian rescuers working at the site of a damaged residential building following a Russian strike in Kyiv. — AFP

last met for US-mediated talks in February.

Since then, with the US distracted by the Iran conflict, both Russia and Ukraine have ramped up

long-range air attacks deep inside the other's territory.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha had earlier told reporters in Kyiv that he saw a

"new dynamic" coming in peace efforts, with more active political and diplomatic engagement. Neither side, however, gave reasons to expect progress. — Reuters

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End of an era: Gael Monfils holds up a framed poster he received as a gift after his match against USA's Learner Tien. — AFP

NEW YORK: Learner Tien brought the curtain down on Gael Monfils' Grand Slam career on Thursday as the American youngster defeated the French veteran 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 in a clash of generations to reach the US Open third round.

Monfils turned back the clock to beat Adolfo Daniel Vallejo in the first round on his 40th birthday and extend his stay in New York, but the wildcard's run ended under lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium against an opponent half his age.

"I want to thank you all," Monfils told the crowd after a video tribute on the giant screen that featured some of his most outrageous shots in New York over the last two decades.

"It's been a long ride. I came here in 2003 as a junior and here I am in 2026,

thank you very much.

"I felt all the love and I can tell you that you guys are my second-best crowd after Paris. You're up there.

"It's been an absolute honour to play in front of you all and to produce high-performance tennis."

On a muggy evening on the main show court, Monfils appeared drained towards the end of the first set and turned to the crowd for inspiration, but 14th seed Tien was unfazed and tightened his grip on the contest.

With the opening set in the bag, 20-year-old Tien continued to dictate proceedings in the next, absorbing Monfils' bursts of aggression to clinch it and edge closer to the third round for a meeting with Czech Jakub Mensik.

Monfils made a final, emotion-fuelled charge in the third set with some trademark shot making, but Tien stood his ground and sealed victory before warmly embracing the French showman who will retire at the end of the year.

"I think playing him in Montreal really helped with the nerves," Tien said of his three-set victory over Monfils at the Canadian Open last month.

"I'm glad I didn't feel like that tonight. I didn't want the greatest comeback of all time to happen to me here.

"It was an incredible match. I told him in Montreal I hoped to play him one more time.

"I'm super happy that it happened here tonight. Sorry for drop-shotting you so much tonight." — Reuters

Marathon man Zverev goes distance again to reach third round

NEW YORK: Top seed Alexander Zverev (*pic*) was put through the late-night ringer once more before booking his place in the third round of the US Open yesterday.

The German star, who had finished a five-set first round battle in the early hours of Wednesday morning, was again forced to go the distance before grinding out a 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-7 (3-7), 6-3 victory over France's Quentin Halys.

The four hours 33 minutes slug fest was another gruelling outing on the Arthur Ashe Stadium show court for Zverev, who clinched victory at just after 2.15am local time.

The 29-year-old, who has spent nearly 10 hours on court in his opening two matches, will face Chile's Alejandro Tabilo in the next round.

"The performance was quite shit to be honest, but I won, that's the most important thing," Zverev said in an on-court interview afterwards.

"Another four-and-a-half hours, 2:15 am, that's what I go to the gym for," he added, before thanking die-hard fans who remained in the stadium for the end of the match.

"The couple thousand people (who stayed) made up for the 15,000 that left," he said.

Zverev had looked in complete control against Halys early on, seizing the only break of the first set to go 5-4 before holding to claim the opening frame.



The second set appeared to be following a similar pattern when Zverev earned the first break point for a chance to take a 5-4 lead again.

This time, though, Halys rallied and recovered to hold, leaving Zverev needing to hold to keep the set alive.

Yet Zverev's composed service game suddenly looked vulnerable and a double fault gave Halys two set points at 15-40 which the Frenchman pounced on to knot it at one set apiece.

Zverev recovered from a 4-1 deficit in the third set to level at 4-4.

Halys saved three break points to edge

into a 5-4 lead and the rest of the set went on serve until the tiebreak, where Zverev was soon in charge, sprinting into a 5-1 lead before taking the set.

Yet it was a different story when the fourth set ended in a tiebreak, with Halys dominating Zverev to level the match and take send it to a decider.

With tension mounting, it was Halys who blinked first in the fifth set, slashing a forehand well wide to set up a crucial break for Zverev.

The German held twice to take a 5-3 lead and then broke a weary Halys to clinch victory. — AFP

Khachanov upsets ailing Aliassime to advance

NEW YORK: Russian veteran Karen Khachanov defeated an ailing third-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime on Thursday in the second round of the US Open in four sets.

Khachanov, unseeded this year but a familiar face in the latter stages of big tournaments, beat Auger-Aliassime 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

The 26-year-old Canadian, a two-time semi-finalist at Flushing Meadows, eked out a first-set tiebreaker against the hard-hitting Russian, who himself made the US Open semi-finals in 2022.

But Auger-Aliassime, who appeared to give up quickly on some balls, was undone by a rash of unforced errors in the subsequent sets. He made 47 in all, compared with 30 for Khachanov.

Khachanov also won several key points with blistering backhand down-the-line winners. Auger-Aliassime said he began feeling unwell in the middle of the second set.

"I just couldn't, feel well and was dizzy and seeing spots and couldn't recover. I thought maybe it would pass, but it didn't," the Canadian said after the match.

Auger-Aliassime felt fine the last few days and had no problem before the match on Thursday.

"I'm going to run some tests and see what comes out of it," said Auger-Aliassime, who called Khachanov a "great player" but added that he was in no condition to advance. "I cannot beat him or anybody in this draw feeling the way I felt today," he said. "So, if I cannot move, we're not talking about tennis here. So, it's unfortunate."

A fixture among the seeds at Grand Slam tournaments for most of the last decade, Khachanov, 30, came into New York ranked 50th, his lowest since 2017.

"Maybe he had some physical issues," Khachanov told an on-court interview. "It's part of our sport. It's part of tennis." I tried to give my best performance. Fight," he said. "I'm super happy to get this win."

After reaching the quarter-finals of the French Open and Wimbledon, Auger-Aliassime withdrew from the Rogers Cup in Montreal in early August due to a back injury.

He won two matches at the Cincinnati Open in mid-August, but lost in the round of 16 to Frances Tiafoe. Auger-Aliassime entered this year's US Open without a coach after parting ways with long-time coach Frederic Fontang in July.

The Canadian's exit follows that of 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic, the fourth seed who fell in the first round. — AFP

Kyrgios given one-month ban for 'social' cocaine use

MELBOURNE: Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios has accepted and served a reduced, one-month suspension under anti-doping rules after testing positive for cocaine at an ATP Tour event in Mallorca, Spain, in June, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said.

Kyrgios, who had been provisionally suspended since August 4, had entered into a treatment programme approved by the ITIA to reduce the three-month default suspension under WADA rules, the ITIA said in a statement.

During an interview with ITIA investigators, the 31-year-old explained that his use of cocaine had "occurred socially" during a night out before he was due to play in Mallorca, the statement said.

The ITIA consulted an independent scientific expert at a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratory, who stated that the explanation was consistent with the level of cocaine found in his sample.

"As a result, the ITIA accepted that Kyrgios' use of cocaine was outside of competition," it added.

The ITIA said Kyrgios' suspension ends on Thursday, subject to completion of the programme.

Prize money and ranking points from the Mallorca event will be forfeited.

Cocaine is prohibited in-competition and carries a provisional suspension.

Kyrgios apologised last month on social media for the failed drug test, saying he had made a "huge mistake" and took full responsibility for it. — Reuters

Slovenian rookie Omrzel triumphs as Mas extends Vuelta lead

SPAIN: Slovenian 20-year-old Jakob Omrzel (*pic*) climbed to victory on stage 12 of the Vuelta a Espana on Thursday as Spain's Enric Mas extended his overall lead on a tough mountain stage.

In a landmark performance, Omrzel, of the Bahrain Victorious team, also leapt up the overall standings, evoking memories of his countryman Tadej Pogacar's showing in his first Grand Tour in 2019.

Omrzel jumped to sixth overall, just 30 seconds behind Briton Oscar Onley in the best young rider white jersey category. Onley fell early in the stage and finished over five minutes adrift of the winner.

"I can't believe what I did, but I felt super good. I'm still feeling okay. I'm not tired. So I'm just enjoying it at the moment," Omrzel said.

Three major mountain stages remain

in an enthralling 21-day race. Pogacar was six months older than Omrzel when he came third and won three stages in the 2019 edition of the Vuelta.

Movistar rider Mas finished 2:56s adrift of the winner but extended his lead over Primož Roglič by 27 seconds to 1:45s. Four-time champion Roglič, another Slovenian, crossed the line with Felix Gall, who is third overall.

Mas had several Movistar team members around him over the early climbs.

"We did two training camps here, and I enjoyed it today more than in winter. It's 27 seconds, and that could be very important in the final week.

"It was a long day, but I'm happy with what we achieved here," said the 31-year-old.

Mas has won the Vuelta white jersey twice, in 2018 and 2020, and is set for his first Grand Tour win if he can hold on. — AFP



Hamilton drives his Ferrari dream at Monza

MONZA: Lewis Hamilton glided into Formula One's temple of speed on Thursday hoping that a twist of fate and an engine upgrade will bring him good luck in the Italian Grand Prix.

His swagger came with his stylish entrance at the wheel of his newly-purchased dream car, a gleaming 'vintage' Ferrari F40, dressed in his formal winter's best – a dark suit and a heavy tan overcoat.

On a hot day, with a heat hazard warning declared for the weekend, it was a bizarre scene, made more extraordinary when the 41-year-old seven-time world champion explained the origins and some details of his car.

Hamilton described how he had hunted for an F40 road car – of which only 1,300 were made by Ferrari between 1987 and 1993 – and then found not far from the team factory at Maranello.

His delight, he said, became ecstatic amazement when he discovered that the car's engine was stamped as number 44 off the production line – the same number he has used throughout his F1 racing career.

"I've been looking for one for a while, with low mileage and a story behind it," he said. "Lots have come up at auction, but none particularly special or the paint's been redone.

"I wanted to find the most authentic one. I found this one that a guy bought and then drove 69 kilometres from Maranello to his home. He parked it and never drove it again."

Hamilton said he took time before choosing to clean the car up to drive, instead of keeping it as a work of art.

"I might be wrong but none of the Ferrari drivers in history have ever arrived in the coolest car in history," he added. "And, when they were taking the car apart ... it had 44 stamped on the engine. I couldn't believe it!"

"So, yes, it feels very much like fate."

Hamilton said he chose to drive the car into the historic Autodromo Nazionale di Monza, because "I thought it was an opportunity to highlight the history of Ferrari in their own country and at their own race."

His decision coincided with Ferrari's celebration of the 30th anniversary of fellow seven-time champion Michael Schumacher's first home win in 1996.

Hamilton hopes this weekend to follow the German by claiming his first Italian triumph for Ferrari and a record sixth overall at Monza, moving clear of the record five he shares with Schumacher.

An engine upgrade, confirmed by Ferrari, should help him as he seeks to reduce local hero Kimi Antonelli's 59-point lead in the title race. The 20-year-old Italian will start from the back of the grid after being penalised for taking a new power unit by Mercedes.

"Every little helps," said Hamilton. "This is a step forward. It is not the whole amount we need, but we knew that was the case. I strongly believe we have what it takes to win.

"My mum's here. I don't think she's been to Monza and certainly not with Ferrari. I wanted her to experience this – and bring any lucky dust she can bring." — AFP

Back in the hunt

Olympic champ Qinwen rediscovers her competitive fire to reach third round

NEW YORK: Zheng Qinwen flopped to the court then jumped up in a fist-pumping celebration on Thursday after battling into the US Open third round, the 2024 Olympic gold medallist relishing the return of her game – and her competitive fire.

The former world No. 4 endured an injury-plagued 2025 that included a longer than anticipated recovery from elbow surgery.

She missed the Australian Open and has struggled to regain her form, and the mindset of a champion.

"Before the surgery, for me winning is like drinking water – everything comes natural, everything comes fluent," Qinwen said after beating Yulia Putintseva 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 to reach the third round.

"After my surgery, I had some tough matches against the best players in the world (and) I'm close but I don't get them.

"I totally lost the dynamic of how to compete.

"Now after two, three months I really felt the first time in this

tournament I find myself, I found my fire back during the competition."

Qinwen sank so far in the rankings that she had to go through qualifying to book her US Open berth.

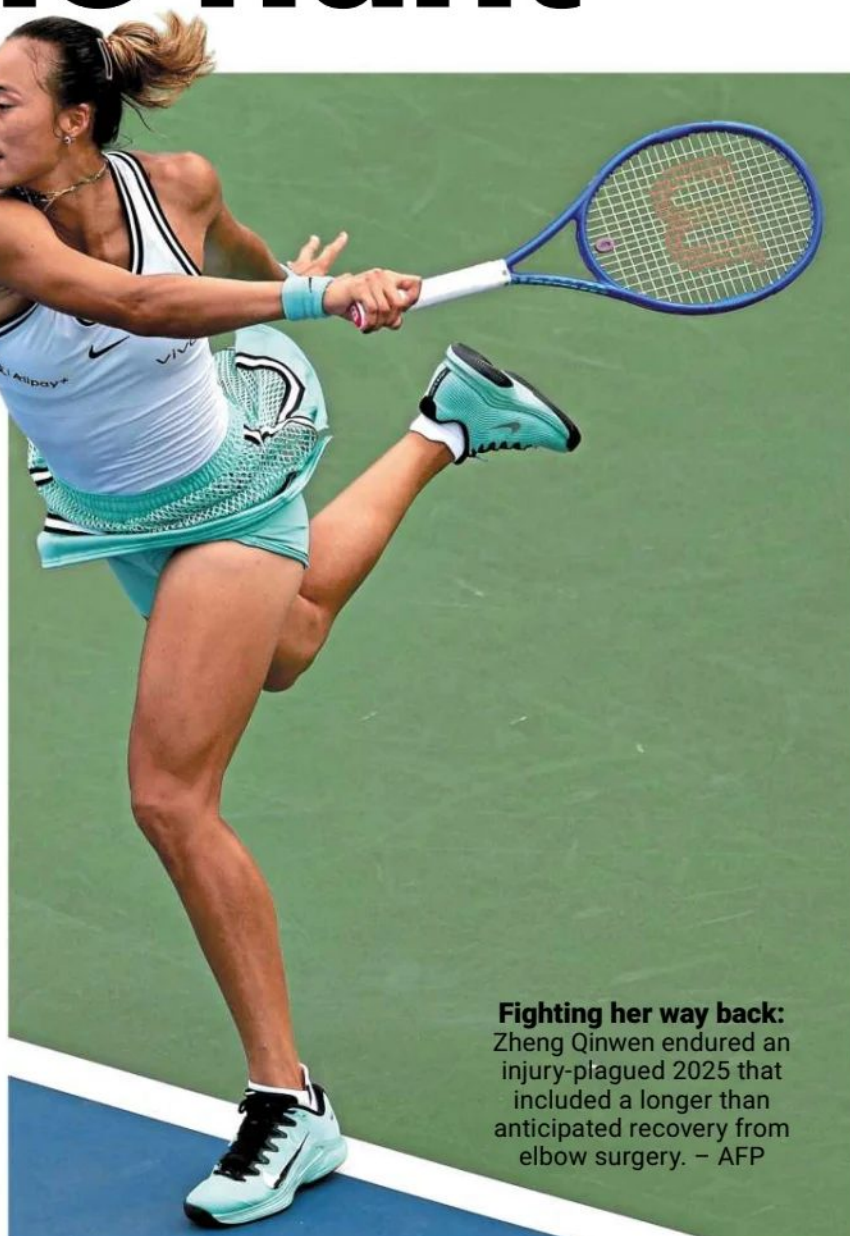
She grudgingly acknowledged that grinding through the qualifiers may have helped her regain her competitive edge – but that didn't really take the sting away.

"It takes a while for me to accept my ranking dropped to 125 and, OK, I need to actually play qualifiers," she said.

Now she's in the thick of the main draw and will face former Australian Open champion Keys for a place in the last 16.

Qinwen is looking forward to the test – and likely a chance to step back onto one of the main show courts of Flushing Meadows after toiling through two rounds on the outside courts.

"I used to always play on the big court," she said. "I need to fight to get everything back." — AFP



Fighting her way back: Zheng Qinwen endured an injury-plagued 2025 that included a longer than anticipated recovery from elbow surgery. — AFP

FIA appeal court strips Gasly of Monaco podium and reinstates Hadjar

MONZA: Formula One's governing body reinstated Red Bull's Isack Hadjar to third place at last June's Monaco Grand Prix and demoted Alpine's Pierre Gasly for the second time yesterday.

Gasly finished third on track on June 7 but was demoted to seventh when two five-second penalties for pit-lane speeding were applied post-race, with fellow Frenchman Hadjar promoted to third.

That decision was overturned after a right to review on June 12, stewards accepting Renault-owned Alpine's evidence that there had been a timekeeping error.

The FIA's International Court of Appeal then met last month to hear a McLaren and Red Bull challenge, with the verdict issued ahead of the Italian Grand Prix.

Renault-owned Alpine said they were disappointed and frustrated with the outcome and felt they had been "unjustly punished".

"While we disagree with the decision, and still fully

maintain that Car 10 (Gasly) did not exceed the pit lane speed limit at any point during the race, the team acknowledges the decision of the judging panel," they said in a statement.

The decision will also affect other teams and drivers with McLaren's Oscar Piastri moving back up to fourth while New Zealand's Liam Lawson, who was with Racing Bulls at the time, returning to fifth and teammate Arvid Lindblad sixth. Red Bull-owned Racing Bulls and Alpine are in a tight battle for fifth place with the two separated by only three points in the constructors' standings before the latest verdict.

The appeal court said in its 26-page published decision that the two five-second time penalties originally imposed on Gasly must stand and be reimposed, with the championship standings amended accordingly.

Arbi Karapetian, Formula One Management's Chief Engineering and Innovation Officer, was the only witness

called at the appeal hearing which was held behind closed doors in Paris on August 25. He gave evidence about the timing system and measurements.

Timekeepers Formula One have admitted to a "measurement discrepancy" resulting from pitlane changes.

McLaren and Red Bull argued that the stewards' decision in favour of Gasly, when others had taken penalties during the race and could not have them undone, was "a breach of the equality of treatment and of sporting fairness".

They also said that, in their opinion, the review of the first decisions "was an improper and disproportionate remedy, which was contrary to sporting fairness."

The FIA and Alpine held the view that "the fact that penalties served during a race cannot be rescinded cannot be an obstacle to the cancellation of an illegitimate sanction, because those penalties were served at the discretion and choice of the team." — Reuters

Trouble is brewing

FIFA blast UEFA 'smear campaign', fight W-Cup plan disclosures

NEW YORK: FIFA have accused UEFA of a "smear campaign" and a "fishing expedition" after European football's governing body asked US judges to force them to hand over documents related to their failed World Cup investor plan.

Global football body FIFA's divisive plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to investors, unveiled in July, triggered a huge backlash across the sport, with UEFA threatening to boycott the World Cup unless the plan was scrapped.

While FIFA quickly aborted the plans in response to the backlash, UEFA are now preparing possible legal action against FIFA president Gianni Infantino for alleged "criminal mismanagement."

Last week, they filed requests in three US states requesting the disclosure of documents related to the plan from FIFA and partners, including prospective lead investor Joshua Kushner's Thrive Capital firm.

If successful in gaining access to



In conflict: FIFA president Gianni Infantino (left) and UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin after addressing the 50th UEFA Ordinary Congress in Brussels on Feb 12. — AFP

the documents, UEFA had said they intend to lodge a legal complaint in Switzerland, saying they have been assured the case would meet the requirements to be heard in a Swiss court.

But FIFA have hit back, asking US judges for permission to contest the UEFA requests.

"While these applications are styled as legal pleadings with captions and docket numbers, they are little more than press releases in further support of UEFA's smear campaign against FIFA and their leadership," say the FIFA filings.

The filings, reviewed by AFP, say UEFA do not have the right to demand FIFA internal documents because no criminal pro-

ceedings yet exist in Switzerland or elsewhere.

Even if such proceedings did exist, the filings say, UEFA would not have legal standing because they have suffered no financial loss.

The FIFA filings also accuse UEFA of illegally bypassing Swiss courts but applying directly to US courts.

Disclosure of the documents, including correspondence involving Infantino and other named FIFA personnel and advisors, "would directly threaten FIFA's interests and reveal sensitive and proprietary information," say the filings.

UEFA have made no secret of their desire to remove Infantino,

who had hoped to be re-elected unopposed for a fourth and final term next March after a highly successful World Cup.

UEFA may have been the harshest critic — they described his proposal as a "shady, opaque backroom deal" — but they have found solid support from North and Central America's Concacaf, and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Concacaf president Victor Montagliani is widely seen as the likeliest challenger to Infantino — UEFA's Aleksander Ceferin has ruled himself out.

The three confederations have kept up the pressure and collaborated on a no-holds-barred joint letter issued earlier last month. — AFP



Llorente retires from Spain duty at 31

MADRID: World Cup winner Marcos Llorente announced his retirement from international football on Thursday, ending a Spain career that yielded 27 caps.

The Atletico Madrid defender, 31, made his senior team debut for Spain in 2020 and was part of the squad that beat Argentina 1-0 to win the World Cup in July, although he remained on the bench in the final.

"I realise that I'm still young and that, perhaps, if I continued to perform well, I'd still have years left to play in this jersey," Llorente wrote on Instagram.

"I know many of you won't understand this, and I probably wouldn't have understood it either if I were looking at it from the outside. But it's a personal decision — one I've thought through very carefully and, above all, one that comes from the heart."

The former Real Madrid player thanked his teammates and reflected on Spain's triumphant World Cup campaign.

"I'll cherish everything I've experienced, but above all, these last 52 days," Llorente said.

"With a wonderful group that fought until the very end to put Spain at the top. And that's exactly what they did." — Reuters



Sterling job: Elversberg's David Mokwa celebrates after scoring their side's third goal against Bayer Leverkusen. — AP



Going bigger: The construction of new stands at the Elversberg Stadium. — Reuters

Small-town club Elversberg shaking up German football

DUESSELDORF: The smallest team in the Bundesliga may be the most exciting.

From a town of just 13,000 people and operating on a shoestring budget, Elversberg made a big statement in their first-ever top-division game last week, stunning former champions Bayer Leverkusen 3-2.

Texas-born winger Cole Campbell intercepted a pass to score after becoming Elversberg's record signing as the team raced into a 3-0 lead before holding off a Leverkusen comeback.

Elversberg have shown they can keep up with the big teams on their day. The rest of the season will be a grind to prove they deserve to stay. Next up are Borussia Monchengladbach today.

"It's not easy, without question, because today we had 10 guys on the field making their Bundesliga debuts," coach Vincent Wagner said after Saturday's game. "Even if we get

beaten heavily a couple of times we just need to play brave football because that's the only way we have a chance in this league."

Bravery is a word that comes up a lot at Elversberg. It's a concept that shapes the tactics, all about intense defending and quick attacks, and the transfer strategy.

Ignoring proven Bundesliga players for financial reasons — "Maybe we can afford one or two, but then we would break our whole wage structure" — technical director Josef Welzmüller is betting on finding high-potential young players other clubs have overlooked or under-valued.

The reported fee for Campbell of €6mil was a club record but very modest by league standards.

"It was our record signing, which probably shows how much we believe in Cole," Welzmüller said. "He's a fantastic player. He is very fast. He is

very strong with the ball, very strong in one-on-one situations.

"He's a very good kid, very good character. We just want him to go in one-on-one situations and solve spaces for us, and we are very, very sure that he will have a breakout season."

Campbell arrived from Borussia Dortmund after struggling for playing time there and on loan at Hoffenheim. Alongside him on Saturday was Francis Onyeka, a Leverkusen player on loan facing his own club, one of three youngsters on loan in the squad.

"It's always bringing in high potential players," Welzmüller added. "We trust them, we want to give them the minutes other clubs are still holding back and that's also very brave in this aspect."

Just 9,307 people were packed into Elversberg's stadium to see the team make history. That's because one side is a construction site.

An already small venue has been reduced in size even further as the club rush through expansion to reach the league minimum of 15,000 capacity by the spring.

When that's done, the Ursapharm-Arena — named for the local pharmaceutical company whose sponsorship has funded Elversberg's rise — will be able to fit everyone in the town of Spiesen-Elversberg and nearly 2,000 more people.

The sudden rise of a team which were playing fourth-tier football as recently as 2022 still manage to surprise their own staff.

Welzmüller grew up a Bayern Munich fan and says facing his boyhood team on Sept 13 will be "insane."

But it'll be just another game for a team which refuse to back down.

"We have very much respect for the Bundesliga," Welzmüller said. "We don't fear anybody." — AP

Martinelli joins Al-Hilal from Arsenal

SRIYADH: Brazilian forward Gabriel Martinelli has joined Saudi Pro League team Al-Hilal after a seven-year spell at Arsenal, both clubs said on Thursday.

Since joining the club in 2019, the 25-year-old made 278 appearances for Arsenal in all competitions, scoring 62 goals, helping them win the Premier League last season, the FA Cup in 2020 and the FA Community Shield in 2023.

"The board of directors of Al-Hilal Club, headed by His Highness Prince Nawaf bin Saad, signed Brazilian player Gabriel Martinelli from Arsenal FC, to represent Al-Hilal first football team for four years," Al-Hilal said on their website.

"Everyone at Arsenal would like to thank Gabi for his contribution to the club and wish him and his family well for the future," the English champions said on their website. — Reuters



Gunners brace for Blues

Keep a tight rein: Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya will not have it easy against Chelsea's strike force led by winger Pedro Neto (right). — Reuters

Arsenal's watertight defence faces toughest challenge against Chelsea's free-scoring attack

LONDON: Arsenal's defensive armour will get its first major test of the season tomorrow when free-scoring Chelsea head across town being touted as potential Premier League title rivals.

Champions Arsenal have begun the campaign in exemplary fashion, winning both their games so far, not conceding a goal and in truth not even looking like doing so.

Goalkeeper David Raya has faced just one attempt on target in Arsenal's victories over Coventry City and Aston Villa, with Mikel Arteta's side giving every impression that they will be as difficult to prise open as last season.

As workmanlike as the 1-0 victory at Villa was, Arsenal looked supremely comfortable with their defence quickly in the routine of last season when they conceded 27 goals in 38 games.

The difference in approach between Arteta and Chelsea's new manager Xabi

Alonso could not be more of a contrast.

Chelsea have scored seven goals in league wins against Fulham and Brighton, conceding five.

While Arsenal seek to control possession and build from the back with quick inter-changes in the final third, Chelsea's style under Alonso is more dynamic.

Against Brighton they had only 26% possession yet were devastatingly effective on turnovers as they launched direct and rapid attacks down the wings using the pace of Pedro Neto.

After the gloom of last season, Alonso has returned the joy to a Chelsea side dripping with attacking flair in the rejuvenated Cole Palmer and Joao Pedro and with record signing Morgan Rogers already looking at home.

So much so that Chelsea have emerged as potential challengers to Arsenal's hopes of back-to-back titles, although judgement

perhaps should be delayed until Sunday evening.

They have not beaten Arsenal in the last 11 games in all competitions, a run spanning five years, and the Gunners will be favourites to maintain their hold over the west Londoners.

Only two other clubs have maintained perfect starts to the campaign. That one of them is Manchester City is not a surprise, but the other is newly promoted Hull City.

Manchester City, who capped a remarkable £458mil spending spree on deadline day by adding midfielder Enzo Fernandez from Chelsea for a British record-equalling £125mil and forward Iliman Ndiaye from Everton to their revamped squad, host point-less Coventry today.

Hull, who could not have dreamed of a better start on their return to the top flight, welcome an Aston Villa side still without a point or a goal after a drastic squad reconstruction.

Manchester United head to Everton tomorrow. — Reuters



Jackman expresses interest in buying stake in Norwich

LONDON: Hugh Jackman wants to join his fellow Hollywood star and friend Ryan Reynolds in owning part of a football club in the English leagues.

Jackman has long been a fan of Norwich, his mother's home city in the east of England. The Wolverine star was asked in an interview broadcast on Thursday if he would like to "buy a bit" of the club which is majority owned by Mark Attanasio, the Milwaukee Brewers principal owner.

"I'm very, very interested in talking about it right now," he told British broadcaster TalkSport while promoting his new movie, "The Death of Robin Hood."

