



Headlines

SGH welcomes dedicated rest area for nurses

>3



World

Volcano eruption forces airport closures

>11



Sport

Cats sink Rhinos with Mujagic brace in Likas

>16

Not the desired rainfall volume

MetMalaysia S'wak: Cloud seeding ops successful but results lacklustre, focus will be on catchment areas

KUCHING: Cloud seeding operations carried out in Sarawak over the past few days did not meet expectations in terms of rainfall volume, said Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) Sarawak director Khairul Najib Ibrahim.

Nevertheless, he said the operations had successfully produced rainfall in several catchment areas, including Murum, Bakun and Batang Ai, even if not at the desired level.

Indeed it rained, but not much because most of the clouds moved to the neighbouring countries due to the strong winds at that time.

Khairul Najib Ibrahim

"Indeed it rained, but not much because most of the clouds moved to the neighbouring countries due to the strong winds at that time," he told reporters when met during the OPA at the Kuching Air Force Base here yesterday, according to a Sarawak Public Communications Unit report.

Khairul said the operation had been extended until today (Sept 7) and will focus on the catchment areas in the Batang Ai, Bakun and Murum dams in light of their low water levels.

He added the operation had been approved for an additional two days after the original schedule from Sept 3-5 lapsed.

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas said cloud seeding operations will be carried out where suitable cloud and weather conditions permit.

Uggah, who is Sarawak Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) chairman, said MetMalaysia had predicted dry weather conditions from Sept 6 to 12.

"Air quality, weather conditions, hotspots and the haze movement are being closely monitored so that appropriate actions can be taken as the situation develops," he said in a statement.

On the haze emergency declared in Serian, he said monitoring would continue before any recommendation is proposed to Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Uggah said government, private offices and other workplaces in the affected area, including industries, plantations, construction sites and quarries, are allowed to continue operations but must take health precautionary measures.

Citing Sept 5 data from the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre, he said no hotspot was detected in Sarawak but that 184 hotspots were found in Kalimantan, Indonesia.



Anwar is welcomed by traditional dancers at the Sarawak Pavilion, which was named the best pavilion at Maha 2026. — Bernama photo

PM: Governance probes not about vengeance, but upholding rule of law

SERDANG: Investigations and disclosures concerning governance issues involving several government agencies, including the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) and Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH), are not merely political polemics or motivated by jealousy and vengeance, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said they were instead part of his responsibility as a leader to ensure the country is governed in accordance with the rule of law and free from any wrongdoing.

"Don't politicise this. Think about it. I am not the one conducting the investigations; that is the responsibility of the enforcement agencies. The decision to prosecute is made by the Attorney-General, and they have teams that scrutinise every case. The judges are the ones who decide the sentences."

"The government has no choice but to ensure that public funds are properly managed. Allocations and spending may increase, but if there are leakages and losses, it is the people at the grassroots who suffer—farmers,

fishermen and padi growers," he said when closing the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Show (Maha) 2026 here yesterday.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, cited Felda as an example, noting that it was once known as the world's largest plantation estate.

"This concerns agriculture and plantations. Felda is one of the institutions we are proud of. If it is managed well, the returns go to the settlers. If it is poorly managed, the settlers are also the ones who bear the consequences

and hardship. So, do not take lightly our efforts to put things right."

"Every year, the Finance Ministry has to provide RM980 million in funds for Felda to service its debts arising from losses. Why? Because of weak management and the practice of taking what belongs to the people by those entrusted with responsibility," he said.

He also said that several more disclosures concerning governance issues in Felda's management would be made in the coming weeks. — Bernama

'US has never sought to decide Malaysia's political leadership'

KUALA LUMPUR: The United States has never sought to decide Malaysia's political leadership, said US Embassy in Malaysia Chargé d'Affaires ad interim David H. Gamble Jr.

"Any account to the contrary is false," he said in a statement posted on the embassy's official Facebook page yesterday.

The brief statement came a day after PAS president Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang alleged that

US representatives had once offered to help the party bring down the then Barisan Nasional government and take over the administration.

Abdul Hadi made the allegation during his winding-up speech at the 72nd PAS Annual Muktamar in Kota Bharu on Saturday.

He claimed that the matter arose when PAS was part of the former Pakatan Rakyat coalition, during then US President Barack

Obama's visit to Malaysia in 2014, and also alleged that a US ambassador later sought a meeting with him and asked who PAS proposed as prime minister.

Meanwhile, PKR deputy secretary-general Sivamalar Genapathy urged Abdul Hadi to provide evidence to back up the allegation or withdraw it and apologise, as it concerns foreign interference, national security and the country's sovereignty.

"The US Embassy has now issued a categorical denial, stating that the United States has never sought to determine Malaysia's political leadership and that any account to the contrary is false."

"We are therefore faced with two directly conflicting accounts. Who is telling the truth?" she said in a Facebook post.

> Turn to Page 2, Col 5

Dr Sim: Move beyond traditional industries, build high-income talent



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KUCHING: Sarawak must move beyond traditional industries and infrastructure development by building high-income talent and embracing new economic sectors, said Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian.

He said renewable energy, green energy, semiconductors and healthcare would be among key sectors driving the state's next phase of economic growth.

"Business must move with the times. We cannot simply rely on the industries of the past. We must develop new economic sectors and create new opportunities," he said in his speech when officiating at the opening of Wisma Hua Shang at Kuching City Mall Commercial Centre here yesterday.

Dr Sim said Sarawak's transformation over the past decade had been significant, with



Dr Sim (centre) and other guests and community leaders gather on stage during the presentation of a commemorative plaque. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

the state now attracting greater attention and expectations from across Malaysia.

However, he said the state's transformation should not be measured solely by infrastructure, but also its ability to develop highly skilled talent capable of creating economic value and gaining international recognition.

Dr Sim cited healthcare as

an example, saying Kuching's private hospitals were expanding rapidly and their combined bed capacity was expected to surpass that of government hospitals.

He said Sarawak was increasingly attracting patients from neighbouring countries, including Indonesia, while more Singaporeans could potentially seek treatment here as medical

standards improved.

He highlighted the Sarawak Heart Centre, which has treated more than 300,000 patients over 25 years, including patients from Singapore.

Dr Sim said many of its cardiologists were trained in Sarawak and now served patients beyond the state, while the centre had established itself

among the top 100 institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.

"People may say that its success is simply luck. But if you achieve the same result year after year, it is no longer luck. It is talent. It is value," he said.

He also cited Sarawak General Hospital's involvement in clinical research and trials as evidence of the state's growing medical capabilities.

Dr Sim said Sarawak must continue developing knowledge and technical skills while cultivating wisdom, responsibility and a commitment to building the state.

He also pointed to the growing demand for data storage driven by artificial intelligence, citing Western Digital's multibillion-ringgit investment in advanced data-storage technology as an example of emerging opportunities.

On the opening of Wisma Hua Shang, he said it reflected the spirit of unity, hard work and contribution that has driven the company and Chinese community in Sibul over the past

three decades.

"We are here as part of the effort to build Sarawak. The spirit and mission we have heard today are all part of nation-building in Sarawak," he said.

Dr Sim said Hua Shang had continued to grow over the past 30 years through vision, wisdom and, most importantly, unity.

"Therefore, I am not surprised by its success. This success did not simply fall from the sky. It came from hard work, values and a willingness to contribute."

He also highlighted the importance of giving back to Sarawak, particularly through the return of Sarawakians who had achieved success overseas.

"Returning home is a value. It is about giving back and contributing to the place where we came from," he said.

He said the tradition of contributing to the community had long been practised by the Chinese community in Sibul, with those who had the means contributing financially while others contributed their time and manpower.

Home

Dr Abd Rahman: Plan for ‘mini Putrajaya’ on Jalan FAC a no-go

Aliah Abdullah

KUCHING: Sarawak’s plan to develop a ‘mini Putrajaya’ along Jalan FAC here to serve as a federal administrative centre has failed to materialise due to various constraints, including land issues and delays, said Datuk Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi.

The Deputy Minister in the Premier’s Department said the proposal to house federal departments and headquarters in a centralised administrative hub similar to Putrajaya in Peninsular Malaysia was made following discussions between the Sarawak and federal governments.

“Since the construction of Jalan FAC more than 12 years ago, its purpose was to provide infrastructure to connect to an area known as FAC 2020, which was provided by the Sarawak government to the federal government for the construction of the federal administrative centre (FAC).

“The area covers 2,020 hectares hence, it is called FAC 2020, and the land was also handed over in 2020,” he said during the Lebuhraya Pehin Sri Haji Adenan



Dr Abdul Rahman speaks to the press.

Haji Satem Road Lighting Project handover ceremony at Wisma Saberkas here on Saturday.

However, Dr Abdul Rahman said the development could not proceed due to several factors, including land issues, while delays in completing the road also contributed to the plan not being implemented.

“As a result, federal departments and agencies built infrastructure for their offices

in various locations, all over the place, as we can see today.

“Not a single building was constructed in the FAC 2020 area. There is no building there at all,” he said.

Dr Abdul Rahman said Jalan FAC was initially intended to be extended to Rambungan, with a bridge also planned.

“I believe it is around 7.2 kilometres to the end of the road, and when we travel along Jalan

FAC, it simply becomes a dead end,” he said.

Despite this, he said the road had since become an important link serving settlements in the area as part of Sarawak’s coastal road network, connecting areas in the south, including Sematan, Telok Melano and Lundu, to the north and Samarahan.

Dr Abdul Rahman said the road had originally been equipped with street lights, but these were not energised as it had yet to be commissioned.

“This resulted in vandalism as the road was dark, with the lights destroyed by irresponsible individuals,” he noted.

He said the new lighting project along Jalan FAC or the Lebuhraya Pehin Sri Haji Adenan Haji Satem, was therefore significant as it would end years of darkness along the route after several previous efforts to replace the lights.

“Therefore, we are trying to ensure that this will be the last time we have to instal the lights. We do not want what happened previously to happen again.

“As much as possible, we want to avoid another incident of vandalism,” he said.

Home

DoE monitors bushfires and peatland fires in Mukah, Daro amid dry spell

KUCHING: The Department of Environment (DoE) is paying special attention to the fire incidents reported in bushes and peatlands near Jalan Sibujaya Barat in Mukah and Sungai Nai in Daro amid the current dry spell.

DoE deputy director-general (Development) Azuri Azizah Saedon said based on the latest status, the fire in the Jalan Sibujaya Barat area had been mostly controlled, covering an area of nine hectares.

“However, the fire still affects approximately one hectare in the Jalan Sibujaya Barat area and is currently being extinguished,” she said in a statement yesterday.

In Sungai Nai, Azuri said approximately 2.5 of the three hectares are still burning, but the situation is reported to be under

control, according to the Fire and Rescue Department.

She said fires in vegetation and peatland have the potential to produce smoke and release pollutants that can affect local air quality if left unchecked.

As such, she said the DoE Sarawak will continue monitoring the latest status of the fires at the mentioned locations, including assessing the potential impact on air quality.

Drone flights will also be carried out to obtain the latest picture of the fire status and the extent of the affected area, she added.

“Air quality monitoring and follow-up actions will be carried out based on the actual situation on the ground and the results of the DoE assessment together

with relevant agencies.”

Azuri said monitoring would be strengthened if there was an increase in air pollution, while appropriate actions would be taken in accordance with the existing legal provisions to minimise the impact of the fire on the environment and public health.

In the meantime, she reminded members of the public that open burning is an offence under the Environmental Quality (Amendment) Act 2024, which carries a fine ranging from RM25,000 to RM1,000,000, or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

She said a compound of up to 50 per cent of the maximum fine may also be imposed for each offence.

Everyone is urged to report

any fire or open burning to the Fire and Rescue Department at 999 or the DoE on 1-800-88-2727.

Based on the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC) report on Saturday, Azuri said a total of 184 hotspots were detected in Kalimantan, 373 in Sumatra, and one in Perak.

“ASMC also reported moderate to thick transboundary smoke plumes observed covering the northern part of Borneo.

“Moderate to thick smoke plumes were also observed from hotspots detected in many areas of Kalimantan as well as central and southern Sumatra,” she said.

She added that moderate haze was also observed in Singapore and southern Peninsular Malaysia.

Home

Haze: 63 more schools to close in Bintulu and Tatau/Sebauh, total hits 710 statewide

KUCHING: A total of 63 schools in Bintulu and Tatau/Sebauh districts will be temporarily closed from Sept 7 to 11 due to haze, bringing the total number of schools affected across Sarawak to 710.

The Sarawak Education Department (JPNS) said the additional closures involve 54 primary schools with 22,476 pupils and nine secondary schools with 17,268 students under the supervision of the Bintulu and Tatau/Sebauh District Education Offices (PPDs).

The department said the decision was made based on continuous monitoring and Air Pollutant Index (API) readings recorded as of 8pm yesterday.

“With the latest addition, the temporary closure from Sept 7 to 11 now involves 617 primary schools with 130,953 pupils and 93 secondary schools with 107,350 students under 14 PPDs affected by the haze,” it said in a statement.

JPNS said Home-Based Teaching and Learning (PdPR) would be implemented throughout the temporary closure period in accordance with the provisions under the Education Ministry’s Circular No. 8 of 2016 on guidelines for the management of teaching and learning during disasters.

“Schools are reminded to comply with the stipulated standard operating procedures and refer to Ministry of

Education Circular No. 1 of 2019; Ministry of Education Malaysia Measures to Ensure the Health and Safety of Students in Schools Located in Areas Experiencing Critical Haze, dated Jan 15, 2019, and to prioritise the health of students and teachers at all times,” it said.

The department also reminded all educational institutions under its supervision to remain alert to developments and refer to the Department of Environment’s Air Pollutant Index Management System (APIMS) to monitor API readings in their respective areas or districts.

They were also advised to comply with recommendations issued by the Health Ministry from time to time to safeguard the health of pupils and members of the education community.

Meanwhile, JPNS clarified on its official Facebook page that a statement titled ‘Penutupan Sekolah Akibat Jerebu’ (School Closures Due to Haze’ currently circulating on social media was not issued by the department.

The department said the circulation of the fake statement using its name was irresponsible and could cause confusion and concern among the public.

It urged the public not to believe or share the purported statement, and to refer only to official channels of the Ministry of Education, JPNS and the respective PPDs for verified information on school closures.

Prove allegation or apologise, Hadi told

> From Page 1

Sivamalar, who is also a PKR Central Leadership Council member, said Abdul Hadi should reveal the identity of the US official who allegedly made the offer; the nature of the assistance offered; who was present at the time; and whether there were any records, communications or witnesses to substantiate the claim.

She also questioned why the matter had remained undisclosed for about 12 years and whether PAS had ever reported it to the police, the Foreign Ministry, the National Security Council, or the government at the time.

“This is not about defending the United States. This is about defending Malaysia. If a foreign

power genuinely attempted to interfere in our political process, the matter must be investigated and appropriate action taken.

“Conversely, if such an extraordinary allegation cannot be substantiated, making it against a foreign government is equally irresponsible and risks damaging Malaysia’s diplomatic relations and international credibility,” she said.

Sivamalar also called on the authorities to examine the matter and urged Abdul Hadi to extend full cooperation by providing all evidence in his possession.

“An allegation of this magnitude cannot end as political rhetoric. Prove it, or withdraw the allegation and apologise,” she said. — Bernama

National

Zahid denies rift with Anwar, reaffirms BN’s commitment to ensuring political stability

ISKANDAR PUTERI: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has denied claims of a rift or problems between him and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, stressing instead that Barisan Nasional (BN) remains committed to ensuring the country’s political stability until the end of the term.

He said there were no problems, either personally or in official capacity, between him and Anwar, including when attending Cabinet meetings as well as official government functions and events.

“I have no problems, either personally or in an official capacity. What is important for Barisan Nasional (BN), as one of the components of the Unity Government, is political stability in the country until the end of the term.

“We make and reach decisions professionally,” he told reporters after attending the national-level Orang Asli Sports Carnival here yesterday.



Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi

Also present was Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi.

He said this when asked to comment on a Bloomberg report which previously said that relations between him and Anwar were reportedly becoming increasingly strained, resulting in recent Cabinet meetings being shorter than usual.

The report said the tension stemmed from Ahmad Zahid’s decision for BN to oppose Pakatan Harapan (PH) in the recent Johor and Negeri Sembilan state elections.

The BN chairman also said the coalition’s commitment to remain in the Unity Government

until the end of its term was in line with the resolution of the Umno General Assembly.

He said political stability was crucial to ensuring continued foreign investor confidence in Malaysia while supporting the country’s economic growth.

“We know that the resolution of the Umno General Assembly has stipulated that we remain in the Unity Government until the end of its term.

“This is what we are doing to ensure full political stability and avoid any problems, particularly involving foreign investors, foreign direct investment, as well as to boost the country’s economic growth,” he said.

Ahmad Zahid said claims of problems between the BN leadership and the Prime Minister did not reflect the actual situation.

“The fact is that there are no problems when we are in Cabinet meetings or at official functions or events of ministries, departments and agencies at the federal level,” he said. — Bernama

National



Jokowi is greeted by CWC co-founder Lee Khai (left) at the event’s welcoming dinner on Saturday, as Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow looks on. — Bernama photo

UN must change to stay relevant, strengthen global peace — Jokowi

GEORGE TOWN: Former Indonesian president Joko Widodo urged the United Nations to change and redefine its systems, processes and strategies to remain relevant in addressing increasingly complex global challenges.

Joko, popularly known as Jokowi, said the world needed a stronger global institution, stronger global mediation and stronger global diplomacy to maintain peace.

“The UN must change and redefine the system, the process and the strategy to get a better world and to be more relevant.

“As we need a stronger global institution, stronger global mediation and stronger global diplomacy to keep peace, now we must move beyond the old edition of the UN and build a new edition, the new United

Nations 2.0,” he said in his keynote address at the Penang Peace Dialogue here yesterday.

He noted that conflicts today were interconnected, with their consequences crossing borders, while lasting prosperity could only be achieved when countries chose peace over conflict, cooperation over competition and collaboration over division.

“There is one important thing we must remember: no country can succeed alone, no nation can prosper in conflict, and no peace can be built without trust,” he said.

On leadership, Jokowi said true leadership in an era of populism required balance, competence and integrity, as well as patience, pragmatism, courage and empathy.

He said good leadership built trust, particularly when

leaders remained connected to the people they served and understood not only policies but also their realities, lives and aspirations.

Jokowi also highlighted Southeast Asia as an important model of collaboration among civilisations in a multipolar world, saying that diversity was not a weakness but a strength.

“In many ways, Southeast Asia represents an important model of collaboration among civilisations in this multipolar world,” he said.

He said differences should not become barriers but instead serve as bridges towards understanding, cooperation and shared progress, while developed countries should shoulder greater responsibility in building trust, strengthening cooperation and helping to create a more peaceful world. — Bernama

SGH welcomes dedicated rest area for female nurses

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KUCHING: Female nurses at Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), particularly those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, now have access to a dedicated and private space to rest and attend to their personal needs while on duty.

The Women's Care Room, the first such facility introduced by Yayasan Kebajikan Negara (YKN), was officially opened yesterday by Women, Family and Community Development Minister and YKN Board of Trustees chairperson Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

The facility was established to provide a comfortable, conducive and more private rest area for female nurses, taking into account their demanding work schedules and the high number of patients they attend to daily.

Nancy said healthcare workers were among the frontliners playing an important role in caring for and treating the community and as such, their welfare and well-being should also be given due attention.

"Nurses consistently demonstrate a high level of commitment to ensuring that patients receive the best treatment and care.

"Amid the demands of their duties, they also need a comfortable space to rest and attend to their personal needs," she said.

She said the Women's Care Room



Nancy (front, second left), Siti Rafidah on her left, Nordina (front, fifth left), Dr Ngian (front, fifth right) and other guests in a group photo at SGH's Women's Care Room, established to provide a comfortable and more private rest area for female nurses.

was more than just a physical facility as it also served a form of support for the well-being of healthcare workers, particularly pregnant and breastfeeding nurses.

The facility was made possible through sponsorship from Perinsuran Brokar Sdn Bhd, one of YKN's strategic partners supporting the implementation of social-impact initiatives.

Nancy expressed her appreciation to the company for its commitment and concern in helping to improve the comfort and well-being of healthcare workers.

She said the collaboration demonstrated that corporate involvement through corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives could directly benefit targeted groups.

"YKN welcomes more

corporations to come forward as strategic partners to expand the Women's Care Room facilities to other hospitals in need.

"This collaboration will enable more female nurses to enjoy comfortable and suitable rest spaces, while supporting their well-being as they carry out their responsibility of caring for patients," she said.

YKN would assess the implementation and impact of the Women's Care Room at SGH as a reference for expanding the initiative to other hospitals.

Nancy said any expansion would depend on local needs, the suitability of available space, as well as support and sponsorship from corporate partners.

YKN is also calling on corporations, foundations and organisations interested in contributing to work with it to

expand the facilities as part of their respective CSR programmes.

Also present were Perinsuran Brokar chief executive officer and YKN Board of Trustees member Siti Rafidah Adenan, YKN chief executive officer Nordina Haron and SGH director Dr Ngian Hie Ung.

Meanwhile, at the same event, Nancy also presented food baskets sponsored by Sunway Group to residents of Anjung Kasih YKN at SGH.

The contribution was part of the #SunwayforGood Campaign's Food Basket Giving Programme in conjunction with National Day and Malaysia Day 2026.

Through its strategic collaboration with YKN, Sunway Group contributed 1,000 food baskets for distribution to families in need in several states nationwide.



Degove seen on the swinging itut. — Photo by Peter Boon

French visitor gets to feel thrill of swinging on traditional itut

SIBU: It was a wonderful experience for Louis Degove to have tried swinging on the traditional Melanau 'itut' at the Dataran Tun Tuanku Bujang Phase 1 here.

The visitor from France admitted that it was 'a bit scary at first'.

"It is kind of scary at first, but it is okay. You can even go higher up.

"It's a wonderful experience and you can enjoy the fresh air on top," the 32-year-old restaurant worker told The Borneo Post when met after he had first tried on the itut – one of the highlights at the annual Borneo Cultural Festival (BCF) here.

Degove, who has been in Malaysia for three months, said he randomly chanced upon BCF 2026 upon arriving here.

"Actually, this is the first day (of the festival), so we haven't discovered a lot. However, we hope to see more," he enthused.

Standing at a height of 50 feet

(15.2m), the giant swing is open to the public from 7pm to 10pm daily throughout the festival, which runs until this Sept 14.

A total of 2,288 people took turns on the itut during last year's festival, exceeding the original target of 2,000 participants and earning Sibu Municipal Council (SMC) a place in the Malaysia Book of Records for the 'Highest Number of Visitors Swinging on a Traditional Attraction'.

SMC chairman Clarence Ting officiated at the opening of this year's itut on Saturday night.

Among those present were BCF co-organising chairperson Councillor Michelle Law, SMC General Purpose and Community Services Standing Committee deputy chairman Councillor Simon Wee, itut organising chairman Councillor Abang Carrol Abang Dris, Kampung Nangka Melanau Welfare Association chairman Muhd Nazrin, and itut liaison officer Freddie Chua.



Rubiah chats with one of the participants. — Photo from Facebook / Rubiah Wang

Rubiah: E-sports a career, talent devt platform for youths

KUCHING: E-sports is no longer solely for entertainment, but can potentially build talent and careers for youths, said Kota Samarahan MP Datuk Rubiah Wang.

The Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister said youths should couple their interest in e-sports with upskilling as well as exploring more opportunities in the digital industry.

"E-sports also can potentially open up various career pathways, including professional players, coaches, content creators, streamers as well as professionals in the digital industry.

"E-sports is not just a regular

sport, because its value has expanded so much. Interest (in e-sports) is not wrong, but we should increase its quality and capability so it can be a future career choice," she said when officiating at the E-Sports Reborn PUBG Mobile Competition 2026 at the Kampung Asajaya Ulu Multipurpose Hall yesterday.

According to a Sarawak Public Communications Unit report, Rubiah also encouraged youths to harness the rapid developments of technology such as artificial intelligence (AI).

"Don't just know how to play PUBG; use your skills in other fields as well. If you don't know

AI, learn. If you don't know digital marketing, learn. Master the skills that can help build your future," she advised.

The competition was organised by the Kota Samarahan Parliamentary Service Centre in collaboration with the Kota Samarahan E-Sports Club and Iseykh Smartphone and PC Repair Centre, and saw 17 teams participate.

The competition's top prize is RM1,500 and a trophy, while the first runner-up and second runner-up will receive RM1,000 and a trophy and RM800 and a trophy respectively. The Most Valuable Player (MVP) will receive RM200.

MyLesen B2 more than just a motorcycle licence programme — MP

MIRI: Making motorcycle licences more affordable serves more benefits to the community, particularly youths and those from the B40 (low-income) group.

According to Miri MP Chiew Choon Man, having a valid motorcycle licence can facilitate greater access to employment and essential services, creation of business opportunities, and also better personal mobility.

"For many young people, especially those who rely on motorcycles for their daily travels, having a licence is not just about mobility; it is also about access to better employment opportunities," he said in a statement, issued in relation to the 'Program MyLesen B2' carried out by the Miri Parliamentary Service Centre in collaboration with the Road Transport Department (JPJ) Miri.

Adding on, the Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister also regarded proper riding lessons as being equally important as they would ensure clear understanding in the riders about road safety practices and traffic laws, which could help reduce the risk of road accidents.

On the MyLesen B2 run by his service centre, Chiew said it had



Chiew (centre) seen during the meeting with officers from the Transport Ministry and JPJ on the MyLesen B2 programme.

benefitted more than 2,600 people since its implementation in 2024.

"This federal government's initiative aims to reduce the cost of obtaining a Class B2 motorcycle licence and encourage more people to undergo the proper training and examination process.

"Every year, we receive hundreds of participants. This shows the positive impact of this Class B2 initiative," added the MP, who recently met with officers from the Transport Ministry and the JPJ national headquarters to gain further insight into the programme.

"I am pleased to know that the federal government, through the Transport Ministry, remains supportive of MyLesen B2 and intends to continue the programme in the coming years," he said.

Adding on, Chiew said the latest MyLesen B2 Motorcycle Licence Assistance Programme held in Permy Jaya here late last month involved more than 500 participants.

Through this programme, an eligible participant is able to undergo the B2 motorcycle licence examination at the government-supported rate of RM250.

Women passengers should have option to choose female e-hailing drivers, says Loke

PUTRAJAYA: E-hailing companies are encouraged to provide female driver options for women passengers as part of efforts to improve their safety and comfort, said Transport Minister Anthony Loke.

He said the option would give women passengers an alternative that prioritises their well-being when using e-hailing services.

"This is a feature that I hope our women leaders can promote. When using e-hailing services, one of the available options should be the ability to choose a female driver," he said in his speech at the Wanita DAP National Congress 2026 here yesterday in his capacity as the

party's secretary-general.

Loke said he had also urged e-hailing companies to introduce carpooling options exclusively for women passengers.

"I suggested that carpooling should include a women-only option, allowing female passengers to share rides only with other women," he said.

On rail services, Loke said safety measures continued to be strengthened through the provision of women-only coaches, following frequent complaints received by the ministry regarding sexual harassment, particularly during peak hours.

He noted that women make up nearly two-thirds of total

rail passengers, making their protection a priority.

Meanwhile, Loke said efforts to empower women in the transport sector also included creating more opportunities in fields traditionally dominated by men, including aviation and maritime industries.

He said gender stereotypes in these sectors must be challenged to ensure women are given opportunities based on their abilities.

"We believe that if men can fly aircraft, women can do the same. If women can drive, why can't they fly aircraft? These stereotypes must be changed," he said. — Bernama

supporting education and assisting families and children in need.

The corporation hopes to establish a sustainable education assistance platform funded through long-term and stable returns from its assets.

Its initiatives would include scholarships and financial assistance for underprivileged students, support for tertiary, technical and vocational education, subsidies for children from low-income families, awards for outstanding students, as well as youth entrepreneurship and training programmes.

He said the newly completed Wisma Hua Shang was intended to be more than an office building, serving as a platform for economic exchange, business cooperation and the development of young entrepreneurs.

Tiong said the building also marked the corporation's expansion from Sibu to Kuching and reflected the spirit of unity and cooperation among Chinese businesses across Sarawak.