"You're the first one to know that. There's a little exclusive," Jackman said when asked if he would "follow suit" with Reynolds, who put Wrexham on the global football and culture map after buying the club with Rob Mac in 2021.

Norwich and Wrexham are

now rivals in the English second-tier Championship, though Jackman's team have the more illustrious history.

Norwich last played in the Premier League four years ago, and had perhaps their finest moment in 1993, eliminating German power Bayern Munich in the old UEFA Cup.

"Good on Ryan, you do your thing, I'm all about the Canaries," Jackman said, citing Norwich's nickname linked to the team's distinctive yellow and green uniform.

Norwich and Wrexham both are expected to be contenders this season to earn promotion to the Premier League, the world's most valuable club football competition.

"I think it's an exciting team and it's going to be an exciting year," Jackman said, praising Norwich's turnaround since hiring Belgian coach Philippe Clement last November. — AP



Different ball game: Hugh Jackman (left) is interested to follow in Ryan Reynolds' (right) footsteps in owning part of a football club in the English league. — AP

Argentina to honour Messi with 10th-minute tribute

BUENOS AIRES: Football teams across Argentina will pay tribute to Lionel Messi with a mid-game minute of applause during their next match following his decision to retire from international duty.

Referees will pause play at the 10-minute mark of every match in the upcoming round of the Clausura tournament, as well as in other men's and women's leagues in Argentina, in appreciation of Messi's career with the national team, the Argentine Football Association said on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old Messi, who wore the No. 10 jersey for Argentina, announced on Monday he will no longer play for the national team after 21 years of service.

He led Argentina to the World Cup title in 2022 as well as two other World Cup finals, and made 207 appearances and scored 125 goals – both national records.

Messi, who is idolised in Argentina, has never played professionally in his home country. He moved to Barcelona at the age of 13 to began a once-in-a-generation career and is regarded by many as the greatest player of all time.

Messi is continuing to play at club level with Inter Miami in Major League Soccer. — AP

Dylan tunes up for big hit

Winger Wenzel-Halls out to fly high for Cats in Borneo derby

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: Australian winger Dylan Wenzel-Halls hopes to take flight in a game that can help him win over the Kuching City faithful today.

The 28-year-old Australian winger is out to make his mark in his first Borneo derby when the Cats travel to the Likas Stadium to face Sabah in Kota Kinabalu.

Kuching are aiming for a third straight Super League victory against their fierce neighbours and Wenzel-Halls wants to be at the heart of the action.

"I know the fans really love these games and it's important to them that the team win a derby clash," said Wenzel-Halls.

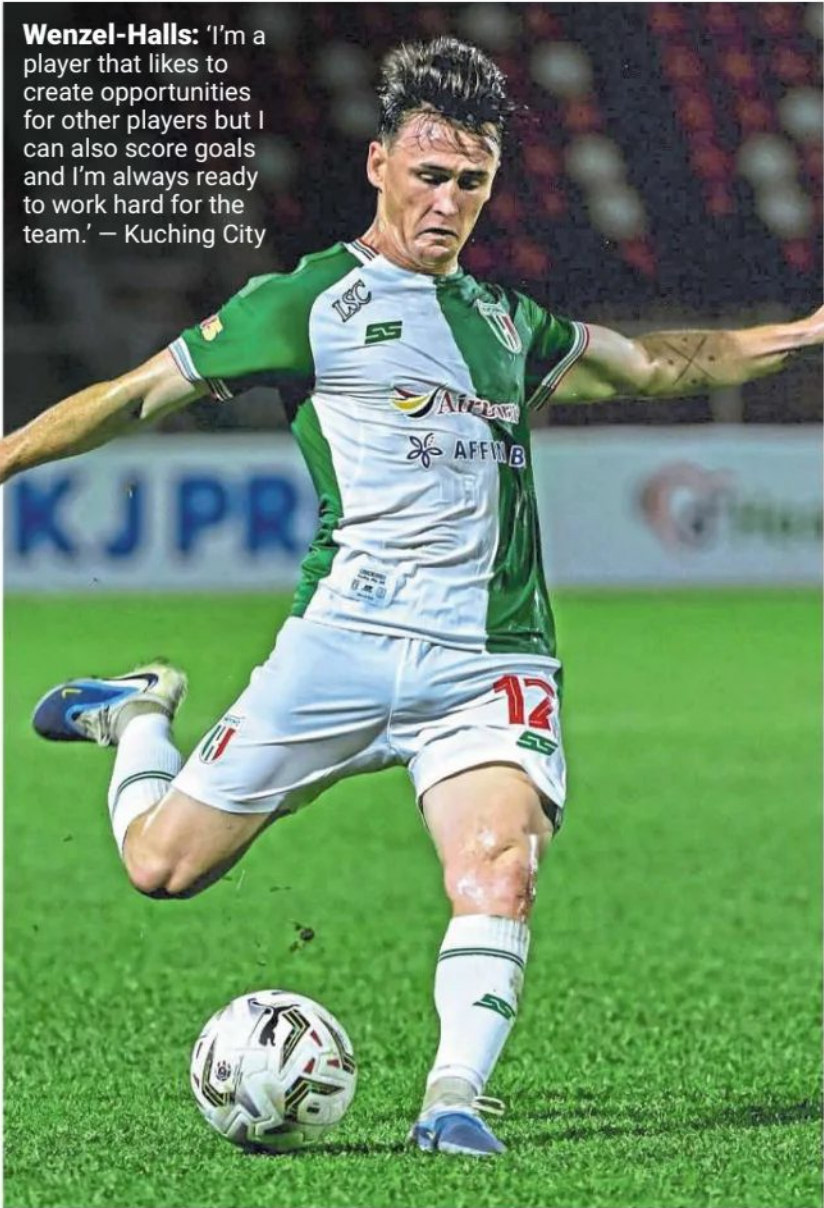
"Playing against Sabah is always a difficult game. They're in good form at the moment, so we're going to focus on our job and what we have to do.

"We've prepared well for this game and we're confident. If we go out there and execute our game plan well, I believe we can get a win."

Sabah have also made a strong start to the season with two wins and Wenzel-Halls expects a close contest.

"This is a competitive league

Wenzel-Halls: 'I'm a player that likes to create opportunities for other players but I can also score goals and I'm always ready to work hard for the team.' — Kuching City



where there are so many good teams, and everyone's started well early on," he added.

We know it's going to be challenging, especially at their home stadium in front of their fans."

Kuching City opened their campaign with a 0-3 loss to Johor Darul Ta'zim before bouncing

back with emphatic wins over Kuala Lumpur City (6-0) and Kelantan (5-0).

However, a goalless draw away to Kelantan in the first leg of their FA Cup round-of-16 tie in Kota Baru on Wednesday gave the squad pause for thought.

"Kelantan were tough at their

SUPER LEAGUE FIXTURES & STANDINGS

■ **TODAY**
N. SEMBILAN vs STAR CITY
(Tuanku Abdul Rahman Stadium, Paroi, 4.45pm)

SABAH vs KUCHING CITY
(Likas Stadium, Kota Kinabalu, 7.30pm)

TERENGGANU vs PENANG
(Sultan Mizan Stadium, Gong Badak, 9pm)

■ **TOMORROW**
SELANGOR vs MELAKA
(Petaling Jaya Stadium, 8.15pm)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JDT	3	3	0	0	19	0	9
KUCHING CITY	3	2	0	1	11	3	6
SELANGOR	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
SABAH	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
N. SEMBILAN	1	1	0	1	4	2	3
TERENGGANU	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
BRUNEI	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
MELAKA	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
K. LUMPUR	3	1	0	2	1	9	3
PENANG	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
STAR CITY	2	0	0	2	1	10	0
KELANTAN	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

stadium in front of their fans. They came out firing and credit to them," said Wenzel-Halls.

"We admit we weren't at our best against Kelantan and we must improve on that when we face Sabah."

Wenzel-Halls, who has made two appearances for the Cats so far and registered an assist against Kuala Lumpur, admits he is still settling into his new surroundings.

"As always, going to a new team, there's an adaptation phase. My performances have been okay so far – I've shown glimpses of what I can do, but I know I've got a lot more to give," he said. "I'm a player that likes to create opportunities for other players but I can also score goals and I'm always ready to work hard for the team."

Wenzel-Halls also praised the depth within Aidil Sharin's squad, pointing to the calibre of teammates and attackers such as Safawi Rasid, Jerome Mpacko Etame and Ronald Ngah.

"There's so much quality and competition for places at the moment, and that's a pleasing thing. It's fantastic to play with so many top players," he said.

Winger Pavithran set to add extra burst of pace for Turtles

PETALING JAYA: Terengganu have added a homegrown burst of pace to their mix of power and creativity in the team.

Winger G. Pavithran (pic), who impressed for Malaysia at the Hyundai AFF Cup, has signed a one-year deal with the Turtles and could make his Super League debut against Penang at the Sultan Mizan Stadium in Gong Badak today.

The 21-year-old has joined Terengganu on a one-season contract, adding depth to their midfield options under head coach Nafuzi Zain.

Pavithran is regarded as one of the more promising young talents to have emerged from the national set-up, with his form for Malaysia drawing growing interest on the domestic scene.

His arrival is expected to add a fresh dimension to Terengganu's midfield as they look to build a more competitive squad for the new season, blending youthful energy with club-level experience and international exposure.

Curacao striker Gervane Kastaneer and naturalised Ghanaian forward Jordan Mintah bring size and strength up front, while Spanish playmaker Victor Ruiz and naturalised striker Romel Morales add creativity in the final third.

Burundian winger Elvis Kamsoba and Brazilian trickster Mateusinho Gustavo, meanwhile, offer width and speed out wide.

Pavithran, who is set to add the finishing touch to a near-complete squad, said: "I feel comfortable with the team and if I'm given the chance to play on Saturday, my focus is to make an impact and help the team achieve a positive result."

Terengganu started the season well with a 3-0 win against Melaka on Aug 22, but suffered a setback when they lost 3-0 to Selangor on Aug 28.

A win against Penang would get their season back on track and with the riches of talent Nafuzi has, expectations will be high.



Ace in the making: Anahat Singh of India stunned Belgium's world No. 8 Nele Gilis 13-11, 4-11, 11-8 in the second round of the London Classic.

Sangari can't take rising star Anahat lightly at London Classic

PETALING JAYA: World No. 5 S. Sivasangari will need to be wary of the challenge coming from India's rising star Anahat Singh at the London Classic as she seeks an early boost ahead of the Asian Games mission in Aichi-Nagoya later this month.

The top Malaysian women's squash player took just 17 minutes to beat Egyptian world No. 32 Nardine Garas 11-5, 11-5 in the second round on Thursday.

The third-seeded Sivasangari, who won the inaugural event in 2024, will face world junior champion Anahat for a place in the semi-finals.

World No. 20 Anahat, only 18, stunned Belgium's world No. 8 Nele Gilis 13-11, 4-11, 11-8 in 39

minutes on Thursday.

The last eight clash with Anahat could offer a glimpse of what to expect when the Asian Games begin in Aichi-Nagoya on Sept 19.

The men's and women's individual gold medallists at the Asian Games will qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Sivasangari, 27, beat Anahat in four games in their only previous meeting at the British Open last year.

Another Asian Games hopeful Ng Eain Yow overcame fourth seed Aly Abou Eleinen of Egypt 7-11, 11-4, 11-9 to reach the last eight.

He will take on fifth seed Youssef Soliman, also from Egypt, for a place in the semi-finals.

One wall after another

Goh-Shevon end winless streak against China for crack at world No. 1 pair

By ADAM ZAMRI

PETALING JAYA: Goh Soon Huat-Shevon Lai Jemie have broken one Chinese barrier, but an even bigger one now stands in their way at the China Masters.

A long-awaited win over Chinese opposition, however, has given the mixed doubles pair a timely confidence boost ahead of their semi-final against world No. 1 Feng Yanzhe-Huang Dongping today.

Soon Huat-Shevon finally got the better of a Chinese pair this year after brushing aside Gao Jiaxuan-Wu Mengying 21-15, 21-11 in the quarter-finals yesterday.

It was a welcome breakthrough for the Malaysians, who had lost all five matches against four different Chinese pairs this year, including to Zhang Chi-Cheng Xing at the World Championships in New Delhi two weeks ago.

"Actually, we did not expect to come this far because looking at

QUARTER-FINAL RESULTS

Malaysians only
Men's doubles: He Jiting-Ren Xiangyu (Chn) bt Soh Wooi Yik-Aaron Tai 21-16, 17-21, 21-16.
Mixed doubles: Goh Soon Huat-Shevon Jemie Lai bt Gao Jiaxuan-Wu Mengying (Chn) 21-15, 21-11; Hoo Pang Ron-Lai Pei Jing bt Liu Kuang-heng-Hsu Yin-hui (Tpe) 24-22, 21-5.

the draw, it was not easy. I would say it was quite a tough draw," said Shevon in a post-match interview with BWF.

"We have not really managed to get our performances back to the level we wanted since last year and we have been struggling with our form for quite a while.

"I think today (yesterday) we really managed to regain that confidence and momentum. We did really well and hopefully we can hold on to that for much longer."

Their task, however, will get even tougher against Yanzhe-Dongping, who hold the upper hand after winning all five of their previous meetings.

Their most recent clash came at



Uphill battle: Goh Soon Huat-Shevon Lai Jemie will next face Feng Yanzhe-Huang Dongping, whom they have lost to in all five previous meetings.

the Indian Open in January, where the Chinese pair again came out on top.

Shevon knows they will have to find a way past opponents who have troubled them in the past if they are to become more consistent at the highest level.

"Hopefully, yes, because there are still some opponents that we have not managed to overcome and sometimes it also depends on the draw.

"If we meet those opponents who have been a challenge for us, we need to overcome them and not depend on the draw to do well.

"If we can do that and improve in that area, I think it will give us more of an edge in the upcoming tournaments.

"But so far, this tournament has definitely given us more confi-

dence and good motivation moving into the coming months," added Shevon.

Malaysia could yet have an all-Malaysian final with Hoo Pang Ron-Lai Pei Jing also in action in the semi-finals today against another home pair, Zhu Yijun-Li Qian.

Pang Ron-Pei Jing booked their place in the last four after beating Taiwan's Liu Kuang-heng-Hsu Yin-hui 24-22, 21-5 yesterday. They are now chasing their first final together since joining forces in May.

"We can see some improvement in this tournament, but the hardest thing is maintaining it.

"We need to learn how to do that. We still have another match, so we do not want to think too far ahead. We will take it match by match," said Pang Ron.

Jonassen still sees Jun Hao as first choice in men's singles

PETALING JAYA: Leong Jun Hao (*pic*) may still be searching for consistency, but Kenneth Jonassen remains convinced that the national No. 1 is still Malaysia's strongest men's singles option.

Jun Hao suffered another early exit at the China Masters after going down 17-21, 19-21 to Indonesia's world No. 1 Jonatan Christie.

Jonassen admitted the 27-year-old could have done better, but still saw positives in the defeat and felt there were signs of improvement in his game.

"Overall, I'm seeing the performance improving. However, you need to win more than one match in a tournament to get to the quarter-finals, where it starts to get

interesting," said Jonassen.

"When you play in Super 750, 500 or 1000 tournaments, especially at the 750 and 1000 level, once you reach the quarter-finals, you are probably among the best eight players in the world that week.

"That is where we like to measure ourselves. So I see some positives, but he still has not really managed to put together two wins in a row in a tournament.

"But it is the small steps that keep me positive. The results are what make me question whether we can reach that level.

"I'm not talking about doing it consistently week after week because I don't think that is within his capacity.

"But there should be weeks where

he can reach that level in terms of performance and consistency, which means getting to the quarter-finals and hopefully even further.

Jonassen also believes Jun Hao has shown a positive response since receiving a warning letter over disciplinary issues and does not see his place in the national squad as being under threat for now.

However, he wants Jun Hao to translate his improved commitment in training into better results after several close matches ended in narrow defeats.

Jun Hao is now gearing up for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games from Sept 19-Oct 4, where he will feature in both the men's team and individual events alongside Justin Hoh.



Sukma champ Haziq faces thorough test in trial to make national team

PETALING JAYA: Winning the Malaysian Games (Sukma) gold medal was enough to earn Mohd Haziq Najib a trial with the national squad, but not an automatic ticket into the team.

National men's singles coaching director Kenneth Jonassen said Haziq would not be assessed based on just one tournament, with the 21-year-old set to undergo a more thorough evaluation before a decision is made on whether he has what it takes to join the national team.

Haziq impressed at the Selangor Sukma two weeks ago after beating several national men's singles players on his way to winning the gold medal. He had also tasted success earlier after winning the second leg of the National Under-21 Championships in Kuantan.

Haziq will now undergo a one-week trial at the Academy Badminton Malaysia (ABM) in Bukit Kiara beginning next week.

"So he will join us here for a week. We will talk to him. I'll interview him and find out about his plans, his desire and his goals in life," said Jonassen.

"Because if the goal is only to go and play big tournaments, then I'm sorry to say that is not a big enough goal.

"You need a bigger desire, where you want to go and what you want to achieve. So we will have that conversation with him. It is not a case of getting one result and coming straight into the squad.

"The results give you the opportunity to come here and join our training. Then we will see over time

whether you have what it takes. It was the same with Tan Kean Wei last year. He came here five or six times before he finally received the invitation to join."

The one-week trial will therefore be crucial for Haziq to show his commitment in training.

For Jonassen, what a player shows in training can be very different from what happens on match day, and he believes consistent work on the practice court is the foundation for good results in competition.

Jonassen, however, has already been encouraged by what he has seen from Haziq at the Malaysia International Series in Ipoh.

Haziq booked his place in the semi-finals after beating Singapore's Remus Ng 23-21, 12-21, 21-15 in the quarter-finals yesterday.



Andrew remembered as man who loved badminton and cared for players

PETALING JAYA: For many former players, Datuk Seri Andrew Kam (*pic*) was more than just the man behind Kuala Lumpur Racquet Club (KLRC) - he was someone who stood by the players when they needed support the most.

Andrew, 64, passed away yesterday, and his funeral service will be held at Wesley Methodist Church at 10am today, followed by burial at Nirvana Memorial Park in Shah Alam.

Former national men's singles shuttler Sairol Amar Ayob, who was with KLRC for six years from 2004 to 2010, remembered Andrew as more than just a boss, describing him as someone who loved badminton and shared a close relationship with his players.

Sairol also admitted he regretted missing the chance to meet Andrew recently after the two had been in touch, as other commitments got in the way.

But one thing Sairol will never forget was the faith and support Andrew showed him when he was embroiled in a doping case in 2006.

Andrew helped Sairol financially to travel to Belgium over the testing of his B sample before he was eventually cleared of wrongdoing.

"At first, I found out about Datuk Andrew's passing through social media and later contacted his daughter for confirmation," said Sairol.

"I was shocked because we had remained very close all this while. What I remember most was that he was one of the people who believed in me when I was caught up in the doping issue. He helped me with everything, including financially, so that I could go to Belgium.

"At the time, he told me, 'If you didn't take the substance and you didn't do anything wrong, then don't be afraid. We will fight this. I was really touched by the support he gave me.'"

Former All-England champion Hafiz Hashim was also saddened by Andrew's passing. Hafiz, who is now coaching in Saudi Arabia, said Andrew treated all his players equally and was always willing to help those who wanted to succeed.

"He was a very good boss and very supportive. We were all shocked by the news of his passing," said Hafiz.

"Even after I was no longer with the club, we still kept in touch. Back then, KLRC players did not have a permanent training base. Sometimes we trained in Petaling Jaya and sometimes in Cheras, but Datuk Andrew helped us a lot by giving us opportunities to compete in tournaments overseas."

Andrew was a former president of the Kuala Lumpur Badminton Association (KLBA), having held the post in 2008, and also served as a vice-president of the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM).

His passion for the sport was perhaps best illustrated ahead of the 2012 London Olympics, when he offered a 12.5kg gold bar worth RM2mil to Malaysia's badminton players if they could deliver the country's first Olympic gold medal.

Sukipt champs show that academic and sporting excellence go hand in hand

THE Higher Education Institutions Sports (Sukipt) meet has delivered its usual quota of broken records and beaming podiums.

But look past the stopwatches and measuring tapes, and there is a quieter victory unfolding - one written in lecture halls, not stadiums.

National sprinter Danish Iftikhar Mohd Roslee, representing Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), tore up the track record books.

Shot putter Jonah Chang Rigan of Universiti Malaya (UM) muscled his way into the history pages, while Nani Sahirah Maryata did the same for Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in the women's shot putt.

Private institutions had their say too: javelin thrower Ng Jing Xuan flew the flag for Sunway University College, and the versatile Esther Joy Chen shattered distance-running marks for Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT).

Held once every two years, Sukipt gathers students from across the country who wear their state and

national colours with pride.

But what makes this meet special is not just the personal bests. It is the proof, laid bare on the track, that discipline in the classroom and discipline on the field are not rivals. They are teammates.

That truth was put to me plainly during a casual chat with national sprinter Mohd Azeem Fahmi, who will begin his Masters at UM next year. What he said stayed with me.

"I want my juniors to complete their education. I've stressed the fact that they should have a degree in their hands while competing," said Azeem.

"Education builds you, moulds you to be who you are. You carry yourself better and are able to make strong decisions for yourself."

For a 22-year-old to speak with such clarity is refreshing.

Azeem revealed that his training partners, Dzul Danish Jamari and Pengiran Aidil Auf Hajam, have been pushed toward the same balance - books in one hand, spikes in the other.

This is the mindset Malaysian sport needs if it hopes to grow up. An

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SportsBox

educated athlete cannot be talked over.

He cannot be short-changed by administrators who assume silence means consent. Knowledge is their armour.

Not everyone has been so fortunate. I know of one athlete who stopped studying at Form Four because a coach told him, bluntly, that it was either books or the ball - not both.

That kind of ultimatum has echoed through Malaysian football for years, and it explains why so many of our footballers never finish secondary or tertiary education.

Some have admitted, quietly, that

they wish they had done things differently - studied while they played, instead of hoping to catch up once the whistle blew on their careers.

Without a certificate to fall back on, the road narrows fast: business, or coaching, and little else. Some find the courage to start over. But in an age that moves this quickly, starting late is a heavier climb than it needs to be.

That is why, these days, my first question to any young athlete is simple: where do you study?

Because an education does more than open career doors after the final race is run - it teaches you to read the rules, the laws, the fine print of the game itself.

With football elections looming, imagine a generation of players educated enough to speak up, to challenge, to lead.

The blueprint already exists. Singapore's Hariss Harun captains club and country while sitting on his football association's leadership council, having built his academic path from polytechnic diploma to an honours degree.

Closer to home, Pandelega Rinong and Datuk Leong Mun Yee dived to Olympic glory while collecting degrees and postgraduate qualifications of their own.

Tan Sri Dr M. Jegathesan, Malaysia's "Flying Doctor," sprinted for the nation while training to become a surgeon.

And in football, Mahali Jasuli built a human resources career alongside his playing days - proof that a footballer's mind can be as sharp off the pitch as his feet are on it.

Medals fade. Records fall to the next generation. But an education travels with an athlete long after the cheering stops.

Malaysian sport does not just need faster runners or stronger throwers - it needs athletes who can think, question, and stand on their own two feet when the lights go out.

And with that in mind as well, they can drive home the ethos of accountability, transparency and responsibility to ensure our sports thrive and not be riddled with dramas.

That lesson, more than any record, is the one Sukipt should leave behind.

Heavier duty ahead

Aniq, Aznil skip Asian Games as they eye Olympic qualifying points at world meet

Perfect lift: Aniq Kasdan and Mohd Aznil Bidin (below) won gold at the Commonwealth Games last month.

By LIM TEIK HUAT

PETALING JAYA: Glasgow Commonwealth Games weightlifting gold medallists Aniq Kasdan and Mohd Aznil Bidin are the latest athletes to withdraw from the Asian Games from Sept 19-Oct 4 as they want to focus on preparations for the World Championships.

The duo intend to perform well at the world meet, which takes place in China from Oct 27-Nov 7, as it marks the start of the qualifying campaign for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"If I were to compete at the Asian Games, I will have to compete in the



men's below 60kg category while the Olympics only have the men's below 65kg category," said Aniq, who won gold in the men's below 60kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last month.

"So I think it is better for me to focus on the world meet and try to collect points for Olympic qualification."

Aniq, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics two years ago, also had another reason to pull out as he does not want to aggravate a tricep injury.

"I had the injury before going to the

Commonwealth Games, so I want to have a longer time frame to recover and not aggravate it.

"Besides, the Olympic qualifying campaign is more important to me," said the Johor-born lifter, who has made the podium at the World Championships before.

The duo's absence left Mohd Erry Hidayat and Mohd Syahmi Nor Ghazali as Malaysia's only weightlifting representatives for the Asiad.

Erry and Syahmi were also gold medallists in Glasgow, in the men's below 79kg and below 94kg categories respectively.

In Glasgow, the weightlifting team were Malaysia's biggest medal contributors with five gold, one silver and one bronze.

Jing Xuan seeks SEA Games redemption after missing Asiad mark

By T. AVINESHWARAN

PETALING JAYA: National javelin thrower Ng Jing Xuan (*pic*) may have missed out on the Asian Games but she remains undeterred, knowing there are bigger opportunities ahead.

The 2025 SEA Games silver medallist claimed gold at the Higher Education Institutions Sports (Sukipt) meet at UM Arena on Monday, setting a meet record of 46.90m on her very first attempt.

The throw erased the previous Sukipt record of 44.41m, set by Nur Fatin Adibah Suharman (UNIMAP) back in 2016.

However, Jing Xuan's bid to surpass her own national record of 52.17m - set at last year's SEA Games in Thailand - fell short on the day.

"I did break the Sukipt record, but I know I can do better, so I wouldn't say I'm fully satisfied with the result," said the 22-year-old athlete from Sarawak.

"I'm still working towards the national record, but I'm grateful to have broken the Sukipt mark."

Farisha Athirah Wai (UPSI) settled for silver with a distance of 36.21m, while Tai Yu Tian (UPM) rounded off the podium with a bronze-winning throw of 32.74m.

Jing Xuan revealed she had missed the Asian Games qualifying mark of 57.62m.

Across six competitions this season, she has yet to breach the 50m mark, with her season's best of 49.42m coming at the Asian Throwing Championships in Mokpo, South Korea.

But rather than dwell on the miss, Jing Xuan is already looking ahead to next year's SEA Games.

"After Sukipt, I'll take a two-week break before my new season starts. After that, I'll begin a new periodisation programme to prepare for the upcoming VTF Grand Final and the Asean University Games (AUG)," she said.

"For the AUG and the Grand Final, I'll try my best to stay on track towards the next SEA Games, because I have very high expectations for myself there."

Star Sport

THE STAR, SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026



Olympic champ Qinwen rediscovers competitive fire at US Open >30



'Wolverine' star Jackman wants a stake in Norwich >32



Gunners keeper Raya will have his hands full against Chelsea >32



MIXED doubles pair Goh Soon Huat-Shevon Lai Jemie finally broke their winless streak of five matches against Chinese pairs this year to reach the China Masters semi-finals yesterday. But the wall gets even harder as world No. 1 Feng Yanzhe-HuangDongping await next. Can the husband-and-wife combo pull off a stunner against all odds? >By ADAM ZAMRI on Pg 34

Break the unbreakable



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
FIXTURES & STANDINGS

TODAY

NEWCASTLE vs B'NEMOUTH (7.30pm)
BRENTFORD vs SUNDERLAND (10pm)
NOTT FOREST vs TOTTENHAM (10pm)
MAN CITY vs COVENTRY (10pm)
FULHAM vs C. PALACE (10pm)
BRIGHTON vs LEEDS (10pm)
HULL vs ASTON VILLA (12.30am tomorrow)

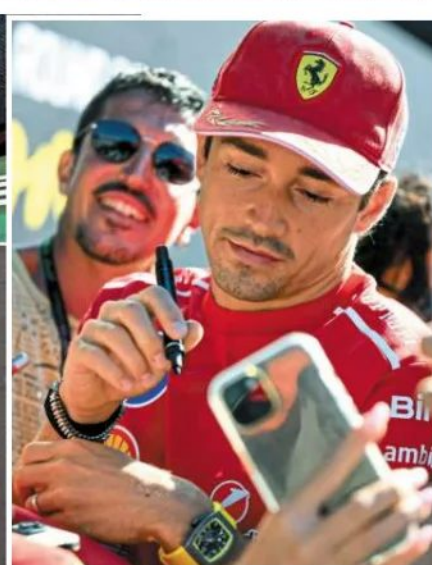
TOMORROW

EVERTON vs MAN UTD (9pm)
ARSENAL vs CHELSEA (11.30pm)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MAN CITY	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
ARSENAL	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
HULL	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
CHELSEA	2	2	0	0	7	5	6
BRENTFORD	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
NEWCASTLE	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
EVERTON	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
LEEDS	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
BRIGHTON	2	1	0	1	7	4	3
MAN UTD	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
SUNDERLAND	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
IPSWICH	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
LIVERPOOL	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
B'NEMOUTH	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
NOTT FOREST	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
FULHAM	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
COVENTRY	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
C. PALACE	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
ASTON VILLA	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
TOTTENHAM	2	0	0	2	0	5	0



Lens on Lando



Photographers focus on McLaren's Lando Norris as he passes along the track during practice at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza yesterday. Inset: Ferrari's Charles Leclerc is busy signing autographs. — Reuters/AFP

Wanderlust *wisdom*

Seasoned travellers share insights on how travel styles and preferences can evolve over the years. 2&3



By FLOREY D. MIKIL
lifestyle@thestar.com.my

"KIDS have it so easy these days" is a phrase often muttered by one generation to the next – from Boomers to Gen X, from Gen X to Millennials, from Millennials to Gen Z, and even from Gen Z to Gen Alpha and Gen Beta, the youngest of us all.

Each generation can't be faulted for thinking that the generations after them enjoy more conveniences in life. Perhaps not in all aspects, but decades of advancements have translated to easier access to certain things.

Retrieving information requires just a few presses on a digital keyboard (or even simply using voice command), buying anything from groceries to clothes to something as random as a nail clipper can be done on a smartphone via a multitude of apps.

Even hitchhiking has gone the way of the dodo thanks to ride-sharing services.

For travellers, the ever-evolving tourism landscape means that with each passing decade, it gets easier to travel anywhere.

While the leap may not be as dramatic as the change from travelling for days in horse-drawn carriages to mere hours on bullet trains (this progression did take centuries), there have been year-by-year improvements that can't be taken for granted.

"Travel today is much more practical and convenient," says Chew Liyar, 43. She appreciates that cashless payments are seamless and "public transport connectivity is so much better".

She adds that modern navigation tools also take the stress out of getting around. "Planning meant relying on guidebooks and maps rather than real-time updates," she says of her travels back in the day.

Premanand Nanu, 57, shares the same view, adding phone calls to the mix of necessities when making travel arrangements.

"There was no Waze back then, just good old paper maps," he says. The lack of such apps was why he once got lost in Manchester, England on his first trip to the city.

While there was a "certain charm and adventure in travelling that way", Premanand says, he pre-

fers the convenience and flexibility offered by today's technology.

Chew, too, thinks that getting lost was a staple of past travels, but not necessarily a bad experience.

"Travel back then had a wonderful sense of adventure," Chew muses. "There was more room for unplanned discoveries, a slower and more immersive pace, genuine face-to-face connections, and far less pressure from social media."

Born to globe-trot

With over four decades of travel experience to her name, Chew has certainly noticed the way the tourism landscape has evolved through the years.

"I started travelling when I was just a baby," says Chew. As her mother is Taiwanese, her family often spent their year-end holidays in Taiwan, up until Chew was around 18 years old.

"My parents also took me and my brothers to Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Thailand, which gave me early exposure to different cultures and made me comfortable adapting to new environments," she adds.

Travel today is much more practical and convenient.

Chew Liyar

Made for travel

1



1 Premanand and his wife in Russia.

2 An old photo of Premanand in Germany when he was in his 20s. — PREMANAND NANU

3 In her 20s, Chew travelled abroad to places like Prague, Czech Republic.

4 Portugal was among the destinations Chew travelled to in her 20s. — CHEW LIYAR

3



4

2



The "Alam dan Manusia" (Nature and Humanity) classes during her primary school days also piqued her interest to explore new places, curious about the way people lived in other parts of the world.

Later, during her seven-year study and work stint in Britain, she seized the opportunity to travel around Europe.

"In my 20s, Europe was essentially my travel playground," she says. "Budget airlines and inter-city trains made getaways really affordable, and I had the freedom to be spontaneous."

Chew shares that she was able to travel during Easter, Christmas and long weekends with friends "... without too much planning or expense".

For Premanand, he was eight years old when he went on his first trip to Kerala, India in 1977. As that was also his first time travelling from his hometown, Segamat in Johor, to Kuala Lumpur – and his first time taking a plane to boot – it was a "mind-blowing" experience overall for his young self.

"I was fascinated by everything," he marvels. This included the taste of airline food, especially the "heavenly" dessert.

"From then on, I started associating travel with discovering new places, having new life experiences and, of course, amazing food. That feeling

has stayed with me ever since," he says.

Kelantan-born Shahrina Abdullah, 48, also started travelling during her primary school days. Her travels began with domestic explorations around

Peninsular Malaysia.

Aged eight to 15, she and her family would make annual visits to KL to see her eldest sister and accompany her father to the Umno General Assembly in the city. She remembers taking the Penang ferry for the first time when she was 10, circa 1988.

"My first trip going abroad by plane was with my mum in 1994, when we went for umrah in Mecca," Shahrina shares.

Her father, who was an avid traveller himself, was a big influence in fostering her wanderlust. "All his kids would be given the opportunity to travel locally and abroad to gain life experiences, be introduced to other cultures and explore new cities," she elaborates.

After she started working in 2001, she began making two to three trips per year, for both business and leisure reasons.

Soon, her list expanded to include Asean countries like Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand; Chinese destinations like Guangzhou, Taiwan and Hong Kong; and European cities like London and Paris.

The latter two marked her first trip to Europe, which she took with her husband. "We got to experience the two-hour Eurostar high-speed train that went under the sea between London and Paris," she recalls.

From travelling with her family during her childhood, to doing so with friends in her young adulthood, to now going places with her family, Shahrina notices her travelling style and preferences have undergone changes over the years.

"Previously, I travelled to get the most experience out of a single trip," she explains.

"The itinerary would be maximised with many activities like cultural stuff, hunts for cheap halal food, and stays in reasonably cheap but clean hotel."

There was no Waze back then, just good old paper maps.

Premanand Nanu

5

As our two sons were avid swimmers, most of our travels were beach-related.

Zainal Abidin Ibrahim

train stations, bus stations and even airports due to delays. On better nights, they slept at youth hostels.

"Looking back, those challenges were part of what made the trip so special. Travelling with my best mates, figuring things out as we went along and exploring so many different places in a very short span of time made it an unforgettable adventure," he says.

"Nowadays, I am fortunate enough to be in a better position financially that I can afford to travel and explore more exotic locations than I could when I was younger."

However, his reasons for travelling remain the same: to discover new places and cultures, meet people and, of course, try different foods.

"The spicier the better," he remarks.

Now she prefers booking "higher quality" hotels, which must be located near the best attractions.

Her current trips involve more relaxing, sightseeing, experiencing what locals do and hunting for the best local food.

Premanand, too, opts for nicer hotels now. This was the one definite thing that has changed for him.

From then to now, he's always enjoyed travelling with family or friends. Meanwhile, his choice of destinations, while they vary throughout the decades, have always been according to what he can afford at the time he's planning his trip.

In his 20s, he initially travelled within Malaysia. Some of these were company outings and some were visits to his college friends' hometowns.

"After going to Britain to study, the travelling bug was magnified," says Premanand. He was studying in Newcastle when he joined an exchange programme called Bunac. This allowed him to spend his summers working, living and travelling in the United States.

"I did this in the summer of 1996," he says. "I spent three months working in Ocean City Maryland, an amusement park."

He then spent a month exploring the eastern and central parts of the US with his friends, mainly by using the Amtrak train service. It had a great deal for students, which proved advantageous as they were travelling on a tight budget.

From Washington DC to Niagara Falls and New York City, he and his friends have had to sleep a few times in their sleeping bags at



5 Zainal Abidin and his family prioritised island destinations as they enjoyed swimming.
— ZAINAL ABIDIN IBRAHIM

6 Shahrina (left) with her family in Mannheim, Germany.

7 Shahrina (right, in green hijab) with her sisters at Lake District, England.
— SHAHRINA ABDULLAH

Family matters

Chew says her travel map looks very different now that she's a mother of two.

"Back then, travel was about independence, exploration and seeing as much as possible," she notes. "Now, it's more about connection, creating shared experiences with my children, and being more intentional with where we go."

She and her husband keep their journeys shorter and more comfortable now for their two young kids' sake. They spend time mostly around Asia and also Australia, where her brothers are based.

Like her fellow seasoned travellers, trips back in the day were more about adventures and stretching every dollar (alternatively, the British pound, euro or ringgit). She backpacked, booked the cheapest flights, stayed in budget accommodations and even did overnight stays at airports.

"Now, my priorities have completely changed. I'm no longer chasing the cheapest option if it means arriving exhausted or dragging the kids through a packed itinerary," she says. Current trips focus more on family-friendly hotels and direct flights so the children will actually enjoy them.

Zainal Abidin Ibrahim, 62, says he similarly ensured that his family trips were enjoyable for his two sons during their childhood.

"As our two sons were avid swimmers, most of our travels were beach-related," he explains. Krabi, Thailand; Lombok, Indonesia and the Maldives were some of their destinations.

Their international family trips were limited to once a year, but they tried to explore domestic destinations almost every school holiday.

Zainal Abidin wanted his

children to enjoy visiting new places, the same way he did when he started travelling in his 30s. He began exploring local destinations with his wife after getting married in 1994, and then travelling as a quartet after both sons were born.

"I also travelled internationally during my working days in a telecommunications company," he says, naming Moscow (Russia), Istanbul (Turkiye), Amsterdam (the Netherlands) and Taiwan's Taipei and Kaohsiung as some of the places he'd visited.

Now that his sons are young adults, they're naturally doing more travelling on their own. This leaves him and his wife plenty of time to "jalan-jalan cari makan" (travel for food) by themselves around Malaysia.

From the years that he's spent travelling, Zainal Abidin has become certain about one thing: Wherever you go, Malaysia is still the better place. As he puts it, "*Hujan emas di negeri orang, hujan batu di negeri sendiri; baik lagi di negeri sendiri* (no matter how good things are in another country, home is always better)."

Lessons from the road

Adaptability and self-reliance were what Chew has gained from her years of travel. She's also learned that "kindness, curiosity, and respect go such a long way" when it comes to connecting with others, no matter where.

Meanwhile, Shahrina, who is always cautious and aware of her surroundings when on her travels, reminds younger travellers who may just be starting out to do the same. "Be more mindful when planning and travelling," she shares.

This includes having a reliable credit card and a travel insurance in case of emergencies, spending within their means and respecting local culture and laws.

"Anytime, anywhere please do respect the rules or laws of the places you visit," she cautions. The rise of oversharing on social media has led to some travellers ignoring these and causing disruptions just to get the perfect shot or view.

Social media is both a boon and a bane. It widens exposure and drives tourism growth, but these subsequently lead to overcrowding.

Chew sees this as a downside, too. "Many popular spots are now overcrowded, and it's easy to get stuck on your phone or follow the same algorithm-driven itinerary as everyone else."

"Plus, there's pressure to create perfect content instead of simply enjoying the trip," she laments. That said, Chew does appreciate the convenience that modern tools provide. "They make travel easier and more accessible. But I try to travel with the mindset of the past: Putting the phone away, wandering spontaneously and being fully present in the moment."

Premanand agrees: "Take plenty of photos, but also put the phone away sometimes and simply enjoy being in the moment."

My first trip going abroad by plane was with my mum in 1994, when we went for umrah in Mecca.

Shahrina Abdullah

6

7



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A spiritual journey

Story and photos by
TANG CHING LENG

Husband and wife duo trek the Kumano Kodo in Japan, finding peace and tranquillity.

THE Kumano Kodo is a network of pilgrimage routes through the rugged, forested mountains of the Kii Peninsula in Japan.

For over a millennium, pilgrims from across the country have journeyed to the sacred shrines of Kumano, their arduous trek a testament to enduring devotion.

In April 2026, my wife Poh Koon and I finally mustered the courage to follow in their footsteps and embark on this spiritual journey.

Our hiking adventure began at Koyasan, a serene temple town perched 900m atop a mountain. Our guide, Noriko-san, was a sprightly woman in her 60s and the perfect companion as we followed the Nyonin Michi, or Women's Pilgrimage Route.

Though the hike proved more demanding than expected, we relished the crisp mountain air and the towering pines, cedars and cypresses around us.

By noon, we reached the last remaining *nyonin-do*, a hall that once sheltered female pilgrims. There, we bade farewell to Noriko-san and continued by car to the Nakahechi route of the Kumano Kodo.

At Tsugizakura-oji, we met our second guide, Ueno-san. Following his lead, we bowed gently before crossing the *torii* gate, seeking the divine's blessing as we began our pilgrimage.

The trail ascended through towering cedars draped in soft moss. Along the way, we encountered several *oji*, small Shinto shrines that offered respite and blessings to weary travellers. By around 5pm, noticing the fatigue on our faces, Ueno-san called it a day.

Day two proved our toughest stretch. We scaled two mountain passes, crossed creaking log bridges and followed stony riverbanks beneath a shifting tapestry of colours: deep green cedar and cypress, bursts of red azaleas and the luminous green of young maple leaves.

Over seven hours, my thoughts wandered freely. At first, I wondered why I had signed up for this. My mind then turned to difficult business decisions, unre-



The writer with Ueno-san (left) and Poh Koon (right) at the Oyunohara torii gate, the tallest one in Japan.



The writer and his wife at the Tsugizakura-oji torii gate.

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solved personal matters and a gnawing anxiety over the children's future.

At other moments, I was aware only of the steady rhythm of my heartbeat, my mind emptied by the solitude of the highland forest.

Somewhere in between, memories of conversations with my late father surfaced, opening a flood of regrets over words spoken and those that never were.

After a series of climbs and descents, we finally reached Hosshinmon-oji, where we offered our quiet prayers before returning gratefully to our *onsen ryokan* (traditional Japanese inn with natural hot spring baths) to

soothe our tired bodies.

The third day marked the high point of our journey as we set out for two of Kumano's three Grand Shrines, Hongu Taisha and Nachi Taisha. Ueno-san greeted us in a surprising transformation, dressed in full monk's attire. He was, in fact, an ordained monk.

We passed through a quiet village lined with tea plantations and terraced fields before re-entering the forest. Our pace settled into a steady rhythm, accompanied by the soft, almost hypnotic chime of a bell hanging from Ueno-san's backpack.

After two hours, we reached Fushigami-oji, where Japan's largest torii gate could be seen standing proudly on the sandbanks of Oyunohara below. Renewed by the sight, we descended towards Hongu Taisha, joining a steady stream of worshippers.

There, Poh Koon and I offered prayers for our family's well-being.

We then continued to the foothills of Mount Nachi, where the cobbled staircase of Daimon-zaka rose steeply towards the shrine. One glance at the incline was enough.

Ueno-san, sensing our hesitation, suggested we take the car

instead. We agreed without protest.

At the top, we were rewarded with the breathtaking sight of Nachi Falls, the tallest single-drop waterfall in Japan. Before us stood a vivid orange, four-tiered pagoda, rising with dignified modesty against the thunder of water cascading down a lush mountainside.

On our fourth and final day, the heavens opened, as though mourning the end of our journey. Before visiting Hayatama Taisha, the third Grand Shrine, Ueno-san surprised us with two gentle detours.

The first took us through a farming village, where rice terraces descended the slopes like green steps carved into the mountains. The second led to Dorokyo, a serene river gorge whose turquoise waters flowed

between lush, rising ridges.

It felt like a carefully composed prelude before the final note.

At last, we arrived at Hayatama Taisha, once proclaimed the holiest of the Kumano shrines by Emperor Koken. There, we offered our prayers of thanks for safe passage and for a journey that had proved deeply fulfilling.

Our bodies ached after the long hours on the trail, but our spirits felt refreshed, lifted by the deep reflection that came from being enveloped in the tranquillity of unspoiled nature.

Hopefully, one day, we will return to follow another path along the Kumano Kodo and once again immerse body and spirit in its quiet ritual of contemplation and renewal.

The views expressed are entirely the writer's own.



The pagoda at Nachi Falls.



The Hayatama Grand Shrine is one of Kumano's three important shrines.

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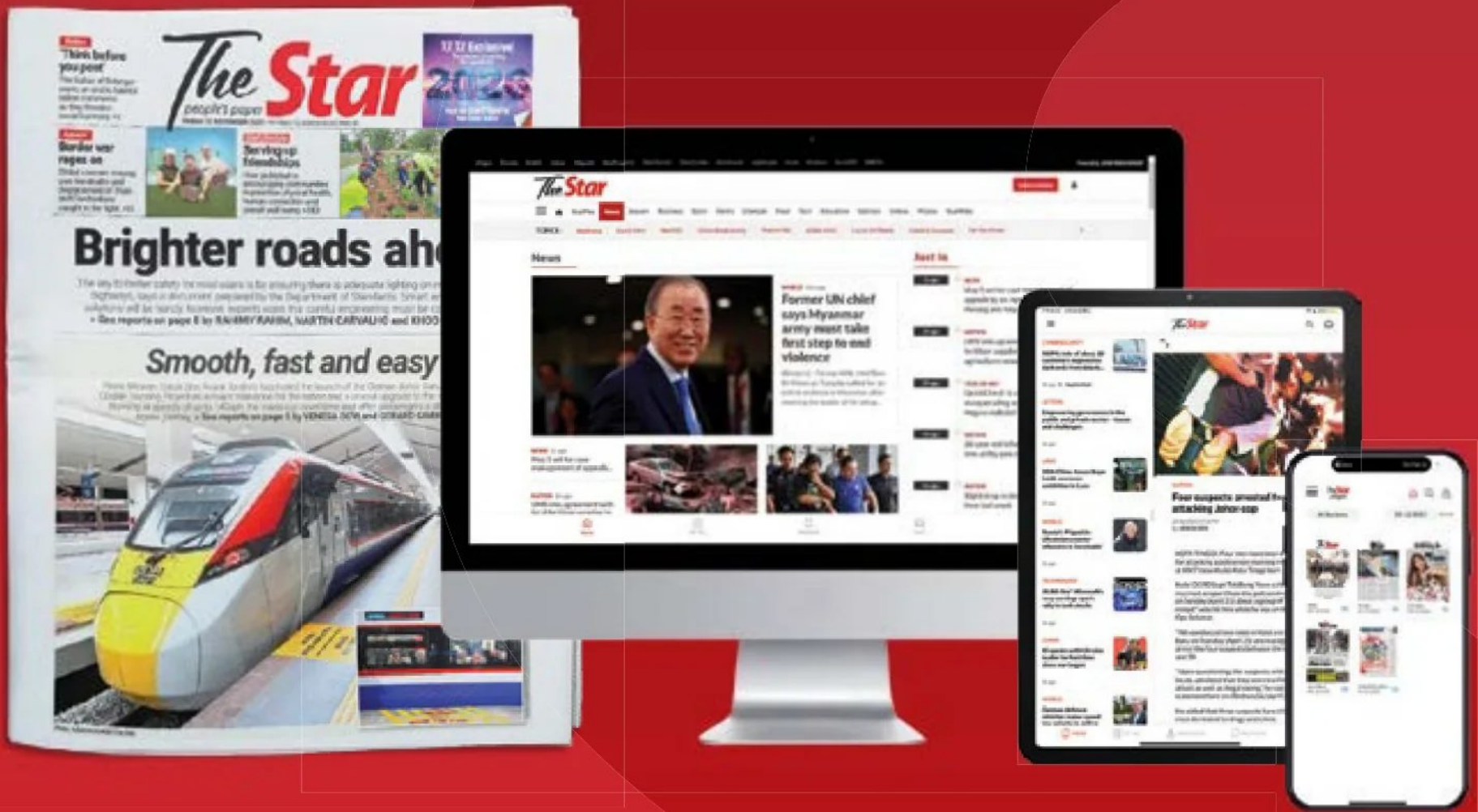
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No longer affordable

Turkiye's 'cheap' travel reputation is being undone by high costs.

By ANNA BOYNE

IN recent summers, Türkiye became a go-to travel destination for Britain-based Donna and Dave Needham, who took advantage of the country's reputation as an affordable getaway on Europe's doorstep.

On a trip to Türkiye's Mediterranean coast this summer, however, they said they experienced a "massive" price difference compared with years past. They were priced out of the resort they'd previously visited and noticed their usual vacation activities had become much more expensive.

A 15-minute jet-ski ride, for instance, had jumped to £90 (RM501) from £20 (RM109) just a year ago.

The Needhams, schoolteachers who also run a small travel agency, said they've visited Türkiye with their children five times since 2021. Donna Needham added, "It won't be our first choice next year."

One culprit is Türkiye's exchange rate policy, in which the pace of the Turkish lira's depreciation is kept below that of inflation. With the exchange rate often seen as a barometer of Türkiye's economic health, officials want to stem the effects that the currency's weakness has on costs. The aim is to ease inflation and the burden on Turkish consumers, but it also makes the country more expensive to visitors arriving with foreign currencies.

Tour operators and travel agencies say this and other factors, such as the proximity of the United States/Israel and Iran war, are affecting tourists' appetite to visit the country as well as opera-



Istanbul usually welcomes thousands of cruise passengers each day during peak seasons, but overall arrival numbers have not been positive this year. — Pixabay

tors' ability to continue to market Turkish destinations affordably.

"A lot of people used to treat Türkiye as a cheap destination," said Tony Basoglu, who runs a trading company and rents villas in Antalya province, a tourism hotspot.

"That's no longer the case. People come here and still have a lovely time, but it's no longer cheap as chips."

Overall tourism arrivals fell 3.6% year-over-year in May, 4% in June and another 0.3% in July, according to data from Türkiye's Culture and Tourism Ministry. European visitors have accounted for some of the largest drop-offs.

July marked a yearly decline of 11% for British tourists, who make up the country's third-largest share of foreign visitors.

Holiday Extras, a Britain-based travel company, has seen demand once held for Türkiye redirected toward more affordable destinations, such as Slovenia, Montenegro and Tunisia.

Turks have also begun to look elsewhere in increasing numbers. For years, many of those who could secure visas have found it cheaper to go abroad, including to neighbouring Greece, than to holiday in their own country. The number of domestic holiday trips in 2025 contracted from the year before, according to the most recent data compiled by the state-run Turkish Statistical Institute – the first decline since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although fewer foreign tourists are coming, they appear to be spending more, meaning the drop

in arrivals hasn't yet affected Türkiye's tourism revenue, which accounted for 4.1% of gross domestic product in 2025. The country also relies on tourism-driven FX inflows to support its external balance and stabilise the lira.

For tourism investors, the real problem is not visitor numbers but maintaining margins under the pressure of rising costs and the exchange rate policy, said Emre Narin, vice-chairman of Marti Otel Isletmeleri AS, which operates properties in the Turkish Riviera.

The war breaking out "at the peak early reservation period" exacerbated difficulties, Narin added. "The season got off to a rocky start. Business started to pick up only in July." – Bloomberg

Direct connections

MORE than 6,000 Japanese tourists arrived directly in Penang by air or cruise between January and July this year, said State Tourism and Creative Economy Committee chairman Wong Hon Wai.

He said the figure, however, did not include Japanese visitors who first entered Malaysia through Kuala Lumpur or other states before travelling to Penang via domestic flights or overland. Therefore, the overall number of Japanese tourists to Penang is significantly higher than the figure reflected in these direct arrivals.

In a statement, he said diversifying source markets was crucial to strengthening the resilience and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Penang's tourism industry.

"For the long-term and healthy development of Penang's tourism industry, diversification of source markets is key to strengthening the resilience of the sector.

"Japan, as a high-spending and quality-conscious tourism market, is therefore one of the key markets that the Penang State Government is committed to developing further," he added.

Wong said the state government had undertaken various practical initiatives in recent years to further penetrate the Japanese market, including developing Japanese-language tourism promotional materials through Penang Global Tourism (PGT).

He said that for example, through PGT the state government has developed a comprehensive range of Japanese-language tourism promotional materials including brochures and videos to enable visitors from Japan to gain a more direct and engaging understanding of what Penang has to offer.

"In 2025, the Penang government led representatives from the local tourism industry to Japan, where roadshows were held in Tokyo and Osaka. These initiatives enabled us to engage directly with tourism industry players in Japan, strengthen industry linkages and establish closer connections," Wong added.

He said the state government was also strengthening cooperation with Japan Airlines (JAL) to further develop channels into Japan's outbound



An international cruise ship at the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal in George Town. Penang has received over 6,000 tourists so far from Japan, who arrived directly by air or cruise. — MELODY L. GOH/The Star

tourism market. With this collaboration, said Wong, they would facilitate familiarisation trips for Japanese tourism industry representatives to visit Penang and experience its diverse tourism resources and products firsthand.

"We hope that after returning to Japan these tourism industry players will be able to design suitable Penang travel packages tailored to the preferences and interests of Japanese tourists, and subsequently promote them in the Japanese market," he said.

Wong said the state government was currently engaging air-

lines to explore the feasibility of establishing direct flights between Japan and Penang, initially through charter flights as a short-term collaborative initiative between airlines and travel agents.

He said this would help meet the seasonal demand from Japanese tourists travelling to Penang in order to fulfil specific seasonal demand while also providing airlines with an opportunity to test the market, laying a solid foundation for more diverse and sustainable bilateral cooperation in the future. – Bernama

Promoting Guizhou in KL

GUIZHOU, A province in southwestern China, is positioning itself as an emerging destination for Malaysians, inviting travellers to discover its breathtaking natural scenery and rich cultural heritage through the Discover Guizhou series.

Deputy director of Satellite TV Centre and the International Communication Centre of Guizhou Radio and Television Station Huang Bei, said that Guizhou, well known for its unique karst landscapes, offers visitors an opportunity to go beyond sightseeing and experience the local way of life.

She said travellers can stay in traditional villages, discover intangible cultural heritage, enjoy locally grown tea amid scenic plantations and immerse themselves in the rhythms of everyday life.

The province had established close cultural ties with Malaysia through a friendly-relations agreement between Qingyan Ancient Town in Guiyang and Jonker Walk in Melaka.

"This shared cultural affinity creates a natural sense of familiarity, particularly for Malaysian Chinese travellers," she said during the recent launch of the programme, "Discover Guizhou, China-Malaysia Cultural Tourism and Audiovisual Exchange Journey" in Kuala Lumpur.

The event was also attended by Tourism Malaysia's International Promotion Division (Asia/Africa) assistant director, Muhammad Haqim Mohd Farid Ridzwan Lee.

Huang expressed hope that the Discover Guizhou series promotional activities, which is currently being held at Pavilion KL until Sept 8, will help more Malaysians learn about the province.

She also highlighted Guizhou's cool and relatively dry summer climate as another major appeal for travellers from Malaysia and the wider South-East Asian region.

Huang said Guizhou is home to the Miao and Dong ethnic communities, and visitors can head to the Xijiang Qianhu Miao Village, for example, to learn more about them.

On halal food options for Malaysian Muslims travellers, Huang said halal dining is available in Guizhou, particularly in major cities such as Guiyang and Anshun. Muslim travellers can find a range of Chinese halal dishes, Xinjiang cuisine and international options. – Bernama

Photos: AFP

"IT has a right to the wind," says Dutchman Koen van der Kroon, supervising from his vantage point on a dyke as a centuries-old windmill is lifted painstakingly inch-by-inch.

The Waardenburg windmill – a rare hexagonal mill still grinding grain today – has graced the banks of the Waal on the Rhine delta for 250 years and is a listed monument in the Netherlands.

But a nearby dyke has been raised to protect against flood risks, choking the wind supply to the windmill and threatening to render it obsolete.

The solution: deploy hydraulic jacks to raise the windmill 80cm, at the snail's pace of 10cm per hour.

"The Waal's water level is often very high, which is why the residents living behind the dyke want, above all, to be safe," said project manager van der Kroon.

"To guarantee safety in this area, the dyke must be raised. So the windmill has to be raised as well," he explained.

It is a dilemma becoming increasingly common with climate change in the Netherlands, where one third of the land lies below sea level.