"The completion of the Hua Shang building is not merely about bricks, concrete and construction.

It represents the continuation of a spirit," he said.

Hua Shang Economic Corporation was established in 1997 following an initiative by the Sibu Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry to consolidate the strength of the Chinese business community through a collective and institutionalised approach.

Tiong credited the corporation's development to the contributions of its original shareholders and pioneers.

He also proposed establishing an 'Original Shareholders Memorial Wall' or 'Entrepreneurial Spirit Gallery' at Wisma Hua Shang to preserve their names and contributions.

"You are not merely shareholders. You are the founders and builders of the Hua Shang spirit," he said.

Tiong said the corporation would continue to uphold unity, cooperation and business integrity while remembering its roots and contributing to society.

"What is completed today is a building. What we are passing on is a spirit," he said.

Home

4

‘Voters can distinguish real service from election promises’



MIRI: Voters are wise enough to distinguish between genuine service and election-time promises, said Bekenu assemblywoman Datuk Rosey Yunus.

The Deputy Minister of Women, Childhood and Community Wellbeing Development said members of the public could judge candidates based on their track record and continued engagement with the community.

“Our people are wise enough to see who comes in only during elections, instigating people, promising to fly them to the moon and all that sounds too perfect to be true,” she told The Borneo Post when contacted yesterday.

In the interview discussing matters related to the next state election, Rosey explained that genuine service meant being present and responsive to the community throughout the term, particularly when local issues arise.

She said her Bekenu constituents had several channels to raise their concerns, with village heads among the



Datuk Rosey Yunus

closest points of contact with the community.

“These matters can be channelled through our village heads, who then refer them to the relevant agencies. Besides that, we have councillors, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and associations,” she said.

Rosey added that such channels were important in ensuring local concerns could be brought to the attention of the relevant authorities and followed up accordingly.

However, she also said residents had a role to play by reporting such problems promptly so that the relevant agencies could take the necessary action.

In this respect, she said the government agencies and civil servants had continued working on the ground and engaging with communities to address concerns raised by residents.

She said such continued engagement allowed local issues

to be identified and addressed without having to wait until election periods.

On another subject, Rosey said a strong mandate for Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) was necessary to ensure that the plans under the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030 would continue to be implemented.

She said a strong mandate would also strengthen Sarawak’s voice in pursuing its interests and development priorities.

“I don’t see big issues because we have been working on the ground since being given the mandate, with our people and local leaders,” she added.

Rosey said while isolated issues could still arise, residents had channels to raise their concerns with the relevant agencies.

She said various engagement and outreach programmes had been conducted through her ministry and its departments, including those involving social development, welfare, women and family affairs, and early childhood development, to address the concerns of communities.

“For us, the election is not the goal. It is about working with our people and local leaders to address their needs and development,” she said in the interview.



Handout photo shows one of the two housing models available at the Kampung Jelutong SPK.

Don’t be deceived by unofficial house purchase offers for Kpg Jelutong SPK, warns Jepak rep

BINTULU: The public have been warned against falling victim to unofficial offers to purchase houses in the Kampung Jelutong Village Expansion Scheme (SPK) in Jepak.

Jepak assemblyman Iskandar Turkee said he had been informed about certain parties offering housing units in the area through unofficial channels, with prospective buyers reportedly being asked to pay a RM2,500 deposit.

He added the parties allegedly used registration forms and location maps to convince prospective buyers that the

offers were genuine.

“I urge members of the public not to be easily deceived by such offers.

“For your own safety, do not make any payments, submit personal documents, or provide sensitive information before verifying the offer with the relevant authorities,” he said in a statement.

Iskandar stressed that the public should first obtain official confirmation before taking any action or making payments in connection with housing offers there.

“Those who have received such

offers or possess information related to the matter can contact ASP Douglas of the Commercial Crime Investigation Division, Bintulu district police headquarters at 019-812 9892 for verification and further information,” he said.

He also urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with the authorities to help curb scams and prevent others from falling victim.

The housing project is implemented by the Bintulu Development Authority, and as of April 30 this year, a total of 111 units have been completed.



Lau (third left) and others are seen during the installation.

Community initiative brings better lighting to Sungai Sadit Kanan

SIBU: Five solar-powered lights have been installed at three locations in Sungai Sadit Kanan following residents’ concerns over inadequate night time lighting.

The Sungai Sadit Kanan village security and development committee (JKKK) funded the installation, which is expected to improve visibility and safety for residents and road users travelling at night.

The lights, installed yesterday, comprise two along Jalan Nam Ping Chiong 3, one along Jalan Kwong Hua and two along Jalan Mawah.

Sarawak United People’s Party (SUPP) Bawang Assan branch chairman Councillor Kevin Lau witnessed the installation.

Sungai Sadit Kanan JKKK chairman Kapitan Chew Hoo Kiong said the initiative was undertaken after the committee took into consideration residents’ requests for better lighting.

“Although there are only five lights, we hope they will provide practical assistance to residents who need them,” he said.

Chew said community leaders should maintain close engagement with residents to understand the practical issues affecting their daily lives and respond within their means.

Meanwhile, Lau commended the JKKK and Chew for responding promptly to residents’ concerns, saying community improvements did not always require large-scale projects.

“A solar light may seem like a small contribution, but for residents who travel at night, it can provide greater convenience and a stronger sense of security,” he said.

Lau said close engagement with the grassroots would enable community leaders to better identify local needs and ensure improvement efforts were effectively targeted.

He expressed hope that community leaders would continue working closely with residents to improve the living environment and build safer, more comfortable communities.

Minister: All sports events during haze must comply with govt guidelines

GEORGE TOWN: The government has mandated that all sports events during the current haze comply with established guidelines to safeguard the health and safety of athletes.

Youth and Sports Minister Dr Mohammed Taufiq Johari said the ministry is continuously monitoring the Air Pollutant Index (API) based on reports from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability and relevant agencies.

He said athletes training outdoors must follow the established guidelines to prevent any untoward incidents, especially when API readings reach unhealthy levels.

“The ministry is also in regular communication with the National Sports Institute and National Sports Council to ensure athletes remain in good health, particularly with the Asian Games fast approaching.

“Our athletes are now in intensive training, and we want

to make sure those training outdoors follow the guidelines set in place to avoid any undesirable incidents,” he told reporters after attending the flag-off ceremony for the Oregon Tower Run Series, here yesterday.

Commenting on the situation in Serian, Sarawak which has recorded hazardous API readings, Mohammed Taufiq said any outdoor activities in red-zone areas would not be permitted.

However, sports activities may continue in areas with low API

readings at safe or moderate levels.

He added that any proposed sports events would also require approval from the ministry, with decisions based on government guidelines and each area’s API status.

Last Thursday, His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, consented to a state of emergency to be declared throughout Serian Division following hazy conditions hazardous to public health and safety. — Bernama

Club to hold outreach visit to Salvation Army Kuching’s Children Care Centre

KUCHING: The Liverpool Supporters Club of Sarawak (KPLK) will extend its community outreach efforts with a visit to the Salvation Army Kuching’s Children Care Centre on Sept 20.

KPLK honorary secretary Dennis Steven Nanyi said the visit is part of the club’s objective to engage in charity and community outreach, including spending meaningful time with the centre’s residents and contributing to its ongoing needs.

“The outreach reflects our commitment to giving back to the community beyond our activities as a football supporters’ group,” he said in a statement.

Dennis said KPLK was the first Liverpool supporters’ group in Sarawak to be formally registered, having obtained registration with the Registrar of Societies on Sept 18 last year.

He added the club will commemorate its first anniversary with a dinner at Penview Hotel here on Sept 19.

Representatives from several Liverpool supporters’ clubs based in Sabah and Peninsular Malaysia are also expected to attend the dinner.

He also advised members participating in the community visit to observe all current guidelines and safety protocols, particularly in view of the prevailing haze situation.

Those seeking information on the anniversary dinner may contact Alex Wee on 016-8091565 or Roland Mason on 018-9855066.

Hunting team captures nine crocs in 4-day Kuala Baram ops

MIRI: The crocodile-hunting team ‘Eric Cat’ has recorded the capture of nine reptiles throughout their four-day operation in Kuala Baram, which kicked off on Sept 2.

Team spokesman Eric Chong Fook Shin said the last catch was

made on Saturday night, which was a 14-foot (over 4 metres) crocodile.

“Of the nine crocodiles, five were male while the remaining four were female,” he said in a statement.

Chong said the 14-foot crocodile was the team’s largest catch during their Kuala Baram operation.

He added that the team would take a two-day break before continuing its next operation at Sungai Teru in Baram.



Eric Cat team members with one of captured crocodiles.

Motorcyclist nabbed for riding with false licence plates

MIRI: A 24-year-old man was arrested by police during a traffic operation here after his motorcycle was found fitted with false licence plates.

Miri police chief ACP Mohd Farhan Lee Abdullah said the suspect is being investigated under Section 108(3)(F) of Road Transport Act 1987, which carries a fine between RM5,000 and RM20,000 or imprisonment for between one and five years, upon conviction.

“The ‘Op Motosikal’ operation from 10pm on Sept 5 until 4am on Sept 6 focused on Jalan Bintang, Jalan Marina, Jalan Miri Bypass, Jalan Brighton and other locations in the city.

“It was carried out to prevent illegal street racing and other activities that could disrupt traffic flow and public order,” he said in a statement.

Mohd Farhan said inspections were conducted on 20 motorcycles, resulting in the issuance of 15 summonses for various offences.

The offences included not having a driving licence, illegal structural modifications, modified exhaust system, absence of side mirrors and licence plates, as well as use of fancy licence plates.

He stressed that police would not compromise with anyone involved in illegal street activities that could endanger themselves and other road users.

“Always comply with traffic laws, refrain from making modifications that do not comply with your vehicle’s original specifications, and avoid activities that disturb public order,” he said.

Lee: Safeguard religious freedom, racial harmony

 **Jacqueline Raphael**
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MIRI: Sarawak's longstanding tradition of religious freedom and racial harmony must be safeguarded, with the people urged not to allow race or religion to be exploited to create divisions, said Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin.

The Transport Minister said Sarawakians of different faiths had lived peacefully alongside one another for generations, with mutual respect becoming an integral part of the state's way of life.

"We have religious freedom. You have the right to choose your religion. The Sarawak government respects all religions," he said during a Unit for Other Religions (Unifor) cheque presentation to Borneo Evangelical Mission (BEM) Hornbill here yesterday.

Lee cautioned against allowing political interests to exploit differences among the people.

"Do not allow anyone to divide



Lee (left) presents the Unifor and MRP allocations to BEM Hornbill Church Elder Dr Andrew Lee as others look on.

us through race or religion. If we are divided, it is the people who will lose," he said.

Instead, the Senadin assemblyman said Sarawakians should focus on strengthening the economy, creating more employment opportunities, improving living standards and building a better future for the younger generation.

At the ceremony held at the church premises, BEM Hornbill

received RM95,000 from Unifor under its BEM Hornbill Church Equipment Modernisation Initiative.

Lee also presented an RM5,000 Minor Rural Project (MRP) allocation, bringing the total assistance received by the church to RM100,000.

Touching on Sarawak's development, he said progress must go hand in hand with creating greater opportunities

for the people, while unity remained essential to moving the state forward.

"We must respect one another, regardless of race or religion, and focus on building a better future for everyone," he said.

He added that religious harmony in Sarawak was more than a political principle, having been nurtured over generations and becoming part of the state's social fabric.

Miri MP urges review of complaints over higher electricity bills

MIRI: Miri MP Chiew Choon Man has called on the relevant authorities to investigate public complaints over sudden increases in electricity bills despite consumers reporting no corresponding rise in usage.

Chiew said he had received numerous complaints from consumers claiming that their latest bills had risen significantly, adding that the matter should be taken seriously as households were already

grappling with rising living costs.

"We need to establish whether the increase in consumers' bills is due to meter replacement, an actual increase in electricity consumption, meter readings, estimated billing, tariff structures, or any issues within the billing processing system," he said in a statement.

The Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister also said consumers had questioned the

lack of clear explanations from Sarawak Energy over the higher bills.

In view of this, he called for a thorough review of the complaints, including checks on the accuracy of meter readings and whether bills were based on actual or estimated readings.

He said the review should also compare current and previous months' electricity consumption, examine any changes to billing methods or systems, and

verify whether charges were calculated according to the applicable tariff categories and blocks.

"We also need to determine whether there are any system errors that have caused certain bills to increase unusually," he said.

Chiew said he would continue to raise the issue and seek clarification from the relevant authorities on behalf of affected customers.



Ahmad (seated, fourth left) and others in a group photo.

E-sports tournaments help build key leadership skills among youths, says senator

KUCHING: E-sports such as Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) not only serve as entertainment but a platform to develop leadership, teamwork, communication and discipline among youths, said Senator Dato Ahmad Ibrahim.

He said e-sports tournaments also provide youths with opportunities to plan, organise and lead programmes, thus helping them build confidence and gain valuable experience.

"Youth development cannot simply mean that we talk to young people. We must give them the space to plan, organise, lead, try and learn.

2026 at Mile 10 Community Hall in Padawan here yesterday.

He said the tournament brought youths together and helped foster friendships and develop skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and discipline.

"These skills are important as success in e-sports does not depend solely on individual ability, but also requires strategy, focus, communication and the ability to make quick decisions.

Belia, Oleh Belia, Demi Belia' (For Youths, By Youths, For the Sake of Youths), reflects the need to provide young people with more opportunities to become directly involved in community activities.

Meanwhile, Batu Kitang Community Association chairman Saefudeen Omar said every form of support for youth development programmes is a long-term investment.

"I hope the success of this tournament also builds everyone's confidence to work together in developing more initiatives that would benefit young people.

Rep: Over RM2 mln in Unifor funds channelled to five houses of worship across Mulu National Park since 2017

MIRI: A total of RM2.04 million in financial assistance has been channelled through the Unit for Other Religions (Unifor) to five houses of worship in and around Mulu National Park since 2017.

Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department Dato Gerawat Gala regarded this assistance as reflecting Sarawak government's continued commitment to supporting religious communities, including those in the rural and interior areas.

He said this when attending the Friendly Houses of Worship (FRIENDLY HOW) Programme No. 3/2026, conducted by Unifor at Mulu Marriott Resort here yesterday.

and St Philip Kuala Melinau.

Gerawat expressed his appreciation to Unifor for its continued commitment to engaging with houses of worship throughout Sarawak, including those in interior and rural areas such as the communities across the Mulu National Park.

On the FRIENDLY HOW programme, the Mulu assemblyman regarded it as being important in strengthening relations, communication and understanding between the Sarawak government and religious communities at the grassroots level.

He also said it was a continuation of similar programmes previously implemented by Unifor.

"When we come directly to places such as Mulu National Park and meet the community, we not only hear about their needs but also gain a better understanding of the actual

situation on the ground.

"Direct engagement is important in building trust and ensuring government assistance and attention reach those who need them," he added.

Giving the specifics of the Unifor assistance, Gerawat said BEM Long Iman had received three disbursements totalling RM270,000; BEM Long Terawan with two disbursements amounting to RM350,000; St Philip with three disbursements totalling RM1.03 million; BEM Batu Bungan with two disbursements amounting to RM120,000; and BEM Central Mulu with two disbursements totalling RM270,000.

At the same function, Gerawat witnessed the handover of cheques from Unifor to BEM Long Terawan and St Philip Kuala Melinau.

BEM Long Terawan received RM250,000, and St Philip Kuala Melinau, RM230,000.



Gerawat (centre) witnesses the handover of cheque from Georgina to St Philip Kuala Melinau representative Edward Ngipa.

Sibu welcomes nationwide Catholic gathering for MPC 2026

SIBU: The Malaysia Pastoral Convention (MPC) 2026, to be held here from Sept 9 to 13, will mark the first gathering of representatives from all nine Catholic dioceses and archdioceses in Malaysia, with about 1,000 delegates expected.

Roman Catholic Bishop of Sibu the Rt Rev Joseph Hii said the inaugural national convention would bring together bishops, clergy, religious, lay leaders and

the faithful for prayer, fellowship, reflection and discernment on the pastoral direction of the Church.

The main venues will be Kingwood Hotel and Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Hii said Sibu was chosen as host for its facilities, cultural heritage and hospitality, while the convention was also expected to benefit the local hospitality, food and beverage, transport, retail and tourism sectors.

The event, supported by Business Event Sarawak, would also help showcase Sibu as a potential destination for future national and international conventions.

"The Diocese of Sibu considers it a great privilege to host this important national event. MPC2026 is a historic moment for us to come together to celebrate, to listen and to walk together, discerning where the Holy Spirit

is leading the Church in Malaysia," Hii said in a statement.

The convention will coincide with the Borneo Cultural Festival (BCF), which is being held around the same period.

As part of MPC 2026, about 1,000 delegates and an estimated 2,000 local Catholic parishioners are expected to gather at Sibu Gateway on Sept 9, bringing attendance to about 3,000 people.

Following the celebration,

participants will proceed on foot from Sibu Gateway to Kingwood Hotel from 9pm to 10pm.

A second procession will be held on Sept 12, with delegates proceeding from Kingwood Hotel to Sacred Heart Cathedral from about 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

Hii advised motorists to expect temporary traffic congestion and delays during the two processions and, where possible, use alternative routes or allow

additional travelling time.

"We humbly seek the patience, understanding and cooperation of the public during these brief periods," he said.

He also thanked the relevant government agencies, local authorities, security and emergency services, volunteers, Business Event Sarawak and the people of Sibu for their support in facilitating the national gathering.



Chieng observes students demonstrating first aid skills during the World First Aid Day 2026 celebration. — Photo by Peter Boon

Two AEDs to boost emergency response at Sibu markets

SIBU: Two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) will be installed at Sibu Central Market and Tiong Hua Temporary Market to enhance emergency preparedness and community safety.

Bukit Assek assemblyman Joseph Chieng announced his sponsorship of the two AEDs when officiating at the World First Aid Day 2026 celebration here yesterday.

"I hope these AEDs will provide an additional layer of safety for our community and, at the same time, encourage more people to learn first aid skills," he said.

Chieng said the initiative was a joint collaboration between his Bukit Assek Service Centre, Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC) Sibu, and Lions International Mandarin Sibu Chapter.

He said greater public knowledge of basic first aid was crucial as the first few minutes of an emergency could determine the outcome, with bystanders often being the first to provide assistance while waiting for medical personnel.

"That is why first aid should not be regarded as a skill only for doctors, nurses or medical professionals. First aid is a life skill that everyone can learn," he said.

Chieng also commended MRC

Sibu for its efforts in promoting first aid awareness, humanitarian values and volunteerism, particularly among young people.

Meanwhile, MRC Sarawak director Chai King Sing said first aid involved practical skills that improved through continuous training and practice.

"First aiders play an important role in relieving the suffering of patients and those who are injured by applying first aid skills to save lives. That is the objective of first aid," he said.

He also congratulated MRC Sibu branch after six of its representatives participated in this year's online first aid competition.

Three were subsequently selected to represent Sarawak in the upcoming national first aid competition.

MRC Sibu chairman Penghulu Chua Hiong Kee in his remarks stressed the importance of equipping more people with the first aid knowledge and skills, with the long-term aim of having a trained first aider in every home.

"Emergencies can happen to anyone, anywhere and at any time, and the person closest to a victim might not necessarily be a medical professional," he said.

Also present was MRC Sibu advisor Datuk Lau Ngie Hua.

Foreign duo remanded over national park plant removal

KUCHING: Two foreign nationals have been remanded for allegedly taking plant specimens without permission from Santubong National Park last Thursday.

The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) said both men were remanded from Sept 4 to Sept 7 to assist with the investigation.

"On Sept 3 at around 1.50pm, the two individuals were checking out of the park after conducting an activity in the area. Following observations, they were suspected of taking and collecting plant specimens from the area," said SFC in a statement.

It said inspections revealed four transparent plastic bags filled with plant specimens, believed to have been taken from the national park.

"Two backpacks and other items were also seized for further investigation."

SFC said all specimens were recorded and retained as case exhibits, and are currently undergoing identification and further examination to determine their type and species status.

"We are working with the Royal Malaysia Police to complete the investigation and any subsequent action," it added.

The investigation also takes into account the provisions under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998, which prohibits the taking or



Handout photo shows the two foreign nationals detained by SFC.

removal of plants from national park areas without permission from the controller of national parks and nature reserves.

Under Section 26 of the said Ordinance, no person is allowed to take or destroy plants within a national park, or to remove any plant, whether living or dead, without the controller's permission.

"We take a serious view of any activity involving the taking, collecting, or removal

of biological resources from Totally Protected Areas without permission. Such activities may impact the integrity of biodiversity and the long-term conservation efforts of Sarawak.

"Members of the public and visitors are reminded that all flora, fauna, and natural resources within national park areas are protected and must not be taken, removed, or carried out without valid authorisation," SFC said.

Never be afraid to stand firm, report incidents to authorities, bully victims advised

KOTA KINABALU: Students who face bullying are urged to come forward immediately and report the incidents to their teachers, parents and authorities.

Sabah Education Department deputy director (Student Development Sector) Muddin Beting stressed that victims of abuse must stand firm on the truth and justice to prevent their peers from suffering the same fate in the future.

"Get help urgently so that justice can be done. And do not, at any time, bully, abuse or demean your schoolmates," he said in officiating at the 'Kesedaran Aerobeat Bully 2026' programme carried out by the National Consumer Action

Council (MTPN) Sabah here yesterday.

According to Muddin, schools are supposed to be where human capital is developed and thus, students should not attend school with feelings of worry for their safety due to the risk of abuse and bullying.

Adding on, he said the Education Department commended MTPN Sabah for organising the anti-bullying programme, which he hoped would bring positive results throughout the state.

In this respect, he gave assurance that the department would continue supporting the council in running similar programmes in the future.

Meanwhile, MTPN Sabah

Youth chairman Calvin Choo stressed that all students have the right to feel safe at all times.

"We want to share the message that the threat of bullying does not have any place in schools, or in the community.

"We want students to understand that they must be brave, and come forward and help their friends to tell the truth when something negative happens.

"I hope that the participants of the programme will share the message to their peers in their respective schools," said Choo.

Also present were MTPN Sabah chairman cum national MTPN vice-president Kevin Lo and the council's legal advisor Chin Tek Ming.



Wee (fourth left) presents a token of appreciation to Ding.

Diversity strengthens Meradong community, says assemblyman

BINTANGOR: Meradong's diverse communities must continue to strengthen the spirit of respect and cooperation that has enabled people of different backgrounds to live together in harmony, said Datuk Ding Kuong Hiing.

The Meradong assemblyman said the Meradong Festival 2026 demonstrated how diversity could bring communities closer together rather than become a barrier to unity.

"Today, as we bring the festival to a close, we are also celebrating its success, made possible by the efforts and cooperation of the entire Meradong community."

The theme 'Harmony in

Diversity' is very fitting with the identity of the Meradong community, which comprises various races and cultures but continues to live together in unity," he said when officiating at the festival's closing ceremony on Saturday.

Ding said diversity should be regarded as an advantage that enriches community life while providing a strong foundation for the stability and progress of the area.

He stressed that mutual respect, regardless of race or background, remained important in strengthening community relations and preventing

differences from undermining harmony.

"The various activities throughout the festival also demonstrated the strength of our unity and the creativity of our community."

"This spirit must be continued because when the community is united, we can face challenges and move forward together to develop Meradong," he said.

Also present were Tanjong Manis MP Dato Yusuf Abd Wahab, Meradong District officer Wee Teck Min, Meradong police chief DSP Tansli Mering, and Meradong and Julau District Council secretary Stephen Lau.



Representatives of SOP Foundation, Miri Blood Transfusion Unit, MRC Miri and Bintang Megamall Miri pose for a group photo.

SOP Foundation blood drive collects 57 pints

MIRI: A total of 57 pints of blood was collected, while nine individuals pledged to become organ donors, during a blood donation campaign organised by Sarawak Oil Palms Berhad (SOP) Foundation here Saturday.

The campaign drew 67 participants and was supported by Miri Hospital's Blood Transfusion Unit and the Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC) Miri branch.

SOP Foundation said the latest collection brought the total number of successful blood donations from its campaigns

this year to 165 pints.

"Through initiatives such as this, SOP Foundation hopes to encourage more people to make blood donation a regular act of giving and help ensure that blood remains available for those who need it," it said in a statement.

Each successful donor received a 2kg bottle of Merris Lite refined cooking oil and refreshments as a token of appreciation.

The foundation expressed its appreciation to the teams involved in facilitating the donation process and ensuring

the safety and wellbeing of donors throughout the campaign.

It also thanked Miri Hospital's Blood Transfusion Unit, MRC Miri and Bintang Megamall for their support in making the programme a success.

Led by its founder Tan Sri Datuk Ling Chiong Ho, SOP Foundation undertakes initiatives in areas including sustainable development, education, community empowerment, arts and culture, sports and environment stewardships.

Bum-Bum residents gain local access to Sara aid with new partner retailer

SEMPORNA: Recipients of the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) scheme on Pulau Bum-Bum off Sabah's east coast can now redeem essential goods locally, avoiding the need to travel by boat to Semporna.

Following the expansion of Rakan Niaga Sara to the island, residents can now redeem essential goods locally, reducing the need to travel to Semporna where transport costs can range from RM20 to RM50.

Kampung Samal-Samal village chief Ahmad Pangiran, 60, said having a Sara partner retailer on the island had made a significant difference to its 535 residents, most of whom are fishermen and farmers who had to bear high transport costs to travel to Semporna town.

"The cost of travelling by boat to town is very high, while fuel on the island can cost as much as RM6 a litre. Now, residents can redeem the aid closer to home, saving them both time and money," he told Bernama.

According to him, items such as rice, sugar, flour, onions and eggs are now well-stocked and easily accessible at local shops, helping to address the transport problems faced by communities living on Semporna's islands.

Ahmad said the Sara programme should be sustained and the network of partner retailers further expanded, with more essential goods considered for inclusion to serve island communities better.

Sabah has 1,495 Sara partner



The expansion of Rakan Niaga Sara to Pulau Bum-Bum means the island's residents can now redeem essential goods locally, reducing the need to travel to Semporna where transport costs can range from RM20 to RM50. — Bernama photo

retailers, 32 of which are located in Semporna. Koperasi Anugerah Haji Badji on Pulau Bum-Bum is the 33rd Sara partner retailer in the district and the only one on the island.

The Sara partner retailer on Pulau Bum-Bum benefits more than 25,000 residents eligible for the Madani government's Sara Appreciation Aid, including 3,300 who qualify for monthly Sara and Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR).

Arkah Uttok, 52, a housewife from Kampung Samal-Samal,

said residents were delighted to be able to redeem Sara at a local shop, as the assistance helped ease their daily household expenses.

She said she normally used the aid to buy rice, flour and eggs, but had previously faced costs of up to RM40 for a return trip to Semporna, covering the boat fare and the cost of transporting her purchases back home.

"We no longer have to make the trip to town and can now buy our daily essentials here without worrying about expensive

transport costs," she said, expressing hope that the range of Sara-eligible goods would be expanded to include more fresh produce, particularly vegetables.

Datu Ahmad Datu Motalib, 43, from Kampung Samal-Samal, who works as a driver, said he was thankful for Sara, which he described as a valuable initiative that helps B40 households manage rising living costs on the island.

The father of a one-year-old also called for more baby items, including disposable nappies and



Arkah Uttok



Datu Ahmad Datu Motalib

infant formula, to be stocked at local Sara partner retailers and made available for redemption.

"Other everyday essentials are sufficient, but having baby products available would greatly benefit parents with young children on the island," he said, noting that the nearby Sara shop made it easier for him to shop without having to bear extra costs.

Meanwhile, Roseyatimah Marahaban, 60, of Kampung Lok Kiba welcomed the fact that the Sara partner retailer was only about three minutes from her home, making it easier for her to buy essential items, especially rice.

She revealed that trips to Semporna town using her own boat cost as much as RM50 in fuel for a return journey, depending on sea conditions.

"The range of essential goods at the local shop is sufficient for our daily needs, so we have greater peace of mind without having to travel by boat to town frequently," she said, hoping the high-impact programme would continue for the convenience of

residents on the island.