As waters rise and flooding becomes more regular, authorities have to bolster the country's ingenious system of dykes, with unintended consequences for windmills.

Raising dykes "has a major impact on iconic monuments," said van der Kroon, 44.

Windmills of change

Dutch raise a centuries-old windmill in a rare operation.



(Above) Workers take part in the lifting operation of a 250-year old windmill in Waardenburg on Aug 28.

This is the second time the windmill has been raised, after a similar operation in the 1990s.

"We are ensuring that these magnificent windmills, which make the Netherlands famous, can continue to operate," he added.

Feat of engineering

This is the second time the windmill has been raised, after a

similar operation in the 1990s.

The fact it needs to be lifted even higher shows the difficult faced by Dutch authorities in juggling the safety of the population from flooding and preserving the country's heritage.

"We first displaced the old foundations. Then we put jacks underneath which allow us to lift the windmill by about 10cm an hour," said project manager



The Waardenburg windmill – a rare hexagonal mill still grinding grain today – is a listed monument in the Netherlands.

van der Kroon. "Then, we will install new piles for the windmill to rest on. After that, all that remains is careful backfilling," he added.

Once the mill is stable on its new base, it should receive enough wind to turn its sails, continuing a tradition that has endured for centuries in the Dutch countryside.

"It's a feat of engineering that we do not carry out every day and we are proud of the team effort," said Marcel de Kroon, from the company that owns the windmill.

"It's great that we are taking the trouble to keep this windmill in its historical context," he said.

"It's magnificent to see." – AFP

CONSERVATION work on national monument Tugu Negara, the world's tallest freestanding grouping of bronze sculptures, is expected to start next week and is scheduled to be completed before Aug 31, 2027, according to Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK).

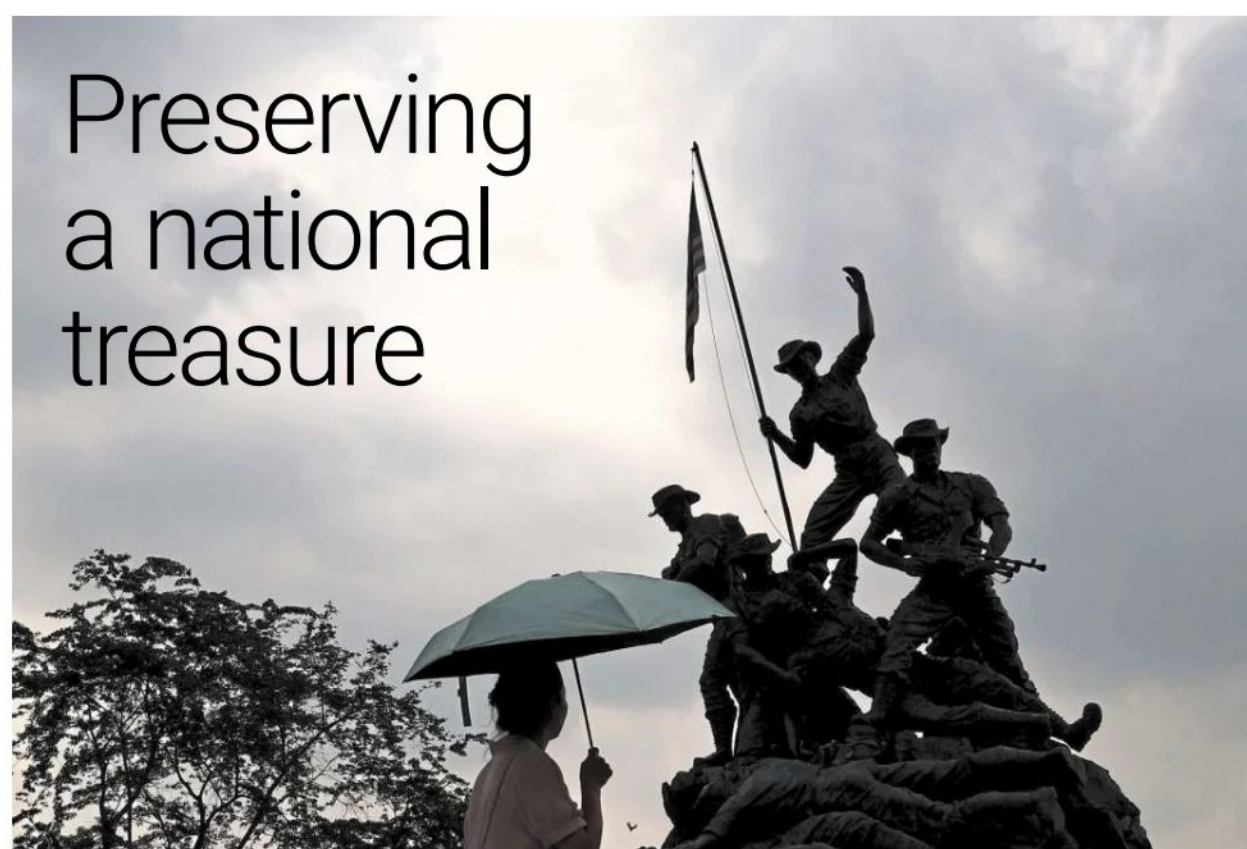
A grant from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation will support the site's preservation and restoration efforts.

"Our (UMK) role focuses on documentation, research and knowledge transfer, particularly in relation to conservation and restoration techniques," said UMK Vice-Chancellor Datuk Prof Dr Arham Abdullah during the recent launch of the US-supported US\$250,000 (RM1.1mil) Tugu Negara conservation initiative in Kuala Lumpur.

"The project will also provide opportunities for workshops, public knowledge-sharing sessions, academic visits and scholarly publications," he added.

UMK is providing hands-on technical training to more than 50 Malaysian conservation students and heritage professionals, strengthening long-term local capacity for monument stewardship.

Arham said the project will also incorporate a series of public engagement initiatives, including exhibitions, educational materials, public workshops and a documentary showcasing the



A grant from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation will support national monument Tugu Negara's preservation and restoration efforts in Kuala Lumpur. — ART CHEN/The Star

conservation process and the longstanding cultural ties between Malaysia and the US.

Meanwhile, US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Cate Dillon said the conservation initiative of the national monument will strengthen the 69-year-old diplomatic ties between the US and Malaysia, particularly in the

areas of education and culture.

She said the US\$250,000 grant from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, in conjunction with the US' Freedom 250 anniversary celebrations, aims to preserve the monument ahead of Malaysia's 70th anniversary of independence next August.

"Tugu Negara was sculpted by

an American artist, Tan Sri Felix de Weldon, who also sculpted the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia," said Dillon at the launch, which was attended by US Embassy in Malaysia Chargé d'Affaires David H Gamble Jr.

"The United States is proud to launch this partnership with Malaysia to preserve our shared

heritage and help make sure Tugu Negara will continue to stand for generations to come," she added.

According to Dillon, the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation will also facilitate the exchange of vital expertise between the two countries' heritage conservation practitioners.

The conservation project addresses critical needs resulting from more than six decades of tropical weathering, among other factors.

Conservation specialists from the US National Park Service will work closely with UMK conservators and the Department of National Heritage to stabilise the sculpture, repair structural seams and apply specialised protective patination.

Tugu Negara's origins can be traced back to 1960, during an official state visit to Washington, DC, by Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

Deeply moved by the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, Tunku Abdul Rahman envisioned a similar monument in Kuala Lumpur to honour the servicemen who gave their lives during World War II and the Malayan Emergency.

He commissioned De Weldon, the master behind the Marine Corps War Memorial, to design the monument, which was completed and dedicated 60 years ago, in 1966. – Bernama

Art as a shared story

The First Glimpse opens a new chapter for Galeri PETRONAS at Ombak KLCC.

By M. IRSYAD

lifestyle@thestar.com.my
Photos: CHAN TAK KONG/
The Star

AS visitors wander through the newly opened Ombak KLCC, Galeri PETRONAS is among its most anticipated additions. While the gallery's four-floor space is only slated to fully open next year, visitors can already preview what is to come through *The First Glimpse*, an introduction to its future programme and collection.

Over the recent Merdeka weekend, visitors explored the Galeri PETRONAS space and took part in hands-on activities, including batik painting, wire hibiscus-making and a 3D workshop inspired by Malaysian architecture.

"*The First Glimpse* is designed as an evolving experience, offering visitors new opportunities to engage with art and creativity throughout the lead-up to the opening of the new GALERI PETRONAS," says Norafizal Mat Saad, vice president, group strategic relations and communications of PETRONAS.

"Over the coming months, visi-

tors can look forward to a diverse line-up of workshops, talks and creative activities, that will continue to enrich the experience and encourage repeat visits.

"As we progress towards the opening of the new Galeri PETRONAS, our aim is to ensure that each visit continues to offer something meaningful and engaging. Whether returning to participate in a new programme or visiting for the first time, audiences will have ongoing opportunities to explore, learn, create, and connect through the arts," he adds.

Reflections on history

Currently on display is *Memory And The Malaysian Identity: Selected Artworks* from the PETRONAS art collection and the AFK Collection, which brings together works by five prominent Malaysian artists, each offering a distinct interpretation of what it means to be Malaysian.

"The curatorial selection was guided by works that offer meaningful reflections on Malaysia's history, culture, and collective memory. Through these art-

works, visitors are invited to engage with the diverse stories and perspectives that have shaped the nation's identity over time," says Norafizal.

One of the pop-up exhibition highlights is an early work by the late Anthony Lau (1933-2016), a pioneer of Malaysian sculpture. His *Gotong Royong* sculpture, from 1959, takes its title from the traditional practice of community cooperation.

The only artist of his generation to work exclusively in sculpture, Lau developed a practice marked by careful material selection, structural clarity and a strong sensitivity to movement and form.

Gotong-Royong, executed in cast steel, exemplifies his ability to combine abstract form with symbolic meaning.

Reflecting the spirit of Merdeka, Ahmad Shukri's *The Wall (Negaraku)* was created to commemorate 50 years of Malaysian independence.

The 2007 work incorporates the national anthem's sheet music and lyrics as its foundation, showcasing Shukri's skill in combining different materials and techniques.

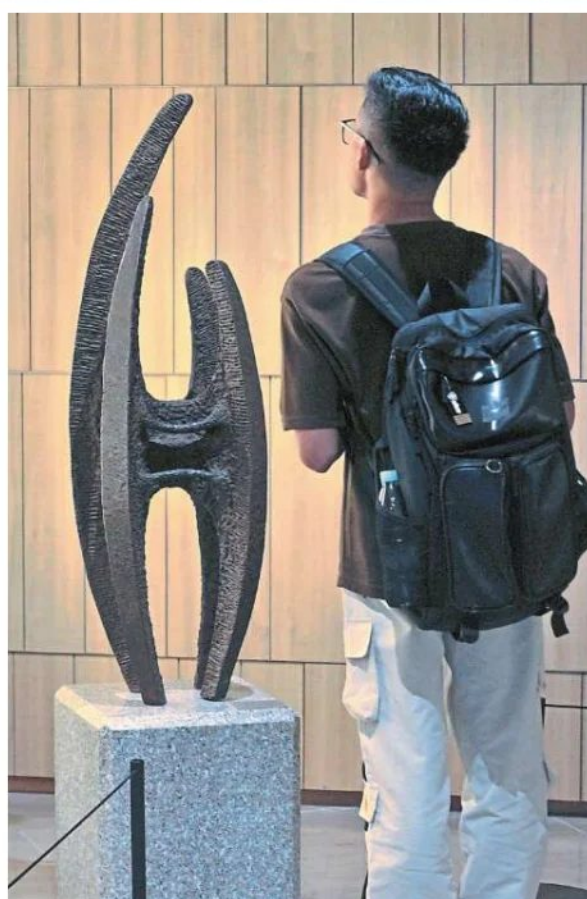
As an inspirational work, Ahmad Fuad Osman's *Bima Sakti* (2009) explores the moon landing as a symbol of human possibility, drawing on the artist's childhood memories of gazing at the night sky and contemplating his own path in life.



For an interactive experience, visitors can also create their own artworks using augmented reality (AR) features accessible via their smartphones.



(Above) The Galeri PETRONAS opening at Ombak KLCC will be phased, beginning with *The First Glimpse*, a ground-floor exhibition for art lovers of all ages.



Lau's *Gotong Royong* is an early sculpture from 1959 and a highlight of *The First Glimpse* pop-up at Galeri PETRONAS. — M. IRSYAD/The Star

"Beyond the exhibition, *The First Glimpse* also provides insight into the journey of Galeri PETRONAS, from the 1990s to the present day. Visitors can explore interactive experiences that bring creativity to life, alongside a range of public programmes designed to encourage discovery, participation, and meaningful engage-

ment with the arts," says Norafizal.

The First Glimpse is a free admission exhibition, alongside a diverse range of workshops and public activities planned this month at this Galeri PETRONAS space. The gallery is open daily from 10am to 10pm.

More info: galeripetronas.com.

IF you happen to be in Singapore this month, *Latiff Mohidin: Lines To Form*, a solo exhibition by one of Malaysia's foremost modernist artists at Gajah Gallery, is a significant regional art event.

Running through Sept 20, the exhibition unveils Latiff's first-ever cast bronze sculpture from his iconic *Pago Pago* series. Presented alongside a selection of works on paper, the exhibition, organised in collaboration with LM Studio, brings together works from different periods of the artist's career, revealing the continuity of his artistic vision across more than six decades.

First conceived in the early 1960s, *Pago Pago* emerged from Latiff's vision of a cosmopolitan yet regionally rooted modernism.

Shaped by his travels across South-East Asia, the series developed into a distinctive visual language informed by the region's landscapes, architecture and cultural traditions, while articulat-

Taking flight in bronze

ing a distinctly South-East Asian perspective on modernism.

Its enduring significance is reflected in its international recognition, including an exhibition at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 2018. The show in the French capital was jointly organised by the National Gallery Singapore and the Centre Pompidou.

In Singapore, *Latiff Mohidin: Lines To Form* is curated by Syed Muhammad Hafiz of Kuala Lumpur-based art and cultural studio LM Studio.

The exhibition introduces *Burung 1 (Bird 1)*, realised in collaboration with Yogyarta Art Lab (YAL), Gajah Gallery's foundry arm in Yogyakarta.

Scaled from Latiff's original *ciment fondu* sculpture of the same name, *Burung 1* was cast in silicon bronze under the artist's direction. The work marks

Latiff's first foray into bronze, extending the visual language of *Pago Pago* into a new medium while demonstrating its continued capacity for reinvention.

Complementing *Burung 1* is a selection of works on paper from the *Pago Pago*, *Gelombang*, *Rimba* and *Voyage* series. Together, they trace the evolution of Latiff's visual language – from the formative *Pago Pago* works of the 1960s to the landscapes of *Gelombang* and *Rimba*, and the reflections on travel, movement and cultural encounter in *Voyage*.

The legacy embodied in these works is profound, while their evolution underscores the coherence, adaptability and enduring vitality of one of South-East Asia's most influential artistic practices.

More info: gajahgallery.com.



Latiff's *Burung 1 (Bird 1)*, first created at a smaller scale in 1967, has been reimaged as a 1.8m-tall bronze sculpture at Gajah Gallery in Singapore. — Gajah Gallery

Back to its roots

Penang Cocktail Week returns this month with the theme 'Welcome Home', and new approach.

PENANG Cocktail Week (PCW) is back this month, running from Sept 15 to 20, and this time around, the organisers are doing things a little differently.

Oh, there will still be plenty of cocktails, guest shifts, and parties, but unlike last year, which had a number of big international bars participating, this year's event feels more ... grounded and "Penang-like" than ever.

Even the theme itself, "Welcome Home", feels like a hark back to the original objective of PCW – to introduce the world to Penang's cocktail scene and the hospitality of the island in general.

This year, besides the expected guest shifts and parties, there will also be other non-bar related events, such as wellness-inspired sessions, culinary events and even a meaningful tribute to an influential Malaysian bartending icon.

The week's experiences are curated across five distinct festival pillars: Kaki Lang, Makan Angin, Jiak, Kongs, and Lau Juak. Here is a rundown of what to expect.

Kaki Lang (One of Us)

This segment of the festival celebrates the Penang bar industry's people and community.

It is heartening to see that four years on, PCW is going back to its initial objective of celebrating the community here by not only highlighting local talents, but also bringing in international bartenders for guest shifts.

It kicks off with the Welcome Home opening party (Sept 15) at Lucky Hole, featuring a bar takeover by Singapore-based Penang natives Andrew Yap, and Rishi Randhawa of Origin Bar.

The PCW Malaysian Invasion IV (Sept 16) will spotlight some of the newer bars in the Malaysian bar scene, including Petaling

MICHAEL CHEANG

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Tipsy turvy

Jaya's Remedy Cocktail Bar and Barley & Rye, and Kuala Lumpur's The Riff District, Poo Loong & Co, and Neo Bar.

One particularly meaningful event is called Karl Too's Persau – Once & Only (Sept 17), which is a special tribute to Malaysian cocktail pioneer Karl Too, who passed away in 2024.

"Persau" was the final bar project he was working on before he passed, and the PCW event is a one-night-only guest shift at Steep Social, featuring three cocktail recipes which he created for Persau, but were left unfinished ... until now.

Too's Omakase + Appreciate partner Shawn Chong (now of Bar Mizukami), who has recreated those cocktails, will be serving them during the shift.

Adding poignancy to the event, Chong will be joined by Too's close friends and former colleagues, including former O+A bartenders Shirmy Chan (Bar Terumi) and Joe Ngui (who now owns Steep Social), and industry stalwart TJ Antony.

Other events to look forward to are the Montréal Cocktail Festival X PCW (Sept 17), featuring some of Canada's finest bartenders, and Across The S.E.A. Takeover (Sept 18), involving bars from Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Indonesia.

Sept 19 will be an all-Oriental affair, with the PCW Taiwan Takeover showcasing some of Taiwan's top rising bars; and Shanghai Knights, starring some



(Above) This year's Penang Cocktail Week feels more grounded and Penang-like than ever.



It wouldn't be a Penang event without something related to food.

of the Chinese city's most iconic bars.

Jiak (To Eat)

It wouldn't be a Penang event without something related to food, and the Jiak theme brings you unique culinary experiences, the PCW way.

One major highlight of the week is The Tasting Table happening at Restaurant Au Jardin, which will see Chef Thav of Bangkok's 80/20 take over the Michelin-starred restaurant for a one-night-only tasting menu, paired with Glenlivet-based cocktails by Adrian Foo of Nomu Co.

A MasterChef Showdown on Sept 18 is another one to look out for. Here, MasterChef alumni, Therese Lum of Sydney, Australia and KL's Marcus Low join forces

to serve a five-course pairing menu inspired by their Teochew and Hokkien roots.

Plates & Pours on Sept 17 will prove that great bars aren't built on drinks alone, as Honky Tonks Tavern (Hong Kong) and Stay Gold Flamingo (Singapore) take over the bars and kitchen at No Bar Here and Rembar.

Two other food-related events are happening on Sept 16 – the Martell Drink Sum Party at Club Undgrnd; and the PCW Supper Club, where Melaka's Bulldog will be serving late-night Peranakan comfort food to close the Malaysia Day celebrations.

Kongs, Makan Angin, and Lau Juak

After three years, the question was how PCW was going to evolve, and the other three

themes are the answer to that.

Kongs (To Share), focuses on connections & conversations within the bar industry, with the Kongs Sessions on Sept 17 featuring seminars, talks, and workshops by leading industry veterans.

Makan Angin (To Explore) takes you beyond bars to experience more of what Penang has to offer, by soaking up some island fun and sun.

Highlights include the PCW Sun Fun Run on the morning of Sept 16, followed by the PCW x Sun Fun Fest: Sweat + Sip, a collaboration with Penang's first ever fitness festival – Sun Fun Fest – for a morning of sweaty workout sessions curated by Penang-based fitness and dance studios.

Other Makan Angin events include the Electrified Mansion Sundown by BYD Mansion Macalister, Beyond Auto (Sept 17); and Sips On The Beach (Sept 19) at Batu Ferringhi with cocktails by nomadic cocktail bar, Bar Find (Kolkata).

Last but not least, Lau Juak (To Celebrate) amps up the fun times, with several after parties, and also the return of PCW Cocktail Garden to the Hin Bus Depot on Sept 20, featuring pop-up cocktail bars, food and fashion vendors, as well as live music.

The full schedule and ticketing details for selected events is now available on www.penangcocktailweek.com.

Michael Cheang is gutted he won't be able to make it to PCW this year. Follow him on Instagram (@mytipsyturvy) and Facebook (fb.com/mytipsyturvy).

Photos: MICHAEL CHEANG/
The Star

IF you are planning to go for the Penang Cocktail Week, here are four relatively new bars you can check out.

Steep Social

Located on Beach Street this tea and wine cocktail bar embraces duality in drinks in creative ways. Its current menu concept is that of "Double Terroir" which "weaves two settings into one glass" (though it will be launching a new menu soon). It is also open on Sundays for a day time "Steep Time", serving tea mocktails and a selection of teas.

New bars to check out

Nomu Co.

Named after the Japanese word for drink, Nomu is located at Hin Bus Depot, and has a dual cocktail bar and Japanese tapas concept. The signatures are mostly classically-driven, with refined, sometimes minimal twists to each, and also utilising local and Japanese elements.

Half Day Chill

A fairly new "cocktail home bar", this little bar along Lebuhraya McNair is a cosy little place with a homely and lounge-y feel (complete with a resident cat), and holds regular DJ and live music

nights as well. Its menu only has five signatures for now, but you can also get the bartenders to make you a bespoke cocktail if you prefer.

Easy

A brand new all-day coffee and wine bar located along Lorong Noordin, founded by the folks behind Backdoor Bodega. Open at 10am until midnight, it's another cozy little place to hang out with some wine or coffee in hand, with regular "Table Talk" communal events to look forward to if you need ideas for weekend activities. – **Michael Cheang**



(Above) Half Day Chill is a cosy little place with a homely feel.

Steep Social's wine and tea cocktails embraces duality in creative ways.

Exploring histories and journeys

An intrepid chef's restaurant unearths the migratory odyssey and cultural richness of the Malaysian Chinese community.

Story and photos by ABIRAMI DURAI
lifestyle@thestar.com.my



EATING OUT

THE Malaysian Chinese community here has roots that can be traced all the way back to the 15th century, when traders arrived in the bustling port hub of Melaka. Some chose to stay and married local women, sparking the birth of the Peranakan communities in Malaysia.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, British colonial policies encouraged an influx of southern Chinese labourers in search of better prospects. Chinese women arrived later, resulting in marriages, and eventually descendants that built bustling communities alive with cultural practices, clans and customs.

Yet tradition cannot remain static, especially in a new land. Which is why the foods of the many Chinese communities in Malaysia – namely the Cantonese, Hokkien, Fuzhou, Teochew, Hakka and Hainanese – began to take on new iterations – to reflect the ingredients and food opportunities of their new homeland.

It is this cultural convergence and the journey that shaped this culinary narrative that is the focus of renowned chef Johnson Wong's new Penang restaurant Root House by Gen.

Wong is the creative force behind famed Penang restaurant Gen, a Michelin Selected eatery that is also ranked #89 on the Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2026 extended list. At Gen, Wong embraces local ingredients and Malaysian stories interspersed with Western culinary techniques.

At Root House, the focus is on the Malaysian Chinese narrative. It's a story Wong has been keen to tell after making numerous trips to China over the years.

"After the Covid-19 pandemic, I went to China quite a bit and I was very impressed with the level of Chinese dining – how sophisticated it is and how Chinese ingredients are treated.

"In Malaysia – besides street food – immigrant Chinese food is very centred on Cantonese cuisine – not really Hokkien or other communities. So I wanted to introduce different perspectives.

"That's why we did a lot of research on how food transformed from China within the different dialect groups after they came to Malaysia," says Wong.

Wong says there was also a lot of trial-and-error and R&D in terms of developing the recipes, especially ones that he was unfamiliar with.

"It really depends on the dish. I am Hakka, so Hokkien dishes are not so familiar to me because they were not something I grew up with. Usually when I am not familiar with things, I need more time to experiment," says Wong.

Ensnared within the new 1926 Heritage Hotel in Penang (a century-old former British administrative residence), the restaurant is small but very aesthetically pleasing, bookmarked by an entrance that hosts a decorative frame filled with an assortment of traditional Chinese ingredients.

From what's on offer on the menu, look at indulging in the Pineapple Pickles with Cuttlefish (RM30) which features pineapples against dried cuttlefish. The dish is an ode to an old-fashioned Chinese accompaniment of pineapples and soy sauce.

In this iteration, the pineapples are pickled with soy sauce and chilli and topped with deep-fried cuttlefish. The dish offers an interspersed of sweet and savoury flavours, lacing the fruity astringency of pineapples against the rich umami contrasts of soy and cuttlefish. This is a case of opposites attracting and creating an unstoppable force.

Then there is the Celtuce Thunder Tea (RM38) a modern take on the classic dish of Hakka lei cha. While the dish is normally a warm, nurturing affair, in this instance, it is served as a cold salad, with blanched octopus, ice plants, rice puffs and deep-fried kailan mounted atop.

There is plenty of cold comfort in this dish, which bears the soul of lei cha, laden with a modern twist. How much you like this meal will depend on how much you like the original, because the green, earthy, vegetal notes of lei cha still prevail here, albeit with different textural connotations.

Ultimately, you'll find that it's very rustic and beautiful in the way natural beauties tend to be, but conversely if you're looking for bedazzling adornment, this won't be it.

Follow this up with the Crones & Beansprout with Squid (RM38). This is an incredibly easy dish to



Wong is the brainchild behind Root House's odyssey through the migratory patterns and cultural nuances of the Malaysian Chinese community. — Root House

enjoy – the crones (also called Chinese asparagus) offer a hearty crunch that matches the juicy vibrance of the beansprout.

The squid meanwhile provides sea-faring notes that add a layer of depth to the dish, which is honestly one of the best things on Root's menu right now.

From the soup options, try the Jungle Garlic Black Chicken Soup (RM42) which features oil extracted from kulim, a Malaysian jungle garlic that has truffle-esque undertones. This is buoyed by old cucumber and black chicken.

The soup is simultaneously simple and yet has a complexity and decadence courtesy of the kulim in the configuration, which takes it to whole new levels. It may be a tad overpowering for some diners but if you like woody, hedonistic notes in your soup – you'll really enjoy this.

From the seafood family, you could opt to try the Curry Oil Steamed Threadfin (RM128), a dish that is rooted in traditional Cantonese steaming methods as well as the multiculturalism so prominent in Malaysian cuisine.

"In the Canton region (in China), they use chicken fat to steam the fish, but here we incorporate a bit of curry flavour with the chicken fat. So I think it's a very good example of what we want to do – introduce very old methods against a modern approach with local flavours," says Wong.

The fish has been steamed beautifully – retaining flesh that



The crones, beansprouts and squid deliver a potent punch of flavours and textures.



Based on a Cantonese steaming trick, the steamed threadfin in curry sauce pays homage to Chinese tradition and the spirit of Malaysia.



The horse hoof doughnuts are doughy, chewy and delightful from start to finish.

has a slight firmness but is otherwise supple and very tender. The curry sauce has a light countenance that has been clearly crafted so as to accentuate the fish without being so bold as to steal the limelight entirely from the lead star.

To end the meal, there is the Horse Hoof Doughnut with Warm Taro Custard (RM38). Horse hoof doughnuts (also called *ma kiok*) are traditional Chinese deep-fried pastries designed to resemble a horse's hoof. Here, the warm, crisp doughy affair segues perfectly with the custard, which offers sweet, earthy notes and a wholly comforting end to the meal.

Root House also offers a tasting menu, priced at RM228 per person which offers diners the option of indulging in eight different dishes, from small plates to soups, main courses and desserts.

Wong says launching Root House has really opened his eyes to the wonders of Chinese cuisine and the ways in which Malaysian Chinese cuisine intersects with

this. The possibilities to reinterpret are endless and Wong is having fun researching and experimenting with various options and ingredients.

"The different Chinese communities here have such a long history with both China and Malaysia. So the research keeps going on and we will never run out of new recipes to develop. And for me, it also gives me different ideas and angles when I go back to my other restaurants like Gen.

"It has benefitted me tremendously and helped me understand different things. I needed a spark, so now when I go back to Gen, I feel that all sorts of new ideas just pop up," says Wong.

Root House by Gen
Ground Floor
1926 Heritage Hotel
227 Jalan Burma
10050 George Town
Penang
Tel: 012-827 1926
Open daily: Noon to 3pm;
5pm to 11pm



Tables and chairs from closed restaurants are seen on a deserted street in Havana.

Turning to locals

Struggling Cuban chefs hold out for a brighter tomorrow.

Photos: AFP

OPENING a restaurant in a country where many are struggling to feed themselves and the electricity is more often off than on may seem foolhardy, to say the least.

Many shops, cafes and hotels in Cuba have closed since January, when the United States imposed an oil embargo, starving the communist-ruled island of fuel for its power plants and vehicles.

Once-vibrant Havana is a picture of misery as the standoff drags on into its eighth month.

But some chefs are clinging on, in the hope that better times lie just around the corner.

Daniel Castillo used to run a restaurant catering to the tourists that poured off cruise ships.

With foreigners having all but

deserted the Caribbean island, he, like many in the tourism industry, has fallen back on the domestic market.

"It's the Cuban people who are consuming now, who are eating, who are going out to eat," he said.

It's a trickle, not a tide, however, and most cannot afford to fork out 6,000 pesos (RM36.30) at the informal exchange rate, nearly the average monthly wage of US\$10 (RM40) – for his signature surf-and-turf mix of seafood, chicken and pork.

So he opened a new restaurant named Jireh (Hebrew for "The Lord Will Provide") offering humbler fare: pork dough, a Cuban staple, for 50 pesos (30 sen).

Just putting food on the table is a herculean task.



The El Balcon de los Hermanos restaurant in Havana remains open for business, even though it hardly gets any customers.

Cubans find a way

Several hours each day are spent trying to source ingredients like cooking oil.

One bottle costs between 4,000 and 5,000 pesos (RM24 and RM28), a huge sum for most.

So he now swaps in lard. "Cubans always find a way," Castillo joked.

But no amount of inventiveness can circumvent daily power outages that last up to 30 hours at a stretch in the capital.

When the electricity goes, the fans stop whirring, diners' conversation comes to an abrupt halt and food begins spoiling in the refrigerator.

It's not just the little guy that is suffering. A 20-minute walk from Castillo's restaurant is La

Guarida, an upscale restaurant situated inside a decaying mansion that featured in the 1993 Oscar-nominated movie *Strawberry And Chocolate*.

In its heyday, Cuba's most famous restaurant hosted celebrities such as Steven Spielberg, Madonna and Mick Jagger, visits memorialised in photos on the wall.

These days, it is glaringly empty.

"La Guarida is my life," said Enrique Nunez, its 57-year-old owner. "Even if I'm the only one coming to work, I'll come and keep it open."

So who goes to a restaurant in Cuba today?

Yosbel Leon, 44, has the difficult task of drawing customers in off the street to Jireh. He estimates that 90% of Cubans

simply can't afford to eat out.

"It's the people who can save a little money, those who really have money. Very few ordinary Cubans," he said.

Armanda Saez, an 18-year-old student who was munching on a pastry outside a cafe, described restaurant outings as a luxury for her family.

"We have to dip into our savings," she said.

Rafael Gomez would like to take his partner out for dinner to celebrate her upcoming birthday.

The last time they went to a restaurant was in December, before the US blockade began.

"I'd like to take her back to the same restaurant," said Gomez, 39, who is unemployed. "To feel happy and enjoy a nice meal." – AFP

A little bit of colour

By JESSICA DAMIANO

THE hanging planter on my porch has seen better days. And by better days, I mean the summer annuals have dried to a brown crisp that likely has the neighbours wondering if the Addams Family has moved in.

I like to believe the extreme heat did them in, but I know neglect has also played a role.

I dug up some impatiens from the garden and plopped them in the basket to save face, but since it's already September, it's time to freshen it up for a new season.

Pansies are my usual go-to flowers for autumn. Their smiling faces of orange, purple and yellow brighten even the most faded of gardens.

And autumn-planted pansies will return in spring, ready to bloom for another season. That's because, unlike most garden annuals, they're done in by the heat of summer, not the cold.

I've bordered most of the front garden bed with Sedum Autumn Joy, a perennial in horticultural zones 3-9 in the United States that changes with the seasons. Its green early-season flowers gradually take on a pinkish hue

that darkens as summer progresses, landing on a fall-appropriate maroon by mid-September.

It's the only flowering plant I can think of that meets the seasons where they are every step of the way.

As summer annuals fade, consider replacing them with garden chrysanthemums, but don't pull them out at the end of the season. Plant them at the front of beds, where their orange, rust, bronze, yellow, pink, purple or white flowers will obscure the fading plants behind them.

Leave them be, and they'll return year after year for effortless autumn flair.

Firecracker plant (Cuphea) is an easy-care, heat-tolerant choice with striking, tubular orange flowers that attract hummingbirds. It's hardy in zones 8-11 and used as an annual in cooler regions, where it blooms from spring through frost.

But fall plantings work, too, and the plant makes a dramatic addition to containers alongside lantana, fountain grass (Pennisetum), coral bells (Heuchera), globe amaranth (Gomphrena) or calibrachoa.



(From left) Ornamental peppers in a fence planter; a fall-themed container planter with colourful Croton, yellow garden mums and Gomphrena; and copper Chrysanthemums in a hanging basket. — AP

Croton, a foliage plant with yellow- and orange-veined, large green leaves, is typically treated as a houseplant outside of the tropics, but I wouldn't discount it as a container or bedding plant, especially in fall arrangements.

Reblooming azaleas like Encore and Perfecto Mundo bloom in spring, like their cousins, but make repeat performances straight through frost. Check specific varieties to ensure they are hardy in your zone.

Firecracker bush (Russelia equisetiformis) is unrelated to

the firecracker plant above, but boasts similar weeping, arching stems, covered in bright red tubular flowers on 0.9m to 1.5m shrubs that hummingbirds and butterflies love.

Rainbow chard is an edible contender, its orange, red and green leaves perfectly suited to the season. After it has performed its aesthetic role, cut it down and sauté it with salt, pepper and garlic.

Miniature red, orange and purple ornamental peppers make interesting focal points,

too, but they should be considered only decorative because of the pesticides used in the ornamental trade. They would taste awful, anyway.

Ornamental cabbages and kales are technically edible, but it's best to limit their use to the garden for the same reasons. They'll add texture and colour, with their purple, green or cream leaves remaining fresh until temperatures below freezing collapse their cell walls.

Then it'll be time to start planning your spring garden. – AP

(Right) Green crabs being segregated into 'crab condos' before harvesting in Maine.

(Far right) Interns Grace Welles (left) and Jackson Martine (centre) sorting green crabs with Masi while working the York River.



By MICHAEL CASEY
Photos: AP

AS a morning fog lifted over York River in Maine, United States, Mike Masi and his two interns stood on a dock sorting through a mound of one of the region's most despised crabs and hoped to find a few that would end up on a gastronome's plate somewhere in New England.

The trick is to identify invasive European green crabs that are about to shed their hard shell, or moult, revealing a softer exterior that has the feel of a leather couch, and are popular at restaurants.

Not only do these green crabs fetch more money – Masi can get US\$3 (RM12) a crab at market compared to as little as US\$0.08 (RM32) for a hard shell – but catching them provides a service of sorts to the ocean's ecosystem.

"Just about everyone hates them, and we're trying to turn them into a premium seafood product," said Masi, whose company, Shell+Claw, is the only one that commercially cultivates these crabs.

Masi, a 45-year-old former marine science teacher, is part of a growing movement across New England aiming to lessen the crabs' destructive impact by developing new markets. Others are putting green crabs in pet treats, fish sauce and even a line of green crab whiskey in New Hampshire.

The green crabs, *Carcinus maenas*, made their way from Europe to the US east coast in the ballast waters of ships hundreds of years ago. Numbering in the tens of millions, they outcompete Atlantic rock crab and juvenile lobster, destroy eelgrass beds and undermine salt marsh banks. They also are costing the region's shellfish industry tens of millions of dollars each year, as they eat mussels, oysters and soft-shell clams.

Chad Coffin, a clam fisherman from Maine, blamed a dramatic decline in his catch on the emergence of green crabs.

Soft-shell clam landings have gone from over 3.6 million kilograms in 1978 to 572,644kg in 2025, according to the state.

Green crabs, known for their brown or green shells and five spines on either side of their eyes, have taken advantage of warming ocean waters, a result of climate change that's driven mostly by the release of greenhouse gases when coal, oil and gas are burned.

The crabs are able to survive New England winters while also thriving in a range of diverse habitats. They eat almost anything and produce plenty of young; a female will release up to

Eating the problem away

Invasive green crabs are bad for the environment, so these folks are starting to eat more of them.



A breaded green crab sandwich is one of the dishes served at Signal restaurant in Maine.

185,000 eggs once or twice a year.

These traits have made them among the world's most successful invasive species, expanding along the US west coast and into Alaska and reaching South Africa, Japan, Argentina and Australia.

"They're really pretty resilient little guys," said Carolyn Tepolt, an evolutionary biologist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution who has studied green crabs for two decades and uses them to understand why some species thrive in different environments.

Not enough data

For the past decade, the region's campaign to combat the crab invasion has been a grass-roots affair that has had minimal impact on their numbers.

While a growing list of restaurants and seafood businesses are offering green crab, there are very few New England fishermen catching the crabs and almost no infrastructure to process the

catch and get them to market.

There isn't even enough data to show how many crabs a fishery in New England could support, though experts say capacity is far higher than currently being caught.

Marissa McMahan, vice president of fisheries at Manomet Conservation Sciences, says that people in Washington County, Maine, on the Canadian border, tell her they can catch "as many green crabs as you could ever possibly want".

"But they can't get them on a truck and get them to where they need to actually be, and often that's Boston or New Bedford or New York City," she said. "That is a huge impediment."

Small steps have been taken. Rhode Island passed a law that offers a green crab fishing license for just US\$10 (RM40), Connecticut now allows the crabs to be sold as food, and Maine made it easier to get the crabs to market.

The problem, many advocates say, is the absence of significant government support in New



Green crabs are known for their brown or green shells and five spines on either side of their eyes.

England. Only Massachusetts offers incentives to catch them: Fishermen receive US\$0.40 (RM1.60) per pound on top of what they get selling them, or just over US\$100,000 (RM400,000) per year in state funding.

Meanwhile, Washington state declared an emergency in 2022 and expects to spend more than US\$38mil (RM153) in state and federal funds through fiscal year 2027 eradicating the crabs.

So far this year, nearly two million crabs have been caught and mostly converted into 61,234kg of waste that goes to an organic fertiliser company. The Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe and Lummi Nation also catch crabs and use them as compost.

"We've got treaty-protected fisheries at risk and critical habitats that are used by all sorts of native species, so we're really worried that we'll start to see those types of effects that they saw on the east coast if we let the population get established," said Raquel Crosier, the deputy director of the state's Fish Programme.

Crab meals

The good news in New England is that there is a growing appetite for green crab.

Since 2021, advocates have seen a more than 10-fold increase in restaurants offering crab. Some are putting fried green crab in sandwiches, on top of pasta dishes and in their sauces. Many take part in green crab weeks that happen during the roughly two-month softshell season.

Pagu, a Spanish Japanese tapas restaurant in Cambridge, Massachusetts, puts the crustaceans into the broth of its green crab laksa, a Malaysian-inspired noodle soup, and – when available – puts a tempura-fried soft-shell green crab inside a steamed bun.

"These crabs are way more potent in terms of flavour," said PAGU's chef and owner Tracy Chang.

Comparing them to king, stone or Jonah crabs, she added: "Those all have just kind of like a sweet light crab flavour and this has like a really rich deep like luscious crab flavour."

Sitting in the crowded restaurant, Dr William Li, a physician and author, took his first bite from his *bao*. Tangy, sweet and crunchy with its claws sticking out, the dish caught Li's attention because he loves crab.

"This is kind of like a bite-sized treat to elevate your health," Li said. "This green crab *bao* was spectacular, filled with flavour, easy to eat, and very tasty."

Back out on the water with Masi, however, it feels like industrial-scale green crabbing is a long way off.

Masi's system is labour intensive: His crew picks through thousands of green crabs by hand to spot those about to moult. Caught in the wild, the crabs are stored out on the water. Once they show signs of moulting or busting, the crabs are relocated into a network of tubes in lobster crates.

Masi's business has grown since he began five years ago, but he says it still feels like a hobby that brings in up to US\$20,000 (RM80,642) annually. He remains bullish on a green crab fishery, talking of one day getting a bigger boat and improving efficiency.

His inspiration is a centuries-old fishery in Venice, Italy where green crabs, which are native there, are caught by families and fried to make a dish called *moeche*, among other delicacies.

"I am cautiously optimistic about the potential for green crabs," Masi said. "We are one breakthrough from making this a profitable business." – AP

AS we head into fall television season, you might notice some familiar titles, not just because a few shows are returning for new seasons, but because they're prequels, continuations or adaptations of well-known books or films – sometimes both.

Hollywood has leaned into established IP this season, but if you're seeking an original story, don't fret, several of those are coming too.

Brothers, Sept 23 (Apple TV)

Twelve years ago, after their chemistry lit up Season 1 of *True Detective*, stars Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey became Hollywood's most beloved bromance.

When Harrelson later told a tale in which McConaughey's mother revealed she had known Harrelson's father around the time McConaughey was conceived, it made a lot of hot-rumour sense.

Also, apparently, a fine pitch for a series, with the two men playing fictionalised versions of themselves.

After a family crisis, Harrelson flees with his wife and daughters to McConaughey's Texas ranch where he hears a similar "I knew your father" story from Ma Mac (Holland Taylor).

As he decides what to do, McConaughey decides to run for governor of Texas. The personal eccentricities of the two leads, along with their odd-couple vibe, provide most of the show's humour, but the best reason to watch is Holland, who shows both stars how it's done, by stealing the show from under their feet.

East Of Eden, Oct 1 (Netflix)

Zoe Kazan has established herself in the past several years as a versatile artiste who impressed critics and audiences with her lead role in *Ruby Sparks* and her Emmy-nominated performance in HBO's *Olive Kitteridge*. The spotlight is likely to get brighter with Netflix's *East Of Eden*, the latest adaptation of John Steinbeck's classic novel.

A previous version of the novel was directed by Kazan's grandfather Elia Kazan, and is best known as one of three films starring James Dean.

Zoe Kazan is the writer and co-showrunner of the Netflix project, which stars Florence Pugh as anti-heroine Cathy Ames – a character sidelined in the 1955 film.

Below, Oct 8 (Netflix)

Summer is over, but that doesn't mean there can't still be stories about killer creatures under the sea.

Netflix's *Below* joins the watery spectrum already inhabited by *Jaws*, *The Meg*, *47 Meters Down* and numerous other entries as it unveils its premise about a seaside town targeted by a mysterious monster.

Josh Hartnett (*Trap*) stars as a fisherman and single father living in a small Newfoundland town who must find a way to protect his family and the community when an unidentified creature starts wreaking havoc.

He joins forces with a marine researcher (Mackenzie Davis of *Station Eleven*) who informs him of the town's mysterious history and buried secrets.

Exciting upcoming TV shows

Highlights include a new Harry Potter and Mr Darcy, as well as Michelle Yeoh as a replicant in a *Blade Runner* series.

VisionQuest, Oct 14 (Disney+)

When we last saw Vision (Paul Bettany), the reconstructed synthezoid and former Avenger had just regained his memories – thanks to an assist from his magically created double – before flying off into the unknown at the end of *WandaVision*.

Much has changed in the Marvel Cinematic Universe since then, but diving back into this corner of the multiverse occupied by *WandaVision*, *Agatha All Along* and the upcoming *VisionQuest* is much welcomed.

Capping off the TV trilogy, the new series will see Vision navigating life after *WandaVision* along with existential questions about his personhood and identity with the help of some friends in the form of other Marvel AI and robots, including Ultron (James Spader).

Both *WandaVision* and *Agatha* were meditations on grief, trauma and motherhood, by way of sitcoms and magical escape rooms, respectively.

It should be interesting to see how this final instalment will explore the patrilineal connection between Ultron, Vision and Tommy (Ruairidh Mollica), one of Wanda and Vision's long lost twins who were magically created in *WandaVision*. Could the series tee up a full Maximoff family reunion?

The Diplomat Season 4, Oct 15 (Netflix)

For those of us who stay ready for the Kate Wyler 2028 campaign, it's time to lock in.

The highly competent, intensely impulsive, deeply flawed and incredibly relatable political power player with unapologetically messy hair is back to clean up more back-room deals and betrayals, volatile international crises and unstable government leadership – all while managing a topsy-turvy marriage tangled up in it.

The fourth season picks up directly after the Season 3 finale cliffhanger, where Kate (Keri Russell) learned that her husband, Vice President Hal Wyler (Rufus Sewell), and President Grace Penn (Allison Janney) secretly conspired to steal a Russian nuclear weapon.

The new season will explore the fallout and tension in domestic and international relationships, and the marital strife in between. Somehow, political chaos feels good in a show like this.

Nocturne, Oct 30 (Apple TV)

Stephen Graham plays the diabolically cunning serial killer Jurek Walter in *Nocturne*, a chilling psychological thriller that promises *Hannibal*-level creepiness (as in the film).

The 10-episode drama stars Liev Schreiber as Jonah Lynn, a former soldier turned homicide detective who moves to a small town in western Pennsylvania after working the tough streets of Philadelphia.

But the peace and quiet he hoped for is shattered when his family is targeted by Jurek. Lynn's surrogate daughter, FBI Agent Saga Bauer (Zazie Beetz), steps in the fray, upping the stakes.

Based on Lars Kepler's crime novels *Lazarus* and *The Sandman*, the series also stars Bill Camp, Rory Culkin, Poorna Jagannathan, Chrissy Metz and Gary Carr. The cast alone should make *Nocturne* a killer thriller, but we'll have to wait until October to see if it lays.

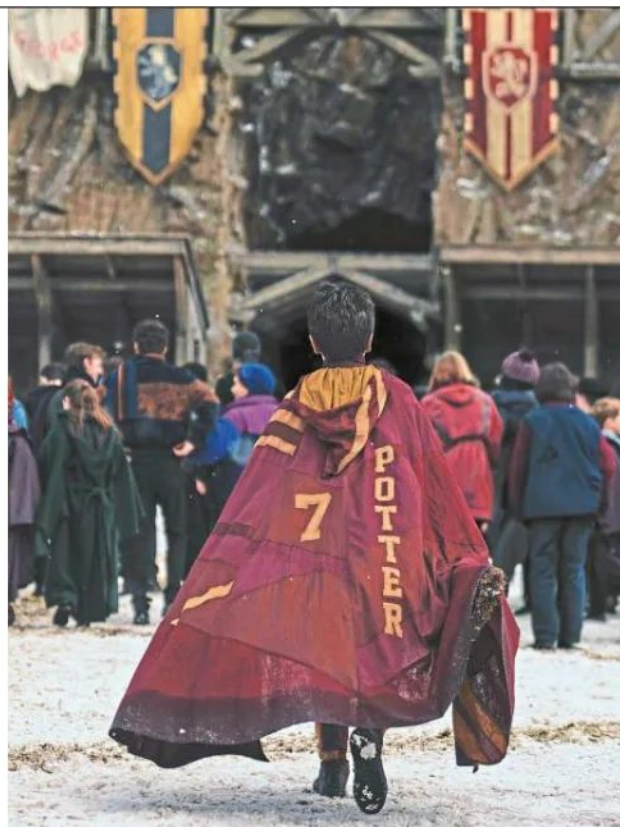
Blade Runner 2099, Nov 25 (Prime Video)

Although the franchise's previous sequel *Blade Runner 2049* didn't hit the right notes, the prospect of this tale of biological and synthetic life forms in a smoggy, next-millennium Los Angeles sounds promising.

Michelle Yeoh plays an ageing replicant



Yeoh (left) and Schafer play partners who are looking for rogue replicants in *Blade Runner* 2099. — Photos: Handout



(Left) The story of Harry Potter, 'the boy who lived' continues to fascinate fans old and new.

Experience Austen's *Pride And Prejudice*, with a new cast comprising (from left) Corrin, Freya Mavor, Olivia Colman, Hopey Parish, Rhea Norwood and Hollie Avery.



detective in search of rogue replicants – here, in a *Planet Of The Apes* style twist, the world has turned upside down, with the artificial life forms in power and the people powerless.

Hunter Schafer plays Yeoh's partner, a human masquerading as a replicant. (As to LA, you will not recognise the old place, which in any case was created in Prague and Barcelona.)

Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone, Dec 25 (HBO)

In Britain, Christmas Day telly is a much bigger deal than it is in the United States, which may be why HBO decided to launch its new *Harry Potter* series on Dec. 25.

"Highly anticipated" doesn't even begin to cover it; a quarter century since the film versions began lighting up the box office, the story of "the boy who lived" continues to entrance fans old and new.

Starring newcomers Dominic McLaughlin as Harry Potter, Alastair Stout as Ronald Weasley and Arabella Stanton as Hermione Granger, the series promises a richer, more detailed adaptation of the books, along with a more contemporary feel.

With John Lithgow as Albus Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as Minerva McGonagall, Nick Frost as Hagrid and Paapa Essiedu as Severus Snape, the cast is just as formidable and star-studded as the films.

And with a reported US\$58mil (RM234.51mil) price tag, the production values should burn just as brightly, especially at Christmas.

iNorth Of North Season 2, fall 2026 (Netflix)

No news regarding the coming fall season is more exciting than the return of this sunny, aspirational Indigenous comedy, set in a small town among the Inuit people in Nunavut, Canada's northernmost territory.

A luminous Anna Lambe plays Siaja, who in the first season went a long way toward finding herself in a life bounded by a narcissist husband (estranged, but always around), a once-difficult mother, a rambunctious child, a new love interest, a surprising father, a capricious yet not uncaring boss (Mary Lynn Rajsak) and a mythological sea spirit – in other words, lots to go on in a second season.

Pride And Prejudice, fall 2026 (Netflix)

Every generation gets its own Mr Darcy. Experiencing Jane Austen's most famous work – whether on the page or on the screen – is a cultural rite of passage for many young women.

The 1995 BBC miniseries starring Jennifer Ehle and Colin Firth, and the 2005 film starring Keira Knightley and Matthew MacFadyen, are the two definitive, most popular screen adaptations of the classic novel, often drawing fierce debate from enthusiasts about which is better.

Now, the classic novel is getting its streaming-era adaptation.

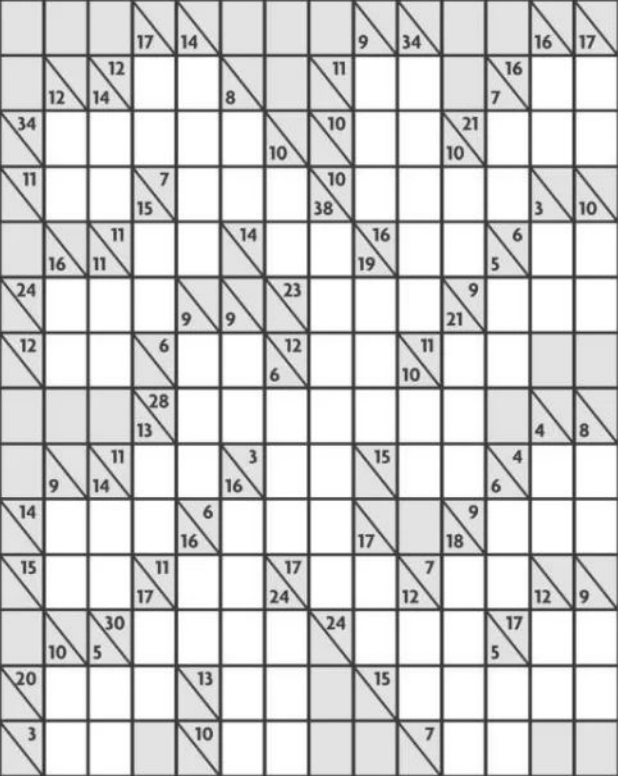
Written by bestselling author Dolly Alderton (*Good Material*), the six-part limited series promises to be a faithful adaptation.

Emma Corrin (*The Crown*) and Jack Lowden (*Slow Horses*) take the mantle as the original and ultimate enemies-to-lovers couple, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy. — Los Angeles Times/Tribune News Service

UNIVERSAL

KAKURO

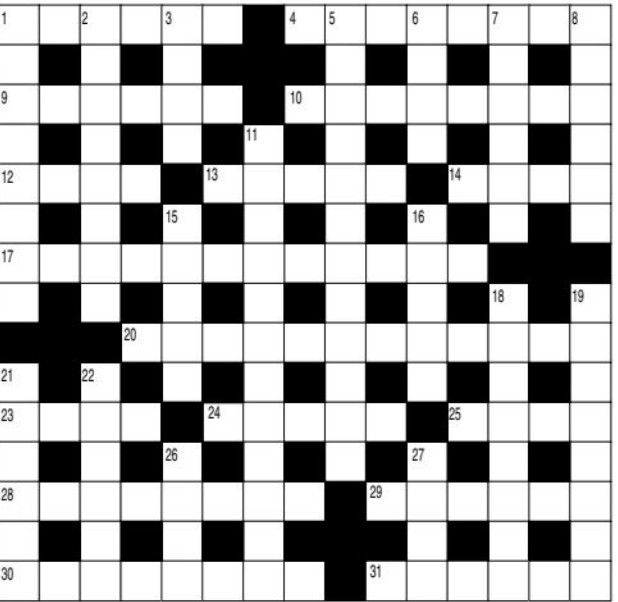
PUZZLE



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1. Put numbers from 1 through 9 in each cell (no zeros.)
2. A number in a cell divided by a diagonal line tells the sum of the numbers in the consecutive cells to its right or downward.
3. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

CROSSWORD

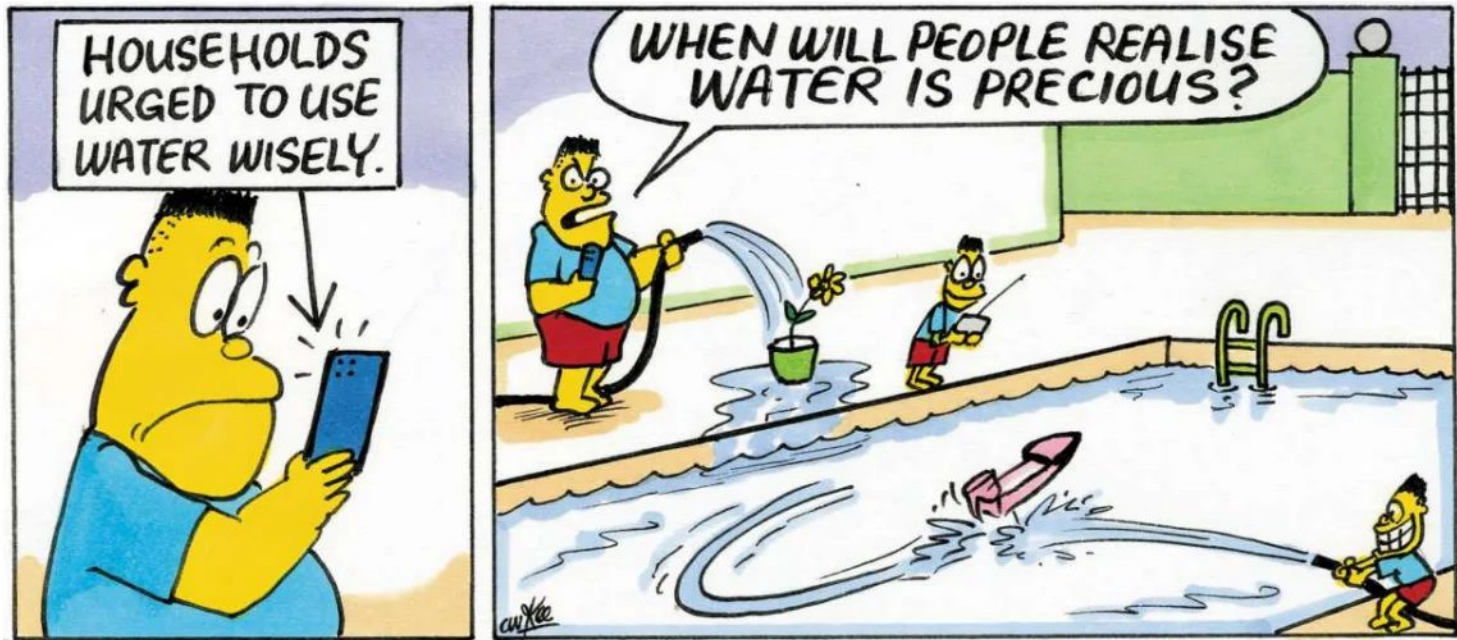


- Across
- Down
- 1 It tightens a nut in a cleaning machine (6)
- 1 Bear word about someone's clothes (8)
- 4 Seat breaks with danger to star (8)
- 2 Out of town - and out of the country (8)
- 9 Made fun of, as umbrellas are (6)
- 3 Seek fresh increases (4)
- 10 Harvest the grain in a new way (6,2)
- 5 Beaming, they take the cash-girl's change (12)
- 12 Not well done; some extra rehearsal needed (4)
- 6 A nymph in the chorus (4)
- 13 A boring couple (5)
- 7 A way of approach that isn't welcomed? (6)
- 14 Thanks to an American lawyer you get the facts (4)
- 8 Any new knowledge about East African (6)
- 17 Advance from bank to bank? (8,4)
- 11 Open with anger an original Christmas gift (12)
- 20 They're the last to go to the wall (6,6)
- 15 Radiant girl goes up west (5)
- 23 Open with a shock (4)
- 16 It was put out for the carol singers (5)
- 24 A rather attractive sort of accent (5)
- 18 It can make a man hate what is repellent to him (8)
- 25 He's not too bad in part (4)
- 19 Practically of an equally high standard (2,4,2)
- 28 Indian rainmakers (8)
- 21 Sailor joins a Scotsman on the roads (6)
- 29 Work hard to complete a butt (3-3)
- 22 They may wilt and droop in the centres (8)
- 26 Jot down the first nine letters (4)
- 30 Doesn't go right inside but deviates (6)
- 27 Not all an unemployed actor hopes for (4)