Housewife Elsay Otoh, 40, from Kampung Terusan Tengah, echoed the sentiment, saying a trip to Semporna town typically costs RM12 for boat and land transport, but could rise to more than RM30 once delivery charges for bringing the goods home were added.

"Alhamdulillah, having this facility in our own village has been a great help. We no longer need to travel to town as essential goods are readily available here," she said, expressing hope that daily necessities such as rice would continue to be stocked consistently to meet the needs of the island community.

Fisherman Damsal Abdullah, 39, of Kampung Seri Kurnia said the initiative had brought relief to island residents by reducing the financial and physical strain of travelling.

"It is much easier now and saves time. I hope baby products and care essentials can also be added here to make things more convenient for families," said the father of a six-month-old. — Bernama

Exercise care when burning joss paper, devotees advised

**Cindy Lai**
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MIRI: Devotees observing the Hungry Ghost Festival and joss-paper burning are reminded to uphold responsible practice to ensure safety amid deteriorating air quality.

Minister of Transport Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin said in view of the current haze situation, it served as a reminder to locals that any open burning could worsen air quality if not carried out carefully.

"Therefore, a little extra care must be taken when performing the rituals and burning. We must ensure the fire is properly controlled and completely extinguished after the prayers.

"Everyone must work together with relevant agencies, including the Fire and Rescue Department, to prevent fires from spreading.

"Don't leave burning incense or joss papers unattended, and ensure that embers are fully extinguished before leaving the area," he said.

Lee, who is Senadin assemblyman, said this when officiating at the 'Ullambana for Souls' at the Miri Buddhist Meditation Society yesterday.

The ceremony is an annual Buddhist ritual held to honour ancestors and the dearly departed during the seventh lunar month, coinciding with the Hungry Ghost Month.

During the ritual, prayers and chanting are performed, along with acts of generosity such as offering food and burning the 'spirit money' (joss paper) and paper representations of daily necessities for the deceased, including wandering spirits, to help them find peace or a favourable rebirth.

Lee said Sarawak's multiracial,



Lee (third right) is guided by the Masters in lighting the lotus candle for blessings before the Ullambana ceremony.

Therefore, a little extra care must be taken when performing the rituals and burning. We must ensure the fire is properly controlled and completely extinguished after the prayers.

Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin

multi-religious and multi-cultural character remained one of its most valuable social assets, with people of different faiths, languages and cultural traditions living together in mutual respect and harmony.

On another subject, the minister said the state government had consistently supported the development of religious organisations through allocations channelled via the Unit for Other Religions (Unifor).

"Over the past five years,

the Senadin constituency has received over RM10 million in allocations through Unifor, assisting various religious organisations in the constituency to improve and upgrade their places of worship and related facilities.

"Miri Buddhist Meditation Society on Canada Hill is also among the religious organisations that have received support from the government," he said.

He added that the purpose of these allocations was to ensure that religious organisations

would have better, safer and more comfortable facilities for devotees to carry out their religious activities, while allowing them to continue contributing towards community bonding, social welfare and religious harmony.

"The state government's position remains clear—it values the state's diversity and respected the development of all religions.

"As long as it contributes to social harmony, community well-being and the needs of the people, we will do our best to provide support," he said.

In support of the temple's prayer activities, Lee handed over a RM50,000 cheque under his annual allocation.

Also present were Masters Jina Low Kok Hua, Teh Peng Guan, Sit Ha An and Lu Tiaw Ken, who performed the prayer ritual, as well as the society's chairman, Chua Soon Teng.

Putrajaya asked to pursue bilateral haze pact with Indonesia

KUCHING: The federal government has been urged to initiate negotiations with Indonesia on the prevention and control of transboundary haze, with clear provisions on accountability and enforcement.

Social activist Voon Shiak Ni said such an agreement should go beyond declarations of cooperation by setting out clear obligations, monitoring mechanisms, enforcement measures and consequences for non-compliance.

"Joint efforts can be forged between Malaysia and Indonesia to establish coordinated systems to detect and prevent forest and plantation fires before they become major incidents," she said in a statement.

Voon said accountability for open burning should be a key component of the agreement, including transparent investigation mechanism.

Companies or individuals who deliberately started fire for plantation development, land clearing or other purposes should be identified and prosecuted under the relevant laws, she added.

"Where fires are suspected to have caused transboundary haze, there should be a joint mechanism to determine the source, responsibility and extent of the impact based on satellite data, ground investigations and other scientific evidence.

"When hazardous air pollution reaches critical levels, both countries should coordinate emergency protocols covering healthcare preparedness, public warnings, schools, vulnerable groups and other necessary protective measures," she said.

The objective, she stressed, was not to penalise Indonesia or create diplomatic confrontation but to establish sufficient accountability and deterrence so that forest and plantation fires could be prevented from

becoming a recurring regional crisis.

She said while Asean cooperation remained important, its effectiveness could be limited by the principle of respect for member states' sovereignty, making a bilateral arrangement with concrete commitments particularly important.

"Sarawak should not be expected to repeatedly spend millions fighting fires, protecting public health and managing the economic consequences of the haze caused by fires beyond its borders," she said.

Voon also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to take the lead in proposing a Malaysia-Indonesia transboundary haze prevention and accountability agreement with strong enforcement provisions.

"The people of Sarawak and Malaysia cannot continue to suffer from the haze year in and out. Regional cooperation must ultimately be measured not by the number of declarations signed, but by whether it can prevent the fires from happening in the first place," she said.

She said transboundary haze was no longer merely a seasonal environmental nuisance but a serious regional environmental and public health issue with significant economic and social consequences.

"When fires occur in one country and the resulting smoke crosses national borders, neighbouring countries should not be left to bear the enormous costs of dealing with the consequences," she said.

"This year's haze crisis originating from Indonesia has once again affected neighbouring countries, with Sarawak particularly badly hit. Worse, there is no clarity as to who should be accountable for all these suffering and economic losses."



Wong (second row, seventh right) joins Namlifa members for a group photo.

Rep: Insurance advisors have responsibility beyond selling policies

SIBU: Insurance professionals must uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity, with their reputations measured not merely by the number of policies sold but by how well they serve, advise and protect their clients, said Bawang Assan assemblyman Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh.

Speaking at the launch of a pickleball competition organised by the National Association of Malaysian Life Insurance Fieldforce and Advisors (Namlifa) here yesterday, Wong highlighted the important role insurance agents and advisors play in safeguarding the financial wellbeing of individuals and families.

"At its heart, insurance is about protection, responsibility and peace of mind. None of us can predict what tomorrow may bring.

"Illness, accidents, disability, premature death and other unexpected circumstances can have a profound financial impact on individuals and families," he said.

Wong said life insurance provides an important safety net, helping families cope with uncertainties and providing greater financial security.

He said an insurance advisor's

responsibility also extends beyond selling a policy, particularly when clients need guidance through the claims process or assistance during difficult times.

"The work of an insurance advisor carries a great deal of responsibility. It requires not only professional knowledge and communication skills, but also integrity, patience, empathy and a genuine concern for the welfare of clients," he said.

He noted that relationships between advisors and clients could span decades and were ultimately built on trust.

"Once that trust is established, the advisor becomes much more than a salesperson. He or she becomes a trusted financial adviser and a person whom the family can turn to during difficult moments," he said.

On the pickleball competition, Wong said the event reflected Namlifa's commitment not only to the professional development of its members but also to their health, wellbeing and fellowship.

He hoped the event would strengthen camaraderie among insurance professionals, promote healthier lifestyles and provide greater opportunities for interaction among those from different companies and walks of life.

St Augustine's Parish Mambong annual sale draws strong community support

KUCHING: The St Augustine's Parish Mambong Annual Sale 2026, held at the Kampung Mambong Community Hall on Saturday, drew strong support from church members and residents.

The annual sale, organised to raise funds for parish development, was officiated by Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Dr Jerip Susil.

"This is truly a noble effort. The sale was more than a fundraising initiative; it also served as a platform to strengthen unity, cooperation and the spiritual development of the community.

"The participation of seven churches within the parish reflects the spirit of togetherness and cooperation within the church community, while providing an avenue to strengthen fellowship and deepen spiritual ties," he said in his speech.

Dr Jerip, who is Mambong assemblyman, stressed the importance of transparent and responsible financial



Rev Fr Jeffrey (fourth right) presents a memento to Dr Jerip for officiating at the event.

management, with funds allocated in accordance with approved purposes and supported by comprehensive reports.

He said church development should progress hand in hand with both physical and spiritual

development, with churches continuing to play an important role in shaping communities, particularly among the younger generation, and fostering a united society.

"I hope the annual sale can

be further developed as a community entrepreneurship platform by showcasing local food products, agricultural produce and handicrafts to help generate income for the community," he added.

Meanwhile, organising chairman Oliver Junaidi Kutoi in his welcoming speech said proceeds from the annual sale would help support the parish's development and operational needs.

"These include constructing a vicarage, upgrading the parish office and improving the church's electricity supply," he said.

Also present were Padawan sub-district administrative officer Julius Scot Sapong, St Augustine's Parish Mambong Vicar Rev Fr Jeffrey Renos Nawie, Pemancha Raymond Jihad, Penghulu Dolik Sembong, Diocese Women Fellowship president Nyuhenn Linggon, Kampung Mambong village chief James Dio, as well as community leaders and representatives from the seven participating churches.

Haze: Bintulu regular runners shift to fitness training indoors

BINTULU: The worsening haze situation here is prompting some regular runners to temporarily move their training indoors, with health taking priority over maintaining outdoor fitness routines.

Felix Entri said it is difficult for hardcore runners to resist the urge to run as the activity has become a routine and part of their lifestyle.

"But in conditions like the current haze, we need to know our limits," he said.

He said being a hardcore runner did not mean still running outdoors regardless of the conditions, adding that true discipline also meant knowing when to stop or switch to alternative forms of training.

"When we run, our breathing becomes faster and we inhale more air. If the air quality is

unhealthy, personally I would rather skip outdoor running temporarily than risk my lungs.

"Training can be replaced, but health is more important. We want to continue running for the long term, so we should not be stubborn," he stressed.

Felix said runners could maintain their fitness indoors through treadmill running, strength training and mobility exercises at the gym.

Fellow enthusiast Brian Kee said runners should focus on longevity rather than pushing through adverse conditions, particularly when air quality was deteriorating.

"Peak performance is about longevity, not just pushing through bad weather.

"When air quality drops, shift your routine to an indoor treadmill to protect your lungs,"

he said.

Kee said runners preparing for upcoming races should not force themselves into continuing outdoor training if the haze disrupted their preparation.

"Stay healthy, keep consistent where you can, and target the next event under better conditions."

Nevertheless, a number of hardcore runners could still be seen exercising outdoors at locations including Bintulu Civic Centre and Tanjung Batu, as well as other popular exercise spots.

Bintulu's air quality had fluctuated between the 'Unhealthy' and 'Very Unhealthy' categories over the past several days.

As at 8am yesterday, Bintulu's Air Pollutant Index (API) reading stood at 199, slightly below the 'Very Unhealthy' threshold of

201, after recording 206 at 8pm on Saturday.

The reading had crossed into the 'Very Unhealthy' category on Saturday, with Bintulu recording an API of 210 at 4pm.

An API reading between 201 and 300 is classified as 'Very Unhealthy'.

The Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) Sarawak's API classification states that 'Very Unhealthy' air quality can affect public health and reduce tolerance for physical exercise, particularly among people with heart and lung complications.

Health authorities have also advised the public to limit or avoid outdoor activities during periods of poor air quality, particularly when API readings reach 'Unhealthy' or higher levels.



Mahfuza said the idea of developing a calcium supplement from the bones of suckermouth catfish was inspired by a collaborative research project with her students.

Muhammad Adzhar Tajudin

KAMPUNG GAJAH: Armed with little more than the facilities in their school laboratory, a team of six students, guided by their biology teacher, made a mark in the field of innovation by developing a calcium supplement from the bones of the invasive suckermouth catfish, or ikan bandaraya as it is commonly known in Malay.

The achievement by the students of Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) Pasir Salak in Perak demonstrates that with the right guidance and a supportive learning environment, Malaysia's education system is capable of nurturing outstanding young talent in science and innovation.

The innovation could also contribute to efforts to address the proliferation of the suckermouth catfish (*Hypostomus plecostomus*), an invasive alien species that has increasingly threatened the ecological balance of the country's rivers.

Originally from South America, the suckermouth catfish can be found in many rivers in Malaysia. These fish breed rapidly and dominate rivers and lakes, outcompeting native fish for space and food.

Started with chicken bones

MRSM Pasir Salak biology teacher Mahfuza Mansor told Bernama the idea of producing a calcium supplement from suckermouth catfish bones stemmed from research she had conducted with students two years ago using discarded chicken bones.

"At the time, we collected chicken bones from the school hostel's dining hall after noticing that most of them were simply thrown away, even though they had the potential to be put to good use.

"Through that research (carried out over a period of five months), we successfully processed the (chicken) bones into calcium supplement powder," she said, adding that this particular innovation also earned them the gold medal in the national-level IDEA'24 Innovation Development Through Educational Activities Competition in September 2024.

When discussions about the invasive fish began gaining traction on social media, Mahfuza saw potential in its bones.

"I thought, if chicken bones can be transformed into a source of calcium, why not do the same with the bones of the bandaraya fish, which are often discarded after the fish are caught?"

Schoolwide enrichment model

The idea evolved into a structured research project in April 2025 under the Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM),

MRSM students turn invasive fish into health supplement

which is a key component of the MRSM education system to foster higher-order thinking and creative productivity.

Before carrying out any experiment, the selected MRSM Pasir Salak students were required to review scientific journals, academic articles and research papers to understand the composition and potential of the suckermouth catfish.

Mahfuza said the literature review was essential to ensure that every stage of the research was grounded in sound scientific evidence rather than assumptions.

"We spent almost three months studying the research materials. The students not only read scientific journals but were also required to understand and present the (published) findings back to me.

"From the literature, we discovered that the fish bones contain important components such as calcium, collagen and gelatin, all of which have the potential to be developed into health supplements," she said.

She added that previous studies, including research conducted by Universiti Putra Malaysia, had also shown that fish bones are rich in calcium,

further strengthening the team's confidence to pursue the project.

Experiments

With the scientific evidence in hand, Mahfuza began sourcing suckermouth catfish specimens for laboratory experiments.

The samples were obtained from social media content creator Mohd Nur Badri Mat Sidek, better known as Dunia Badol on Facebook, who is well-known for catching the invasive fish.

"I contacted him to ask for several samples of the fish. When he asked how many I needed, I told him I only wanted the bones. He was quite surprised because, according to him, people are usually interested in the fish's roe and flesh.

"I explained that our focus was on turning what is normally discarded as waste into something beneficial," she said.

Results

Once the samples were obtained, the students began a series of laboratory experiments to produce the calcium supplement from the fish bones.

Mahfuza said the raw materials underwent several stages of processing and repeated trials

before the team successfully produced stable calcium powder as the project's prototype.

"The process did not happen all at once. We carried out several rounds of experiments before producing calcium powder that was stable enough for scientific testing," she said.

The powder was subsequently sent to Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) for composition analysis using an Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) Spectroscopy instrument.

The analysis was conducted to determine the product's mineral content while also ensuring that heavy metal levels were within safe limits.

"The test results showed that the sample contained a high level of calcium, while the concentration of arsenic, a heavy metal, was extremely low at about 0.008 mg (milligrammes) per litre, well below the maximum permissible limit of five mg per litre," she said.

The findings reinforced the potential of suckermouth catfish bones as a safe alternative source of calcium that could be developed into an innovative health supplement, particularly for the health food sector.

Mahfuza said the entire



The students' innovation is viewed as a way to contribute to efforts to address the proliferation of the invasive suckermouth catfish.



Team leader Muhhamad Danish described his involvement in the project as a valuable experience that deepened his understanding of scientific research.

research process, from laboratory experiments at the school to scientific analysis at UTP, took about three months to complete.

International recognition

Mahfuza said the project achieved global recognition at an innovation competition in Jakarta in June this year. The awards included emerging champion in the Sustainable Development Goals category and winning the gold medal at the International Invention & Innovation Competition (I3C). It also won the gold medal at the Innovation World Cup (IWC), also held in Jakarta the same month.

The innovation also won a gold medal and the Excellent Research Award at Expo-Sciences International in Abu Dhabi, held from Sept 27 to Oct 3 last year.

Mahfuza said the accolades affirm the product's commercial potential while highlighting its contribution to environmental sustainability.

She also said the project aligns with the principles of the circular economy by transforming waste materials or low-value invasive species into useful products, creating opportunities for the development of value-added innovations and new sources of income.

"Once this product (calcium supplement) is commercialised, more suckermouth catfish will be harvested as raw material for production. Indirectly, this will help control and reduce the population of this invasive species in our waterways," she said.

Valuable lessons for students

For Muhammad Danish Iman Ahmad Daud, 16, who led the team, participating in his school's research project provided invaluable exposure to scientific studies, although balancing the project's demands with his academic responsibilities required considerable commitment.

"One of the biggest challenges was time management, as well as ensuring every team member remained committed to attending meetings, completing

assigned tasks and meeting the project deadlines," he said.

His teammate Muhammad Rayyan Zafri Che Amat, 16, said the project gave him the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in scientific research, particularly laboratory experiments that required precision and strict adherence to procedures.

He said the greatest challenge was conducting experiments involving chemicals and complex scientific procedures, which had to be done with caution to ensure safety, as well as the accuracy of research findings.

"Even a minor error could affect the study's results," he said.

Fostering culture of research, innovation

MRSM Pasir Salak principal Mohd Fadzli Muhammad said the success of the school's innovation is a testament to its efforts to cultivate a strong culture of research and innovation among its students.

"This research culture is nurtured through the implementation of the Schoolwide Enrichment Model, which is one of the key components of the MRSM education system.

"Through SEM, students are exposed to the entire research process in a systematic manner, from generating ideas and collecting data to conducting research, preparing reports and presenting their findings," he said.

He added that the programme enables students to develop initial ideas into innovations possessing greater value and impact under the guidance of trained teachers.

On efforts to further strengthen research among students, Mohd Fadzli said the school aims for 90 per cent of its students to pursue the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), in line with MRSM's educational aspirations.

"To achieve this, we must continue creating the necessary environment and organising programmes that support research and innovation so that this culture continues to flourish among our students," he said.

— Bernama



The calcium supplement was developed from the bones of the invasive suckermouth catfish, commonly known as ikan bandaraya in Malay. — Bernama photos



The project has won several international awards, including at an innovation competition in Jakarta.



Suckermouth catfish bones contain valuable components such as calcium, collagen and gelatin, making them a potential source of health supplements.

Call to undertake preservation of sape heritage



MIRI: The younger generation should undertake a greater role in preserving and developing the sape as part of Sarawak's cultural heritage, said Datuk Snowdan Lawan.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts said they should continue learning, appreciating and promoting the traditional musical instrument to wider audiences.

"The future of the sape and Sarawak's cultural heritage is in the younger generation's hands," he said in a speech for the 'Sape Fest: Reimagined 2026' concert at Bintang Megamall here on Saturday.

The speech was delivered by the Sarawak Premier's political secretary Susan Clement Ingun.

Adding on, Snowdan said the growing number of young people learning and mastering the sape showed that the traditional instrument continued to have a place among the younger generation.

He regarded the traditional lute as more than just a musical instrument, as it represented the identity, history and soul of the Orang Ulu community.

"Its melodies carried stories, values and wisdom to be passed down through generations," he said.



(From left) Elizabeth, Ting, Susan and Romulus pose for a group photo.

Snowdan said efforts to bring the sape to wider audiences through creative and innovative approaches had been encouraging.

He said the 'Reimagined' concept allowed traditional and contemporary elements to be combined without compromising the instrument's authenticity.

"This is what makes cultural arts remain relevant and able to attract the interest of the younger generation as well as the international community," he said.

The ministry, he added, would continue supporting cultural exchanges, capacity building and international collaborations to

strengthen the creative industry.

On the Sape Fest, Snowdan said could also serve as a platform to introduce Sarawak's cultural identity to audiences beyond the state.

The three-day event, which concluded yesterday, featured performances by local sape musicians and artists, including traditional, contemporary and collaborative presentations.

Also present were Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Dato Sebastian Ting, Councillor Romulus Charles Agan Raja, and Persatuan Anak Seni Sape Kuching chairwoman Elizabeth Bungan Peter.



Participants of CHERY Borneo Drive 2.0 pose for a group photo in front of the showroom.

CHERY Borneo Drive 2.0 showcases TIGGO PHEV versatility

KOTA KINABALU: CHERY's TIGGO plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) models recently demonstrated their versatility across Sabah during CHERY Borneo Drive 2.0, a three-day journey covering more than 734km from Kota Kinabalu to Tawau.

The drive took participants through Kudasang, Sandakan and Lahad Datu, providing a real-world opportunity to experience the combination of electric driving, hybrid efficiency, performance and comfort offered by CHERY's PHEV technology.

The journey highlighted how PHEV technology could support both everyday driving and longer-distance travel by combining electric power with the flexibility of a hybrid system.

At the centre of the TIGGO PHEV range is CHERY's Super Hybrid (CSH) technology, which integrates a dedicated hybrid engine, electric motors, a dedicated hybrid transmission and a high-capacity battery.

The system allows drivers to use pure electric power for quieter and more efficient everyday driving, while the hybrid system provides additional range and power when travelling longer distances.

The TIGGO 7 PHEV and TIGGO 8 PHEV are equipped with an

18.3kWh lithium iron phosphate (LFP) battery, offering up to 90km of pure electric driving range and a combined driving range of up to 1,200km under the stated conditions.

Charging capability is another aspect designed to support longer journeys. The PHEV models support DC fast-charging, with the battery capable of charging from 30 per cent to 80 per cent in around 19 minutes using a 40kW DC charger.

The hybrid system also provides different driving modes for varying road and driving conditions, allowing the vehicle to operate using electric power, engine-generated electricity, combined engine and motor power, or direct engine drive.

These capabilities were put into context during the Borneo Drive as participants travelled across a range of road conditions, from the winding mountain roads of Kudasang to the longer routes connecting Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Tawau. The drive also incorporated activities beyond the road experience, including a visit to the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, visits to CHERY showrooms and service centres, as well as Super Hybrid Technology Talk sessions in Kota

Kinabalu, Sandakan and Tawau.

The sessions provided CHERY owners, potential customers and guests the opportunity to learn more about PHEV technology and its benefits, while engaging directly with the CHERY team.

The convoy brought together CHERY representatives, automotive enthusiasts and influencers including Cora Jean, Adrian Edy, Jackson Goh, Ashley Ting and Apple Fu.

In addition to its electrified powertrain technology, the TIGGO PHEV range places emphasis on comfort and intelligent features.

Depending on the model, equipment includes digital displays, wireless Apple CarPlay™ and Android Auto™, premium audio systems, a panoramic sunroof and advanced driver assistance technologies.

By combining electric efficiency for daily driving with hybrid flexibility for longer journeys, the TIGGO PHEV is designed to provide drivers with greater freedom while balancing efficiency, performance and practicality.

For more information, contact Universal Chery Iramanis in Kota Kinabalu via 016-833 5090; Universal Chery Sandakan via 016-813 7200; and Universal Chery Tawau via 016-808 1590.

PPD: Kapit schools remain open amid haze

KAPIT: The District Education Office (PPD) here has announced that all schools in the district will open as usual amidst the haze situation.

In a statement, the PPD said teachers and students have been advised to attend school as usual.

There are four secondary schools and 44 primary schools in the district.

According to PPD Kapit officer Jarit Jarmit, schools in Kapit are not affected by the directive on school closures arising from deteriorating air quality.

"However, all students, teachers and school staff members are advised to take precautionary measures, including wearing face masks, drinking plenty of water, cutting down outdoor activities,

and immediately going to the nearest clinic if feeling unwell," he said. Jarit also advised school management to remain alert to the haze situation and comply with any further instructions issued by the relevant authorities.

"Keep watch over the updates on the API (Air Pollutant Index) readings issued by MetMalaysia," he added.

DAP man calls for swift action on Miri landslide, erosion risks

MIRI: Democratic Action Party (DAP) Sarawak secretary Alan Ling has called for prompt action by the State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) and relevant agencies to address landslides, soil erosion and other potential disaster risks.

His call followed the completion of repair works on the Rock Cliff site near Taman Awam Miri, where a section had collapsed and was affected by soil erosion.

Ling thanked residents who raised concerns over the condition of the site and brought the matter to his attention, enabling it to be referred to the relevant authorities.

"I am grateful that the problem has now been fully rectified. I truly appreciate the concern and support shown by the public in speaking up for the safety and interests of the community," he said.

However, he cautioned that delays in addressing slope erosion and other disaster-related risks



Ling inspects the Rock Cliff site following the completion of repair works.

could worsen the situation and result in higher remedial costs.

"In cases involving public safety and potential disasters, a swift response is crucial. Delays can worsen the situation and may eventually require greater funding for remedial works."

He noted that other areas, particularly hilly routes such

as Canada Hill, also required attention due to concerns over landslides and soil erosion.

Ling urged the relevant agencies to strengthen monitoring of roads, slopes and hilly areas identified as vulnerable, while prioritising preventive measures and timely maintenance.

Persistent knee pain in children could be bone cancer, doctor cautions

KUALA LUMPUR: Parents, coaches and sports trainers are advised not to dismiss persistent knee pain in children as a common sports injury or simply 'growing pains', as it could be an early warning sign of osteosarcoma, an aggressive form of bone cancer.

Osteosarcoma commonly affects children and adolescents, with approximately 75 per cent of cases occurring before the age of 25. The annual incidence rate stands at 4.4 cases per million people.

Dr Tie Teck Liang, an orthopaedic oncology surgeon at Sunway Medical Centre in Bandar

Sunway, said osteosarcoma typically develops around the knee, making its symptoms easy to mistake for sports-related injuries, often leading to delayed diagnosis.

"Normally, pain from a sports injury will subside with rest and painkillers. However, if the pain persists for more than two weeks, remains severe, or no longer responds to pain medication, immediate medical attention is necessary," he said in a statement.

He added that it is more important to observe the pattern rather than the level

of pain, especially if the pain wakes the child up at night, or is accompanied by a lump, swollen leg, or limping without any obvious cause.

Commenting on the challenges of detecting osteosarcoma at an early stage, Dr Tie said that unlike ordinary tissue injuries, cancerous tumours can grow rapidly in a child's body and involve nearby nerves and blood vessels, making treatment more complex.

"An X-ray is the first step in evaluating persistent bone pain, as it can reveal abnormal bone changes and help doctors

determine the next course of action," he said.

He added that if suspicious changes appear on the X-ray, further imaging such as an MRI may be needed to determine the size of the tumour and its position in relation to nearby nerves and blood vessels.

Dr Tie also cautioned that a biopsy, or tissue sample collection, must be carefully planned and ideally performed by the same surgeon who will carry out the patient's definitive surgery, to minimise the risk of tissue contamination.

"A poorly planned biopsy can

contaminate surrounding tissues, complicate the reconstruction process, increase the risk of cancer recurrence, and raise the likelihood that the limb may need to be amputated," he explained.

He said advancements in treatment now make limb-sparing surgery possible for selected cases, including through biological reconstruction methods such as cryotherapy.

In this procedure, the affected section of the patient's bone is removed and treated with liquid nitrogen at minus 196 degrees Celsius to destroy the cancer cells, before the bone is re-implanted.

"The advantage is that we use the patient's own bone, which reduces issues like size mismatch and supports natural bone healing in certain cases.

"For children, this approach can also help minimise leg length discrepancies and preserve long-term function," he said.

He added that the overall treatment and recovery process, including chemotherapy and surgery, can take about a year.

"However, early diagnosis is crucial to improving the chances of limb preservation and enabling patients to return to an active and normal life," he said. — Bernama

‘Komuniti Madani must remain bridge between govt, people’

KUALA LUMPUR: Bandar Tun Razak MP Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail called for the Komuniti Madani initiative to play a greater role as a bridge between the government and the people.

The Prime Minister’s wife said this role is crucial to ensure that every government policy and initiative reaches its intended targets, while also effectively channelling public feedback to the relevant agencies for further action.