> Solutions on page 16

KEE'S WORLD

by C.W. Kee



REDROVER

by Brian Basset



SHOE

by Jeff Macnelly



GARFIELD

by Jim Davis



TV1	TV2	TV3	ntv7	8TV	TV9
6.00am Negaraku	6.00am Negaraku	6.30am Bacaan Yasin	7.00am Dino Trainers	7.00am Proud Of You	6.00am Bacaan Yasin
6.02 Podcase Syariah	6.02 Trilogi Cinta	6.20 Jurnal Muslim	7.30 Kesenian	8.30 Wow Shop	6.20 Jurnal Muslim
7.00 Berita Pagi Nasional	7.00 Budak Besi	6.50 Tanyalah Ustaz	8.00 Pecutan	9.30 Great Times	6.30 Tanyalah Ustaz
8.00 Selamat Pagi Malaysia	7.30 A-Do...B-Re...C-Me	8.00 Hospital Loveline	9.00 Menengah Atas	10.30 Wow Shop	8.30 Wow Shop
10.08 The Makery	8.00 Dunia Ddee	9.00 Bread Barbershop	10.00 Menengah Rendah	12.30pm Mandarin News	Noon My #QuranTime 2.0
10.30 Dora	8.30 Raihan Rangerz	9.30 Buletin Pagi	11.00 Prasekolah	1.00 Wow Shop	1.00pm Wow Shop
11.00 Jejak Seribu Kaki	9.00 Droners	10.00 Spin Fighters S4	11.30 Tahap I	2.00 The Legend Of Taiwan 17	2.00 Selirat
11.30 Rona Sabah	9.30 Sonic Prime	10.30 Winx Club	Noon Tahap II	3.00 My One And Only	3.30 Wow Shop
Noon Berita Semasa	10.00 Inspector Gadget	11.00 Ultraman Teo	12.30pm Menengah Atas	4.00 This Is My Show	4.30 Salam Taj Mahal
12.30pm Panorama	10.30 Krayon	11.32 Wow Shop	1.00 Buletin Didik	5.00 Love Like The Galaxy	5.00 Fay & Tom
1.00 Berita Tengah Hari	11.00 Youn's Kitchen	Noon Ke Indonesia Ke Kita?	1.30 Generasi Madani	7.00 Let Me Take Your Pulse	5.30 Go Go Dino S4
1.33 Anak Laut China Selatan	Noon Berita Mandarin	12.30pm The Streets Tanah Airku	2.00 Sekolahku	8.00 Mandarin News	6.00 Blippi Wonders
3.08 Pelik Pedia	12.30pm World Today	1.00 Jalan-Jalan Makan Angin	2.30 Prasekolah	9.00 Youthopia	6.30 Supa Strikas
3.30 Transformative CEO's	1.00 On The Table	1.30 Buletin 130	6.30 Kesenian	9.30 The Treasured Voice	7.00 Buletin TV9
4.30 Travelog Dikir	1.30 Hiburan Minggu Ini - Hits	2.00 Separuh Nafas Cinta	7.00 Buletin Didik	11.30 Healing Heroes	7.50 Nasi Lemak Kopi O
5.00 Berita Wilayah	3.00 Vasantham	4.00 Planet Weird	7.30 Beyblade X	1.30am Eight FM@8TV	8.40 Sangga Saadah
6.03 Iqra'	4.00 Buddy Into The Wild	5.00 Money Matters	8.00 Pecutan		10.30 Anak Pontianak
6.45 Hatimu Aisyah	5.30 Ragam Mania	5.35 Dari Rahim Yang Sama	9.00 Generasi Madani		11.30 Hero Oven 2017
7.44 Kanta 744	6.00 Spy X Family	6.30 Madrasah	9.30 Sekolahku		Midnight Wow Shop
8.00 Berita Perdana	6.30 Berita Mandarin	7.00 Wanita Milik Kaiden	10.00 Membina Juara		2.00am Selirat
8.30 Malaysia Tonight	7.00 #OBB Orang Baik-Baik	8.00 Buletin Utama	11.00 Dunia Tersembunyi		3.30 Kool101 @ TV9
9.03 Di Sebalik Bayang	7.30 Berita Tamil	9.00 Boss Kid	11.30 Mari Ber cerita		4.30 Hero Oven 2017
10.30 Hero Joran	8.00 Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt	10.00 Dia Kembaraku	Midnight Hot FM@ntv7		5.00 My #QuranTime 2.0
11.00 Diari Rawat	9.00 DJA Show	12.30am Nightline			
Midnight Berita Tengah Malam	10.30 5 Hari Kita Bertemu	12.30am Wow Shop			
12.30am Hatimu Aisyah	12.30am Pelangi Petang	1.30 Hai Cinta, Dengarkanlah			
1.30 Travelog Dikir	1.30 Dan Di Situ Ada Doa	2.30 Hospital Loveline			
2.00 Wanita Ikon	2.00 Brindavanam	3.30 Boss Kid			
2.30 Jejak Seribu Langkah	3.00 My Dream Home	4.30 Kapsul Surah			
3.00 Portal Neksu	4.00 Wadi Rahmah	5.00 Bacaan Al-Quran			
3.30 Di Sebalik Bayang	4.30 Istimewa Bersama - Freedom	5.30 Wow Shop			
5.30 Bacaan Ar Rahman	5.30 Ragam Mania				



STARSCOPE

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20): It's time to treat yourself to the same attention and encouragement that you're so ready to offer others. You'll find that a simple act of self care or a meaningful family conversation could prove healing. You'll also become aware of doubts around your worth and value, but don't take them to heart. Instead count your victories and blessings, as it will boost morale.

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21): A kind word from a sibling or friend could make your day and restore your faith in yourself. If someone has criticised you and left you wondering about your ability to tackle certain tasks, don't take it personally. Perhaps they were angry about something and took it out on you. Have the confidence to get back on track knowing you're enough as you are.

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21): You may be more sensitive than usual to others' moods and feelings and very aware of any emotional issues you're experiencing. You can help yourself by getting more grounded with a walk in nature or time spent in soothing surroundings. Treating yourself could also bring you back to base, as a little kindness and self-care can truly work wonders for you.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23): Feeling overlooked or uncertain in a social setting? It's time to take back control and determine to make new friends anyway. If you overthink this, you'll notice every mannerism and subtle signal which you might interpret as rejection. Go with the flow and think about what you have to contribute to others. You have a lot to give and people will respond well.

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug 23): It's time to slow down and listen to the deeper wisdom within you. Watch your dreams and look out for any coincidences, as they may have something to tell you about your career or path forward. Been feeling restless in this regard? A time of quiet reflection could reveal something you've been missing or give insight about an opportunity that's waiting.

♍ VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23): Friends can spur you on to embrace new possibilities. Someone you're close to could act as a catalyst inspiring you to take up a course, to travel or seize that opportunity for growth. A meaningful conversation or unexpected encounter could shift a deep belief that has kept you playing small. You'll find your practical wisdom works best when paired with an open mind.

♎ LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23): Vulnerability could become a personal strength if you're willing to share something about yourself in public that might help others going through something similar. You may get a sense that part of your purpose is to talk about your journey and any solutions that have enabled you to move forward. It might strengthen your belief and change others' lives.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22): A partner, close friend or trusted confidante could offer advice that opens you up to new ideas and beliefs and enables you to see life differently. Stay alert to conversations that stretch your thinking and deepen your awareness of what makes you feel happy and fulfilled. You might also notice a way to enhance your income by teaching a subject in which you are an expert.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): The Moon in Cancer flows through an intense zone, encouraging emotional honesty, deeper connections and a healthier relationship with your inner self. Its harmonious link with Chiron in your lifestyle zone suggests that small changes to your daily routine could help relieve some of the pressure and have a pleasantly healing effect. It's pointless running on empty!

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20): Spending time doing something fun with a friend or close one can be a great way to wind down. Make a point of pencilling in some leisure time as you'll find that getting out and enjoying yourself can be a very nourishing experience. A loved one, special outing or creative project could rekindle confidence that you did not realise was fading, so don't hold back.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19): Today you're encouraged to care for your health and find satisfaction in life's small victories. In fact, the Moon-Chiron tie suggests that healing may begin closer to home. A family conversation, comforting tradition or a simple act of self care could make all the difference. See your daily habits as shaping your inner world as much as your outer achievements.

♓ PISCES (Feb 20 - March 20): Kinds words, honest discussions and creative expression can be soothing and remedial. It's a good time to share your thoughts without worrying about whether it all comes out right or not. Your sincerity and desire to communicate openly can have a much bigger impact than perfect presentation. You might find that a creative collaboration turns out to be a total joy.

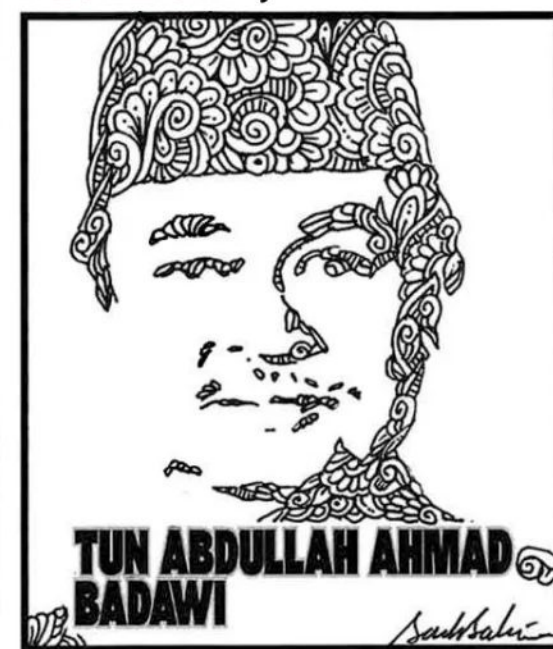
UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

8			9	6	3			
7				1				
		3		7				6
	9	5						
1	3			6			7	8
						1	5	
3				2		7		
			7					9
		8	6		5			3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

DOODLISM by Sarah Salim



SOLUTIONS

		3	4	7		3	10		2	1	3
		3	2	5	4	9	4	8	3	9	20
		8	9	5	7	8	9	6	5	10	
		9	12	5	2	8	9	2	6	9	15
		5	3	1	9		2	3	6	5	14
		3	1	4	7	8	15	1	2	4	9
		8		6	2	4	7	5	3	28	
		3	8	10	7	5	12	4	2	6	12
		6	1	2	9	6	9	9	8	7	24
		4	2	5	6	7	19	8	6	5	16
		10	3	1	4	2	10	4	1	2	11
		8	9	4	10	6	4	7	8	6	34
		9	7	16	8	3	11	9	12	14	12
		17	16		34	9	14	17			

S	A	V	A	T	S	S	E	S	A	G	E	S	R	O	
A	N	E	S												
D	N	E	S	F	A	G	E	S	N	O	O	S	N	O	
O	H			P											
O				A	C	T	E								
G				S	H	N	W								
S	E			N	O	I	G	S	T						
A				A											
N				A	N	O	T								
N	D			W	H	A	B								
A				C	A	C	E								
D				R	A	S	F								
N				O											
E				C											
K				A											
S				A	S	T	E	R							

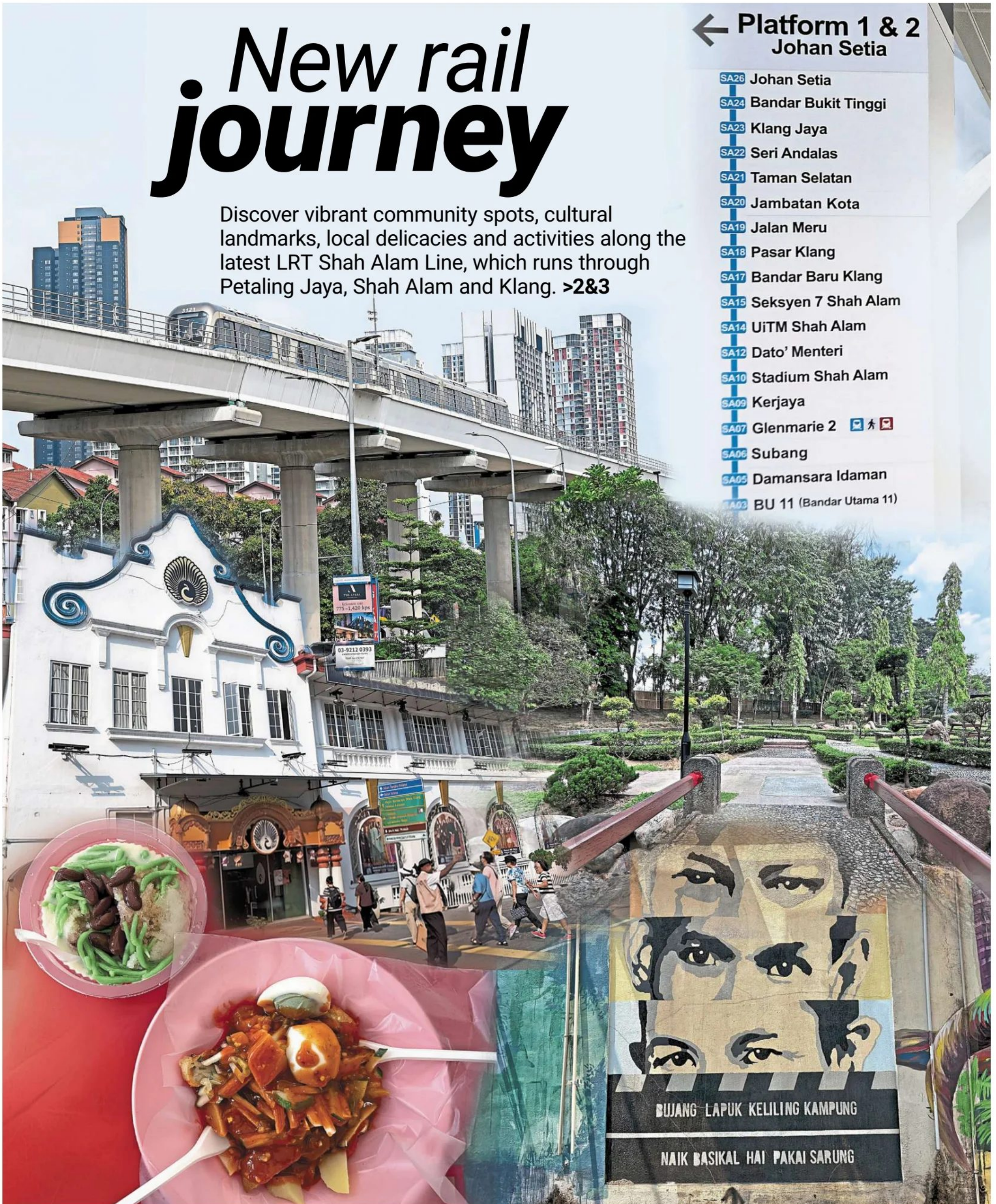
9	7	8	6	1	5	2	4	3							
2	4	1	7	3	8	5	6	9							
3	5	6	4	2	9	7	8	1							
6	8	7	2	9	3	1	5	4							
1	3	2	5	6	4	9	7	8							
4	9	5	1	8	7	6	3	2							
5	1	3	8	7	2	4	9	6							
7	6	9	3	4	1	8	2	5							
8	2	4	9	5	6	3	1	7							

New rail journey

Discover vibrant community spots, cultural landmarks, local delicacies and activities along the latest LRT Shah Alam Line, which runs through Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam and Klang. >2&3

← Platform 1 & 2
Johan Setia

SA26 Johan Setia
SA24 Bandar Bukit Tinggi
SA23 Klang Jaya
SA22 Seri Andalas
SA21 Taman Selatan
SA20 Jambatan Kota
SA19 Jalan Meru
SA18 Pasar Klang
SA17 Bandar Baru Klang
SA15 Seksyen 7 Shah Alam
SA14 UiTM Shah Alam
SA12 Dato' Menteri
SA10 Stadium Shah Alam
SA09 Kerjaya
SA07 Glenmarie 2 
SA06 Subang
SA05 Damansara Idaman
SA03 BU 11 (Bandar Utama 11)





1 Skatepark facility at 1 Utama shopping centre, Petaling Jaya.

Hop off for local gems

Take new LRT Shah Alam Line to enjoy and uncover distinct local attractions

Story and photos
by PAVITHRA RAMAN
pavithra.raman@thestar.com.my

RUNNING from Bandar Utama to Johan Setia, the new LRT Shah Alam Line (formerly known as LRT3) offers a fresh route for commuters to explore the cities of Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam and Klang in Selangor.

Launched on June 28, the 37.8km route includes 20 stations, featuring interchanges at Bandar Utama and Glenmarie 2.

From dining and shopping to heritage sites, *StarMetro* highlights places of interest located near 10 LRT stations along the track that commuters can visit.

1. Skateboarding and recreation

Bandar Utama Station is directly connected to 1 Utama shopping centre by a sheltered walkway.

Beyond shopping, 1 Utama also has plenty of recreational attractions, including the 1 Utama Skatepark. About 1.5km from the station, the outdoor facility was designed by American skatepark designer Tim Altic.

It has six zones with bowls, ledges, grind rails and other obstacles. It is free to use and does not require booking. Sskateboards, rollerblades, scooters and BMX bikes allowed.

If skating is not your thing, 1 Utama's Rainforest offers a more relaxed stop, with lush greenery, koi ponds and an overhead suspension bridge.

Admission to the skatepark and rainforest is free.

2. Swimming and sports

Glenmarie 2 Station is a good stop for those looking to get active, with the Kelana Jaya Municipal Pool about 1.1km from the station. The swimming complex has three pools, including an eight-lane public pool and a separate children's pool with slides. There is also a small playground within the complex.

The pool operates in three sessions daily: 9am-12pm, 2pm-5pm and 6pm-9pm. On Fridays, the afternoon session starts at 2.30pm.

Admission to the complex is RM5 for adult and RM3 for child (between three and 17 years old) on weekdays, while on weekends and public holidays, charges are RM6 for adult and RM4 for child.

Beyond the pool, the surrounding sports area is also home to the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) Stadium and Taman Bandaran Kelana Jaya.

3. Weekend marketing

For a Sunday morning outing,

Bazarena Shah Alam offers everything from fresh produce and potted plants to clothes, books and accessories. The bazaar also has plenty of food stalls, with covered seating for visitors to refuel between bargains.

The bazaar is about 400m from the Stadium Shah Alam Station.

It is held every Sunday from 8am to 1pm along Jalan Lontar Peluru 13/39 in Section 13, Shah Alam.

4. History and tranquillity

Hop off at Dato' Menteri Station to explore the heart of Shah Alam, with some of the city's best-known attractions close by.

About 750m from the station, Muzium Sultan Alam Shah takes visitors through Selangor's history and cultural heritage. Its exhibits include prehistoric artefacts, traditional costumes, dioramas and cultural objects alongside displays on the state's Islamic heritage.

It is open from Tuesday to Sunday between 9.30am and 5.30pm.

Admission is RM5 for Malaysian adult and RM2 for child aged between seven and 12 and those with a student card. Children aged six and below, students in uniform and persons with disabilities enter for free.

For a change of pace, the



A crowd waiting for the train at the Glenmarie 2 Station, which is part of the LRT Shah Alam Line.
— Filepic



4 Selangor-Japan Friendship Garden, Shah Alam.

Selangor-Japan Friendship Garden, about 1.1km from the station, brings a slice of Japan to Shah Alam.

The 2.4ha garden features koi ponds, bonsai trees, traditional torii gateways and a moon bridge. Its Zen Garden and Japanese-inspired landscaping make it a pleasant place for a leisurely stroll, with several spots suitable for photographs.

Admission to the garden is free. It is open from Tuesday to Sunday between 10am and 7pm.

Other nearby attractions

include Aneka Walk, PKNS Complex and Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque, better known as the Blue Mosque.

5. Art and local eats

Street art and local food make Section 7 Shah Alam Station a worthwhile stop along the line.

About 400m from the station, Laman Seni 7 turns the back lanes of Jalan Plumbum into an open-air gallery of colourful murals, with each lane offering a different backdrop for photographs. An initiative by Shah Alam City Council (MBSA), the free art space showcases murals and installations inspired by themes including the local community, tourism and the environment.

Jalan Plumbum is also home to several *ayam gepuk* eateries, all within walking distance of the station, making it a convenient spot to try the popular dish.

6. Golfing activity

Those looking to get that golf swing right, can disembark at Bandar Baru Klang Station to get to KEC Driving Range, about



2 Kelana Jaya Municipal Pool, Petaling Jaya.



3 Bazarena Shah Alam.



5 A mural at Laman Seni 7, Shah Alam.



6 KEC Driving Range, Klang.



7 Royal Klang Town Heritage Walk in session.



8 Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temple, Klang.



8 Kuan Yin Temple, Klang.



9 Masjid Jamek Cina Muslim Klang.

800m away. The outdoor range has covered bays and netting, with lessons available from professional instructors.

It is open daily from 8am to midnight. Golf balls for rent are RM8 for 50 balls and RM16 for 100 balls. Rental for the golf clubs are RM5.

7. Heritage and grub

Get off at Jambatan Kota Station and you are within walking distance of some of Klang's best-known heritage and food attractions.

Pasar Jawa is just 140m from the station, where visitors can sample local favourites such as *cendol*, *rojak* and *mee goreng*, while browsing shops selling snacks, clothes and groceries.

About 350m from the station, Jambatan Kota is Malaysia's first double-decker bridge, with its lower deck now open to pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles. Its lower deck offers a closer look at the historic structure and views of Sungai Klang.

For a deeper look at Klang's past, join the Royal Klang Town Heritage Walk, a free guided tour by Tourism Selangor and Klang

Royal City Council (MBDK), covering 11 heritage sites in the city.

Starting at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Royal Gallery, about 1km from the station, the walk takes in landmarks such as Royal Klang Club, Klang Selatan Fire Station and Jalan Tengku Kelana, better known as Little India.

Along the way, you will get a glimpse into Klang's royal, colonial and multicultural heritage, from historic buildings and places of worship to old shophouses.

The heritage walk takes place on Saturdays and Sundays, with advance registration required.

It is free and scheduled on weekends from 9.15am to 11.45am for seven to 10 participants in a group.

For enquiries, contact Tourism Selangor at 03-5513 2000 or MBDK at 03-3375 5555.

8. Landmark temples

Taman Selatan Station is a good stop for a glimpse of Klang's religious heritage, with two historic temples nearby.

About 1.3km from the station is the Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temple, the country's largest and first all-granite temple dedicated

to Lord Vishnu.

Nearby, the Kuan Yin Temple is about 1.4km from the station. Built in 1892, the temple is dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy and is a heritage landmark in Klang. Its round archways, carved pillars, ornate roofs and doors showcase the temple's distinctive Chinese architectural style.

As some routes to the temples involve walking along roads, visitors can consider Rapid KL's On-Demand service as an alternative, with a fixed fare of RM2.

9. Chinese mosque

About 1.4km from the Klang Jaya Station is Masjid Jamek Cina Muslim Klang.

It is the only mosque in Selangor with Chinese architectural influences. Inspired by the Great Mosque of Xi'an in China, it features a three-tier pagoda, traditional grey roof tiles and Chinese Muslim calligraphy throughout the complex.

The mosque also offers an insight into Chinese Muslim heritage in Malaysia, with guided tours covering its history and architecture. Visitors can contact the mosque in advance for



10 GM Klang Wholesale City, Klang.

tour arrangements.

For more information, visit the mosque's website at masjidcinaselangor.com.my

Admission to the mosque is free and it opens daily from 6am to 10pm. Visiting hours for non-Muslims are during three designated sessions: 9am-12pm, 2pm-4pm and 5pm-6pm.

Modest attire is advised, with women required to wear a headscarf when inside the mosque. Headscarves, sarong and shirts are available for rent from

RM2 to RM5.

10. Bargain shopping

Those looking for a bargain can head to GM Klang Wholesale City, about 1km from Bandar Bukit Tinggi Station. Spanning three blocks, the wholesale centre has more than 2,500 stores selling everything from fashion and food to homeware and wedding accessories.

It is open daily from 10am to 10pm.



TRAFFIC MATTERS

> Jalan Yong Shook Lin (in front of Laman MBPJ) will be closed from 6pm today until noon Sunday in conjunction with PJ Half Marathon. Motorists heading towards Section 14 and Seapark are advised to use Jalan Barat as an alternative route. Those travelling towards Petaling Jaya city centre can use Jalan 222. > Temporary closure of emergency and smart lanes from Tapah to Bidor from KM327.0 to KM331.2 until Nov 1. The two existing lanes will remain open. For emergencies, call 1800-88-0000 (Plusline).

ALZHEIMER'S CAMPAIGN

Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia and PPB Properties are holding a public awareness campaign until Sept 6 at Megah Rise Mall, Petaling Jaya. Activities include talks on Alzheimer's and dementia. There will also be free health screenings and influenza vaccinations for senior citizens from 11am-5pm.

CAVE EXCURSION

Malaysian Cave and Karst Conservancy is organising a trip to the Ichibawa and Cilipadi Karst at Gua Damai Extreme Park, Batu Caves, on Sept 13, from 8.30am-12pm. Non-members are required to pay a RM40 fee. Limited to 30 participants. Register at forms.gle/mLZy9b5qxaM1xHch6

HIKING CHALLENGE

Kelab Rakan Muda Selayang Baru is organising a two-day hiking challenge covering Bukit Batu Belah and Bukit Batu Pahat on Oct 10 and 11. Starting point at Beting Rimbayu Campsite in Kuala Kubu Baru. The RM70 fee covers meals, camping accommodation, insurance, T-shirt and basic navigation and first-aid sessions. Registration closes on Sept 17. For details, call 013-688 6505.

ART EXHIBITIONS

> Merdeka Art Exhibition at Shoppes at Four Seasons Place, Kuala Lumpur, is ongoing until Sept 16. The event, organised by non-governmental organisation Saksama alongside Art Market Malaysia, brings together veteran artists and young artists, and highlights the talents of people with disabilities. > 'Shan Shui as Camouflage', a solo exhibition by Yeoh Choo Kuan, will be held at Richard Koh Fine Art in Jalan Riong, Bangsar, from Sept 11 to Oct 18. The exhibition includes two paintings by pioneering artists Liu Kang (1911-2004) and Cheong Laitong (1932-2022), on loan from a private collection.

AEROBIC CONTEST

Selangor-level aerobic dance contest for mixed teams aged nine to 17 will be held at SACC Mall, Shah Alam, on Sept 26, 8am-3pm. Participation is free, with cash prizes of RM1,000, RM800 and RM600 for the top three teams. Registration closes on Sept 20. For details, visit malaysiafitness.com/team-registration or call 010-261 8651 (Noratika).