“Do not merely be information transmitters; be attentive listeners to the issues affecting the elderly, families in distress and the needs of the youth,” she said at the Komuniti Madani appointment certificate ceremony for her parliamentary constituency, here yesterday.

Also present were the Prime Minister’s political secretary Datuk Azman Abidin, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya Federal Territories Information Department director Nor Maizatul Akmal Pujat, and Bandar Tun Razak Komuniti Madani chairman Jonathan



Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail

Bella.

Dr Wan Azizah said as the government’s eyes and ears, community members must be proactive in following up on issues faced by the public.

She said that while Komuniti Madani may not be able to resolve every issue raised, the network must ensure that each concern reaches those with the authority and responsibility to act.

She also said the initiative must also serve as a frontline defence against the spread of false information, particularly in the age of social media.

“Misinformation spreads rapidly and can disrupt harmony. Komuniti Madani must be the

first line of defence against falsehoods, adhering to the principle: ‘Check before sharing’.

“We may have differing views, but we must always maintain mutual respect,” she said.

She also emphasised that the true strength of any community lies in the relationships between neighbours and the willingness of people of diverse races and backgrounds to help and support one another.

In this regard, Dr Wan Azizah said the appointees must uphold trust and integrity, proactively engage with the community, and listen closely to the people’s concerns.

Komuniti Madani is a rebranding of the 1,878 Komuniti Keluarga Malaysia groups, following the launch of the Malaysia Madani framework on Jan 19, 2023.

In the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya, 72 Komuniti Madani groups have been established, and the network’s strength depends on volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to serving the community. — Bernama



Tengku Muhammad Ismail confers the SSMZ on Wan Ahmad Farid. — Bernama photo

Chief Justice heads list of 128 Terengganu honours recipients

KUALA TERENGGANU: Chief Justice Tun Wan Ahmad Farid Wan Salleh topped the list of 128 recipients of the Terengganu state honours and medals in conjunction with the 64th birthday celebration of the Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin.

The Regent of Terengganu, Tengku Muhammad Ismail Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, graced the investiture ceremony held at the Balaiorong Seri of Istana Syarqiyyah here.

Also in attendance were his younger siblings, Tengku Seri Setia Mahkota Raja Tengku Datuk Seri Muhammad Muaz; Tengku Puteri Utama Raja Tengku Nadhirah Zahrah; and Tengku Puteri Daulath Raja Tengku Fatimatuz Zahra’.

Wan Ahmad Farid was conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Seri Setia Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Terengganu (SSMZ), which carries the title ‘Datuk Seri’.

Also receiving the SSMZ were

Qatar Ambassador to Malaysia Datuk Seri Salah Mohammed Al-Sorour; Chief of Air Force General Tan Sri Muhamad Norazlan Aris; and Terengganu Equestrian Association deputy president Tan Sri Abdullah Taib.

Tengku Muhammad Ismail also conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Datuk Setia Sultan Mizan Abidin Terengganu (DSMZ), which carries the title ‘Datuk’, on Federal Court Judge Datuk Che Mohd Ruzima Ghazali and CelcomDigi Berhad board adviser and former chief executive officer Datuk Mohamad Idham Nawawi.

Also receiving the DSMZ were Mirmas Holding Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Awalan Abdul Aziz and Messrs Feroz@Co managing partner Datuk Feroz A.S. Moidunny.

In addition, 27 recipients were conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Datuk Paduka Mahkota Terengganu, which also carries the title ‘Datuk’, including renowned actor Datuk Abdul

Manan Embong and Terengganu Tourism, Culture, Environment and Climate Change Committee chairman Datuk Razali Idris.

Also receiving the same award were Dungun MP Datuk Wan Hassan Mohd Ramli; Universiti Malaysia Terengganu vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Zamri Ibrahim; and Terengganu police chief Datuk Mohd Khairi Khairudin.

Tengku Muhammad Ismail also conferred the Darjah Kebesaran Setia Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Terengganu on 17 recipients, including Terengganu Information, Dakwah and Syariah Empowerment Committee chairman Muhammad Khalil Abdul Hadi.

At the ceremony, 17 recipients were awarded the Darjah Kebesaran Setia Mahkota Terengganu; 20 received the Darjah Kebesaran Ahli Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Terengganu; and 39 individuals were awarded the Darjah Kebesaran Ahli Mahkota Terengganu. — Bernama

MoHE brings Madani spirit to village community via ‘Grassroots Synergy’ programme

KLUANG: The Higher Education Ministry (MoHE) brought the Malaysia Madani spirit closer to the community through a programme held at Kampung Tengah here in the weekend.

Themed ‘Empowering Kampung Tengah, Kluang Community Through Ministry and Grassroots Synergy’, was held under the patronage of MoHE secretary-general Datuk Dr Aminuddin Hassim.

It involved personnel from the ministry and higher education institutions, as well as schools, government agencies and the local community.

A variety of activities were carried out throughout the two-day programme, covering spiritual, community, fitness, recreational, educational and technological aspects.

Among the activities were Semarak Subuh, congregational prayers, tazkirah (sharing-session), a special religious talk, as well as the Kenduri Rakyat (People’s Feast) and rawang (communal programme).

There was also a 3km Jalan-jalan Jalur Gemilang—a mass walk activity held in conjunction with the National Month, alongside other physical activities such as brisk walking, mass aerobics, petanque, archery, darts and traditional games.

Young people were also given attention through activities such as a robotics workshop, the FIRA Junior competition, e-sports and a drone demonstration.

In addition, members of the local community benefitted from health screenings, agency exhibitions, a Rahmah Sales,



Aminuddin (seated, right) and other officials spend time with the village’s youngsters during the robotics workshop. — Photo from Instagram/mohe.official

as well as spa and hair-cutting services.

The programme received cooperation from the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living, Road Transport Department, National Anti-Drugs Agency, Kampung Tengah Kluang security and development committee, and Waqaf An-Nur.

Strategic partners from the higher education ecosystem also participated, including Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, polytechnics and community colleges, as well as UPUOnline.

Also involved were the MoHE’s Association of Wives and Women Members of the Public Services, MoHE Joint Departmental Council, Surau Ibadurrahman, and MoHE Sports and Welfare Club.

“The 2026 Santuni Madani Programme demonstrates our efforts to strengthen ties between ministry personnel, higher education institutions and local communities through direct participation and collaborative initiatives that benefit the people,” said MoHE in a statement.

Keris offers insight into status, traditions of Malay communities

KOTA BHARU: The keris is more than a weapon from the past, with its various types, forms, and designs reflecting the social status, roles, and way of life of earlier Malay communities, according to enthusiasts.

According to old weapons collector Aizal Azwan Amaran, 35, each keris carries its own historical significance, philosophy and identity, with links to its owners.

“Every keris carries symbols and reflects the identity of its owner, whether a ruler, noble, religious scholar or ordinary person.

“It was used for self-defence and to protect the homeland,” he told Bernama at the Kelantan Heritage Weapons Festival at Istana Balai Besar here, which had just concluded.

Another collector, Azek Abu Bakar, 64, said differences in the types and forms of keris also reflected their owners’ roles and status in society.

He said the short ‘Keris Debek’ was commonly associated with religious figures or ‘tok lebai’, while the longer ‘Keris Penyalang’ symbolised customary authority



Aizal Azwan takes a look at a section of keris on display at the festival. — Bernama photo

and was often associated with the enforcement of laws.

Azek said the blade design, ‘ukiran kerawang’ (openwork carvings), and the ‘sampir’ (sheath) could also provide clues to the origins of a keris.

He said sampir designs in the east coast states were strongly influenced by the sea and boats,

reflecting the lives of earlier communities whose livelihoods partly depended on fishing.

“This demonstrates that keris were not merely used for self-defence, but also reflected the authority, responsibilities, culture and way of life of the communities that produced them,” he said. — Bernama

N. Sembilan government pledges full allegiance to Tuanku Muhriz — MB

SEREMBAN: Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Ismail Lasim, together with the state government, has expressed full support and pledged allegiance

to Tuanku Muhriz Tuanku Munawir as the Yang Dipertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan.

In a statement, Ismail said his focus now was to carry out his

responsibilities as the Menteri Besar in the interests of the people and the state.

“I take note of the statement issued by the Undang Yang

Empat yesterday. Whatever views they may have are their right,” he said.

On Saturday, the Secretariat of the Undang Yang Empat

demanding that the state government administration, particularly the State Secretary, comply with the proclamation on the removal of Tuanku

Muhriz as the Yang Dipertuan Besar, which Ismail was alleged to have signed at Istana Laguna Biru, Port Dickson on Aug 3. — Bernama

Melaka hopes rural STEM empowerment prioritised in Budget 2027

MELAKA: The Melaka government hopes that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in rural areas is among the focuses to be given priority in Budget 2027.

Science, Technology, Innovation and Digital Communication Committee deputy chairman Datuk Mohd Noor Helmy Abdul Halem said continuous allocation and support are greatly needed to ensure rural students have opportunities to explore the latest technologies, thereby narrowing the gap with their

urban peers.

He said focus should be given to efforts to expand technology exposure programmes such as drones, three-dimensional (3D) printing and solar cars through practical and interactive activities.

“In my capacity in the science and technology portfolio, I hope all efforts to empower STEM in rural areas can be continued. We want to expose them to future technologies in a practical manner so that they are not left behind,” he told Bernama.

Mohd Noor Helmy, who

is Duyong assemblyman, said such programmes are important to enable students to handle technology equipment themselves and not merely learn the theory from textbooks.

He said early exposure would not only increase students’ interest in technical fields, but also build their confidence and motivation to pursue high-skilled careers in the future.

“Early exposure to technology can also open up new perspectives among rural students regarding education

and career opportunities in STEM-based fields, thereby producing a highly skilled generation,” he added.

He said the effort is important to narrow the education gap between urban and rural areas, especially in terms of access to technology, digital skills and practical learning experiences.

He said support through budget allocations is important so that the needs of the community in Duyong can be given attention in development planning at the Federal level, including efforts to expand

access to STEM education.

Mohd Noor Helmy said investment in STEM education should be viewed as a long-term national investment to produce a generation that is not merely technology users, but capable of creating innovations.

“This hope and target will not only increase students’ interest in STEM, but also successfully inspire them to achieve greater aspirations and narrow the education gap between urban and rural areas,” he said.

Budget 2027 will be tabled on Oct 9. — Bernama

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Volcano eruption forces airport closures

Indonesia's Mount Anak Krakotoa erupts, spewing ash more than 150km away

JAKARTA: Indonesia halted operations at its main international airport outside Jakarta on Sunday after ash spewed from the Anak Krakatoa volcano more than 150 kilometres away, impacting thousands of passengers.

Mount Anak Krakatoa erupted on Saturday, producing a fountain of lava and booming sounds that could be heard up to a few hundred kilometres away, the geology agency said in a statement.

Two new eruptions were recorded on Sunday, the volcanology agency warned.

Ash from the volcano was detected in the airspace surrounding Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, prompting authorities to initially suspend operations from 1.30am Sunday (Saturday 1830 GMT) to 5.30am.

The suspension was extended three times, with the latest ending at 5.30pm Sunday "due to increased eruptive activity," the airport said in a social media post.

Operations have been suspended at six airports including the Hussein Sastranegara airport in Bandung and Radin Inten II airport near Bandar Lampung on Sumatra,



Stranded passengers wait at a terminal of Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Tangerang. — AFP photo

the country's Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said.

Several airports in cities, including Semarang and Surabaya, have been prepared as "alternatives for landing" Dudy added.

The disruption left some passengers scrambling to find alternative flights.

Henny Yensan, 44, who had hoped to go back to her hometown with her mother, said "everybody was disappointed".

"No one flew into a rage, because after all, this is due to natural disaster," the businesswoman, who had to reschedule her flight to Tuesday, told AFP.

Samuel Guiberteau, a Danone executive on a business trip to Lombok since Friday, said

"nothing is certain for the moment", as he searched for alternative flights back to the capital.

"I had found another flight on Citilink, but it was also cancelled," the 47-year-old told AFP by phone, adding that he had no alternative but to stay in Lombok for the time being.

More than 22,000 passengers have been impacted by the suspension, the transportation ministry said, adding that 209 flights were affected, in particular those to and from Singapore.

Other affected international routes included Doha, Sydney, and Kuala Lumpur.

At least 16 domestic flights to and from Bali were also cancelled, local airport authorities said.

Anak Krakatoa, which means Child of Krakatoa, sits in a strait that separates the islands of Java and Sumatra.

Ships passing through the strait were asked to increase vigilance for possible disruption to navigation safety due to volcanic activities.

The vessels are prohibited to approach the exclusion zone of three kilometres radius from the volcano, local port authorities said in a statement.

The volcano has been sporadically active since it emerged from the sea at the beginning of last century in the caldera that formed after the 1883 eruption of Mount Krakatoa.

That disaster was one of the deadliest and most destructive in history with an estimated 35,000 people killed.

Geology agency head Lana Saria said "seismic activity indicates the movement or release of volcanic fluids within the volcanic system".

"However, the timing, magnitude, and nature of the next eruption cannot be precisely predicted," Lana added.

Lana warned against approaching Anak Krakatoa saying materials ejected from the volcano could endanger those within the exclusion zone.

She said the most recent series of eruptions do not have the potential to trigger a tsunami at this time.

A 2018 tsunami, triggered by a collapse of parts of Anak Krakatoa, killed 429 people and left thousands displaced.

Indonesia, a Southeast Asian archipelago nation, sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity. — AFP



Family members check photographs of missing people pasted on a bank ATM near Trishuli camp in the aftermath of flash floods in Nepal's Nuwakot district. — AFP photo

'The flood is coming': How a Nepal principal saved 900 students

NUWAKOT, Nepal: Rajendra Dawadi was inside his school near Nepal's Trishuli River with around 900 students last week when a colleague delivered an urgent warning.

"My accountant came to the school and said, 'The flood is coming, the flood is coming,'" the school principal told AFP in a recent interview.

Dawadi quickly ordered an evacuation, and teachers hurried hundreds of students from classrooms to higher ground.

Minutes later, the 47-year-old watched the Trishuli Bazaar Secondary School he had run for years collapse into a raging torrent.

"If the information was wrong, we would lose a day of schooling," he recalled of the morning of August 26. "But if it was true, we were going to lose our lives."

Students were panicked, Dawadi said, and one girl fainted.

Bus drivers bringing in other students were asked to turn back, including one driver who had just entered school grounds.

But the timely evacuation saved some 900 lives.

Now, standing above the scarred banks of the river in Nuwakot district more than a week after the disaster, Dawadi described himself simply as "a principal without a school".

The tsunami-like wall of water, ice and debris unleashed by a massive glacial and rock collapse along the Nepal-China border killed at least 1,362 people and has left more than 5,500 missing across the two countries.

Five students died in the flooding outside the school, as well as a teacher and a security staff member, Dawadi said.

The staff member, who left the school after him, "had probably wanted to close the gate," he said.

Authorities in Trishuli Bazaar had not provided an evacuation plan, Dawadi said.

Some residents tried to cross

the bridge but were swept away. The others took refuge on higher ground.

"When I looked back, the school was standing there like the finest of buildings, and in five minutes, everything collapsed," Dawadi recalled.

"It's also the school where I studied. There was nothing left."

Santoshi Dotel, 17, was in accounting class when the evacuation order came. At first, she struggled to comprehend the danger.

"We never would have thought the flood could reach such a scale," she said.

She initially went down to the river with her friend to try to cross and reach her family home. Then the water surged.

"The bridge was swept away," she said. "I started to cry because I thought I would never get home and that there was nothing we could do."

Her friend pulled her up a hillside as the flood roared below.

Twisting her phone in her hands, Santoshi broke down into tears as she recalled the anguish of not knowing for hours whether her parents had survived.

It was only four days later that a helicopter finally reunited her with her family.

"I found my mother as I stepped out of the helicopter," she said. "She hugged me and started to cry. My mind just stopped working."

Her mother, Durga Dotel, had feared the worst.

"Seeing the river in flood, I had lost all hope that my daughter had survived," she said.

According to figures cited by Save the Children, at least 69 schools were destroyed or damaged, disrupting the education of nearly 19,000 children.

Dawadi said the disaster was "far worse" than the earthquake that hit Nepal in 2015. — AFP

Anak Krakatau remains highly active despite weaker seismic signals, says agency

JAKARTA: Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano remains highly active and could intensify despite a significant decline in the strength of volcanic seismic signals recorded on Sunday.

Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre (PVMBG) Head Siti Sumilah Rita Susilawati said the volcano's seismic amplitude had declined significantly, but its dynamics remained very high, with the Geological Agency continuing round-the-clock monitoring.

"The dynamics remain very high, so this decline does not necessarily indicate that the activity has stopped. There is still a possibility that the activity could increase," she told an online press conference on Sunday.

The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), in an update on Sunday, said the continuous eruption began at about 11.07pm on Sept 4, accompanied by rumbling and banging sounds as well as lava fountains, while the Geological Agency, in a Sept 5 special report, said the latest activity was part of a series of eruptions that began on July 2.

On the latest ash distribution as of 10.30 am, Siti Sumilah said a dense ash cloud at about 50,000 feet, or 15 km above sea level, had moved away from the active crater and was drifting southwest towards the Indian Ocean.

"At around 20,000 feet, or six kilometres, volcanic ash emissions continuing from the crater vent are being carried westward by the wind, while residual fine ash from the previous eruption phase is shifting eastward towards waters south of the Sunda Strait," she said.

Meanwhile, Geological Agency Head Lana Saria said Anak Krakatau remained at Level III (Alert), the second-highest level in Indonesia's four-tier volcano alert system, with the threats identified in the agency's overall assessment remained concentrated around the volcano and within the recommended three-kilometre radius.

She said no potential threat to residential areas identified at present.

"The recommended radius may be expanded if there is a significant increase in the energy or scale of the eruptions, volcanic material reaches greater distances, deformation or pressure within the volcano increases, or pyroclastic flows or other hazards emerge beyond the three-kilometre radius," she said.

According to a 2006 paper by a PVMBG volcanologist published in the Indonesian Journal on Geoscience, Anak Krakatau emerged above sea level in 1929 within the caldera formed by the catastrophic 1883 Krakatau eruption, which generated tsunamis that killed more than 36,000 people. — Bernama



Residents gather by the banks of the Kapuas river as thick smoke and haze shrouds the city of Pontianak in West Kalimantan. Indonesia is fighting to contain wildfires that have burned large swathes of Sumatra and Borneo, which caused choking haze. — AFP photo

Indonesia conducts water bombing to contain wildfires near future capital

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities carried out a water bombing operation on Saturday to prevent wildfires from spreading in the future capital city Nusantara, a city official told AFP.

The archipelago is constructing a new capital city in Borneo, home to vast tropical jungle, to replace sinking and traffic-clogged Jakarta.

The country is also fighting to contain wildfires that have burned large swathes of Sumatra and Borneo, which caused choking haze that has drifted across the border to Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Fires have been intensifying since mid-August in buffer areas outside the core area in Nusantara, where the city's development is concentrated, Nusantara authority environment and natural resources deputy Myrna Asnawati Safitri said.

It prompted authorities to carry out a water bombing operation to complement on-the-ground firefighting efforts, she added.

"The function of water bombing is not only to extinguish fires but also to accelerate cooling in areas that have been extinguished by ground firefighters," Myrna said.

The operation was to last until Sunday, but Myrna said it can be extended if necessary.

So far, Nusantara's construction has not been hampered by wildfires or haze, she said.

Then-president Joko Widodo revived the long-proposed capital move from Jakarta when he won a second term in 2019.

But construction has slowed down under his predecessor Prabowo Subianto, as the former general prioritised his welfare programmes including a free meal scheme for students.

As president-elect, Prabowo said he wanted to "continue, if possible finish" the capital move, but since taking office in 2024 he has yet to express any plans to sign the presidential decree needed to shift from Jakarta. — AFP

Lee Hsien Loong warns against hatred after anti-Indian abuse

SINGAPORE: Singapore will never be entirely insulated from racial division, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong has warned, as he condemned racist abuse directed at the Indian community following the Nepal flood tragedy and urged Singaporeans to "reject hatred".

In a Facebook post on Sunday, Lee said the episode was a reminder that race and religion remained enduring fault lines even in a society that had spent decades trying to foster tolerance and mutual respect.

"Human beings are not race blind, and race and religion will always be a fault line in society," he said.

Lee described the hateful remarks that emerged after the disaster as "deeply troubling", saying moments of tragedy



Lee Hsien Loong

should instead bring out compassion and solidarity.

Singaporeans should stand by one another regardless of race, language or religion, he said, warning that the country would remain vulnerable to "visceral and divisive pulls", including the temptation to stir racial prejudices and animosities.

The response, Lee said, had to

go beyond simply hoping such sentiments would fade.

"When incidents like this happen, leaders must speak up with force and conviction, to call out what is happening, condemn the manipulation of base emotions, and call on all Singaporeans to stand together," he said.

His comments followed remarks a day earlier by Senior Minister K Shanmugam, who said police were looking into racist and xenophobic online posts linked to both the Nepal floods and Singapore Airlines' investment in Air India, The Straits Times reported.

Shanmugam said some of the comments had been "shameful, nasty and totally unacceptable", including references to snakes, curry, prata and black magic.

He said such behaviour had to be challenged before it became normalised and further degraded public discourse.

Singapore's Ministry of Digital Development and Information would also ask social media platforms to remove comments found to breach their guidelines, he said.

The abuse had also extended to Temasek chief executive Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara after reports that Air India was seeking about US\$1.5 billion (RM4.5 billion) in fresh funding from shareholders, including Singapore Airlines.

Shanmugam described some of those attacks as "vile", including "nasty and libellous" claims that Pillay would favour Air India because of his Indian ethnicity. — Malay Mail



An aerial view shows Army personnel building a bridge over the Tadi River in the aftermath of flash floods in Devighat, Nepal's Nuwakot district. — AFP photo

Rescuers buoyed by miracle finds but tough conditions persist

KATHMANDU, Nepal: Nepali rescuers faced challenging conditions yesterday as search operations after catastrophic floods entered their 12th day, buoyed by the extraordinary rescues of four survivors.

The glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border has killed at least 1,372 people and left more than 5,500 missing across the two countries.

Rescuers found two more people alive on Saturday, joining two saved the day before in what have been described as miraculous tales of survival.

Three of those have been found in hydropower tunnels where the government initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive.

"Search and rescue is going on at the tunnels despite geography, adverse weather and lack of connectivity," Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha told AFP.

Rescue workers were experiencing "multiple challenges", he said.

The wall of icy water and debris tore through mountain districts on August 26, destroying roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

On Saturday, rescuers pulled a Chinese man alive from deep inside a hydropower tunnel, and a 64-year-old Nepali woman,

Search and rescue is going on at the tunnels despite geography, adverse weather and lack of connectivity.

Biraj Bhakta Shrestha

Chandrika Shrestha, from her mud-covered home.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah said the latter rescue had "given hope to the entire nation".

A day earlier, two Nepali hydropower workers were rescued at the Trishuli 3A tunnel, where searches continue alongside multiple other sites, with at least 12 hydropower projects affected.

Biraj Bhakta Shrestha said work was continuing to restore electricity in several areas.

"Places that have unreachable, we've tried to restore power with solar," he told AFP.

Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has called the disaster a "Himalayan tsunami" and has warned reconstruction costs could run into the billions of dollars.

The United Nations has said the magnitude of the destruction makes delivering aid an immense challenge, and has launched a \$50 million appeal to help more than 84,000 people.

With mortuaries overflowing,

Nepal has buried hundreds of bodies in mass graves, after taking DNA samples for future identification, according to the police.

Only around 100 bodies have been identified and handed over to families.

Nepal will hold a national day of mourning on Monday, the 13th day since the disaster, in line with a traditional period of mourning in Hindu rituals.

While the exact cause of the glacial collapse is unclear, climate change is accelerating glacial melting worldwide, increasing the risk of such disasters.

In Nepal, rescuers have retrieved 1,341 bodies, while around 4,996 people remain missing, according to the disaster agency.

Chinese state media report that 31 people have been killed and 531 are missing in Tibet.

The combined toll is 1,372 dead and more than 5,500 missing, including around 800 foreigners, among them tourists and pilgrims. — AFP

Nearly 130 nations agree 'killer robots' definition

GENEVA: Nearly 130 countries on Saturday agreed on a text defining lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) - 'killer robots' to their critics - a first step towards talks on a possible international treaty to regulate them.

The text agreed upon has not yet been made public - but campaign groups following the talks have already criticised leading countries for dragging their feet on the issue.

Dutch Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen announced the agreement, by 128 countries, on Saturday. The Netherlands has been overseeing the talks.

Countries are already developing and using weapons capable of selecting targets and using force against them without human intervention.

But the International Committee of the Red Cross warned in a statement that "the unconstrained development and use of autonomous weapon systems pose serious legal, ethical



Robots fight at the booth of Chinese robotics company Unitree during the opening of the 2026 IFA international trade show for consumer electronics and home appliances in Berlin. — AFP photo

and humanitarian challenges".

The ICRC and several campaigning groups have called for international legally binding

rules to restrict and regulate their use.

Nicole van Rooijen, executive director of Stop Killer Robots, an international alliance of campaign groups, accused the United States, Russia and their allies of trying to weaken the agreed text.

Lex International, a Geneva-based philanthropic group funding work on key policy issues, also criticised some nations' position.

"The United States, Russia, India and Israel are amongst the key opponents of negotiations," it said.

"The governments of Brazil, Ireland, and Norway are leading efforts to get such negotiations started in November," it added.

UN member states will decide at November talks of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons whether to move towards an international treaty regulating such weapons. — AFP

US aircraft carrier departs Thailand after port call

LAEM CHABANG, Thailand: Thousands of US sailors aboard an aircraft carrier departed from Thailand yesterday, AFP journalists said, concluding its first port call following reports of deteriorating living conditions on board after nine months at sea.



US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) departs Laem Chabang Port, near the city of Pattaya. — AFP photo

The 5,000-strong crew of the USS Abraham Lincoln docked just north of the resort town of Pattaya, near Bangkok, on Wednesday for five days of rest and recreation after a lengthy Middle East deployment.

Amid Thailand's tourism low season, their arrival raised hopes for businesses in Pattaya, a city known for its beaches and nightlife - as well as its seedy reputation as a hub for sex tourism.

The Lincoln departed from the port of Laem Chabang, a half-hour drive from Pattaya, at around 11:00 am (0400 GMT), AFP journalists saw.

Security was stepped up in Pattaya during the visit, with authorities cracking down on sex workers ahead of the sailors' arrival - although the mayor denied it was linked.

Despite concerns about possible trouble, local police said Sunday that the port call ended largely without incident.

"Everything went fine," Pattaya police chief Anek Srathongyoo told AFP.

"There were no arrests or arguments except on the first

day when Americans had an argument among themselves," he said.

The US Navy sent two sailors back to the Lincoln after a drunken altercation in the early hours of Thursday near Pattaya's nightlife hotspot Walking Street, the police chief said earlier.

He had described the 'small scuffle' as 'trivial' and said local residents only called police to prevent the dispute from escalating.

Last month, US Democratic lawmakers 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 war on Iran, although the Lincoln was replaced in the Middle East by the USS George Washington.

The enlisted Americans were estimated to have spent up to 100 million baht (US\$3 million) during their visit, Pattaya Mayor Poramase Ngampiches said yesterday.

In addition, the city benefitted from "selling other supplies such as toothpaste to the ship worth millions of baht (tens of thousands of dollars)", Poramase told AFP. — AFP

China's memories of Mao fade to nostalgia 50 years after his death

NANJIE, China: The crimson flags on Nanjie village's 'East is Red' Square hang limp in the sweltering summer heat as a trickle of tourists take photos with a towering statue of Chairman Mao Zedong, still gleaming white almost 50 years after he died.

The Great Helmsman, who died September 9 1976, is still very much a fixture in central Henan province's Nanjie - often dubbed 'China's last Maoist village'.

Nostalgia for Mao's egalitarian ideals is growing in China as memories of his turbulent rule fade and the country grapples with a slowing economy and inequality.

Mao, who led the 1949 communist revolution against the ruling nationalists, ushered in an era of collectivised ownership he argued would drive industry and unite the country, but his drastic policies are also blamed by historians for mass starvation and millions of deaths.

While the ruling Chinese Communist Party maintains Mao was a revolutionary hero, it publicly acknowledged after his death that his devastating Cultural Revolution was a 'grave mistake' - a verdict upheld by subsequent leaders.

In Nanjie, countless murals of the former Chinese leader are plastered around the village.

Residents still live under Maoist principles of shared ownership, while the rest of the country moved on from that economic model.

"I still revere him very much," Xie Kaiyue, a 22-year-old local university student, said of Mao,



A visitor looks at a bust of the late Communist leader Mao Zedong displayed at the museum of the former residence of peasant leader Chen Yonggui in Dazhai, in northern China's Shanxi province. — AFP photo

who died almost three decades before she was born.

"I think young people in the village and, actually, myself, aren't as strong-spirited as in the past... People were purer," she said.

Nearby, electric carts whisked visitors past uniform apartment blocks plastered with socialist slogans as guides explained how cooperative ownership in local enterprises funds free housing for residents.

Around 500 kilometres north, in the mountain village of Dazhai in Shanxi province, once promoted by Mao as a national

model after locals terraformed its arid hills into irrigated fields, tourists reminisce about an era when the Great Helmsman dominated political and social life.

"(People) didn't have enough to eat or to wear," Li, a 64-year-old tourist from Xi'an, said of his childhood.

"But... the whole country was full of vigour, and there was a spirit of struggling with heaven, earth, and people to change every aspect of China," the retiree said.

"Of course I miss it."

Now, Dazhai is overflowing with shops selling items that

support Mao's personality cult - posters, playing cards, and crockery emblazoned with his image, and the 'Little Red Book' of his quotations.

Still, references to dark chapters of his decades in absolute power are tightly censored in public discourse.

The decade-long episode instigated by Mao in 1966 saw intellectuals brutally targeted as 'class enemies' and schools shuttered, setting China back for years in education and development.

Private property and land were collectivised, while economic

management pushed the country to the Great Famine, which the government says killed around 15 million people, while historians estimate around 20-43 million.

In one museum, text mentioning the Cultural Revolution had been crudely scraped off signage.

"Everything you see in the public domain... is the party line. No one is allowed to deviate from this," said scholar Xu Chenggang, who was targeted as a child in Beijing during the Cultural Revolution because his father was labelled a 'rightist'.

Mao's face is printed on banknotes, his portrait overlooks Tiananmen Square, and his body is preserved in a mausoleum.

Every year new movies and TV shows dramatising Mao's life beam the message of his great deeds to public.

Public discussion has been squeezed further under current leader Xi Jinping, who warns against 'historical nihilism', or narratives contradicting the party's own.

"The Communist Party told people there were mistakes, but what's the meaning of 'mistake'? No one knows," Xu said.

The sanitised history has left space for romanticised interpretations among youths frustrated by long working hours and intense competition in education and the job market.

In December, a viral video series on Bilibili - a platform popular with those under 30 - argued that the 2017 movie 'Youth', which follows young performers in a military dance troupe during the 1970s, was a subtle ode to the

Cultural Revolution.

The videos, which praised Mao and blamed capitalist elites for crushing the movement, were removed after gaining over 35 million views in less than a week.

"Today, there is more of a sense that the Cultural Revolution was a period of idealism, where society was fired by ideals and not by the relentless pursuit of money and material goods," said to Kerry Brown, head of the Lau China Institute in London and author of a recent book on Mao.

"This is, of course, a total fabrication," he said.

Many also credit Mao with laying the foundation for China to become a modern, technologically advanced nation, said Mobo Gao, professor of Chinese studies at Adelaide University.

"They ask, where did (today's China) come from? It came from the establishment of the PRC," said Gao, who lived through the Mao era in rural Jiangxi province.

"Who was the one who really established the PRC? It must be Mao."

In Shijiazhuang, an industrial city of seven million northeast of Dazhai, 20-year-old Wang Zhihao and his classmates posed with a giant Mao statue opposite the municipal government.

"We admire and revere Chairman Mao very much. He is a great figure," Wang said, as the sound of elderly residents singing songs praising the Communist Party drifted over from the nearby square.

"He led the founding of New China." — AFP



This screen grab made on Sept 6 from undated handout video footage released by the CENTCOM shows what it says is one of the Iranian oil tankers it destroyed in response to attempted missile attacks on naval vessels. — AFP photo

Iran retaliates after US strikes oil tankers

TEHRAN: Iran said Sunday that its forces attacked a US naval drone trying to enter the Strait of Hormuz, hours after targeting ships in retaliation for American strikes on three oil tankers.

The latest round of clashes, which began with US raids last week, comes amid a deadlock in their six-month war.

Iran has maintained its stranglehold on the strategic Strait of Hormuz while Washington continues a counter-blockade of Iranian ports.

Washington is also seeking to choke Iran's economy, rolling out sanctions on entities with financial links to the Islamic republic in a bid to force it into submission.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said Sunday it 'attacked an American military unmanned surface vessel' attempting to enter the strait, according to a statement carried by state television.

Hours earlier, the IRGC said its naval forces "targeted three oil tankers on the unauthorised route of the Strait of Hormuz and three vessels affiliated with the child-killing America in

other areas".

It warned ships not to attempt to transit by unapproved routes.

On Saturday, US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees American military operations in the region, said it struck tankers linked to the Iranian Guards, accusing the most powerful arm of the Iranian military of unsuccessfully firing at American warships.

"Following Iran's failed attacks, CENTCOM permanently disabled the IRGC crude oil carriers M/T Downy off the coast of Kharg Island and M/T Stark 1 near Jask," it said.

"American forces also completely destroyed the unladen crude oil carrier M/T Kylo ... in the Gulf of Oman, striking the vessel in multiple critical locations to render it inoperable after the crew was directed to abandon ship."

Video posted by CENTCOM showed large fireballs and billowing flames after projectiles slammed into the ships.

The three vessels were "part of a multibillion-dollar shadow network that funds the IRGC and its regional proxies", it said.

The Guards meanwhile

claimed the two American warships they targeted had been 'forced to retreat' after 'suffering damage', but CENTCOM said those ships successfully evaded Iranian attacks.

CENTCOM commander Admiral Brad Cooper said after the operation: "If you shoot at two of our ships, we will impose an even higher economic cost — taking out three of yours."

The Iranian foreign ministry hit out at Washington over the strikes on oil tankers, calling them "illegal and aggressive actions".

A correspondent for Iranian state TV in Jask in the southern province of Hormozgan said one of the tankers was empty and the second was carrying oil. The crews were transported to shore on lifeboats, they said.

Another state TV correspondent on Kharg Island said the attack there caused no casualties.

Iran's Khatam-al Anbiya central military command warned that if the US continued its attacks, then Tehran's retaliation against US warships would be "more severe than before, and there is a possibility of their expansion". — AFP

Death toll rises to 3 in Bolivia army base blasts

VIACHA, Bolivia: The death toll rose to three after two explosions at a military base in Bolivia, the prosecutor's office said Saturday, as rescue teams worked to clear debris and find people who are still missing.

The blasts occurred Friday afternoon at a facility where explosives, including grenades and TNT, are stored in the town of Viacha, home to about 114,000 people and located 30 kilometers southwest of La Paz.

Streets in the area remained littered with rubble on Saturday and windows in nearby buildings were shattered.

"Amid the rubble the lifeless body of a man was recovered," prosecutor Katherine Ramirez said in a statement, announcing an investigation and bringing the total casualties to "three people deceased so far."

The deaths reported earlier were two young men who had been serving their first year of mandatory military service. Another 84 people were injured in the blasts.

Ramirez did not specify if the third body reduces the number

of missing soldiers from the 14 reported earlier. They were identified by defence officials as a sergeant and 13 conscripts, ages 18 to 19.

The cause of the blasts, which sent a plume of smoke into the air, was under investigation.

AFP observed dozens of people crowding around outside a police cordon at the blast site, seeking information about missing relatives.

Some indigenous Aymara people tearfully asked soldiers about their loved ones, while others tried in vain to force their way in, an AFP reporter saw.

"They haven't moved even a single stone, not even a bit of cement, they haven't moved anything. My nephew is still inside the rubble," Adolfo Copa told AFP.

Irineo Mamani, 65, said he just wanted to confirm if his son was on the list of missing persons.

"We just want them to tell us if a certain soldier is there, and that's all," he said.

But Ministry of Defense chief Ernesto Justiniano warned "the risk in the area is still high"



A forensic expert and firefighters check damages following an explosion at an army barracks the night before, in Viacha, Bolivia. — AFP photo

Algerian boy trapped in well for days found dead

ALGIERS, Algeria: Rescuers in Algeria on Saturday recovered the body of a 10-year-old boy who was trapped inside a well for four days, civil protection authorities said.

Efforts to rescue the boy, whom authorities identified only by his first name, Ayoub, had drawn widespread attention across the country, and social media was awash with calls to save him.

On Saturday evening, however,

the civil protection announced that 'the child was found and recovered dead'.

Teams had been working to reach Ayoub after he fell into an 80-metre-deep well near his home in the desert municipality of Brezina in El Bayadh province, some 550 kilometres south of Algiers.

The civil protection said the well was dry and dug using traditional methods, and was

Prince William to represent King Charles III at Harald's funeral

LONDON: Britain's Prince William will attend the funeral of Norway's late King Harald next week in place of his father King Charles III, Buckingham Palace said on Saturday.

The heir to the throne is set to represent his father at the funeral on September 9, having also attended the funeral of Pope Francis last year on behalf of the king.

British monarchs do not attend funerals of other heads of state per protocol, usually sending another member of the royal

family to represent them.

Charles, 77, who is being treated for an undisclosed form of cancer but maintains a packed schedule of engagements, released a statement mourning the loss of his "dear cousin" King Harald last week.

The two men were second cousins once removed, both being descendants of Britain's King Edward VII.

Charles's sister Princess Anne will attend in a personal capacity as the godmother of the new king, Haakon VIII. — AFP

Two more electricity substations targeted in Germany

BERLIN: Explosives have been found near two electricity substations in Germany, with authorities investigating whether the incidents were linked with similar attacks earlier this week, police said on Saturday.

Germany has been rattled by attacks on electricity substations across the country this week which were apparently aimed at cutting power from coal-fired power stations and causing widespread blackouts.

Authorities said the attacks were likely a case of 'climate extremism', after a 48-year-old man, named in German media as Daniel V., sent letters claiming responsibility for the acts and suspected explosives were found during searches of his apartment.

On Saturday, regional authorities said that "Following a report from a citizen, 12 improvised explosive devices were discovered on Friday near high-voltage lines close to the electrical substations of Baerwalde (near Bautzen) and Graustein (near Goerlitz)."

Bomb disposal units disabled the devices and the surrounding



Daniel V.

electricity lines were briefly taken offline for the operation, police said.

Police said they were investigating a "possible link" with the other incidents at electricity substations.

On Friday, the Bild tabloid reported that a heavily armed elite police team had stormed a truck in Hambach Forest in North Rhine-Westphalia state suspected of belonging to the activist, but had failed to apprehend him. The area is highly symbolic for Germany's climate movement. Activists spent years protesting plans to raze vast tracts of forest to expand the nearby Hambach open-cast lignite mine. — AFP

US envoys discuss with Putin 'substantive' plans for steps to end war

KYIV, Ukraine: American envoys discussed 'substantive plans' for next steps to end the Ukraine war during their meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the White House said, before they headed to Kyiv on Sunday.

US President Donald Trump's business partner Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner visited Moscow in hopes of reviving negotiations to end Europe's worst conflict since WWII.

The conflict began when Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 and has already killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions. It escalated this summer with a drastic rise in civilian deaths on both sides.

Witkoff and Kushner met with Putin on Saturday to "advance President Trump's agenda of peace in the Russia-Ukraine War," a White House official said in a statement to AFP.

"The two sides discussed substantive plans for next steps, which will be announced in the coming weeks, and look forward to equally productive meetings tomorrow in Ukraine."

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov called the talks "extremely frank", saying the Americans "put



Putin (right) welcomes Witkoff (second left) and Kushner (left) prior to their talks in Moscow. — AFP photo

forward a number of ideas on possible routes to a settlement", but did not elaborate.

The Russian side told the Americans that Moscow was "confident" it could achieve its military goals of seizing the rest of eastern Ukraine, Ushakov added.

Both Russia and Ukraine have vowed not to strike each other's capitals for three days to allow for the negotiations to take place.

It was Kushner and Witkoff's eighth visit to Moscow during the war — but it will be their

first in the Ukrainian capital, hit by deadly Russian strikes throughout the war.

Russia's TASS news agency reported early Sunday that Witkoff and Kushner had arrived in Rzeszow in Poland on their way to Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was expecting the envoys on Sunday.

Ukrainian airspace has been closed since Moscow launched the war in February 2022 and visiting leaders have been arriving by train.

Top US military officials face lie-detectors in leak hunt

WASHINGTON, United States: The Pentagon has launched a lie-detector dragnet to comb through high-ranking military officials and identify who leaked information about US munitions stockpiles, according to US press reports.

In July, reports emerged that the United States was

rationing munitions — its missile interceptors, in particular — over supply concerns after several months of fighting Iran. Administration officials vehemently denied those reports, with President Donald Trump saying "we have a lot of ammunition, different types,"

while acknowledging that "for some of the more sophisticated stuff, we'd certainly like to have more."

Late Friday, The New York Times reported that some 50 members of the military's Joint Staff — the Pentagon's planning and advisory staff — were being required to

take polygraph tests as part of an investigation into how classified stockpile information made its way into journalists' hands. CBS News later also reported the wide-scale use of lie detectors, while adding that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dan Caine, had not been tested. — AFP

Sport



Werro celebrates setting a meeting record after winning the women's 800m final during the World Athletics Diamond League athletics meeting. — AFP photo

Werro, new world record holders win in Brussels

BRUSSELS, Belgium: In-form Swiss Audrey Werro was forced into a dip for victory in the 800m, while newly-minted world record holders Masai Russell and Alison dos Santos also raced to meet records on the second and final day of the Diamond League finals in Brussels on Saturday.

Werro was pushed all the way by Femke Broeders-Bol, the Dutch athlete steadily improving as she transitions from the 400m hurdles, an event in which she was twice a world champion.

Werro, 22, dipped for the line after a tight final 200 metres for victory in 1min 54.75sec, one of eight meet records set during a high-octane night of track and field in the Belgian capital.

"I felt Femke putting me under pressure during the whole race and that absolutely pushed me to not slow down. Her presence is a big source of motivation for me to stay sharp going into next year," Werro said.

Just a week out from the inaugural season-ending World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Russell and Dos Santos did not disappoint.

Russell was not the fastest out of the blocks, but delivered in the final 50 metres to win the 100m hurdles in 12.20sec.

Just a week on from setting a world record of 12.09sec in Zurich, Russell made it 12 wins from 12 outings this season. Remarkably, Russell has broken a meeting record in every one of the seven Diamond League races she has competed in this year.

"Another win! I feel very blessed and thankful to keep collecting those, especially on my first time coming here in Brussels," said Russell.

"Winning a Diamond League final is just as important as taking those big championship wins."

In the absence of Norway's Karsten Warholm, Dos Santos led from gun-to-tape in the men's 400m hurdles. The Brazilian timed 46.70sec to obliterate the meet's previous best of 47.51 set by American Andre Phillips back in 1986.

Two-time Olympic silver medalist Kenny Bednarek equalled his own world lead of 19.62sec when winning the 200m — the American dominating a sprint in which reigning Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo of Botswana came fourth in 20.01.

And Jamaica's Tina Clayton wrapped up the 100m in 10.92sec, with European champion Amy

I felt Femke putting me under pressure during the whole race and that absolutely pushed me to not slow down. Her presence is a big source of motivation for me to stay sharp going into next year.

Audrey Werro

Hunt of Britain taking second ahead of American Sha'Carri Richardson.

After six meet records on Friday, the opening four events a day later followed suit.

First up, China's Ziyi Yan dominated the women's javelin with a best of 68.42m before Jamaica's Rajindra Campbell set a national record of 23.08m, a world leading mark, in the men's shot put.

Italy's Andy Diaz Hernandez then went out to 17.74m in the triple jump before unbeaten Marileidy Paulino clocked 48.64sec for a fourth trophy in the 400m to further re-write the King Baudouin stadium record books.

Campbell's effort moved him to fourth in the all-time list — the Jamaican shot putter becoming just the fifth man ever to throw beyond the 23m-mark.

"There have been signs in practice of a throw like this being on the way, but to put it together today feels incredible," said Campbell.

There was a shock in the women's 1,500m as Poland's Klaudia Kazimierska clocked a national record and world lead of 3:54.05, smashing Faith Kipyegon's meet record by a huge 0.70sec. British favourite Georgia Hunter Bell could only finish fourth.

American Hana Moll, 21, followed up on her victory in Zurich by improving by 1cm her personal best to 4.91m to win the pole vault.

Finally, Rumes Tharanga Pathirage wrote himself into the history books by becoming the first Sri Lankan to become a Diamond League champion by winning the men's javelin with a best of 89.04m. — AFP

Brenner wins Vuelta a Espana stage 14 as Roglic loses time on leader Mas



Brenner celebrates winning the 14th stage of the Vuelta a Espana 2026 cycling tour. — AFP photo

JAËN, Spain: German Marco Brenner fought off Santiago Buitrago to claim a mountaintop victory from a long-range breakaway on stage 14 of the Vuelta a Espana on Saturday.

Overall leader Enric Mas extended his lead as he finished 25 seconds ahead of veteran four-time Vuelta winner Primoz Roglic, who slipped from second to third overall behind Felix Gall.

Mas leads Gall by 2min 06sec with Roglic just four seconds back ahead of Sunday's 15th stage, which organisers have shortened by 80 kilometres due to extreme heat.

Spain's Carlos Rodriguez finished the stage third at the end of the 154.5 kilometre ride from Jaen to La Pandera and climbed into the top 10 overall.

"I had bad memories of this climb, because I think it was in 2022 that Primoz put 30-something seconds into me," said Mas.

"Today was different. Luckily,

it was the other way around. Little by little, we're gaining time."

A large early breakaway established a gap of more than seven minutes on the peloton, including Mas. With around 52km remaining, Kevin Vermaerke attacked to take a solo lead, which the American maintained until Georg Steinhauser caught him with 15km left.

The German left Vermaerke behind as he began the final climb up the Sierra de la Pandera as weekend crowds cheered on the riders.

Guillaume Martin came across to join Steinhauser, followed by Mario Aparicio, opening up a gap of nearly a minute on the rest of the break. Buitrago and Brenner caught them with just over three kilometres remaining before forging ahead. Buitrago attacked first but Brenner came past him to claim victory.

"I cannot really believe it. Until now, I was not feeling like

myself, and I was struggling with some sickness early in the race and had a crash," said Brenner.

"I really wanted to show myself, but also my team-mates who have been working really hard for me the whole time, that I can be up there."

Further down the slope, the red jersey-wearing Mas and Gall dropped Roglic and Richard Carapaz in the general classification battle.

Roglic finished 25 seconds behind Mas and Gall, with Ecuadorian Carapaz, fourth overall, a further six seconds back.

Cycling superstar Tadej Pogacar was leading the race until a crash on stage eight forced him to abandon his bid to win a first Vuelta and become only the ninth man to complete the full set of Grand Tours. He underwent surgery on a fractured collarbone and confirmed on Saturday that his season was over. — AFP



New Zealand's flanker Wallace Sititi runs with the ball during the third Rugby's Greatest Rivalry international rugby union match between South Africa and New Zealand at the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg. — AFP photo

Springboks dominate NZ in 2nd half to lead series

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa produced a brilliant second-half display to earn a 29-24 Test victory over New Zealand in Johannesburg on Saturday, and a 2-1 lead in the four-match series.

Deadlocked 12-12 at half-time, the Springboks powered to a 12-point advantage in the second half before conceding a try after the full-time hooter.

Wing Kurt-Lee Arendse, centre Jesse Kriel and hooker Malcolm Marx scored tries for the Springboks, who were also awarded a penalty try. Fly-half Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu kicked two conversions from three attempts and also a penalty.

Captain and No.8 Ardie Savea scored two tries for the All Blacks and wing Will Jordan and substitute hooker Samisoni Taukei'aho one each.

Fly-half Ruben Love and full-back Damian McKenzie slotted one conversion each.

Flanker Siya Kolisi became the most successful Springboks captain with 55 Test victories, overtaking 2007 Rugby World Cup-winning hooker John Smit.

"The All Blacks came hard at us in the first 25 minutes, their lungs were pumping. We did well not to concede more points. Then, we fought back. The way we finished was a lot better than we did in the previous two Tests," said Kolisi.

New Zealand loose forward

Luke Jacobson said: "We started really well, had momentum, but the Springboks played their game in the second half. They got on top."

South Africa suffered a double blow 10 minutes into the first half when full-back Cheslin Kolbe went off injured and Feinberg-Mngomezulu was yellow-carded.

Kolbe, who converted all 11 goal kicks he took in the first two Tests, suffered a head injury and Feinberg-Mngomezulu was punished for a deliberate knock down of a Savea pass.

New Zealand immediately took advantage of having an extra man to take a seven-point lead through the first of two first-half tries from Savea.

Hooker Asafo Aumua, promoted to the starting line-up in place of the long-serving Codie Taylor, broke from a line-out and when he was halted, Savea picked up the loose ball and dived over.

The return of Feinberg-Mngomezulu coincided with Springbok pressure which culminated in Arendse taking a pass from centre Damian de Allende and scoring in the corner.

Feinberg-Mngomezulu missed the conversion, leaving the hosts trailing 7-5 midway through the first half at Soccer City stadium.

Savea struck again on 26 minutes. After Arendse held up wing Leroy Carter just short of the tryline, the skipper

snatched the ball and crossed the whitewash.

A frenetic first half, with the power of the Springboks ranged against the pace of the All Blacks, then took another dramatic turn.

When South Africa won a scrum close to the New Zealand tryline and the visitors backpedalled, referee Nika Amashukeli spotted an infringement and awarded a penalty try. Adding to the tourists' disappointment, Love was yellow carded.

Ahead of the third Test there had been a war of words with both camps questioning the legality of their rivals' scrummaging tactics.

Georgian Amashukeli policed the set piece well, giving clear instructions to the front rows. No scrum had to be reset until 10 minutes into the second half.

As a tense struggle moved towards the hour mark, Jordan, then Kriel scored tries. Carter had a role in both.

After being tackled, Carter did well to pass to Jordan, but his poor attempt to halt Kriel proved costly. Feinberg-Mngomezulu converted and South Africa led 19-17. Marx then barged over for a try. Feinberg-Mngomezulu converted and kicked a penalty for a 12-point lead that South Africa retained until a pushover try from Taukei'aho.

The series ends in Baltimore, in the United States, on Sept 12. — AFP

Jovic 'loses sanity five times' to oust Eala in epic

NEW YORK: American teen Iva Jovic outlasted Philippines star Alexandra Eala in an epic three-hour showdown on Saturday to reach the fourth round of the US Open, where fourth seed Coco Gauff awaits.

Jovic, the 14th seed, won five of the last six games for a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 triumph over 17th-seed Eala after three hours and three minutes.

"That felt like a marathon and I felt like I lost my sanity five times over to win that match," Jovic said. "But it's really worth it for this feeling."

Two of the top rising stars of women's tennis made their Arthur Ashe Stadium debut a memorable battle that featured 17 service breaks in 33 games.

"That match, definitely the way it finished, deserved that court. It literally took everything to somehow squeeze my way through that," Jovic said.

Jovic, 18 and Eala, 21, are friends and sometime doubles partners, knowing each other's skills and style well. That helped produce seven service breaks in the first 11 games.

"I'm usually not one that shows that many emotions but this one really meant a lot to me. It's everything to have another match here at the US Open," said Jovic.

That match will be against compatriot Gauff, the 2023 US Open and 2025 French Open champion. Jovic broke four times to win the first set but was broken three times by left-hander Eala to drop the second.

"The level was absolutely incredible from both sides. We definitely put on a show and it literally took everything to get through that... losing my earrings, falling literally flat-out on the floor, cuts on my knees, mental breakdowns," Jovic said.

Eala admitted: "I had my chances. I'm happy with the match in general. Of course there is disappointment in losing, but trying to see the positive side. It was a really good match. The level was really high."

"I left everything out there. I fought through the ups and downs... What I know for a fact is that I fought so I'm happy with that." — AFP

Zheng stuns Keys as US Open upsets dim American hopes

NEW YORK: Zheng Qinwen won the last seven games to stun Madison Keys and reach the US Open last 16 on a Saturday of upsets that dented American hopes at Flushing Meadows.

Fourth-seeded Coco Gauff battled through in straight sets, and 18-year-old US compatriot Iva Jovic held off Philippines sensation Alexandra Eala in three sets.

But Americans were hard hit with ninth-seeded Taylor Fritz and 2025 finalist Amanda Anisimova following Keys out the door. Fifth-seeded French

Open finalist Flavio Cobolli of Italy also fell to 21-year-old Alexander Bublik.

Zheng saved a match point in her 1-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5 triumph over Keys, the 2025 Australian Open champion and a US Open finalist back in 2017.

After coming through the second-set tiebreaker, the Paris Olympics gold medalist appeared to be out of steam in the final set. The former world number four had to come through qualifying after a lengthy recovery from elbow surgery saw her ranking plummet.

Keys raced to a 5-0 lead in the third but Zheng had a last stand in her. She saved match point at 5-1 and just kept rolling. Keys' increasing frustration showing as she banged her head with her racquet after one lost point.

"I just told myself keep holding every single point, never give up, stay there. And somehow, little by little, it just happened," Zheng said.

Zheng, currently ranked 121st in the world, will face six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek for a place in the quarter-finals. — AFP



Zheng acknowledges the crowd after defeating Keys during their Women's Singles Third Round match on Day Seven of the 2026 US Open at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre. — AFP photo



Jovic hugs after a win against Eala during their Women's Singles Third Round match 2026 US Open at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre. — AFP photo

Haaland keeps new-look Man City stay perfect

LONDON: New-look Manchester City overcame a spirited challenge from Coventry on Saturday courtesy of an Erling Haaland goal to stay perfect in the Premier League, as blunt Tottenham were held to a goalless draw at Nottingham Forest.

Enzo Maresca is now the man in the Etihad hotseat after the emotional departure of long-serving Pep Guardiola, while there has been significant churn among the playing staff.

One of the new arrivals, Enzo Fernandez, played a major part in City's opener, feeding Antoine Semenyo, who crossed for Erling Haaland to head home his third goal of the season.

Former Chelsea midfielder Fernandez arrived on transfer deadline day in a £125 million (US\$170 million) deal, which equalled the British record.

Maresca handed his former charge at Chelsea a start after Nico O'Reilly sustained an injury in the warm-up, while fellow new signing Iliman Ndiaye also made his debut for the club.

City are hungry to reclaim the Premier League crown after missing out in the past two seasons, first to Liverpool then to Arsenal. Maresca is working with a reshaped squad following several high-profile departures, including those of former Ballon d'Or winner Rodri, Bernardo Silva and John Stones.

As well as Fernandez and Ndiaye, big-money arrivals



Haaland heads the ball during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Coventry City at the Etihad Stadium. — AFP photo

include England midfielder Elliot Anderson and Morocco teenager Ayyoub Bouaddi, who both featured on Saturday.

The home side took the lead in the 26th minute but failed to add to their tally and Frank Lampard's team will rue their missed chances.

Table-topping City have now won all three of their Premier League matches this season ahead of next week's Manchester derby at Old Trafford.

Tottenham also spent heavily in the summer transfer window in a desperate effort to avoid the embarrassment of the past two seasons, in which they have finished 17th both times.

They travelled to the City

Ground, after defeats to Brentford and Newcastle, to face a team which twice beat them heavily last season, and still searching for their first Premier League goal of the new campaign.

Forest had the ball in the net midway through the second half after calamitous defending but Neco Williams's strike was ruled out following a VAR check.

The result means that Forest, who, like Spurs, flirted with relegation last season, are also still searching for their first win.

Ukrainian forward Mykhailo Mudryk, who joined Tottenham on loan this week, was introduced as a substitute in the 74th minute for his first competitive action

since November 2024 following a doping ban.