GREEN HOME INCENTIVES

Kajang Municipal Council is offering incentives on residential properties that have installed environmental technology this year, including solar power systems, energy-saving electrical appliances and rainwater harvesters. Incentives also apply to the sending of materials to a recycling centre, purchasing a domestic composting machine and disposing of vehicles more than 10 years old. For details, call 03-8737 7899 extension 4020. Applicants must have no outstanding current assessment tax arrears. The deadline is Oct 31.

n Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC)



(From left) Maziah, Nancy, Dr Wan Azizah, Lim and Che Murad at JKM's 80th anniversary celebration in Putrajaya. — LOW LAY PHON/The Star

'M'sia needs exit strategy for welfare recipients'

By MEGAT SYAHAR
megatsyahr@thestar.com.my

WELFARE programmes should help recipients become self-reliant instead of remaining dependent on assistance.

Bandar Tun Razak MP Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said policies and incentives needed to reflect realities on the ground to ensure assistance reached the intended groups.

She said there should also be efforts to ensure an "exit strategy" for recipients.

This could involve cooperation with other agencies, strategic partners and the corporate sector to help recipients become self-reliant, she said during the Welfare Department's (JKM) 80th anniversary celebration in Putrajaya.

Also present were Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, Deputy Minister Lim Hui Ying, ministry

MP urges inter-agency cooperation to pave way for beneficiaries to become self-reliant

secretary-general Datuk Dr Maziah Che Yusoff and JKM director-general Datuk Che Murad Sayang Ramjan.

Dr Wan Azizah said Malaysia needed to prepare for the challenges of an ageing population as life expectancy increased and birth rates declined.

she said changing family patterns, including fewer people marrying or having children, would also have implications for the country's future welfare and care needs.

On child protection, Dr Wan Azizah said threats to children were no longer confined to the physical world.

"The challenge of protecting children now goes beyond the physical world, into the metaverse, games and other areas," she pointed out.

She also referred to mental health concerns faced by children, saying greater monitoring and preparedness were needed.

JKM, she said, had an important role in strengthening standard operating procedures and providing comprehensive training for personnel handling such cases.

In paying tribute to JKM personnel for the department's eight decades of service, Dr Wan Azizah described it as an important part of Malaysia's social protection system.

She said JKM officers often had to make difficult decisions involving children, dealt with people experiencing trauma and assisted families facing hardship, despite limitations on the help available.

In her speech, Nancy said JKM had evolved over the past 80 years in response to changes in population demographics, poverty and social challenges.

Its role had expanded from poverty assistance and disaster management to protecting children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and other vulnerable groups, she added.

Che Murad agreed that welfare services should go beyond providing financial assistance to the recipients.

"The ultimate goal of social services is not to maintain dependence on assistance.

"We want to help individuals and families regain their capabilities, strengthen their resilience and enable them to live more independently and with dignity," he said.

Residents call on Kajang council to fix potholes

By LEW GUAN XI
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RESIDENTS in Taman Bukit Belimbing, Kajang in Selangor, want potholes that appeared on a resurfaced road to be repaired.

The two potholes in Jalan Bukit Belimbing, the main road accessing the area, were said to have appeared in February after road repairs.

Resident Vincent Raj said he raised the matter with Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) councillor Tan Kah Hoe early in the year.

"MPKj resurfaced the road early this year, and the potholes appeared not long after.

"In April, Tan said he had forwarded the matter to Air Selangor to check if the potholes were caused by pipe leaks."

Vincent said he had witnessed motorcyclists swerving dangerously to avoid the potholes.

"To date, I have not seen MPKj visiting the site.

"They should quickly resolve the issue for motorists' safety," he added.

When contacted, Tan said the



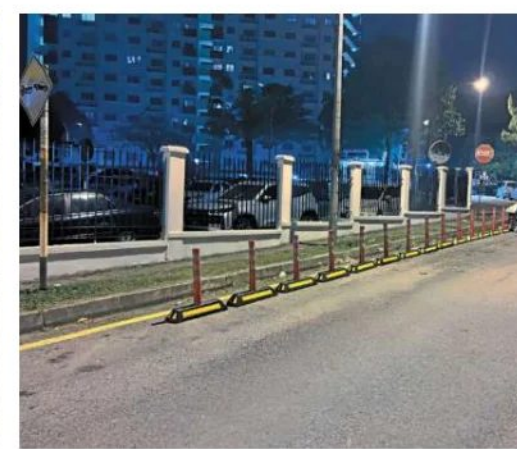
Vincent showing the two potholes on Jalan Bukit Belimbing. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

road was backfilled by MPKj's contractor in early March after the potholes appeared.

"MPKj will monitor the road to see if there is any sinking, before it orders the contractor to patch the road's surface permanently.

"The current potholes highlighted are more like the road's premix layer peeling off."

Tan said the contractor would repair the potholes by the end of September.



MPKj installed bollards along Jalan Belimbing Indah last month to prevent illegal parking. — Courtesy of TAN KAH HOE

He added that MPKj allocated RM350,000 for the resurfacing project in February that covered a 1.4km stretch of road from the exit of the Kajang Dispersal Link Expressway (SILK) to Masjid Taman Bukit Belimbing.

Other upgrades carried out by MPKj included repairs to a damaged drain along Jalan Alamanda in May.

The problem was reported in a *StarMetro* article, "Balakong resi-

dents complain of poor upkeep by MPKj", on April 11.

"Also in May, MPKj reinstated and repainted the Taman Bukit Belimbing signage," said Tan.

In August, MPKj installed bollards along Jalan Belimbing Indah to prevent illegal parking, and introduced chevron markings at the Jalan Bukit Belimbing-Jalan Sungai Besi Indah 2 junction to enhance road safety, he added.

JOHOR

'Review contractor selection process'

By YEE XIANG YUN
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A JOHOR Baru City Council (MBJB) councillor has called for a review of its contractor selection process, saying greater weight should be given to track record, capability and quality instead of simply choosing the lowest bidder.

Mount Austin zone councillor Ng Yew Aik said while competitive pricing was important, selecting a contractor based primarily on the lowest tender could ultimately cost MBJB and taxpayers more if the work was of poor quality or inefficiently executed.

"Ratepayers do not see how many contracts we approve.

"They see the outcome of whether drains are clean, roads are maintained, street lights and public facilities are functioning and complaints are resolved," he told *StarMetro*.

Ng proposed that contractor selection be based on a weightage of 30% for tender price, 50% for performance and work records with MBJB, and 20% for management, experience and capability.

He said the proposed weightage could be discussed and refined, but added that only contractors with good performance records should be given an advantage.

He also highlighted the need to avoid gaps between maintenance contracts.

"A one-month gap could have a significant impact on faulty lights, clogged drains and unresolved complaints.

"The tender and appointment process should be carried out earlier so that when the contract ends, the new contractor can take over immediately," he said.

Inefficiency and poor quality work cost council, taxpayers, says JB councillor



Ng (below) calls for road works to be carried out during off-peak hours or at night, to minimise disruption. — Filepic

He also said roadworks, resurfacing and related works, particularly along busy routes such as Pasir Gudang Highway and roads towards Ulu Tiram, needed better planning.

"Such works should be carried out during off-peak hours or at night, where it is safe and practical, to minimise disruption to road users.

"At the same time, safety must not be compromised.

"Contractors are required to provide clear warning signs, sufficient traffic cones, warning lights at night, alternative routes where necessary and appropriate traffic control."

These requirements should be clearly incorporated into contrac-



tor contracts as key performance indicators, he said.

He added that they should be assessed not only on whether work was completed but whether it was done on time, properly, with minimal disruption, and safely.

Ng stressed that he did not intend to suggest that all MBJB contractors were underperforming.

"Those performing poorly should be given opportunities to improve, followed by warnings, closer monitoring and penalties should be applied before contract termination if they continue to fail," he said.

"Contractors are paid to solve problems, not add to the problems faced by the people," he said.



(From left): Aminul, Zamruni, Tiong, Chandran, Batik Air Malaysia Korea head Chanhong at the seminar.

Fostering tourism ties at Seoul seminar

MALAYSIA and South Korea's travel industry stakeholders are strengthening tourism cooperation through a seminar focused on exploring new business opportunities and generating travel demand.

Batik Air Malaysia, in collaboration with Tourism Malaysia, hosted the event last month in Seoul, South Korea.

The seminar was held in conjunction with Visit Malaysia 2026 (VMY2026), with a focus on showcasing Malaysia's diverse tourism offerings and creating new travel demand through clos-

er collaboration among Tourism Malaysia, Batik Air Malaysia and South Korean travel industry partners.

The event was attended by Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing, Malaysian ambassador to the Republic of Korea Datuk Mohamad Zamruni Khalid, Batik Air Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Chandran Rama Muthy, Tourism Malaysia director-general Mohd Aminul Rizal Abdul Rahim and travel industry representatives.

Chandran highlighted the air-

line's commitment to help South Korean travellers discover Malaysia's diverse destinations and travel experiences.

He also underscored the importance of collaboration between the tourism board, airlines and travel trade in generating new demand in conjunction with VMY2026.

During the seminar, Tourism Malaysia Korea presented VMY2026 and Malaysia's diverse tourism attractions, while Batik Air Malaysia Korea introduced the airline's key routes, services and network.

Singapore tv

Saturday

Channel 5

6.00: Hiccup & Sneeze **6.30:** In Our House S1 **7.00:** Spell Cast S2 **7.30:** Einstein's Tingkat **8.00:** Tayo the Little Bus 1 **8.15:** Tayo the Little Bus 1 **8.30:** Pinkfong Songs & Stories **9.00:** Catch! Teenieping **9.15:** Catch! Teenieping **9.30:** The Weasy Family S1 **9.40:** The Weasy Family S1 **9.50:** The Weasy Family S1 **10.00:** Pokemon Horizons: Season 3 - Rising Hope **10.30:** Lil Wild Shorts S1 **11.00:** Yu-Gi-Oh! Go Rush!! **11.30:** Dragons: Defenders Of Berk S2 **NOON:** Beyblade X S3 **12.30:** Teen Titans Go! S5 **12.45:** Teen Titans Go! S5 **1.00:** My Freaky Family **2.30:** What On Earth S2 **2.45:** What On Earth S2 **3.00:** Champions Of The Water **3.30:** Echoes From The North **3.45:** Threads of Time: Kenyah Stories Untold **4.00:** Fur Babies **5.00:** Don't Forget the Lyrics S7 **5.50:** Films & Stars **6.20:** Planet Action S5 **6.45:** Godzilla vs. Kong **9.00:** News Tonight **9.30:** The World's Deadliest Weather S6 **10.00:** Resident Evil **11.50:** Incredible Tales **12.20:** La Brea S1 **1.20:** Fur Babies **2.20:** Films & Stars **2.50:** Echoes From The North **3.05:** Threads of Time: Kenyah Stories Untold **3.20:** Wheel Of Fortune S42 **3.45:** Wheel Of Fortune S42 **4.10:** The World's Deadliest Weather S6 **4.40:** Don't Forget the Lyrics S7 **5.30:** Champions Of The Water **6.00:** See tomorrow's schedule.

Channel 8

6.00: Creme De La Creme **6.50:** News Tonight **7.20:** When Duty Calls **2.10:** When Duty Calls **2.9.00:** Go Go Dino S11 **9.10:** Go Go Dino S11 **9.20:** Go Go Dino S11 **9.30:** New Doraemon **10.00:** Miniforce Super Cop S6 **10.15:** Miniforce Super Cop S6 **10.30:** LEGO City No Limits Max **10.45:** LEGO City No Limits Max **11.00:** Silver Carnival 2025 **11.30:** Focus **NOON:** King of Culinary: The Comeback **1.00:** Golden Age Talentime 2026 S2 **2.00:** The Mystery of Middle East: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia **2.30:** The Wonder Shop **2.44:** The Wonder Shop **2.46:** The Wonder Shop **3.00:** The Wonder Shop **3.14:** The Wonder Shop **3.16:** The Wonder Shop **3.30:** Taste of Canton S9 **4.00:** Kongfulicious S4 **4.30:** Emerald Hill - The Little Nyonya Story **5.30:** Emerald Hill - The Little Nyonya Story **6.30:** Singapore Today **7.00:** Proud Of You **8.00:** Proud Of You **9.00:** Proud Of You **10.00:** News Tonight **10.30:** Suspect **12.30:** Soul Old Yet So Young **1.30:** Soul Old Yet So Young **2.30:** Chefs On Wheels **3.30:** City Spotlight **4.00:** Genie In A Cup **5.00:** Genie In A Cup **6.00:** See tomorrow's schedule.

Suria

9.00: Boboiboy Galaxy S2 - Baraju Arc **9.30:** 5 Rencah 5 Rasa S3 **10.00:** Pewaris Cinta **11.00:** SGD10000 **NOON:** Kisah Tok Kadi **1.00:** Baby Papa **2.00:** Baby Papa **3.00:** Berani Lakon! **4.00:** Cikgu Nerd **6.00:** Boboiboy Galaxy S2 - Baraju Arc **6.30:** Roots and Remedies **7.00:** Joran Borneo 2 **7.30:** Atlas Masjid Nusantara: Thailand & Tanah Jawa **8.00:** Berita 2026/2027 **8.30:** Sepatu Reunion Live S9 (2024) **9.30:** Satu, Dua...Dia? (The Boy Next Stage) **10.30:** Takdir Itu Milik Aku **11.30:** Berita 2026/2027 **MIDNIGHT:** Close

Vasantham

9.00: Chhota Start-Up **9.30:** Chhota Start-Up **10.00:** Abhiyum Naanum **10.30:** Abhiyum Naanum **11.00:** My Superstar Kudumbam 2 **NOON:** Comedy Galatta Season 5 **1.00:** Naan **4.00:** Vanvaas (Hindi) **7.00:** The New Locals **7.30:** On The Red Dot 2023/2024: Eat Up Tamil **8.00:** Comedy Galatta Season 6 **8.30:** Seithi **9.00:** Raja Kaiya Vecha S3 **10.00:** Thanal **12.30:** Mellisai Hits S3 **1.00:** Seithi **1.30:** Close

Sunday

Channel 5

6.00: Hiccup & Sneeze **6.30:** In Our House S1 **7.00:** Spell Cast S2 **7.30:** Einstein's Tingkat **8.00:** Tayo the Little Bus 1 **8.15:** Tayo the Little Bus 1 **8.30:** Pinkfong Songs & Stories **9.00:** Vegesaur S2 **9.15:** Vegesaur S2 **9.30:** The WooHoos! **9.40:** The WooHoos! **9.50:** The WooHoos! **10.00:** Pfffrirates **10.15:** Pfffrirates **10.30:** Giganto Club SG S4 **10.37:** Giganto Club SG S4 **10.45:** Giganto Club SG S4 **10.52:** Giganto Club SG S4 **11.00:** Madagascar: A Little Wild S1 **11.30:** Dragons: Defenders Of Berk S2 **NOON:** Ultraman Teo **12.30:** Teen Titans Go! S5 **12.45:** Teen Titans Go! S5 **1.00:** Ben 10 vs. the Universe: The Movie **2.30:** What On Earth S2 **2.45:** What On Earth S2 **3.00:** Films & Stars **3.30:** Famous Foodies S3 **4.00:** Scandinavia with Simon Reeve **5.15:** Password US S1 **6.15:** The Tomorrow War **9.00:** News Tonight **9.30:** Shared Planet **10.30:** Rememory **12.45:** Border Security: America's Front Line S2 **1.10:** Films & Stars **1.40:** Password US S1 **2.30:** Famous Foodies S3 **3.00:** Scandinavia with Simon Reeve **4.10:** Lingo UK S2 **5.05:** Lingo UK S2 **6.00:** See tomorrow's schedule.

Channel 8

6.00: Old Taste Detective S2 **6.50:** News Tonight **7.20:** When Duty Calls **2.10:** When Duty Calls **2.9.00:** Little NeZha - Hero of Heaven and Earth **9.15:** Little NeZha - Hero of Heaven and Earth **9.30:** New Doraemon **10.00:** Lingo Bingo **10.30:** Glory Alliance S3 **10.45:** Glory Alliance S3 **11.00:** Tuesday Report: My Other Half **11.30:** The Wonder Shop **11.44:** The Wonder Shop **11.46:** The Wonder Shop **NOON:** Sisterhood **1.00:** Sisterhood **2.00:** The Truth About Health **2.30:** The Wonder Shop **2.44:** The Wonder Shop **2.46:** The Wonder Shop **3.00:** The Wonder Shop **3.14:** The Wonder Shop **3.16:** The Wonder Shop **3.30:** Hustle or Bustle **4.30:** KDF: 30 Years of Care **6.30:** Singapore Today **7.00:** Proud Of You **8.00:** Proud Of You **9.00:** Proud Of You **10.00:** News Tonight **10.30:** Super Taste 48 Hour Burning Desire S3 **11.30:** Frontline **MIDNIGHT:** All That Glitters **1.00:** All That Glitters **2.00:** The Blood of Youth **3.00:** The Blood of Youth **4.00:** Genie In A Cup **5.00:** Genie In A Cup **6.00:** See tomorrow's schedule.

SURIA

9.00: Boboiboy Galaxy S2 - Baraju Arc **9.30:** Roots and Remedies **10.00:** Joran Borneo 2 **10.30:** Atlas Masjid Nusantara: Thailand & Tanah Jawa **11.00:** SKOOP! S2 **NOON:** Air Tangan **12.30:** Jom Makan Makan **1.00:** Boleh Saya Bantu **2.00:** Boleh Saya Bantu **3.00:** Sepatu Reunion Live S9 (2024) **4.00:** Satu, Dua...Dia? (The Boy Next Stage) **5.00:** Mentua **6.00:** Boboiboy Galaxy S2 - Baraju Arc **6.30:** Roots and Remedies **7.00:** Air Tangan **7.30:** Jom Makan Makan **8.00:** Berita 2026/2027 **8.30:** Kek & Pastri **9.00:** You Know Nothing About Cooking **9.30:** Satu, Dua...Dia? (The Boy Next Stage) **10.30:** Takdir Itu Milik Aku **11.30:** Berita 2026/2027 **MIDNIGHT:** Close

Vasantham

9.00: Patti Samayal Pethi Kitchen **9.30:** Patti Samayal Pethi Kitchen **10.00:** Pathavi Pramanam **12.30:** Mellisai Hits S3 **1.00:** Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam **4.00:** Uthama Puthiran (2010) **7.00:** Binge Café with Anu Hasan S3 **8.00:** Scenah Podu! **8.30:** Seithi **9.00:** Sathurangam Vettai S4 **10.00:** Agni Natchathiram (1988) **1.00:** Seithi **1.30:** Close

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Citycism

I SPENT 13 of my growing-up years in Bandar Tun Razak, Jengka in Maran, Pahang.

It was then a small, *kampung*-like township, though much has since changed.

One memory that remains vivid is the Rukun Tetangga patrols.

Rukun Tetangga was still new in our town, introduced nationally in 1975 as a neighbourhood security scheme that required residents aged 18 to 55 to take turns patrolling.

But it was an incident of a different kind that gave the patrols their life – the fear of the “*Orang Minyak*”.

This black, oil-covered figure said to prowl at night and prey on women was already established in Malay folklore, first reported in local newspapers in the 1950s and popularised by films.

Rumours of sightings resurfaced periodically and reached Jengka too.

I cannot say whether anyone there actually encountered the creature, or whether the tale simply grew with every retelling.

To a child, it hardly mattered. The fear was real enough, and it was this fear that pushed the patrols into motion.

Every household sent a representative. Residents took shifts, walking from house to house through the night and early

A gate between us

Modern security barriers risk destroying community spirit that once united residents



A vehicle passing through a guarded neighbourhood boom gate in Taman Desa Phase 1 where a dispute has occurred. — Filepic

morning, armed with torchlights and watching the streets while checking on homes and looking out for each other.

There were no boom gates, facial-recognition cameras or access cards, and no arguments over who had paid.

It was simply neighbours watching over neighbours.

In 1983, Rukun Tetangga shifted its emphasis from security to neighbourliness and unity, later expanding into community development.

By 2024, there were more than 8,400 neighbourhoods with the scheme nationwide.

That history came back to me when reporting on the guarded-neighbourhood dispute in Taman Desa, Kuala Lumpur, which sparked protests over blocked

roads, park access and conditions imposed on motorists.

It raised a deeper question – who gets to decide how a neighbourhood is run?

A few years ago, I was in an e-hailing ride heading to a public park in Jalan Rumpai, Bangsar, when a guard stopped us at the boom gate.

He did not allow the car entry and told me to get out and walk. I refused.

“If you make me walk from here, will you provide security until I reach the park?” I asked.

He said no and then let the car through.

At another guarded neighbourhood nearby, I was asked to have my identity card scanned into a device.

Again, I refused. Why surren-

der personal information to use a public road? Who would store it and for how long?

With scams and identity theft rampant, people should not have to hand over their information just because someone installed a guardhouse.

Such measures are not merely inconvenient, they border on intrusion.

Residents associations are springing up across Kuala Lumpur to introduce security schemes.

Some neighbourhoods even have rival associations, each claiming to represent the residents.

Crime fears are real, and private guards often fill a gap left by the authorities.

However, there is a difference

between protecting a neighbourhood and controlling it.

A boom gate cannot turn a public road into a private driveway; nor can technology create neighbourliness.

The old patrols required residents to walk from house to house, meet one another and build friendships.

Today, people may pay towards a guarded scheme without knowing who lives a few doors away.

Some paying residents have little say when a select few introduce new rules affecting all.

I will be honest: it took me a long time to get to know my own neighbours. That is precisely what must change.

Security should encourage participation, not reduce residents to subscribers whose only role is to contribute money.

We need not recreate the patrols of my childhood, but we can restore its underlying principle – participation rather than exclusion.

Strengthen Rukun Tetangga. Revive voluntary patrols where communities want them. Hold *gotong-royong* events to bring people together.

Let residents associations represent residents, rather than build small fortresses within the city.

The “*Orang Minyak*” belonged to rumour, folklore and shadow, yet the fear of it brought people into the streets together.

Today, security fears have produced higher gates, smarter cameras and more barriers.

But if neighbours are fighting neighbours, can we honestly call the neighbourhood more secure?

Perhaps the greatest thing slipping through our fingers is not security, but the neighbourly spirit that once made us feel secure.

THE recent Taman Desa guarded neighbourhood dispute has once again brought into spotlight the legality and extent of such schemes operating across Kuala Lumpur.

This time, the issue is no longer simply about boom gates.

Residents have protested restrictions at a road providing the shortest route to a public park, forcing elderly residents to take a longer, potentially dangerous route along a busy road.

Who, they ask, gave a residents association the authority to decide when residents can access a public road and public park?

This is not merely a neighbourhood dispute. It is a question of who exercises authority over public space in Kuala Lumpur.

The distinction between a gated community and a guarded neighbourhood is important.

As lawyer Derek Fernandez explained in 2007, a gated community involves privately owned and managed infrastructure, including roads and facilities.

A guarded neighbourhood is different: residents employ private security in an area that includes public infrastructures.

The distinction remains relevant today.

PLANMalaysia Gated Community and Guarded Neighbourhood Guidelines state that a guarded neighbourhood is not established under any specific legislation or regulation, but merely an ad-hoc agreement



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Letters must carry the sender's full name, address, telephone number and signature. A pseudonym may be included. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity and other requirements.

among residents of a neighbourhood.

More importantly, it states that legally, a guarded neighbourhood cannot have physical obstructions on public roads, or enforce restrictions on the entry and exit of residents and members of the public.

The guideline also requires majority resident consent, but expressly states that residents who do not agree must not be subjected to coercion or pressure.

Yet in practice, the distinction between “guarded” and “gated” appears increasingly blurred.

Some neighbourhoods have public roads closed or gated, while the perimeter is fenced or even secured with barbed wire.

Public roads are treated as



Unlawful closure of public roads in Kuala Lumpur neighbourhoods is not fair or right. — Filepic

though they are private access roads, with visitors stopped at barriers, asked where they are going and required to provide personal particulars.

In some cases, identification cards or driving licences may be requested or recorded.

Beyond questions of legality and data privacy, such arrangements can create a more fundamental public safety risk.

What happens when an emergency vehicle needs immediate access, but a public road is behind a locked gate or barrier?

A security arrangement intended to make a neighbourhood safer should not create another obstacle to emergency response.

This is precisely why the distinction between a guarded neighbourhood and gated community matters.

A gated community may control access to its privately managed infrastructure; a guarded neighbourhood cannot simply assume the same authority over public space.

An approval from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) cannot reasonably be understood as transforming public roads into private property, or giving private security guards powers equivalent to public authorities.

In Taman Desa, DBKL reportedly found that the guarded neighbourhood scheme had

deviated from its 2012 approval, including the installation of closed-circuit TV cameras and facial-recognition systems.

DBKL then ordered several posts to be opened, removal of unauthorised structures and restoration of access along affected public roads.

It is fair to ask how a scheme approved by the local authority was allowed to evolve beyond its approved conditions in the first place.

An approval is not a blank cheque. If it comes with conditions, those conditions must be monitored and enforced.

Residents should be free to organise private security, but it should not become private authority.

A residents association does not acquire control over public roads just because its members support a guarded neighbourhood.

DBKL should therefore conduct a citywide review of guarded neighbourhood schemes and clearly establish what each approval permits, what it prohibits and how compliance is enforced.

Kuala Lumpur needs safer neighbourhoods, but public space must remain governed by public rules.

SHING SI YAN
Kuala Lumpur

By CY LEE
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Photos: KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star

FOR many Malaysians, the Mid-Autumn Festival brings to mind mooncakes, colourful lanterns and gatherings with family and friends.

This year, an installation at Kwai Chai Hong in Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown called "Lunar Harvest" draws attention to another staple: rice.

The display at the heritage alley off Lorong Panggung features dried padi, rice-sack lanterns and a pavilion inspired by a traditional rice mill.

Created by Donce Fine Floristry in collaboration with Kwai Chai Hong and Zus Coffee, the installation combines harvest imagery with familiar Malaysian objects, including woven baskets, gunny sacks and a *kopitiam* setting.

Kwai Chai Hong co-founder Zeen Chang said the theme was chosen to explore the festival's association with harvest and gratitude for abundance.

"I gave them one word – 'Harvest,'" she said of the brief given to the artists.

The Donce team, led by founders Delon Chai and Edmond Chua, responded with the idea of padi fields, choosing rice as something familiar in Malaysians' everyday lives.

The team travelled to Sekinchan, Selangor, to source padi directly from farmers before drying it for the display.

Preparations took about three to four months, with the team having to work around the harvest season and the challenge of displaying natural materials outdoors.

At the location, visitors cross Kwai Chai Hong's red bridge beneath a canopy of colourful lanterns, woven baskets and hats.

Made mainly from canvas and jute, the lanterns feature rice-sack designs alongside rabbit, moon, padi and rooster-bowl motifs that pay tribute to the heritage lane.

The Harvest Pavilion, set against an illustrated backdrop of moonlit fields, depicts the journey of padi through a rice mill before it is packed into sacks.

A *kopitiam* setting features a round table, stools, coffee utensils and biscuit tins, while smaller arrangements sit beside the alley's existing murals.

Speaking at the media preview, Chang drew a parallel between Chinese and Malay teachings about not wasting rice.

A Chinese saying reminds visitors that every grain comes from hard work, while a similar Malay adage warns that uneaten rice will "cry" from the wastage.

"This Mid-Autumn, we are celebrating our similarities," Chang said, expressing hope that visitors would leave with a greater appreciation of the farmers, cooks and others involved in bringing food to the table.

She said "Lunar Harvest" was Kwai Chai Hong's 14th installation, with each edition aimed at introducing visitors to a cultural story or tradition.

"The artists were given room to develop their ideas, while we advised on safety, weather conditions and how the displays would fit into the heritage setting.

"For this edition, lanterns above the

Art with grains of thanks

KL's Chinatown lights up with rice-themed Mid-Autumn display



Rice-sack lanterns, woven baskets and harvest motifs decorating Chinatown's Kwai Chai Hong heritage alley and bridge for Mid-Autumn Festival.



Above: The 'kopitiam' installation connects coffee with Malaysia's harvest traditions.

Right: The Harvest Pavilion depicting the journey of padi through a traditional rice mill before being packed into sacks.

bridge were lowered to bring them closer to visitors."