Vitaly Janelt opened the scoring for high-flying Brentford against Sunderland but Enzo Le Fee levelled from the penalty spot late in the game to force a 1-1 draw.

Leeds drew 1-1 at Brighton while Tyrick Mitchell scored two goals as Crystal Palace twice came from behind to earn a 3-2 win at Fulham, with Ben Chilwell scoring the winner.

In the early kick-off, Newcastle recovered from going 2-0 down to secure a 2-2 draw against Bournemouth, staying unbeaten in all competitions under new manager Matthias Jaissle. — AFP



Navarro (right) celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the Spanish league football match between Athletic Club Bilbao and Club Atletico de Madrid at San Mames Stadium in Bilbao. — AFP photo

Athletic Bilbao crush Simeone's flat Atletico

BILBAO, Spain: Athletic Bilbao thumped Atletico Madrid 3-0 in La Liga on a miserable Saturday afternoon for Diego Simeone's side.

Nico Williams, Robert Navarro and Oihan Sancet's goals gave the Basque hosts a resounding victory at their San Mames stadium. Elsewhere promoted side Deportivo La Coruna earned an exciting 3-2 win at Villarreal to climb provisionally fourth.

Athletic secured back-to-back wins under former Borussia Dortmund coach Edin Terzic, after losing their first two matches of the campaign.

Simeone's Atletico fell to their first defeat of the season, putting up little fight in the second half after Athletic made the breakthrough with two quick strikes from Williams and Navarro.

Atletico must pick themselves up for Wednesday's visit to face Liverpool in the Champions League at Anfield.

"(We had) two minutes of inattention and poor decision-making in situations we should have handled better. Bilbao capitalised on that lapse," said Simeone.

Striker Julian Alvarez, who tried to leave the club to join Barcelona this summer, returned as a substitute after illness in an ineffective second half appearance. The visitors had the better of the opening period, although they failed to create many clear-cut chances after an early opportunity for Lee Kang-In.

The South Korean international struck a shot against the post in the third minute after the hosts were carved open.

Athletic goalkeeper Unai Simon saved from Alex Baena as Atletico threatened, while Sancet came close at the other end with a blast into the side-netting.

Pablo Barrios hit the post before the break for Atletico, who were sucker-punched early in the second half by Terzic's side.

The Williams brothers combined for Athletic's first, with Inaki's deflected shot headed home by younger sibling Nico after 46 minutes. Navarro doubled Athletic's lead in the 48th minute, steering home after Inaki Williams played him in.

"We were good in the first half but the game got away from us in those (couple of) minutes. We lacked in the second half everything that we had in the first," said Simeone.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored for the fourth match running and set up two more as the former Arsenal and Barcelona striker excelled in Depor's surprise win at Villarreal.

Another ex-Arsenal attacker Nicolas Pepe put the hosts ahead but Luismi Cruz levelled for the Galicians before the interval.

Adama Traore's own goal gave Villarreal the advantage once more but Zakaria Eddahchouri and Aubameyang, 37, struck to claim Depor a superb victory.

Sergio Camello netted twice for Rayo Vallecano in an entertaining 3-2 win over Racing Santander. — AFP

Spurs held as De Zerbi laments attacking decisions

NOTTINGHAM, United Kingdom: Tottenham boss Roberto De Zerbi said that his side must make better decisions in the final third after failing to score for a third consecutive Premier League game in Saturday's 0-0 draw at Nottingham Forest.

Despite splashing out more than £300 million (US\$406 million) on new signings, there has been

little sign of improvement from a Spurs side which narrowly avoided relegation last season.

De Zerbi's men stopped the rot after defeats to Brentford and Newcastle with a first point of the campaign, but still lacked conviction going forward.

"I think we played well but in the last third we have to improve. We have to take the better

decisions. We have to keep more calm when we are very close to doing something important in the last third," said the Italian.

De Zerbi is hoping that the close of the transfer window will now bring some certainty to his players, and he will have plenty of time to work on the training ground with no European football this season.

"We are not happy because we didn't win, but I think this is the right spirit and the right way to move on in this moment," added De Zerbi.

"Because we started just last Thursday to work (all) together and to create, to build the team, to build the organisation, it's not enough... the transfer market." — AFP

Seria A: Inter and Roma win thrillers to share top spot

ROME: A last-gasp winner from Lautaro Martinez sealed a breathless win for Inter as the Serie A champions fought back from two goals down to edge visiting Napoli 3-2, while Roma also pulled off a late turnaround to beat Atalanta 2-1.

Inter and Roma sit joint-top of the table on a perfect nine points, while Atalanta are on six points and Napoli have three.

"It was a beautiful and entertaining match to watch, a great advert for Italian football. At 2-2 both teams played an open game without thinking of defending the result, I saw big chances at both ends," Inter coach Cristian Chivu told DAZN.

Both goalkeepers were forced into early saves in an end-to-end encounter that remained goalless at half-time after Federico Dimarco's free-kick rattled the Napoli cross bar.

The game exploded in the second half when Matteo Politano guided home a shot in the 50th minute before Rasmus Hojlund's curler doubled the Napoli lead three minutes later.

Inter responded almost immediately when Martinez hammered in his first goal of the season from a Dimarco cross. Substitute Marcus Thuram came agonisingly close to a leveller when he headed off the post.

The France international would not be denied twice, though, and smashed a towering header past Alex Meret in the 82nd minute to level the scores.

Chances fell at both ends before Martinez's penalty box instincts proved decisive in the 91st minute as Napoli failed to clear in a goalmouth scramble and the Argentina striker pounced to settle an extraordinary match.

"I'm happy we managed to fight back, that was missing last year," Martinez told DAZN.

In Rome, Mario Hermoso and Matias Soule struck in the dying minutes to continue a perfect start to the season for Roma against their coach Gian Piero Gasperini's former club Atalanta.



Martinez celebrates scoring his team's third goal during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Napoli at the San Siro stadium. — AFP photo

Ederson's bullet strike early in the second half came against the run of play but looked enough for a backs-to-the-wall victory as Atalanta goalkeeper Marco Carnesecchi kept out wave after wave of Giallorossi attacks.

Roma scored eight goals in their opening two wins of the season, but looked almost out of ideas after replacement striker Santiago Castro was twice denied by the woodwork and Carnesecchi produced a terrific double save.

But Hermoso was left unmarked and looped a header into the far corner to level the scores in the 90th minute.

The Roma players sprinted back to the centre circle as they looked for a quick restart to push for a winner, and that was exactly what they got when substitute Soule fired a composed finish in at the near post to send the Stadio Olimpico wild. — AFP

Bayern held to draw by brilliant Schalke goalie

BERLIN: Defending champions Bayern Munich were held to a scoreless draw by promoted Schalke in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

The draw ended Bayern's run of 67 consecutive matchdays atop the Bundesliga table. It was the first time they failed to score since February 2025.

Seven-time German champions Schalke have not beaten Bayern since 2011 and had not even taken a point off the Bavarian giants in nine years – a run of 12 straight defeats.

"That's who we are. That's what defines us, and everyone can be proud of their performance today," said the impressive Schalke goalie Loris Karius, who was named man of the match.

The former Liverpool 'keeper deflected the post-match praise to his defenders, telling Sky Germany: "I just had to shout instructions to the lads: keep going, push up, drop back."

With Harry Kane and Michael Olise starting from the bench, Bayern dominated the ball but created few clear chances as stubborn Schalke dug deep to pick up their first point of the season. — AFP

RESULTS

Draw no : 5341/26

Draw date: 06-09-2026 (Sun)

1 + 3D

3D BIG

1st prize	9125	125
2nd prize	5797	797
3rd prize	6915	915

Starter

Consolation

9285	8982	3319	3664
4028	6776	6973	8811
3886	3341	4875	1801
7776	1507	7404	2384
9875	9374	4877	3059

1 + 3D Jackpot

JACKPOT 1 : RM 1,510,005.97

9125 + 5797	9125 + 6915
5797 + 6915	5797 + 9125
6915 + 9125	6915 + 5797

JACKPOT 2 : RM 35,667.38

Matches any 1 of top 3 and any 1 of Starter winning numbers

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SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 6182/2026 DATE: 06/09/2026 (SUN)

STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.

19690100090 (8420-2)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
9 6 1 6	3 9 2 7	6 6 2 8

Special

5594

4902

2425

5764

4049

9278

0656

0122

1893

7815

1701

1365

9775

7698

2579

7180

6444

2506

7822

TOTO JACKPOT

Jackpot 1

RM 3,513,853.99

9616	3927	3927	9616
9616	6628	6628	9616
3927	6628	6628	3927

Jackpot 2

RM 429,387.53

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Fireball

6

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	9 6 1 6	+	
2nd Prize	3 9 2 7	+	
3rd Prize	6 6 2 8	+	GOAT
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number		

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1ST	2 4 4 2 4
4TH	4 4 2 4
2ND	7 4 4 5 7
5TH	4 2 4
3RD	4 1 1 3 1
6TH	2 4

6D

1ST	0 9 8 3 4 2
2ND	0 9 8 3 4 or 9 8 3 4 2
3RD	0 9 8 3 or 8 3 4 2
4TH	0 9 8 or 3 4 2
5TH	0 9 or 4 2

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SUPREME

2 (23) 24 (34) 35 (41)

Jackpot

RM 10,241,508.57

POWER

7 (20) 30 (32) 41 (44)

Jackpot

RM 15,255,370.26

STAR

3 (10) 12 (15) 16 (36) +50

Jackpot 1

RM 1,377,463.64

Jackpot 2

RM 107,083.41

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Draw No: 419/26

Date: 06/09/2026

4D Classic

1st Prize	0063
2nd Prize	8320
3rd Prize	3882

SPECIAL

7386

5143

5859

4363

6231

0448

8779

3905

0021

8164

1748

0838

7909

5613

9443

4325

3584

2082

3980

4057

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1

RM8,350,042.91

PARTIALLY WON

0063 + 8320	0063 + 3882
8320 + 0063	8320 + 3882
3882 + 0063	3882 + 8320

Jackpot 2

RM151,091.27

PARTIALLY WON

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

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Apple

Google Play

MyMagnum

Magnum Life

4	7	10	17	18	29	30	33
+ 25 31							
Grand Prize RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 20 years							
2nd Prize RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days							

Jackpot Gold

Jackpot 1

RM12,988,559.50

Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2

RM175,823.94

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

PARTIALLY WON

GROUP 1	6 3 2 0 8 2
GROUP 2	6 3 2 0 8 OR 3 2 0 8 2
GROUP 3	6 3 2 0 OR 2 0 8 2
GROUP 4	6 3 2 OR 0 8 2
GROUP 5	6 3 OR 8 2
OR 2 0	
GOLDEN NUMBER	0 0

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit www.magnum4d.my for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY



Two-goal hero Ajdin Mujagic (left) gestures in the Sabah penalty box.



Battle of the #10s: Kuching City FC's Petrus Shitembi (left) and Sabah FC's Cifu clash in a midfield duel at Likas Stadium.

Power lifter Anson wins Sarawak's first gold at Para Sukma

SELANGOR: Anson Tiong wasted no time making his Para Sukma debut count, becoming the athlete who opened Sarawak's gold medal account at the Para Sukma XXII Selangor 2026 here on Sunday.

The 19-year-old para powerlifter clinched the men's 49kg (M49 A) title with a best lift of 97kg, delivering a major boost to the Sarawak contingent's medal campaign.

The achievement was all the more impressive considering Anson only took up the sport seriously in 2025. Despite his limited experience, the athlete showed remarkable progress through disciplined training and commitment to his coaches' instructions, culminating in a gold medal at his first Para Sukma appearance.

His success was made even more special by the presence of his family, who had flown in from Sarawak and arrived in Selangor the night before the competition to support him. His father, Tiong Ung Seng, who spoke to the Sarawak Public Communication Unit (Ukas) after the win, said the family's presence was a reflection of their unwavering support for Anson's passion for the sport.

"We support him fully because this is what he is interested in. When he has the interest, as a family we have to encourage and support him until he can reach a level like this," he said after the medal presentation.

Ung Seng said the family had become increasingly supportive after witnessing Anson's determination and commitment since taking up para powerlifting.

He also credited support from Anson's teammates, together with inspiration from Sarawak-born national para powerlifting star Bonnie Bunyau Gustin, had also helped build his confidence.

Bonnie is among Anson's idols and has inspired him to continue developing his potential in the sport.



Meanwhile, Sarawak Para Sukma chef de mission Datuk Dr Mohamad Razi Sitam saw Anson's achievement as a positive start for the contingent and could provide the impetus for other athletes in their medal hunt.

"We are grateful and proud of Anson for opening Sarawak's gold medal account. We hope this achievement will become a source of motivation for the other Sarawak athletes who will continue their respective challenges," he said.

Meanwhile, Sarawak para powerlifting team manager Rusmalina Mat Darus who also spoke to Ukas described Anson's victory as particularly impressive given that he had only been involved in the sport for about a year.

"We actually did not expect Anson to improve so much that he could win a gold medal on his debut at the Para Sukma," she said.

Anson, who was visibly delighted after securing the title, thanked his employer, coaches and teammates for their support throughout his journey.

"I am very happy. Thank you to my boss, all my coaches and my friends," he said.

The youngster also urged parents of children with disabilities to give them the opportunity to participate in sports, saying it could help build their confidence and allow them to demonstrate their abilities while bringing pride to their state and country.

His gold medal was celebrated by his family, teammates and team officials, with cheers of 'Oha' ringing out as they shared a memorable moment after his breakthrough victory.

Cats sink Rhinos with Mujagic brace in Likas



KUCHING: The attitude, discipline and commitment of his players were the biggest factors behind the 2-0 Malaysia Super League match victory over Sabah FC in the Malaysia Super League match at Likas Stadium on Saturday night, according to Kuching City FC head coach Aidil Sharin Sahak.

He credited the Cats for responding positively in the Borneo Derby after being held to a goalless draw by Kelantan in their previous league outing.

He was particularly pleased with how the squad maintained its focus despite having to cope with consecutive away matches and limited recovery time.

"We have to give credit to the players for tonight's game and they always stayed focused and knew it was not going to be easy because we have played a lot of away games back-to-back, with the resting period too," he remarked after the match.

Aidil revealed that some rotation was made before the trip to Kota Kinabalu with the players

We have to give credit to the players for tonight's game and they always stayed focused and knew it was not going to be easy because we have played a lot of away games back-to-back, with the resting period too.

Aidil Sharin Sahak

responding by carrying out their responsibilities effectively once the match began.

"I think the game plan today, the boys did very well and followed everything they were supposed to do in training. The most important thing is the effort from the players, the commitment and how they defended to keep the clean sheet today," he said.

Kuching City made the most of their opportunities through Bosnian forward Ajdin Mujagic, who struck twice in the first half to put the visitors in a commanding position.

Mujagic opened the scoring in the fifth minute with a long-range effort after Sabah failed to deal with the danger outside their penalty area. He doubled the advantage in the 21st minute, reacting quickly to a loose ball inside the Sabah box before slotting it home.

The two-goal cushion allowed Kuching City to adopt a more disciplined approach after the break with the defence holding firm despite increased pressure from the hosts.

Aidil said the team's performance from defence to attack was a significant improvement from their previous outing.

"Last game we did not have a good performance against (Kelantan Red Warrior FC), 0-0. Today we came with a stronger character and strong mentality. This is where I think we can see the improvement," he said.

He also hailed the travelling supporters for helping lift the players during the derby.

"We also have to thank the fans who came here to support the players," he said.

The victory moved Kuching City into second place in the Malaysia Super League standings

with nine points, giving them an important confidence boost ahead of their next assignment in the FA Cup.

Kuching City will next turn their attention to the Malaysia FA Cup, with Kelantan Red Warrior FC as visitors in the second leg of the Round of 16 at the Stadium Negeri, 8.15pm on Tuesday. The tie is evenly poised at 0-0 after the first leg in Kota Bharu on September 1. But he cautioned his charges against taking Kelantan Red Warrior FC lightly.

"We know that we are bringing a good result and good performance. When you play the next game, you will be more motivated because the confidence level and the players' spirit will increase.

"We are going to play against Kelantan with young boys who are very aggressive and committed. We have to prove in the next game that we can produce another good performance," he said.

Kuching City will then return to Super League action away to Melaka FC on Saturday before travelling to Cambodia for their AFC Champions League Two Group H encounter against Phnom Penh Crown FC on September 17.

Coach admits Kelantan not at Super League level

KOTA BHARU: Kelantan Red Warrior FC (KRW FC) head coach Irfan Bakti Abu Salim admitted that the majority of his players have not yet reached the level required to compete in the Super League.

He said the situation was a challenge for his team to compete with other teams that have more experienced local and imported players.

"I don't want to belittle my own players, but my players' ability to play in the Super League is not at the level it should be. However, they still tried their best. Most of my players are playing in the top league for the first time, only a few players have experience playing in the Super League," he told reporters after the match against Kuala Lumpur City FC (KL City) at the Sultan Muhammad IV Stadium, Friday night.

KRW FC lost 1-3 to KL City in the match, thus suffering their fourth consecutive defeat since being promoted from the Semi-Pro League to the Super League this season.

Irfan Bakti said the lack of experience is not an excuse for his men to reduce their commitment, on the contrary they need to give 100 per cent effort in every match.

"But this is not an excuse. If we enter the Super League, we have to give 100 per cent commitment. I can't blame the players I have," he said. — Bernama

Inter-team pickleball tourney in Kapit set for Sept 19

KAPIT: The United Chinese Association (UCA) Kapit and Kapit Success Pickleball Club are jointly organising an inter-team pickleball tournament, set to take place at the Light House Pickleball Court on Jalan Memora here this Sept 19.

Kapit Success Pickleball Club chairman Alan Tang, also the

organising committee's head, welcomes interested players to form teams and register for the competition, which is held in conjunction with the Malaysia Day 2026 celebration.

"Each team must register between six and eight players, who will be allocated to two men's doubles and one mixed doubles

pair. The registration fee is RM300 per team. The closing date for submission of entries is noon of Sept 10," said Tang in a statement.

The champion will take home RM1,500, while the respective runners-up will receive RM1,000, RM500 and RM200. For more information, call Tang on 019-8373808.

Squash tourney serves to develop players for next Sukma

Sandra Jaboh

KUCHING: The Kuching Squash Invitational 2026 was aimed at developing young squash players as part of preparation for the next Malaysian Games (Sukma). It brought together players from different parts of Sarawak.

"We want to develop this programme for them and, as a whole, for the state because we want to have the next Sukma players from Sarawak.

"This is a young group aged between nine to 15 years old. The main objective is that we want to create more players for the next game," Squash Association of Kuching (SAK) president Shaikat Khan told reporters after the tournament on Sunday.

The tournament attracted 84 participants from Sibul, Miri, Samarahan and Kuching to the

Sarawak Club Squash Court here.

It featured 10 categories, namely Men's Premier, Women's Premier, Boys Under 9, Boys U11, Boys U13, Boys U15, Girls U9, Girls U11, Girls U13 and Girls U15.

Kong Chak Wei emerged champion in the men's premier followed by Troy Sim second, Morgan Lo third and Kong Sieng Chien fourth. The women's premier champion was Annabelle Marie Teo Shao Ying followed by Abigail Teo Shao Jin, Iszea Amani Ishak and Nur Putri Dayana Mohamad Rezan.

SAK thanked players, parents, coaches, referees, officials and volunteers for their contributions towards the conduct of the tournament.

Also present was Sarawak Sports Corporation (SSC) acting head of sports development division Dedia Sarini Ahmad.



Shaikat (front row, left) and Dedia (front row, centre) in a group photo with the Men's Premier prize winners.



Getting nuclear power into M'sia's energy mix 'inevitable'

>A2



Roomie launches integrated payment gateway for M'sian hotels

>A3

Currency Market Observations

by Dar Wong



Global sentiment of rate hike enlarges

Fundamental outlook

The US manufacturing PMI fell to 54.6 in August and missed expectations, though remaining above the 50.0 benchmark to indicate growth.

US nonfarm payrolls rose by 162,000 in August, while unemployment remained steady at a low rate of 4.1 per cent in the same month. Market traders expect an impending rate hike to counter inflation.

Before the weekend, President Donald Trump urged the Federal Reserve to cut rates, threatening to cut trade ties with countries that hold a trade surplus with the US economy.

German preliminary consumer prices eased to a 0.2 per cent gain in August versus robust 0.8 per cent growth in July. Separately, Eurozone inflation grew 3.3 per cent year-on-year in August, matching consensus. Another report showed core inflation eased to a 2.4 per cent year-on-year gain.

Globally speaking, most major markets expect a rate hike coming soon. On Friday, the US 10-year Treasury yield climbed to 4.784 per cent, its highest level since November 2023. Japan's 10-year government bond yield moved above 3 per cent for the first time since 1996. In the UK, yields on 10-year Gilts hit a post-2008 high, while German 10-year bund yields rose to levels not seen since 2011.

Technical forecasts

US dollar/Japanese yen slid last week due to rising Japanese government bond (JGB) yields, with the market settling at 156.25 on Friday. This week, we reckon the market will dip further, with resistance at 157.30. Downside potential is open to test the \$1 level of 155.50 and the \$2 level of 154.00 progressively.

Euro/US dollar exhibited strong support at the 1.1580 area last week and closed at 1.1614 on Friday. This week, we forecast the market will jump further and rise within the 1.1600 to 1.1700 region. Piercing above 1.1700 resistance will escalate higher to reach the 1.1800 target.

Pound/US dollar traded sideways last week and settled at 1.3523 before the weekend.

This week, we predict the market will rise further and trade in the 1.3480 to 1.3650 region. Buying momentum is resurging as long-Gilt yields increase gradually.

Gold spot prices traded sideways and closed at US\$4,430 per ounce on Friday. This week, we foresee the yellow metal taking a dip for a correction as market sentiment is prone to fears of a rate hike in mid-September. The target range is set at US\$4,330 to US\$4,480 per ounce. Beware of breaking beneath the US\$4,330 per ounce support, which would test lower ground at US\$4,280 per ounce.

WTI crude spot prices climbed slightly higher, settling at US\$89.31 per barrel before the weekend. This week, we project the market will trade in a tight range within US\$88.00 to US\$92.00 per barrel. Upon breaking the upside resistance, there is potential to reach our next target of US\$100.00 per barrel.

Silver spot prices traded inactively and closed at US\$66.21 per ounce on Friday. This week, we target a bear trend entering the market, with resistance emerging at the US\$67.00 per ounce area. Downside potential is open to US\$64.00 per ounce in the event of a drop. Precious metals will encounter selling sentiment as funds begin moving into crude demand.

Crude Palm Oil (FCPO) futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives traded in a slight uptrend last week. Weather changes and reducing supply are partial reasons for rising prices. The November 2026 contract settled at RM4,931 per metric tonne (MT) on Friday.

This week, we foresee that FCPO might be supported and follow the crude oil trend. The target range is expected to move within the RM4,870 to RM5,020 per MT region. Piercing in either direction will extend another RM50 per MT range.

Dar Wong has more than 30 years of trading and hedging experience in global financial markets. The opinions expressed are solely his own. He can be reached at dar@alaa.sg.

SCIB expands Sabah footprint with Kolombong land buy



Ronnie Teo

ronnieteo@theborneopost.com

KUCHING: Sarawak Consolidated Industries Berhad (SCIB), a construction and EPCC specialist, announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, SCIB Ecobuild Sdn Bhd (SCIBE), has entered into a Sale and Purchase Agreement with East Liberty Sdn Bhd to acquire three leasehold parcels in Kolombong, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, together with rights and interests in an adjoining road reserve for RM15.20 million.

Parcel A comprises six existing two-storey shoplots, while Parcels B and C are undeveloped. The existing shoplots are multi-tenanted and currently generate aggregate monthly rental income of RM43,600, providing SCIB with an immediate recurring income stream upon completion of the acquisition.

The purchase consideration was arrived at on a willing-buyer willing-seller basis. Knight Frank Malaysia Sdn Bhd, the

independent professional valuer, assessed the market value of Parcels A, B and C at RM15.20 million as at 23 July 2026.

Parcel D, which serves as the road reserve for Parcels A, B and C, will be dealt with through a Deed of Substitution of Power of Attorney in favour of SCIBE.

Parcels B and C provide potential for the future development of additional two-storey shoplots, subject to prevailing market conditions, relevant regulatory approvals and applicable title conditions.

SCIB also intends to retain one proposed unit for an SCIB Sabah branch office. The acquisition will be funded through a combination of bank borrowings and internally generated funds and, barring any unforeseen circumstances and subject to the fulfilment of the terms and conditions of the SPA, is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2027.

SCIB non-independent non-executive chairman Datuk Chong Loong Men commented: "This acquisition gives SCIB a practical platform to deepen our presence in Sabah. It combines immediate



Datuk Chong Loong Men

recurring rental income with future development potential, while the planned Sabah branch office will place our team closer to the projects and opportunities we are pursuing in the state."

He added, "We remain disciplined in how we deploy capital. The acquisition complements our construction and EPCC capabilities and gives us a sensible mix of income-producing assets, development potential and operational use as we build a broader business base in Sabah."

SCIB has been progressively expanding its project and development pipeline in Sabah. Since April 2026, the group has secured four project awards in the state with a combined value of approximately RM90.28 million, covering works for

SMK Balaban Jaya in Beluran, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Sekolah Kebangsaan Kaingaran in Tambunan and the student hostel block at Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Keningau.

On 19 August 2026, SCIBE also entered into a co-development agreement for a 144-unit high-rise residential project in Penampang, Sabah, with an estimated gross development value of approximately RM83.19 million. Together with the Kolombong acquisition, these initiatives broaden SCIB's participation in Sabah while leveraging the Group's existing construction capabilities.

The Lands are located in Kolombong, Kota Kinabalu, an established area with residential, commercial and light industrial activities supported by existing infrastructure and road connectivity.

Moving forward, SCIB intends to optimise the development potential of Parcels B and C while maintaining disciplined project execution, cost management and funding practices as it strengthens its long-term presence across East Malaysia.

BYD to unveil M'sia EV devt plan within a week

SHENZHEN: Chinese electric vehicle (EV) giant BYD Co Ltd is expected to announce within a week its next move for further expansion in Malaysia, amid questions over whether the automaker will collaborate with a local partner or establish its own manufacturing facility.

BYD vice-president Liu Xueliang said the company would continue exploring cooperation with local partners to support the development of Malaysia's new energy vehicle (NEV) industry.

"We will continue to explore, together with local partners, how we can better support the development of Malaysia's new energy vehicle industry. Of course, our development in Malaysia has also been progressing very well. Very soon, we will announce our approach towards sustainable development," he told Malaysian media after the Asia-Pacific Story session titled "Stories of Industrial Integration".

Asked whether BYD would pursue cooperation with a local partner or opt for another



The remarks come amid heightened interest in BYD's next move in Malaysia, particularly over its local manufacturing strategy and potential partnerships. — Bernama photo

approach, Liu remained tight-lipped, saying: "Wait another week and we will announce it."

The remarks come amid heightened interest in BYD's next move in Malaysia, particularly over its local manufacturing strategy and potential partnerships.

BYD's plans have attracted attention as Malaysia seeks to strengthen its EV ecosystem

while encouraging greater localisation and investment across the automotive supply chain.

In May, it was reported that BYD was evaluating a potential contract assembly partnership with Sime Motors' Inokom plant in Kulim, Kedah, as the Chinese automaker reviewed its local manufacturing strategy in Malaysia.

Progress on BYD's proposed manufacturing plant in Tanjung Malim, Perak, appeared to have stalled as of March this year. This was followed by a statement from the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) addressing claims circulating on social media regarding conditions imposed on BYD's manufacturing licence and other related policies.

Meanwhile, beginning July 1 this year, fully imported or completely built-up (CBU) EVs are required to have a minimum declared cost, insurance and freight (CIF) value of RM200,000, as well as a minimum power output of 245 horsepower (180 kilowatts).

The new requirements follow the expiry of Malaysia's special tax exemption for imported CBU EVs at the end of 2025.

Liu said BYD has reaffirmed its commitment to long-term investment in Malaysia despite developments that have affected the progress of its plans, while identifying east Malaysia as a market with significant growth potential. — Bernama

FMM calls for Budget 2027 to expand SMEs' productive capacity

KUCHING: The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturing (FMM) has called for Budget 2027 to prioritise the expansion of Malaysia's productive capacity by enabling businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to retain and reinvest more capital in technology, innovation, talent development and stronger domestic supply chains.

President Jacob Lee Chor Kok said FMM's Budget 2027 recommendations combined broader and more transparent consumption taxation with competitive taxation of productive businesses and appropriate safeguards for essential consumption.

He said FMM reiterated its proposal to introduce the Goods

and Services Tax (GST) at a low introductory rate of three per cent, with protection for essential consumption, simplified SME compliance and reliable, time-bound refunds.

Following the government's indication that it is open to studying selected GST features within the Sales and Service Tax (SST), he said FMM recommended systematic input-tax credits or offsets, effective relief for essential goods and exports, and prompt refunds to reduce tax cascading, embedded production costs and cash-flow pressures.

"These measures should be supported by e-Invoice verification and early consultation with industry. FMM nevertheless maintains that GST is the preferred

long-term framework for strengthening tax transparency and competitiveness," he said in a statement on Thursday.

For qualifying SMEs, he said FMM proposed a corporate income-tax rate of 15 per cent on the first RM1 million of chargeable income, 17 per cent on the next RM1 million and 24 per cent thereafter.

FMM also recommended a RM1.5 billion Smart Manufacturing Support Package for 2027-2030, comprising RM500 million for automation, RM750 million for manufacturing digitalisation and RM250 million for artificial intelligence (AI) adoption.

This should be complemented by enhanced automation allowances, financing at rates of between two and four per cent,

fully subsidised on-site smart-factory assessments and support for implementation costs, he said.

To strengthen industrial innovation, FMM proposed a RM1 billion Manufacturing Research and Innovation Endowment Fund, funded equally by the government and industry, together with more accessible research and development (R&D) incentives.

To strengthen supply-chain resilience, FMM proposed a RM100 million National Supply Chain Resilience Fund to help manufacturers secure critical inputs, qualify alternative suppliers and diversify their supply sources.

The fund would support the Malaysia International Manufacturing Expo

(MIMX) from 2027 to 2030, an international supply-chain diversification programme offering matching grants of up to RM100,000 per approved project, and a national strategic sourcing and coordination mechanism, he said.

FMM also recommended enhancing the Allowance for Increased Exports and Market Development Grant to support indirect exporters, entry into new markets, branding, certification and overseas distribution.

"The manufacturing SME definition should be updated to cover companies with annual turnover of up to RM100 million and/or up to 300 employees and applied consistently across government support programmes.

"Stronger procurement linkages among the government, government-linked companies (GLCs) and industry would further develop Malaysian vendors, strengthen 'Made by Malaysia' capabilities and reduce vulnerability to external supply disruptions," he said.

FMM also proposed that 60 per cent of foreign-worker levy proceeds be channelled into skills development and 40 per cent into automation, supported respectively by RM100 million and RM500 million in seed funding.

This would turn levy collections into sustained investments in Malaysian talent and productivity while progressively reducing dependence on low-skilled foreign labour, he said.



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Getting nuclear power into M’sia’s energy mix ‘inevitable’

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has been actively laying the groundwork to pave the way for a possible nuclear application in the country's energy mix, although it may not materialise in the foreseeable future.

The big question is, who will spur the civil nuclear project in the country – private firms or government-related energy giants like Petroliaam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) or Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), which are said to be keen to undertake the massive development.

With the war between the United States and Iran continuing, disrupting the whole West Asia region and globally, Malaysia has seriously considered alternatives and examined many countries' energy initiatives, including the deployment of civil nuclear applications for industrial and general use.

Just last week, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) shared at a national workshop organised here that focused on human resource development modelling, a strategy that supports workforce planning by projecting future staffing needs, as the country looks to build capacity to support current and future nuclear applications.

In March this year, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof was quoted as saying that Malaysia has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of its potential nuclear energy programme, covering policy development, regulatory frameworks, project feasibility, industry participation, stakeholder engagement and human capital development.

Fadillah, who is also the Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA), said the move to explore nuclear

energy for electricity generation is a strategic effort to strengthen long-term energy security while supporting the country's clean energy transition.

Previously, Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Minister Datuk Chang Lih Kang stated that Malaysia is actively exploring nuclear energy for future electricity generation under a structured framework with PETRA, with key nuclear initiatives led by MOSTI.

Led by Chang, the ministry launched the National Nuclear Technology Policy (DTNN) 2030 to promote peaceful applications of nuclear technology. The minister said a government-commissioned pre-feasibility study on the use of nuclear energy has found promising potential for its adoption as a clean, stable and reliable energy source for Malaysia's long-term energy security.

Juwai IQI global chief economist Shan Saeed said Malaysia's evaluation of civil nuclear energy is strategically sound and economically timely. He said under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), nuclear power is being assessed as a low-carbon component of the country's future electricity architecture, with MyPOWER Corporation coordinating a feasibility process aligned with the IAEA's Milestones Approach.

"The 13MP sets an initial operational ambition of 2031, although deployment must remain conditional on safety, regulatory readiness and commercial viability," he told Bernama here recently.

AI, data centre boom boost energy demand

The booming of data centres across the Asean region, which

has seen Malaysia leading the growth, strengthens the economic case. Apart from that, Malaysia is also aggressive in driving its artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives toward becoming an AI Nation by 2030.

The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) approved RM144.4 billion in data-centre and cloud-computing investments between 2021 and mid-2025. By mid-August 2025, TNB had secured electricity-supply agreements for 47 data-centre projects with maximum demand of 6.7 gigawatts (GW).

MIDA also projected data-centre power demand could exceed 5GW by 2035 - equivalent to about 18 per cent of Peninsular Malaysia's 2025 installed capacity.

Shan said reliable electricity is therefore moving from an infrastructure consideration to a national competitiveness imperative.

"The gains would extend beyond data centres to semiconductor fabrication, electrical and electronics manufacturing, chemicals, advanced materials and green hydrogen.

Nuclear could complement Malaysia's renewable-energy base with firm generation when solar output fluctuates, while diversifying the power mix and reducing exposure to imported-fuel volatility," said the economist.

McKinsey estimated that the US data-centre demand could rise from 25GW in 2024 to more than 80GW by 2030. ExxonMobil projects global electricity demand will expand by approximately 70 per cent by 2050.

"The competitive frontier is shifting from land, tax incentives and connectivity towards dependable, scalable power. Technological prudence remains

essential," Shan said.

Tapping the Strength of Petronas, TNB

With the government laying the groundwork, Petronas and TNB will likely lead the commercial initiatives, based on their strength and capacity.

Shan said ideally the optimal model would be government-led but commercially disciplined. He advised that the Malaysia Programme Office for Power Electricity Reform Corporation (MyPOWER) should remain the programme coordinator, supported by the Energy Commission, Department of Atomic Energy Malaysia (Atom Malaysia) and the Malaysian Nuclear Agency.

"TNB is the natural domestic anchor for system planning and grid integration; Petronas could contribute expertise in complex-project delivery, safety management, international procurement and capital deployment.

Experienced international vendors would initially provide reactor technology and operating expertise, while hyperscalers could strengthen project bankability through long-term power-purchase agreements," he added.

Finding the perfect fit for Malaysia

Apart from capacity building, the most important task is finding a suitable nuclear application to fulfil the country's energy needs.

On July 10, 2025, Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation with the United States, which supports the former's broader clean energy exploration and long-term energy security.



Malaysia is actively exploring nuclear energy for future electricity generation under a structured framework with PETRA, with key nuclear initiatives led by MOSTI. — Bernama photo

It also engaged in partnership networks with China and Russia to enhance its preparedness for a future nuclear energy programme that is safe, well-regulated and strategically planned.

Petronas and TNB are believed to be looking at some civil nuclear options, including third-generation nuclear fission.

"Insofar as the kind of technologies that we (Malaysia) are considering, whether it is from Korean or Russian or American or British or French, we kind of have to be a little bit more agnostic because we need to find the one that is fit for purpose in this region.

"Now, people have been saying the Americans and the Russians have got a bit of a lead because, think about it, aircraft carriers carry nuclear reactors at risk. So it's already a floating solution.

"I think we need to consider all the attributes of what makes it secure. This is another one where you have to make sure you can take on the cost of delivering nuclear energy because it's super expensive to build. Once built, the ongoing operating expenditure (opex) is very low," said a source close to the deal.

Among other options, Malaysia is also looking at Canada, which is currently implementing small modular reactors (SMRs), which, among others, are said to be suitable for deployment to data centres.

Through its SMR Action Plan, Canada is advancing its nuclear application and benefiting Canadians in many ways.

Apart from that, there is also the possibility of looking at floating power units (FPUs), which are said to be well-suited for coastal nations, the source said, citing Rosatom, the Russian state corporation leading in nuclear energy, nuclear non-energy goods and high-tech products.

Whatever the options - from SMRs or FPUs to third-generation nuclear fission - many factors need to be considered as Malaysia aims to make nuclear energy part of the generation mix by 2031.

What is the ideal timeline?

Shan said ideally, if the first power could come around between 2038 and 2042, it would be credible. "The strategy is about turning ambition into architecture. Compute capacity ultimately depends upon energy capacity. Build institutions first, contracts second and concrete last," he added.

Shan cited Wood Mackenzie, which models Malaysian SMR deployment from 2035, reaching 1.2GW by 2050. "The 2026-2030 period should prioritise legislation, workforce development, site evaluation, independent regulation, financing, waste management and ring-fenced decommissioning provisions," he added. — Bernama

BURSA HIGHLIGHTS



Bursa expected to trade with positive bias this week

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia is expected to trade with a positive bias this week, underpinned by resilient domestic fundamentals and improving regional sentiment.

IPPPA Sdn Bhd director of investment strategy and country economist Mohd Sedek Jantan said Malaysia's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) remains above the 50-point expansion threshold, while stronger US Institute for Supply Management (ISM) Services data for August points to continued momentum in global activity and demand.

"China's trade data on Tuesday will be closely watched for confirmation that external demand remains firm, with a stronger-than-expected print likely to benefit Malaysia given its close trade and manufacturing linkages with China," he said.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said that, looking ahead to the coming week, Bursa Malaysia is likely to remain in consolidation mode as investors assess developments in West Asia, crude oil prices and their potential

impact on global inflation.

"Foreign institutions remained net sellers this week, while local institutions and retail investors continued to absorb the selling.

"From a technical perspective, the 1,700 level remains an important psychological support, while the 1,720 level should provide near-term resistance," he told Bernama.

Thong said that with neither the domestic nor external backdrop providing a sufficiently strong catalyst for a decisive breakout, the benchmark index is expected to trade within the 1,700-1,730 range this week.

Last week, Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee decided to maintain the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 2.75 per cent. The central bank said the latest indicators point to resilient global growth, supported by strong global tech expansion, improving supply conditions and stable labour markets.

It noted that inflation has edged lower in recent months but is expected to remain elevated given the lagged pass-through of energy costs to consumer prices.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) declined 17.78 points to 1,708.10 from 1,725.88 two weeks earlier.

On the index board, the FBM Emas Index fell 139.18 points to 12,625.45, the FBM Top 100 Index lost 145.59 points to 12,429.26, and the FBM Emas Shariah Index slipped 191.39 points to 12,360.70, the FBM ACE Index gave up 31.91 points to 5,217.47, while the FBM Mid 70 Index tumbled 277.69 points to 17,769.20.

By sector, the Energy Index advanced 27.24 points to 805.62, and the Plantation Index improved 28.26 points to 9,337.92, while the Industrial Products and Services Index shed 2.31 points to 186.96, and the Financial Services Index dipped 81.98 points to 20,161.49.

The weekly turnover increased to 17.97 billion units worth RM14.14 billion from 16.70 billion units worth RM17.24 billion in the prior week.

The Main Market volume jumped to 12.00 billion units valued at RM12.85 billion against 9.70 billion units valued at RM15.60 billion previously. — Bernama



MONEY MARKET

Short-term interbank rates are expected to remain stable this week, supported by Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) operations in the financial system.

The central bank conducted daily liquidity operations last week through reverse repo tenders, including Islamic reverse repo tenders involving collateralised commodity murabahah and sell-and-buy-back agreements, to reduce surplus funds in the financial system.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, surplus liquidity in the conventional system expanded to RM36.1 billion from RM35.70 billion previously week.

Meanwhile, surplus liquidity in the Islamic system slipped to RM23.0 billion from RM25.20 billion prior.

The Malaysia Islamic Overnight Rate (MYOR-i) was at 2.75 per cent as of Sept 3, 2026.



RUBBER

THE Kuala Lumpur rubber market is expected to remain range-bound with a slightly lower bias this week, as supply and demand remain largely in equilibrium amid volatile crude oil prices and uncertainty arising from geopolitical tensions.

Industry expert Denis Low said the prolonged conflict in West Asia continued to disrupt commerce and industry and create uncertainty, while the recent attacks pushed crude oil prices up about four per cent to hover around US\$94.20 per barrel.

"The higher oil prices are sending prices and costs spiralling up again," he told Bernama.

Low said the market should also remain cautious over volatility in crude oil prices and the US dollar, which could affect rubber prices and demand.



CPO

CRUDE palm oil (CPO) futures on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives are expected to see profit-taking in the week to come amid high stock levels in Malaysia and Indonesia, said a dealer.

Interband Group of Companies senior palm oil trader Jim Teh said CPO futures are expected to trade between RM4,500 and RM4,600 per tonne this week.

"Speculative activity had pushed CPO futures prices higher, prompting physical buyers such as India to hold back purchases and wait for futures prices to ease.

"The situation also affected buying of other palm oil products as physical buyers remain cautious at current price levels," he told Bernama.

Teh said market participants would closely monitor the Malaysian Palm Oil Board's August 2026 industry data, which is scheduled for September 10.

He said the data, particularly on stock levels and exports, would provide further indications on the market's direction. Teh indicated that physical demand is expected to see buying interest from China, India, Pakistan, Middle Eastern countries, European Union countries, and, to a lesser extent, the United States.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the September 2026 contract fell RM20 to RM4,608 per tonne, October 2026 declined RM13 to RM4,775 per tonne, while November 2026 gained RM35 to RM4,929 per tonne.

The December 2026 contract surged RM66 to RM5,054 per tonne, January 2027 jumped RM88 to RM5,155 per tonne, and February 2027 soared RM106 to RM5,227 per tonne. Weekly trading volume increased to 470,612 lots from 466,029 lots in the preceding week, while open interest improved to 334,025 contracts from 332,943 contracts previously.

The physical CPO price for September South was unchanged at RM4,650 per tonne.

FBM KLCI

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RINGGIT

THE ringgit and other regional currencies are expected to come under pressure this week, with the local currency seen trading between RM4.04 and RM4.06 against the US dollar.

This comes after the stronger-than-expected US non-farm payrolls (NFP) data released

overnight increased the chances of a US interest rate hike, bolstering the greenback.

Market attention will continue to centre on upcoming US economic data, particularly the Consumer Price Index (CPI) report next Friday, which is widely seen as a key determinant of the US

Federal Reserve's next interest rate decision.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the US CPI will be a critical data point as the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) members reconvene the following week to

deliberate on the Fed Funds Rate, which currently stands at 3.50 to 3.75 per cent.

"The strong NFP outturn during August suggests that the Fed is likely to raise its benchmark interest rate in the upcoming FOMC meeting on Sept 15 and Sept 16," he told Bernama.

The NFP came in at 162,000 in August, well above the consensus forecast of 55,000.

For the week just ended, Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 2.75 per cent at its meeting on Thursday.

Roomie launches integrated payment gateway for M'sian hotels

KUCHING: Roomie has launched an integrated payment gateway designed for the hotel and tourism industry, allowing guests to make payments through e-wallets commonly used in China, India and Southeast Asia.

The Malaysian hospitality technology provider said the gateway enables hotel guests to pay for services including room bookings, room service, laundry and on-demand entertainment without leaving their preferred chat or booking channel.

The service is currently available to travellers from China, India, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The payment gateway supports Alipay for China and Southeast Asia, UPI for India, TrueMoney and Line Pay for Thailand, as well as GCash for the Philippines.

Roomie chief executive officer CS Goh said the technology was intended to simplify the payment process while keeping the guest experience at the centre.

"Roomie's latest payment gateway allows all travellers to engage in the language they are comfortable in, as well as the payment method they are familiar with," Goh said.

He said the system removes the need for currency conversion and allows guests to use payment platforms they already use.

"Our goal is to help hotels improve transaction conversion, reduce abandoned orders, and unlock more opportunities for upselling," he said.

Roomie said its payment gateway had lifted transaction



(From left) Goh, Malaysia Budget & Business Hotel Association president Dr Sri Ganesh Michiel, Malaysia Association of Hotels president Christina Toh, Malaysia Association of Hotel Owners (MAHO) executive director Shaharuddin M Saaid and Yap during a photo op.

conversion for in-hotel payments by 40 per cent, compared with an industry cart abandonment rate of 80 per cent.

Beyond payments, Roomie's platform allows hotels to manage bookings, payments and guest interactions through social media.

Guests can also pay for snacks, beverages and on-demand movies through the chat interface, with orders processed after payment

is completed.

Roomie vice-president of business development and strategic partnership June Yap said reducing the number of steps in the payment process could help prevent failed transactions.

"Every additional step between a guest deciding to purchase and completing that purchase creates hassle and frustration that can lead to a failed transaction.

"By simplifying the process, hotels can make it easier for guests to say yes to the services they want, while giving operators a more effective way to generate additional revenue," Yap added.

Roomie provides hospitality solutions to hotels for a decade, with its platform currently serving 100 hotels across Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

TNG eWallet sees over RM1 bln spending by international visitors in 1H2026

KUALA LUMPUR: TNG eWallet's international visitors spent over RM1 billion through the application in the first six months of Visit Malaysia 2026 as more used Malaysia's domestic quick response (QR) payment ecosystem to spend seamlessly at businesses nationwide, said TNG Digital Sdn Bhd.

The digital financial services and lifestyle application operator said the amount accounts for close to half of the RM2.58 billion in inbound tourist spending recorded through TNG eWallet since it was introduced in April 2025.

"Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, China, Thailand and Australia were among the largest visitor markets during the period, with travellers from each tapping into Malaysia's domestic QR payment ecosystem.

"While international visitors increasingly expect cashless payment experiences, many small, micro and informal businesses have historically been unable to accept card payments due to the costs of card acceptance infrastructure," TNG Digital said.

As a result, TNG Digital said a significant portion of tourist spending has historically been concentrated among larger merchants that readily accept foreign cards, with 76 per cent of transactions taking place at physical merchant locations rather than online. This

demonstrates that spending was taking place across Malaysia's physical merchant ecosystem.

"Retail accounted for 43 per cent of inbound transaction value, while food and restaurant merchants contributed a further 40 per cent, highlighting how digital payments are helping tourism spending reach everyday Malaysian businesses," it added.

TNG Digital chief executive officer Alan Ni said the success of Visit Malaysia 2026 will not be measured solely by the number of visitors Malaysia attracts, but by how widely the economic benefits are shared, with every visitor able to spend easily and every Malaysian business having the opportunity to benefit from that spending.

"Many small businesses, hawkers and night market stalls, have traditionally been excluded from international tourist spending because accepting card payments can be costly and operationally challenging.

"By extending Malaysia's QR payment ecosystem to international visitors, we are helping connect tourists directly with businesses of every size across Malaysia," he said.

As Visit Malaysia 2026 continues, TNG Digital will continue to widen merchant participation and enhance the payment experience for international visitors. — Bernama

AI, data centre plays continue to draw investors



KUCHING: Malaysia's equity market continues to see investors favour technology and data centre-related stocks as strong second-quarter 2026 earnings reinforce confidence in the sector, according to AmlInvestment Bank.

In its Portfolio Pulse strategy report dated Sept 3, the bank said the market remained characterised by a "scarcity of credible alternatives", with the technology sector continuing to benefit from structural artificial intelligence (AI) and data centre investments.

It said technology positioning eased by 1.2 percentage points month-on-month in July 2026 as investors took profits following a strong run, but the pullback was expected to be temporary.

"Investors with existing positions remain reluctant sellers, citing a lack of compelling alternatives to redeploy capital," the research house said.

The research house said technology, mechanical and electrical (MEP) and power infrastructure contractors delivered the strongest results during the latest reporting season, supported by AI and data centre investments.

Outside technology, interest was seen in plantations and consumer stocks.

It said plantation stocks continued to attract interest as crude palm oil (CPO) prices approached RM5,000 a tonne amid El Niño-driven supply concerns.

However, flows were concentrated in larger and more liquid names, indicating that investors viewed the sector as a tactical rather than structural allocation.

"Plantation stocks now rank among the top holdings for around 30per cent of the funds we track," it said.

Investor interest in the consumer sector was also building ahead of Budget 2027,

amid expectations of further cost-of-living measures.

The report noted that reports of a possible expansion of the SARA programme could benefit retailers such as 99 Speed Mart, given its expanding staples-focused convenience network.

Meanwhile, banks and telecommunications companies remained under-owned despite resilient earnings.

According to the report, banks accounted for 18 per cent of holdings, excluding Shariah funds, compared with a 34 per cent weight in the FBM100, while telcos accounted for 4 per cent against 7 per cent in the index.

It said these sectors could see stronger demand if market leadership broadened beyond AI, as fund managers would need to rebuild their benchmark exposure.

The research house's model portfolio gained 5.0 per cent year-to-date, outperforming the FBM100 by 2.9 percentage points, with Kelington, Sunway Construction and Greatech contributing a combined 4.9 percentage points to performance.

The research house recently raised its target price for Kelington to RM12.30, citing a higher project win rate and a sizeable tender pipeline.

Among its top picks, the report listed CIMB Group with a target price of RM9.80, Hong Leong Bank at RM28, Hong Leong Financial Group at RM33, Greatech at RM3.60, V.S. Industry at RM0.70, Keyfield at RM1.76, Karex at RM0.60 and Jati Tinggi at RM1.00.

The model portfolio allocated 33 per cent to financials, 10 per cent each to plantations and construction, 9 per cent each to oil and gas and technology, 8 per cent to consumer, 4 per cent each to REITs and telcos, and 2 per cent to healthcare, with cash at 11 per cent.

As at Aug 26, the model portfolio recorded a 5.36 per cent year-to-date return, compared with 2.47 per cent for the FBM100 and 1.35 per cent for the FBMKLCI.

Carsome records highest quarterly EBITDA of RM33 million in Q2

KUCHING: Carsome Group Inc recorded its highest quarterly EBITDA of about RM33 million in the second quarter ended June 30, 2026, marking its 10th consecutive profitable quarter.

The Southeast Asian integrated car e-commerce platform said its quarterly EBITDA increased 38 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while gross profit rose 15 per cent YoY to about RM175 million.

The group sold 35,903 units during the quarter, an 11 per cent increase from the same period a year earlier.

Carsome said gross profit growth outpaced unit growth as a higher share of transactions included retail and financing services, while the stronger EBITDA growth reflected operating leverage across its cost base as volumes increased.

Carsome co-founder and group chief executive officer Eric Cheng said the second-quarter results were in line with the group's targets for the year.

"2Q delivered what we set out at the start of the year. We sold 11 per cent more cars, grew gross profit by 15 per cent, and grew EBITDA by 38 per cent," he said.

According to Cheng, each line growing faster than the one before is what operating leverage looks like in practice.

"Ten consecutive quarters of



Carsome said gross profit growth outpaced unit growth as a higher share of transactions included retail and financing services, while the stronger EBITDA growth reflected operating leverage across its cost base as volumes increased.



positive EBITDA gives us a strong foundation, and we remain focused on scaling the business sustainably and capturing the opportunity ahead in Southeast

Asia's used-car market," he said.

During the quarter, Carsome opened three new locations in Sg Petani, Bukit Tinggi in Klang and Sg Buloh, bringing its presence in Malaysia to 55 inspection centres and showrooms.

In Indonesia, it opened four new locations in Greater Jakarta, bringing its presence in the area to 10 inspection centres and showrooms.

The group also partnered with Suzuki Cars Malaysia as its exclusive official trade-in partner, expanding its retail and trade-in reach in Malaysia.

Cheng said the group would maintain three priorities for the remainder of the year — growing transactions, expanding unit economics and demonstrating operating leverage.

"Our priorities for the remainder of the year are the same three we set out at the start — growing transactions, expanding unit economics, and demonstrating operating leverage.

"We remain focused on executing against all three with discipline and building on the progress we've made so far this year," he said,

Paydibs expands into merchant financing

KUCHING: Paydibs Sdn Bhd (Paydibs), a Malaysian fintech and digital payment provider, has launched its merchant financing proposition with Anchor Capital Sdn Bhd (Anchor Capital) as its first financing partner.

Anchor Capital is licensed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (KPKT).

The new facility allows eligible merchants to access working capital through a fully digital process, with repayments automatically deducted from weekly payment settlements and adjusted according to transaction performance.

Chief executive officer Tee Kean Kang said the merchant financing facility marked an extension of Paydibs' role beyond payment acceptance.

"Payments are where our relationship with merchants begins, not where it ends.

"Merchant financing is a natural extension of our mission to go beyond transactions. By leveraging the transaction insights and relationships we have built with our merchants, we can help make access to working capital more relevant, convenient and seamless for eligible businesses," he said.

Under the facility, merchants must have at least 90 days of continuous digital transaction activity on the Paydibs platform before they can receive a financing offer through their merchant portal, subject to final assessment and approval.

The financing offer is assessed based on the merchant's transaction performance, Know Your Business (KYB) information and automated credit assessment.

Eligible merchants can review and accept the offer, digitally sign the financing agreement



and, subject to final approval and completion of the required documentation, receive the approved funds on the same day.

The facility provides a six-month, or 26-week, percentage-based repayment structure linked to the merchant's transaction activity.

Instead of fixed weekly instalments, merchants repay an agreed percentage of their weekly payment settlements, with repayments increasing during stronger trading periods and

decreasing when sales slow.

"This is what it means to go beyond payments.

"We are leveraging the transaction relationships and insights built through our platform to make financial services more accessible and relevant to our merchants," Tee said.

He said Paydibs aimed to develop its role from a payment provider into a broader fintech partner for merchants.

"Our focus is to support merchants throughout their business journey — from getting paid, to protecting their business, to accessing capital when they are ready to grow. Merchant financing is an important step towards that vision," Tee added.

Paydibs said it would continue to explore and introduce financial and financing solutions through its broader ecosystem.

‘Why German companies are ramping up investment in China’

TIANJIN: Inside the production workshop of a German precision technology company located in north China’s Tianjin Municipality, automated equipment hums at full capacity as precision springs roll rhythmically off the production line.

KERN LIEBERS Group, a 138-year-old German family-owned company, completed the second-phase expansion of its Tianjin plant in August, with an additional investment of 120 million yuan (about US\$17.7 million).

With the expansion, the newly added medical spring production line is set to become the group’s most advanced of its kind globally.

Erek Speckert, chief executive officer of KERN LIEBERS Group, said China is not only one of the company’s most important markets, but also a global hub for manufacturing innovation and industrial development.

He noted that continued investment in China, close alignment with customer needs, and the strengthening of local capabilities form an integral part of the group’s long-term growth strategy.

His confidence in China’s long-term investment potential is echoed by executives from several other German companies operating in Tianjin, who cited vast market potential, supply chain strengths, and a favourable business environment as key drivers.

Market potential

Innomotics, a global provider of motors and large drive systems, is another German company doubling down on its presence in China. Its new plant began operation in Tianjin in June, with a total investment of about 600 million yuan.

The facility has become the company’s most comprehensive R&D and production base for high-voltage and high-power low-voltage motors outside



A view of the Tianjin plant of KERN LIEBERS Group in north China's Tianjin.

Germany. With an annual production capacity of up to 2,500 MW, the new plant is capable of generating enough electricity to power a megacity for an entire year.

Lu Zheng, general manager of Innomotics Large Motors (Tianjin) Ltd, explained the importance of expanding local production capacity in China. China has become Innomotics’ largest single market globally, with key customers across marine engineering, shipping, and data centres based in the country. Expanding local capacity helps shorten delivery times and reduce costs.