Chang said the seasonal displays were funded by Kwai Chai Hong, with sponsors helping to cover costs for some editions.

She said suitable structures and artworks were also reused after exhibitions, with previous pieces finding new homes in surrounding cafes.

"Lunar Harvest" runs until Oct 4, from 9am to midnight.

Admission is free.



Nanthan Kumaran (left) with Jayaveloo at the Kuala Lumpur conference.

Council honours pioneer member for lifelong service

MALAYSIAN Mukkulathor Council (MMC) honoured one of its pioneer members for his contribution to the society for over six decades.

MMC president Nanthan Kumaran Danapalan garlanded B. Jayaveloo, 92, before presenting him with a plaque and scroll.

Jayaveloo, fondly called "Uncle", had always been involved in Mukkulathor activities, Nanthan Kumaran said at the 18th annual delegates conference at Shenga Convention Hall in Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur.

"When we organised the first Global Mukkulathor Summit, he always called to give encouragement and motivation.

"He even said that if there was shortage of funds, he was willing to fill the gap.

"Such was his dedication," Nanthan Kumaran said, adding that even at his age, Jayaveloo took the trouble to attend national council meetings and even participated in a summit in Johor.

The society said Jayaveloo was instrumental in forming Perak Utara Mukkulathor Sangam in the early 1980s, and was a founding member of

MMC in 1996.

According to its media release, the former student of King Edward VII School in Taiping, Perak, served as an administrative officer at Maxwell Hill before retiring in 1980.

During the conference, Nanthan Kumaran was re-elected president for another term, with Datuk S. Chidamabranathan as his deputy.

Mogan Thevar and P. Manickavelu were elected vice-presidents, and Letchumanan Athappan as secretary-general. There are 15 committee members.

ESTHER
CHANDRAN

estherc
@thestar.com.my

Retro recipe

Photos: EZARD FAROUQ/The Star

OKONOMIYAKI is a mouthful to pronounce with its many syllables, but unlike its name, it delivers pure joy on the plate.

With cabbage and egg at its core, *okonomiyaki* is an approachable dish that can charm even cautious newcomers to Japanese cuisine.

When translated, it roughly means "grilled as you like it".

Broken down, *okonomi* means "to one's liking" or "what you like", while *yaki* means "grilled", "cooked" or "pan-fried".

The first time I tasted it was at a Japanese supermarket in Kuala Lumpur, where salespeople were promoting bottles of *okonomiyaki* sauce that gives this Japanese favourite its distinctive flavour.

If you plan to make this savoury Japanese pancake at home, there are a few sauces and ingredients you will need to get your hands on.

Other must-haves include Japanese mayonnaise and Dashi powder, while for the garnish, bonito flakes and dried seaweed add colour, texture and another layer of umami.

There are two well-known versions of *okonomiyaki* – one from Osaka and the other from Hiroshima.

The Osaka style mixes the ingredients in a bowl before the

Finish the 'okonomiyaki' with a scattering of bonito flakes, then sprinkle spring onions for a pop of colour.

Savoury Osaka-style pancakes worth flipping for

Japanese favourite combines crisp edges, tender cabbage and layers of umami



mixture is poured onto a hot pan and shaped into the familiar pancake form.

The Hiroshima style, by contrast, layers the components rather than combining them and is typically served with fried egg and *yakisoba* (stir-fried noodles).

I have yet to try the Hiroshima version, sticking instead to the Osaka style, which I find much easier to prepare.

The first time I made *okonomiyaki*, I opted for a larger, pizza-style version.

For a daintier presentation, you can make four mini *okonomiyaki* instead of the two suggested in this recipe.

It is advisable not to mix all the batter with the cabbage and egg at once, as this can draw excess moisture from the cabbage, leaving the mixture too runny and difficult to shape.

Therefore, portion out the ingredients accordingly if you plan to make more than two pancakes.



'Okonomiyaki' may be hard to pronounce, but they are easy to make with these ingredients.

Okonomiyaki

Ingredients

300g cabbage
3 stalks spring onion
200g beef bacon slices
2 large eggs

Batter

100g all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 tsp dashi powder
1 tsp Japanese soy sauce
½ tsp salt
150ml water

Garnish

Bonito flakes
Spring onions
Dried seaweed
Okonomiyaki sauce
Japanese mayonnaise

Directions

Divide the cabbage into two 150g portions to make two *okonomiyaki*. Dice the cabbage into roughly 2cm squares. Line up the spring onion stalks, and using both the white and green parts,

slice into small rounds and divide into three portions.

Reserve one portion for garnish, while the other two will be used for the pancakes.

Place one portion of cabbage in a bowl and sprinkle with one portion of spring onions. Add one egg and mix lightly.

Prepare the beef bacon slices, using them whole or cutting them into smaller pieces, then set aside.

In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt.

In another bowl or cup, dissolve the Dashi powder in 150ml water, then add it to the dry ingredients.

Stir one teaspoon soy sauce into the batter.

Divide the batter into two portions.

Pour one portion over the cabbage and egg mixture and stir until well combined.

The mixture should be thick enough to coat the cabbage, with little to no liquid left in the bowl.

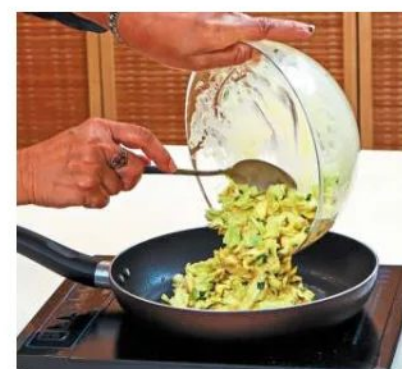
Heat two tbsp oil in a skillet over medium heat. Once hot, add the cabbage mixture.

Using a spoon and flat spatula, shape it into a compact, thick pancake, pressing the cabbage together as you go.

Arrange the beef bacon slices over the top.



Osaka-style pancakes has the ingredients mixed in a bowl (above) before cooking in a hot pan (below).



Other proteins such as chicken or seafood can also be used.

Cook for about eight minutes, turning the skillet a quarter turn every two minutes to ensure even cooking.

Carefully flip the *okonomiyaki* and cook the other side.

Cover the skillet and steam for five minutes, again turning it a quarter turn every two minutes.

Remove the lid and sear for another minute.

Turn off the heat and transfer the *okonomiyaki* to a plate.

While it is still hot, squeeze *okonomiyaki* sauce over the top in horizontal zigzag lines.

For contrast, squeeze Japanese mayonnaise in the opposite direction to create another zigzag pattern.

Finish with a scattering of bonito flakes, which will dance over the hot *okonomiyaki*, followed by dried seaweed and the reserved spring onions for a pop of colour.

Serve the *okonomiyaki* hot and enjoy.

WATCH THE
VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



Master butcher, local chef blend global flavours in weekend spread

A WEEKEND buffet featuring international and Malaysian dishes is being served at The Cobalt Room, The Ritz-Carlton Kuala Lumpur, throughout September.

The Ritzy Weekend Feast brings together master butcher chef Willie Thong Yew Wah and chef Zaffar Abdul Samad in a spread that combines Western-style meats, Asian favourites and local flavours.

Offerings include seafood on ice, sushi and sashimi, pasta dishes prepared at a live station and Thai selections.

At the carving station, Thong serves house-smoked meats, artisanal sausages and roasted meats prepared Western-style.

His selection forms the centre-piece of the buffet's meat offerings, with different cuts prepared using smoking, roasting and grilling techniques.

The Malaysian section is led by Zaffar, who incorporates local flavours and spices into dishes such as satay and briyani.

There is also a changing selection of desserts prepared by the hotel's pastry team.

The Ritzy Weekend Feast, priced at RM170++ per person, is available on Fridays and Saturdays, from 6.30pm to 10pm.

For reservations, WhatsApp or call 018-623 0037.



The Ritzy Weekend Feast combines Western and Asian favourites for dinner.

PENANG

By LO TERN CHERN
andylo@thestar.com.my

Foreign shuttlers add flavour to Penang meet

China, Thailand join local teams in new challenge category in conjunction with Chief Minister's Cup

A TOTAL of 18 teams will vie for RM103,600 in prize money at this year's Penang Chief Minister's Cup Badminton Championship and the inaugural redONE Challenge Cup.

The two-day championship this weekend, at Penang Chinese Recreation Club will see 13 teams comprising 130 players compete in the Chief Minister's Cup, while five teams from Malaysia, Thailand and China will take part in the redONE Challenge Cup.

The total prize purse comprises RM23,000 for the Chief Minister's Cup and US\$20,000 (RM80,600), for the Challenge Cup.

Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the Chief Minister's Cup would enter its fourth and final edition under his administration this year.

"Although this will be the final edition under the name of the Penang Chief Minister's Cup, I hope that the spirit of sportsmanship, friendship and cooperation that has been fostered throughout these four editions will continue to grow within Penang's sporting community," he said during a press conference at Komtar.

"The number of participating teams is maintained at 13 to ensure that the competition can be conducted smoothly according to the prescribed format.

"The tournament will retain its round-robin format involving four groups, with the quarter-finals scheduled for the first day, followed by the semi-finals and final on the second day," Chow said.



Chow (right) with event sponsors and partners showing off the trophy and medals for the Penang Chief Minister's Cup Badminton Championship 2026. — ZHAFFARAN NASIB/The Star

Each team must field players in four categories – Men's Doubles Combined 65, Men's Doubles Combined 95, Open Women's Doubles and Open

Mixed Doubles. Players range in age from 21 to 67.

Chow said eligibility requirements also remained unchanged, with active national

and state players barred from participating, while former state players who were no longer active were eligible.

The Chief Minister's Cup

champion will receive RM10,000, while the runner-up will take home RM7,000 and the remaining two semi-finalists RM3,000 each.

Participants will also stand a chance to win prizes through a lucky draw.

Meanwhile, Chow welcomed the introduction of redONE Challenge Cup that would feature teams from Malaysia, Thailand and China.

He hopes it will further strengthen ties among players from the participating countries.

"The value of the tournament extends beyond the pursuit of victory.

"Sports can provide opportunities for people to remain active, build networks and strengthen relationships," he said.

The Challenge Cup offers US\$10,000 (RM40,300) for the champion, US\$7,000 (RM28,200) for the runner-up and US\$3,000 (RM12,100) for third place.

Chow said he was proud of the tournament's development since its inaugural edition.

He also thanked the sponsors for their continued support.

The championship is jointly organised by the Batu Kawan MP's Service Centre, Padang Kota State Assembly Service Centre and Timuran Football Club.

PJ Half Marathon set to draw 10,000 this Sunday



Mohd Yazid (left) and Ku Mustafa having a closer look at runners' T-shirts and finishers' medals for the half marathon. — Handout



The PJ Half Marathon will flag off from Jalan Yong Shook Lin in front of Laman MBPJ at 3.30am. — Filepic

MORE than 260 international runners from 34 countries are expected to take part in the Petaling Jaya Half Marathon 2026 tomorrow.

They will be among some 10,000 participants targeted for the 36th edition of the race, which will be flagged off at Laman MBPJ in Petaling Jaya.

Among the international participants expected are from Australia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The race will feature five categories – 30km, 21km, 10km, 5km fun run and 1km costume-themed fun run.

The first flag-off is scheduled for 3.30am.

Petaling Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Yazid Sairi said the event had grown beyond being just a running competition.

"It has become a platform that brings together the community and participants from both home and abroad.

"We want them to not only come to run, but also take home experiences and memories of Petaling Jaya.

"The sponsors' support helps to make the race a success, enhance the participants' experience and strengthen the city's sports ecosystem," he said dur-

ing a press conference at MBPJ headquarters in Jalan Yong Shook Lin, Petaling Jaya.

Mohd Yazid said the race had also become part of Petaling Jaya's identity by encouraging a healthy lifestyle, strengthening community ties and promoting the city as a sporting event destination.

Also present were Petaling Jaya deputy mayor Sharinaz Samsudin, MBPJ Community Development Department deputy director Ku Mustafa Ku Mohamad, Selangor Para Athletics Association (POPS) honorary secretary Mohan Govinda Samy and Puncak

Ventures SRA Sdn Bhd director Zainudin Lot.

The event is organised by Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) and Puncak Ventures SRA in collaboration with POPS, with support from Youth and Sports Ministry.

Sponsors and partners include F&N Beverages Marketing Sdn Bhd through 100Plus and Ice Mountain, Vrtic, N8, 361°, RULE, ATF Sport Taping, Pacemakers Malaysia, Mamee and Kao Malaysia.

Meanwhile, MBPJ has advised participants to plan their journeys in advance, follow traffic and safety instructions from the

authorities and use parking areas around PJ New Town, also known as PJ State, to help reduce congestion.

In a social media post, MBPJ said Jalan Yong Shook Lin in front of Laman MBPJ would be closed from 6pm today until noon tomorrow.

Road diversions will begin at IJM Land heading towards Jalan RU7/1, Jalan Taman 7/6 and Menara Choy Fook On.

The city council also advised motorists heading to Section 14 and Sea Park to utilise Jalan Barat, while those heading to Petaling Jaya city centre should use Jalan 222.

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PROPERTIES



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KELANA JAYA SS3 d/s s/d, l/a 3200sf, 5r3b, t/hold, nr amenities, good loc, facing park, RM2.1M neg. Dinesh 012-3711607 / 03-7727 1699 REN24668 E(3)0791

KELANA JAYA SS3, 2sty b'g'low for sale, 5+1r4b, 6600sf, nice flat land, old b'glows w/kept, f/h, RM-2.35M neg. Dinesh 012-3711607 / 03-7727 1699 REN24668 E(3)0791

PJ SEC5 Bukit Gasing 1.5sty cor b'g'low, 4+1r4b, l/a 6kxsf b'u 2.200sf l/hold, reno & well kept RM2.35M neg. Dinesh 012-3711607 / 03-7727 1699 REN24668 E(3)0791

PJ SEC5 Jalan Gasing 2s b'g'low newly reno, resort living, surrounded by greenery, l/a 7,600sf b'u 4kxsf 5+1r5b, 99yrs lease balance, RM5.2M neg. Dinesh 012-3711607 / 03-7727 1699 REN24668 E(3)0791

URGENT SALE!

PUCHONG TAMAN Meranti Jaya 2.5sty link, 24x75, t/hold, 5r4b, fully gated & guarded reno & well kept, near amenities. Below market price RM990K neg. Dinesh 012-3711607 / 03-7727 1699 REN24668 E(3)0791

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U-THANT F/H large land 27.443 sf. Bungalow with pool, Move-in ready. Owner welcome list. Call 011-2222-1112 E2954 E(3)2051

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PROPERTIES

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COUNTRY HEIGHTS Kajang, f/h, 8 lots each 8k-11.5kxsf, RM165psf ono. For develop 52kxsf & 25kxsf. Agents welcomed 012-3299733/1

RANTAU, N.SEMBILAN 7.82ac freehold. Below market. High value buy. Next to housing & school. Direct access main road. RM1.7M 012-6739640 Ren57181 E(2)1064

Rooms To Let

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Shops For Sale

CHERAS YULEK 2sty tenanted 5% ROI freehold Sale RM2.3M near market 7-11, KK mart 017-3995092 REN07021 E(2)1064

TMN MIDAH, Cheras for sale shop 8400sf l/a 2800sf anchor-tenant RM4.4m. 012-2648320 E(1)1537 PEA 2567

TMN TAYNTON View, Cheras for sale shop lot land 1600sf l/a 1600sf RM495K. 012-2648320 E(1)1537 PEA 2567

Shops To Let

TMN CONNAUGHT, Cheras for rent shop lot 2500sf l/a 1760sf RM13k un/f. 012-2648320 E(1)1537 PEA 2567

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EXAMINATION ATTENDANTS

Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) would like to hire **EXAMINATION ATTENDANTS (aged below 35 years old)** from **23 September 2026 until 8 October 2026**. Successful candidates will be paid a flat rate of RM 78.50 per day.

Interested candidates may contact the following person-in-charge for more information:

Cik Julia : 03-41450123 (ext: 7720)
Puan Atika : 03-41450123 (ext: 7721)
Puan Fateha : 03-41450123 (ext: 7717)
Office : 03-41450123 (ext: 3551 / 3175)

Please email your application request, attached with one (1) photocopy of your Identity Card (I/C), with the front and back on one page, to examination@tar.edu.my

OR Visit us at: Department of Examinations and Credit Accumulation
Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology
1st Floor, Bangunan Tan Sri Khaw Kai Boh
Off Jalan Genting Kelang, Setapak
53300 Kuala Lumpur

Important Notes:
✓ Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for briefing in due course.

LEGAL

Court Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KLANG
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN NO: BL-A72NCvC-266-07/2026

LEMBAGA KUMPULAN WANG SIMPANAN PEKERJA ..PLAINTIF
DAN ..PLAINTIF-PLAINTIF

1. NG HUI XIANG
(NO. K/P: 900610-10-5365)
2. NG AI PEI
(NO. K/P: 921209-10-5302)
[Kedua-duanya rakan kongsi dalam perniagaan
DOE CAFE & BAR
(No. Pendaftaran Perniagaan: 202203158150 (CA0349079-W))

NOTIS
Kepada:-
1. NG HUI XIANG
No. 1, Jalan Kerongsang 3
Bandar Puteri
41200 Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan
dan/atau di
NG HUI XIANG
No. 6, Lorong Selat Selatan 11
Jalan Kem Off Jalan Telok Gong
42000 Pelabuhan Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan
dan/atau di
NG HUI XIANG
d/a DOE CAFE & BAR
[No. Pendaftaran Perniagaan: 202203158150 (CA0349079-W)]
No. 1, First Floor
Lorong Sanggul 1F
Bandar Puteri
41200 Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan

2. NG AI PEI
No. 6, Jalan Kerongsang 3
Bandar Puteri
41200 Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan
dan/atau di
NG AI PEI
No. 6, Lorong Selat Selatan 11
Jalan Kem Off Jalan Telok Gong
42000 Pelabuhan Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret di Klang dalam Guaman No: BL-A72NCvC-266-07/2026 oleh Lembaga Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja yang beralamat di ibu pejabat di Seksyen Pendakwaan dan Litigasi, Jabatan Undang-Undang, Tingkat 4, Menara KWSP, No. 1, Persiaran Kwasa Utama, Kwasa Damansara, Seksyen U4, 40150 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan yang mana tuntutan Plaintiff terhadap **Defendan Pertama** dan **Defendan Kedua**, secara bersama dan berasingan, baki tunggakan caruman bulanan KWSP berjumlah **RM3,340.00** bagi tempoh caruman **Mac 2024 hingga Oktober 2024** beserta dengan dividen ke atas tunggakan caruman bulanan KWSP bagi tempoh caruman Mac 2024 hingga Oktober 2024 pada kadar 6.30% setahun dikira mulai 01 April 2024 sehingga 31 Disember 2024; 6.15% setahun dikira mulai 01 Januari 2025 sehingga 31 Disember 2025; dan dividen seterusnya yang akan diisytiharkan oleh Plaintiff bagi setiap tahun berikutnya sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh; dan caj lewat bayar ke atas tunggakan caruman bulanan KWSP bagi tempoh caruman Mac 2024 hingga Oktober 2024 pada kadar 7.30% setahun dikira mulai 16 Mac 2024 sehingga 31 Disember 2024; 7.15% setahun dikira mulai 01 Januari 2025 sehingga 31 Disember 2025; dan caj lewat bayar seterusnya yang akan diisytiharkan oleh Plaintiff bagi setiap tahun berikutnya sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh dan kos bagi tindakan ini **DAN ADALAH DIPERINTAHKAN** bahawa penyampaian Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 03.07.2026 dan Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti (Kandungan 4) bertarikh 19.08.2026 diserahkan kepada Defendan Pertama dan Defendan Kedua melalui penyampaian ganti dengan mengiklankan suatu Notis ke dalam satu isu akhbar tempatan "The Star", dengan menampalkan salinan Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut bersama-sama dengan Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti di atas papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret di Klang dan dengan menampalkan salinan Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut bersama-sama dengan Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti di kesemua alamat terakhir Defendan Pertama dan Defendan Kedua yang diketahui iaitu di alamat **Defendan Pertama** di No. 1, Jalan Kerongsang 3, Bandar Puteri, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan/atau di No. 6, Lorong Selat Selatan 11, Jalan Kem Off Jalan Telok Gong, 42000 Pelabuhan Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan/atau di d/a DOE CAFE & BAR [No. Pendaftaran Perniagaan: 202203158150 (CA0349079-W)], No. 1, First Floor, Lorong Sanggul 1F, Bandar Puteri, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan; dan di alamat **Defendan Kedua** di No. 6, Jalan Kerongsang 3, Bandar Puteri, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan dan/atau di No. 6, Lorong Selat Selatan 11, Jalan Kem Off Jalan Telok Gong, 42000 Pelabuhan Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan; dan bahawa melalui penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut dianggap penyampaian Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut wajar dan mencukupi ke atas Defendan Pertama dan Defendan Kedua tersebut tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh terakhir penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah hadir sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui peguamcara kamu semasa pengurusan kes secara dalam talian (e-Review) di hadapan **Puan Haleez Binti Hassan** pada **30 September 2026 (Rabu)** pada jam **9.00 pagi**. Jika kamu ingkar berbuat sedemikian, Penghakiman Ingkar Kehadiran boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 19 Ogos 2026
.....
Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff

NOTIS ini telah difailkan oleh Tetuan Nashili & Co, peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang mempunyai alamat untuk penyampaian di No. 25C, Jalan Wawasan 2/10, Bandar Baru Ampang, 68000 Ampang, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: 03-42937180 Faks: 03-42937381 Emel: conashili1@gmail.com (Ruj. Kami: 262138/KWSP(KLG)/AAW/nn) (Ruj. Fail KWSP: 09901/6071-01(L)/KLG/2026/0030)

Court Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
WRIIT NO.: BA-A52NCC-217-07/2026

1. SHANMUGAM A/L RAMASAMY
(NO. K/P: 720101-10-5481)
2. MAISURI A/P DANAPAL
(NO. K/P: 770831-06-5528) ..PLAINTIF-PLAINTIF

DAN ..PLAINTIF-PLAINTIF
GANESAMURTHY A/L VERASINGAM
(NO. K/P: 720604-10-5715) ..DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN
Kepada: 1. **GANESAMURTHY A/L VERASINGAM**
(NO. K/P: 720604-10-5715)
No. 35
Jalan Uranus U5/122B
Seksyen U5
40150 Shah Alam
Selangor Darul Ehsan
Dan

2. **GANESAMURTHY A/L VERASINGAM**
(NO. K/P: 720604-10-5715)
Block A21-11, D'Alamanda Condo
Jalan Pudu Impian IV
Taman Pudu Ulu
56100 Kuala Lumpur
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur
Dan

3. **GANESAMURTHY A/L VERASINGAM**
(NO. K/P: 720604-10-5715)
Block A, 2-01-0-1, Alamanda Condo
Jalan Pudu Ulu
56100 Kuala Lumpur
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam dalam Guaman Civil No. BA-A52NCC-217-07/2026 oleh Plaintiff-Plaintiff dalam tindakan ini, iaitu **SHANMUGAM A/L RAMASAMY** (NO. K/P: 720101-10-5481) dan **MAISURI A/P DANAPAL** (NO. K/P: 770831-06-5528) yang beralamat di No. 23, Jalan Tengku Kelana 3/KS1, Bukit Istana, 41000 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

DAN menurut Perintah untuk Penyampaian Ganti bertarikh 20.08.2026 ("Perintah tersebut"), Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa penyampaian Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan yang kedua-duanya bertarikh 09.07.2026 (selepas ini dirujuk secara kolektif sebagai "Saman tersebut") kepada kamu di dalam tindakan tersebut hendaklah dilaksanakan ke atas kamu secara berikut: -

(a) dengan menampalkan salinan Saman tersebut dan salinan Perintah tersebut di Papan Kenyataan Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam dan di Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara (JPN);
(b) dengan menampalkan salinan Saman tersebut dan salinan Perintah tersebut di alamat terakhir Defendan di No. 35, Jalan Uranus U5/122B, Seksyen U5, 40150 Shah Alam;
(c) dengan menampalkan salinan Saman tersebut dan salinan Perintah tersebut di alamat-alamat tempat tinggal Defendan di Block A21-11, D'Alamanda Condo, Jalan Pudu Impian IV, Taman Pudu Ulu, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur dan Block A, 2-01-0-1, Alamanda Condo, Jalan Pudu Ulu, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur; dan
(d) dengan mengiklankan Perintah tersebut di akhbar tempatan, "The Star".

DAN bahawa penampalan-penampalan dan pengiklanan sedemikian merupakan penyampaian yang cukup dan sempurna terhadap Defendan dalam masa tujuh (7) hari dari tarikh mana-mana satu penampalan-penampalan dan/atau pengiklanan yang akhir.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa tindakan ini telah ditetapkan untuk **Pengurusan Kes pada 11.09.2026 jam 9.00 pagi di Mahkamah Sesyen Sivil 6 Shah Alam** dan kamu dikehendaki hadir pada tarikh tersebut. Kamu boleh memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk memeriksa kertas-kertas kausa tersebut.

Bertarikh pada 20 Ogos 2026
.....
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Sesyen
Shah Alam

NOTIS IKLAN ini telah difailkan oleh Tetuan Dinesh Mathan & Partners, Peguambela & Peguamcara bagi Plaintiff-Plaintiff yang beralamat di No 23-1, Lorong Batu Nilam 21C, Bandar Bukit Tinggi 2, 41200 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Tel: 03-33257280 Faks: 03-33257285 Emel: general@dmlegal.com.my
(Ruj: DMP/LIT/SHANMUGAM/1050/25)

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI GEORGETOWN
DALAM NEGERI PULAU PINANG
DALAM KEBANKRAPAN NO. PA-29NCC-438-06/2026

PER : LEONIE TAN SHEN ING
(No K/P: 850729-07-5666) ..PENGHUTANG PENGHAKIMAN
EX-PARTE: MALAYAN BANKING BERHAD (3813-K)
No. Pendaftaran Syarikat : 196001000142 (3813-K) ..PEMIUTANG PENGHAKIMAN

NOTIS IKLAN
(Dalam perkara Notis Kebankrapan bertarikh pada 04/06/2026).
Kepada: **LEONIE TAN SHEN ING**
1W-6-1, PALM PALLADIUM, LEBUH MINDEN 1
11700 GELUGOR, PULAU PINANG.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Notis Kebankrapan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh MALAYAN BANKING BERHAD (3813-K) yang beralamat di Asset Quality Management, Level 3, No. 11, Jalan 51A/222, 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan supaya Notis Kebankrapan dalam tindakan ini disampaikan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan salinan-salinan permohonan tersebut beserta dengan satu salinan meterai Perintah untuk penyampaian ganti pada Papan Notis Mahkamah Tinggi Georgetown, Pulau Pinang serta di premis terakhir Penghutang Penghakiman yang diketahui iaitu di 1W-6-1, Palm Palladium, Lebuh Minden 1, 11700 Gelugor, Pulau Pinang dan mengiklankan Notis ini dalam satu keluaran suratkhbar harian tempatan Berbahasa Inggeris iaitu The Star dan bahawa penampalan dan pengiklanan sedemikian dianggap sebagai penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup akan Notis Kebankrapan ini ke atas kamu tujuh (7) hari selepas hari terakhir penampalan-penampalan dan pengiklanan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut.

Jika kamu berniat untuk menentang Notis Kebankrapan tersebut, kamu mesti dalam masa tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut menjadi sempurna, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk mengeneikan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut dengan memasukkan satu affidavit bagi maksud tersebut di mahkamah ini.

Jika tidak, satu Petisyen Pemutangan akan difailkan terhadap kamu. Notis Kebankrapan ini boleh diperiksa oleh kamu Leonie Tan Shen Ing (No. K/P: 850729-07-5666) dengan memohon kepada Mahkamah.
Bertarikh pada 30 Julai 2026.
.....
Ll.

Notis Iklan ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Khairil Sani, Gobal & Beng Tatt, Peguambela & Peguamcara yang beralamat di No. 2679, Tingkat 1 & 2, Jalan Chain Ferry, Taman Inderawasih, 13600 Prai, Pulau Pinang, Peguamcara bagi Pemutangan Penghakiman.
(Ruj : KSGBT/S/CV/ MBB/0013/2023/si)

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