Data published by Germany’s Federal Statistical Office in August shows that, with a bilateral trade volume of 125.5 billion euros, China remained Germany’s most important trading partner in the first half of 2026.

Strong industrial & supply chain

China’s strengths in industrial supply chains and its pool of skilled talent have also motivated German companies to boost investment.

“When planning our global

factory layout, we evaluated factors including industrial foundation and talent pool, local supply chain capabilities and project execution,” said Oliver Beck, global head of Innomotics HV (High Voltage) Division, explaining the decision to select Tianjin.

“The products made here can be supplied to the Chinese market and also be exported globally,” Beck added.

“The Chinese team is deeply involved in key processes such as product development, process optimisation and validation. Local R&D achievements are also feeding back into Innomotics’ global product lines,” Lu said.

Flender Ltd, China, which has operated in Tianjin for three decades, has completed 10 rounds of expansion locally, maintaining an annual output value of around 5 billion yuan.

Flender, the German transmission equipment maker founded in 1899, settled in Tianjin 30 years ago with a single workshop and a dozen employees. Today, its Tianjin plant covers 255,000 square metres and employs over 2,000 people, growing into the company’s largest R&D and

production base for reducers outside Germany.

In June, Flender launched eight new gearbox models applicable to high-end equipment manufacturing and wind power facilities, among other applications.

A set of figures underscores Flender’s reliance on the local ecosystem: more than 80 per cent of its suppliers are from China, and 95 per cent of the materials and components needed for production are sourced locally.

KERN LIEBERS, meanwhile, is tapping into opportunities from China’s industrial upgrading. In 1993, the company established its first subsidiary in China. Initially, its Tianjin factory primarily served FAW-Volkswagen. As China expanded its focus on new energy vehicles, electrification, intelligence, and automation, the company transformed its product portfolio accordingly.

Favourable business environment

Supporting corporate investment and expansion is the administrative support provided by local authorities.

For the Innomotics project, local authorities handled plant construction to facilitate entry, shortening the project implementation timeline by nearly a year.

When KERN LIEBERS’ Tianjin plant underwent final inspection for its second phase, local authorities streamlined administrative paperwork to meet the equipment installation window.

The Business Confidence Survey 2025/2026 released by the German Chamber of Commerce in China shows that over 90 per cent of German companies explicitly stated they have no plans to leave China in two years. A third of companies noted that innovation and efficiency improvements generated by their Chinese teams are feeding back to their German headquarters. — Xinhua



An interior view of the Tianjin plant of Flender Ltd China, in north China's Tianjin.



Guests take part in a tug-of-war competition with an intelligent inspection robot dog at the Hengqin Digital Zero-Carbon Island Shared Laboratory of China Southern Power Grid (CSG) in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province. — Xinhua photo

Asia-Pacific SMEs seek new growth through AI, deeper connectivity

GUANGZHOU: On a production line at Seng Fong Holdings Berhad in Malaysia, a robotic arm grips a 35-kilogram block of rubber, with 3D cameras, laser scanners and AI algorithms serving as its “eyes” and “brain.”

The setup is designed to tackle a longstanding challenge in the traditionally labour-intensive rubber processing industry. Rubber blocks coming out of drying ovens vary in shape, making them difficult for conventional robotic systems to handle.

Developed by an AI company in China’s southern Guangdong Province, the solution has enabled the Malaysian rubber processor to automate more of the handling process, cutting labour costs by 20 to 30 per cent while improving management efficiency, according to the company’s chairman.

The case points to a broader shift taking place across the Asia-Pacific. AI is creating new opportunities for SMEs to innovate, while deeper regional connectivity is helping them turn technological advances into new sources of growth.

That trend was reflected at the 32nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Small and Medium Enterprises Ministerial Meeting, held on Friday in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, as officials from APEC economies gathered to explore how technological innovation can empower SMEs and drive their further development.

SMEs are a major pillar of the regional economy. As technological and industrial transformation accelerates and global supply chains undergo profound changes, AI and other emerging technologies are creating both new opportunities and new challenges for SMEs across the Asia-Pacific.

AI-powered robotics are opening up new pathways

for the digital transformation of SMEs, while open-source technologies are further lowering the barriers to technology access and application, enabling more businesses to participate in technological innovation, said Yang Qian, co-founder and chief operating officer of the Shenzhen-based embodied AI startup X Square Robot, at a parallel forum held alongside the ministerial meeting.

“What once required six months, costly computing power and a professional team can now be done in three days with a workstation and an idea,” she said. “This gives SMEs, for the first time, a more level playing field with industry giants in innovation.”

Yet SMEs across the region still face challenges, such as high digital transformation costs and talent shortages, highlighting the need for greater regional cooperation.

Kwon Jong-hyun, vice chairman of the Beijing Chapter of the World-OKTA, cited embodied intelligence as an example, saying China’s strengths lie in scale and speed, while those of the Republic of Korea lie in precision and reliability.

Such cooperation, he said, is not simply about adding strengths together, but about multiplying their impact by combining complementary capabilities.

China’s experience in supporting SMEs’ digital transformation offers one example. The latest move came on Friday, when the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology released an action plan to support AI entrepreneurship among SMEs for 2026-2028.

The plan aims to foster more than 10,000 technology-based and innovative SMEs, more than 2,000 “little giant” firms, as well as a number of gazelle companies and unicorns. — Xinhua



An aerial view of Innomotics Large Motors (Tianjin) Ltd in north China's Tianjin. — Xinhua photos

How AI, energy empower each other across China

BEIJING: “Urgent orders tomorrow afternoon. Prioritise the production load and charge the batteries when power is cheap in the morning.” This is the instruction a plant manager fed into an energy management system, with no coding or rule-setting required, and within seconds a complete scheduling strategy was generated.

The system behind this technology is known as WHES OS, an artificial intelligence (AI)-native energy operating system developed by Weheng Intelligent Technology Co Ltd. It integrates an AI agent with “intent understanding,” transforming energy storage from a rule-bound tool into an autonomous decision-maker that responds to natural language.

This example offers a glimpse of a broader shift now underway across China’s energy sector, where AI agents are rapidly being deployed in fields ranging from research and development (R&D) to operations and maintenance, safety monitoring and electricity market trading.

Lyu Zhe, vice president of Beijing HyperStrong Technology Co Ltd, a leading Chinese energy storage company, said AI is reshaping R&D by turning trial-and-error into predictive modelling and cutting development cycles from years to months, while on the operations side it boosts revenue by reducing unplanned outages



A high-altitude cavern-based intelligent computing centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province. — Xinhua photo

and extending operating hours.

In the case of safety monitoring, conventional threshold alarms often lag behind emerging problems, whereas AI uses deep learning to spot hidden risks before thermal runaway. The TENER Smart Storage platform developed by Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd can issue fault warnings up to seven days in advance and pinpoint fault causes within five minutes.

In electricity trading, AI optimises charging and discharging strategies by forecasting prices based on variables including renewable energy output, weather, grid congestion and market quotes. Notably, at Envision Group’s

smart storage station in Binzhou, east China’s Shandong Province, an AI trading agent has achieved 95 per cent accuracy in predicting peak-valley price spreads.

These applications point to a wider intelligent shift taking shape in China’s energy landscape, underpinned by a policy push for greater coordination between computing and electricity. This endeavour has gained momentum in 2026, with multiple official signals released this year.

This year’s government work report called for launching new infrastructure projects on hyper-scale intelligent computing clusters and coordinated development of computing

capacity and electricity supply – the first time such a provision has appeared in the document. The outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan, meanwhile, calls for promoting the coordinated deployment of green electricity and computing power.

A plan for developing a new energy system during the 15th Five-Year Plan period further calls for ensuring high-quality electricity supply for sectors including big data and AI.

AI is a strategic technology driving a new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, but the computing centres behind it guzzle electricity in staggering amounts, with volatile loads and sudden demand spikes.

In 2025, China’s data centres consumed 170 billion kWh of electricity, or 1.6 per cent of the nation’s total power use, according to the National Energy Administration (NEA). A China Galaxy Securities report projects that this figure will exceed 700 billion kWh by 2030, breaching the 5-per cent mark.

Such soaring demand is matched by a robust supply side. China is home to the world’s largest and fastest-growing renewable energy system. The NEA announced on Tuesday that installed photovoltaic capacity had surpassed coal-fired power capacity for the first time, making solar the country’s largest power source by installed capacity.

“Only by combining the innovative strengths of China’s domestically developed large AI models with the country’s robust power supply capacity, particularly its abundant clean energy, can China turn its advantages in energy and electricity into competitive strengths in the AI industry,” said Ding Zhaohao, a professor at North China Electric Power University.

In May, four Chinese authorities unveiled an action plan, envisioning that by 2030, the clean energy supply capacity for AI computing power infrastructure will be significantly increased, while the application of AI in the energy sector will also be considerably improved.

The plan calls for coordinating the development of large renewable energy bases with national computing hubs, directing more computing facilities to energy-rich regions where they can tap into abundant local renewable power.

In Ulanqab, north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, a pilot project is paving the way. The country’s first data centre project that integrates renewable generation, storage and computing load went into operation in July 2025. It runs on self-generated wind and solar power, with the surplus stored in batteries and the grid reserved as a backup option. — Xinhua

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA)

Average Retail Prices Of Selected Commodities In Kuching (5 September 2026)

COMMODITIES

VEGETABLES	Prices (RM/Kg)
Round Cabbage	4.00
Spinach	7.00
Chinese Mustard	9.00
Chinese Kale	9.00
Bean Sprout	3.00
Cucumber	5.20
Brinjal	8.45
Local Tomato	6.00
Highland Tomato	10.50
Long Bean	8.25
French Bean	14.45
Lady's Finger	8.95
Loofah	6.00
Pumpkin	6.00
Bitter Gourd	10.00
Lembiding (Midin)	10.00
Old Ginger	8.23
Young Ginger	8.90
Red Chili (Kulai)	18.00
Red Chili (Local/Oil)	18.75
Shallot	6.00
Onion (Bombay)	4.50
Onion (Holland)	4.50
Garlic	6.00
Imported Potato	3.00
Imported Carrot	4.33
Grind Coconut	10.00
Seed Coconut	3.00
Santan	9.00

POULTRY	
Crossbreed Male/Female	TU
Kampung Male/Female	TU
Standard Chicken	11.25
Super Chicken	11.50
Fresh Meat Local	65.00
Imported Meat	40.00

EGGS* RM/BUJI	
Chicken Egg - Grade A*	0.57
- Grade B*	0.54
- Grade C*	0.51
- Salted Egg*	1.20

FRUITS* RM/KG/(*) RM/BUJI	
Papaya	5.45
Exotica Papaya	5.25
Watermelon	4.45
Guava	4.88
Starfruits 10	6.63
Orange (Local)	4.68
Mas Bananas	4.95
Embut Bananas	2.50
Rastali Bananas	4.38
Honey Dew	6.85
Sarawak Pineapple	3.50

* Prices collected at Medan Niaga Satok

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MALAYSIA

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NC-54-9/2026 (HC 3)

In The Matter of Section 485 (1)(e) of The Companies Act 2016 and In The Matter of BERMUDA NIAGA SDN. BHD. (formerly known as BERMUDA MARINE SUPPLY CO. SDN. BHD.) (Company No. 19820100225/ 79969-V)

BETWEEN

...PETITIONER

AND

...RESPONDENT

BERMUDA NIAGA SDN. BHD. (formerly known as BERMUDA MARINE SUPPLY CO. SDN. BHD.) (Company No. 19820100225/ 79969-V)

ADVERTISEMENTS OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that Petition for the winding-up of the abovesaid company by the High Court was, on the 20th day of August, 2026 presented by the Government of Malaysia. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Kuching at 09:00 o'clock in the forenoon, on Tuesday, the 20th day of October, 2026 and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of the an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is care of Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri Malaysia, Wisma Hasil, Lot 2996, Jalan Ademium, Taman MDL, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.

The Petitioner is Nurulnita Binti Kota, Revenue Counsel of Inland Revenue MIRO, for and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.



[NURULNITA BINTI KOTA]
Revenue Counsel

For and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia

Note- Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above named Petitioner, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above named not later than twelve o'clock noon on the 19th day of October, 2026.

517225NKA0000

MALAYSIA

IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KUCHING, SARAWAK SUIT NO. KCH-A72NCvC-222-9/2026 (MC 3)

Between

...

Plaintiff

And

...

Defendant

Majlis Perbandaran Padawan

...

Plaintiff

And

...

Defendant

Chua Pheng Hock (NRIC No. 850405-13-5861)

...

Defendant



NOTICE OF WRIT

To: Chua Pheng Hock (NRIC No. 850405-13-5861)
C/O No.3, Lorong 2, Jalan Kompang,
D/ Jalan Ong Tiang Swee,
93200 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court in Suit No. KCH-A72NCvC-222-9/2026 (MC 3) by the above-named Plaintiff of Kota Padawan, Batu 10, Jalan Penrissen, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak in which the Plaintiff's claim against you is for:

(a) the sum of **RM6,286.05**;
(b) surcharge on the sum of **RM4,591.85** at the rate of 1% per month from 06.05.2026 until the date of full and final settlement;
(c) costs pursuant to section 79 of the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996; and
(d) other reliefs as deemed fit and just by this Honourable Court.

AND that it has been ordered inter alia that the service of the Order for Substituted Service and the Writ together with the Statement of Claim in this action be effected on you by advertisement of this Notice once in a local newspaper, namely The Borneo Post; and that such service shall be good and sufficient notice on you on the date of such publication; and that costs of this application and incidental thereto shall be in the cause.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you desire to defend the said action you must, within **14 days** from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the Registry of the Magistrate's Court, Kuching.

In default of such appearance, judgment may be entered against you.

Dated the 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.



Registrar
Subordinate Courts, Kuching

This Notice of Writ is filed for the Plaintiff at
Sitting Advocates of Unit 28, First Floor, Empire, No. 9, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.
(T) 2655315 (F) 265537 (E) springadvocates@gmail.com (Ref.) L222429JH
536259H03LKF

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING SUIT NO. KCH-22NC-11-7/2026 (HC1)

BETWEEN

...

PLAINTIFF

AND

...

DEFENDANTS

SEDC PREMIX (MIRI) SDN. BHD. [Company No. 1991008229 (215541-T)] Level 6, Wisma Mahmud, Jalan Sungai Sarawak, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

...

PLAINTIFF

AND

...

DEFENDANTS

1. ALFA MOUNT SDN. BHD. [Company No. 20010002927 (538683-H)] No.203, 2nd Floor, Lot 1335, Green Ville Park Shophouse, (The Prince Commercial Centre), Jalan Batu Kilang, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak

...

DEFENDANTS

2. KARLOS ALBERT [NRIC No. 890203-13-5915] (Sued as Guarantor) No.202, Lot 2405, Lorong Arang 13G6, Taman Wawasan, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak

...

DEFENDANTS

3. BARTHOLOMEW ADER ANAK ALBERT [NRIC No. 970619-13-5273] (Sued as Guarantor) No.202, Lot 2406, Lorong Arang 13G6, Taman Wawasan, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak

...

DEFENDANTS



ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO ORDER

TO: KARLOS ALBERT [NRIC No. 890203-13-5915] No.202, Lot 2405, Lorong Arang 13G6, Taman Wawasan, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak

BARTHOLOMEW ADER ANAK ALBERT [NRIC No. 970619-13-5273] No.202, Lot 2406, Lorong Arang 13G6, Taman Wawasan, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that a proceeding has been commenced against you in the High Court at Kuching by the Plaintiff claiming for:

(A) the sum of **RM1,845,788.51** calculated as at **30.06.2026**;

(B) late payment interest at the rate of 1.5% per month calculating from 01.07.2026 until full and final settlement of the following invoices:

(i) Tax Invoice No. B110001284 dated 31.08.2024 (Invoice No.8) with the remaining principal sum of RM211,715.53;
(ii) Tax Invoice No. B110001286 dated 25.09.2024 (Invoice No.9) with the principal sum of RM124,885.80;
(iii) Tax Invoice No. B110001299 dated 25.09.2024 (Invoice No.10) with the principal sum of RM8,137.80;
(iv) Tax Invoice No. B110001348 dated 31.12.2024 (Invoice No.11) with the principal sum of RM18,021.80;
(v) Tax Invoice No. B110001402 dated 18.02.2025 (Invoice No.12) with the principal sum of RM3,825.00; and
(vi) Tax Invoice No. B110001417 dated 30.04.2025 (Invoice No.13) with the principal sum of RM148,717.43;

(C) The costs of this action together with interest thereon at the rate of 5% per annum from the date of Judgment until the full and final settlement of the costs; and

(D) Such further reliefs deemed fit and just by this Honourable Court.

AND take notice that the Court has ordered that service of the sealed Writ dated 23.07.2026 (Enclosure 1) and the Statement of Claim dated 23.07.2026 (Enclosure 2) (hereinafter referred to as "the said Documents") be personally served upon you by way of substituted service through posting a copy of the Substituted Service Order dated 21.08.2026 together with the said Documents on the notice board of the High Court at Kuching; and advertisement of this notice, and that such service shall be deemed good and sufficient service upon you seven (7) days after the date of the last posting or advertisement, whichever is later.

Should you wish to contest this action, you must enter an appearance at the High Court Kuching, failing which a Judgment may be entered against you.

TAKE NOTICE that the Court has fixed a mention date via e-Review on 25.09.2026.

DATED this 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026



Messrs Teo Wei Ping Advocates
Advocates for the Plaintiff

This Advertisement Pursuant To Order is filed for and on behalf of the Plaintiff abovesaid by Messrs Teo Wei Ping Advocates with an address for service at Ground & 1st Floor, No. 6, Ang Cheng Ho Road, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak. [Tel: 082-549900 / Email: weiping@twpadvocates.com / File Ref: TWPILO86]

536259H03LKF

In Loving Memory



the late **Mdm Lim Siew Khiok**
Departed on 7th September 2025

Today marks one year since you left us
Your presence is deeply missed
but your memory remains a beautiful part
of our lives

Fondly remembered by your children,
grandchildren and family.



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MALAYSIA

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING

IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS NO. KCH-28NC-248-7/2026 (HC 2)

RE: SU CHUNG JYE [W.N.KP631104-13-5577] D1/2-2 Block D L1918 - 1920 Jalan Lapangan Terbang Baru 93250 Kuching, Sarawak AND/OR P.O.Box 419 93780 Kuching, Sarawak ... Debtor

EX-PARTE: EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND BOARD A Statutory body incorporated under Section 3, Employees Provident Fund Act 1991 (Act 452) with its Headquarters at Bangunan KWSP, Jalan Raja Laut, 50150 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Bangunan KWSP, Jalan Uplands, Beg Berkenai No.2089, 93598 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Creditor

MALAYSIA

IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING

IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING NO. SBW-28NC-94-7/2026 (HC1)

RE: SURAYA BINTI KIPLY [W.N.KP.790321-13-5328] 533, Lorong Langkat, Taman Muhibbullah Indah, Kanowit, 96700 Kanowit, Sarawak. Judgment Debtor

EX-PARTE: BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD [19650100376] [6175-W] a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Bankmu, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Ground Floor, Lot 456, 457 & 458, Al Idrus Commercial Centre, Jalan Satek, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak. Judgment Creditor



NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

In the matter of a Bankruptcy Notice dated 3rd day of July, 2026 and pursuant to the Court's Order dated 24th day of August, 2026.

To: SURAYA BINTI KIPLY [W.N.KP.790321-13-5328] 533, Lorong Langkat, Taman Muhibbullah Indah, Kanowit, 96700 Kanowit, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice dated 3rd day of July, 2026 has been issued against you in this Court by the Judgment Creditor whose address for service is Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak. (File Ref: TLPT/RC/BKMB-L227/2025)

The said Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application to this Court.

Dated this 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.



SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, HIGH COURT SIBU

This Notice of Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice is taken out by Messrs Ibrahim & Co., Advocates for and on behalf of the abovesaid Debtor, whose address for service is at No. 897 (2nd Floor), Tabuan Jaya Commercial Centre, Jalan Wan Awai, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. (cm/237/2025/KWSP-D2)

536259H03LKF

Mr. Johnny Chan Kay Thuan (農曆七月廿六日) 1st Year Anniversary

Though a year has passed, your love and memories remain in our hearts forever. You are always with us.

Mr. Johnny Chan Kay Thuan who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 17th September 2025

As we remember you on this 1st year anniversary, we cherish the love, guidance and kindness you gave. You will always be loved, missed and never forgotten.

Wife Lai Lee Sit

Sons Chan Wei Chiang Chan Kwang Yung

Foster Son Yeo Yee Kang Foster Grandson Rayson Yeo Foster Daughter-in-law Chen Yan Ling Foster Granddaughter Rysee Yeo

You may no longer be here with us, but you will forever be in our hearts





SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, HIGH COURT, KUCHING

This Notice for Substituted service of Bankruptcy Notice is taken out by Messrs Ibrahim & Co., Advocates for and on behalf of the abovesaid Debtor, whose address for service is at No. 897 (2nd Floor), Tabuan Jaya Commercial Centre, Jalan Wan Awai, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. (cm/237/2025/KWSP-D2)

536259H03LKF

OBITUARY



A beloved teacher, mentor and friend, who touched so many lives with her kindness, wisdom and unwavering faith.

Your guidance, encouragement and love have left a lasting impact in the hearts of all who knew you.

CATHERINE JAMES JOHNSON @ CATHERINE ANDREW TAKI

Returned peacefully to the Lord's loving arms on 4th September, 2026 leaving behind beloved

Siblings: Thomas James Johnson John Andrew Taki (Deceased) Anthonia Andrew Taki Blazes Andrew Taki Ramon Andrew Taki Tres Andrew Taki Betty Andrew Taki Francis Andrew Taki Peter Andrew Taki Leo Andrew Taki All nephews, nieces & grandchildren

Wake Service: NO.74, LORONG 2A, TAMAN ULTRA, JALAN KETEK, 93250, KUCHING SARAWAK 4th -10th September 2026 @ 8.00 PM

Funeral Mass: Blessed Sacrament Church, Kuching on 7th September 2026 (Monday) at 9.00 AM

Cremation: Nirvana Memorial Park, Kuching

Final Resting Place: St. Peter's Columbarium, Padungan, Kuching

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1



9th Anniversary

In loving memory of beloved wife, mother and grandmother

AMY LIM SOH KIM
Departed: 7th September 1917

We miss you dearly everyday.

Today, we pause to fondly remember how you have shaped our characters, moulded our spirits & touched our hearts!

You will always be the 'Gold Shining in our Hearts'





535671H03LKF

In Loving Memory of



Mr. Johnny Chan Kay Thuan (農曆七月廿六日) 1st Year Anniversary

Though a year has passed, your love and memories remain in our hearts forever. You are always with us.

Mr. Johnny Chan Kay Thuan who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, 17th September 2025

As we remember you on this 1st year anniversary, we cherish the love, guidance and kindness you gave. You will always be loved, missed and never forgotten.

Wife Lai Lee Sit

Sons Chan Wei Chiang Chan Kwang Yung

Foster Son Yeo Yee Kang Foster Grandson Rayson Yeo Foster Daughter-in-law Chen Yan Ling Foster Granddaughter Rysee Yeo

You may no longer be here with us, but you will forever be in our hearts





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China's tech city inspires youth discussions on Asia-Pacific's green future

SHENZHEN: Young experts and scholars from the Asia-Pacific region gathered in Shenzhen, a world-leading tech hub in south China's Guangdong Province, to explore how the green energy transition could shape the region's future and their role in this endeavor.

Themed "Asia-Pacific Youth Gathering: Building a Shared Future Through Energy," the event on Aug 21 brought together over 60 experts, scholars and journalists from 13 countries and regions for dialogue and discussion panels.

"Building a clean, secure and efficient energy system constitutes a vital cornerstone for the common prosperity of the Asia-Pacific," said Yu Guanyi, head of the think tank office of the APEC Sustainable Energy Center, at the opening ceremony of the event.

Noting the importance of young voices in the green transition, Leo Barry, an Australian master's student at the Yenching Academy of Peking University, said that encouraging more young people to take part in such professional discussions is crucial to inspiring them to make real contributions to delivering a cleaner, greener and more prosperous future.

Young representatives also visited China's first zero-carbon interactive substation, the 110-kV Chunhui Substation in downtown Shenzhen, to learn how green energy can deliver dependable power to fuel the metropolis' bustling industrial and commercial activities.

With Shenzhen set to host the



Guests visit the Chunhui Substation in downtown Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province. — Xinhua photo

33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, delegates paid extra attention to green-energy cooperation among countries in the region.

The power network in the Asia-Pacific still faces common challenges such as accessibility and mismatches in resource and demand, which make energy cooperation within the region even more important, said Chhoeun Raksmeay of Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation.

In response, Yang Bo, a project commercial specialist at China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd., shared his insights.

He has been involved in China's first 500-kV cross-border alternating-current power link in Laos, which came into operation in April.

Earlier this month, hydropower from northern Laos reached the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area for the first time via the link, and is expected to reach a total transmission volume

of approximately 600 million kWh by the end of October.

This bilateral power cooperation programme allows Laos to translate its resource endowments into tangible economic gains for local communities, strengthening its role as a regional clean energy hub," Yang told Xinhua.

Laos' green power arriving in Shenzhen comes as China deepens its green transition cooperation with regional partners.

Under frameworks including the Belt and Road Initiative and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism, China has actively participated in cross-border construction of clean energy projects in wind, solar, hydropower and energy storage, propelling the region's green development.

Such cooperation also introduces leading photovoltaic technology, power-grid equipment, intelligent dispatching systems and energy-management solutions, helping advance power supply reliability and energy efficiency, said Chisa Jermwarayukorn, secretary-general of the Asia-Pacific Think Tank.

She added that this approach will enable countries in the region to stay more closely connected and become long-term partners.

"As neighbors with different resources, it's time for us to share our advantages, enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and bring more tangible projects to the Asia-Pacific region, so as to achieve a green and sustainable future together," stressed Chhoeun Raksmeay. — Xinhua

Tech-powered rangers guard China's green fortune

HEFEI: Forest-rich Anhui Province in east China recorded zero woodland fires in the six-month high-risk wildfire season ending in April, thanks to high-tech tools supporting forest rangers on the front lines.

At the Taiping Lake State-owned Forest Farm in Huangshan City, dozens of high-definition cameras and thermal-imaging lenses keep round-the-clock surveillance for heat and smoke, weaving a dense technological safety net over the forested area.

According to Hu Huangmo, deputy head of the farm's forest resources cultivation section, the monitoring system employs a two-step artificial intelligence (AI) model analysis to filter out false alarms, such as sunlight reflections off village house windows, before sending verified fire alerts to rangers.

Each alert comes with precise GPS coordinates and on-site images for swift ground verification.

With this system and other advanced technologies in place, the average time to detect a forest fire in the province has been reduced from 45 minutes with manual patrols to just 12 minutes.

"The system is not simply an extension of our eyes, but scrutinizes possible threats in the forest in a more detailed way," said Cao Lin, deputy director of the forest farm.

Covering more than 70,000 mu (about 4,667 hectares) with complex terrain, the farm had long struggled with the limitations of manual patrols, which leave blind spots on steep slopes and in deep gullies, Cao added.

Once the system detects a suspicious heat source, a drone fleet stationed in the area is immediately sent to the location.

If drones spot any illegal fire use, rangers can broadcast warnings through the drone-mounted speakers.

"Our heavy-lift drone can carry and drop nearly 50 kilograms of water bags with pinpoint accuracy, quickly dousing high-altitude fires on cliffs that were once beyond reach," Cao said.

Light drones are dispatched first to assess the blaze and locate the source, followed by heavy-lift drones that accurately deliver firefighting supplies.

The coordinated drone fleet thus enables a systematic aerial response to diverse fire hazards, said Hu Changhui, head of the forest fire prevention section of the city's forestry bureau.

The human role, however, remains vital in forest fire prevention.

"Drones have their limits. Certain responsibilities still fall to us rangers alone, from discouraging unauthorized burning, carrying out household prevention campaigns, to mobilizing villagers to join firefighting efforts," said Shu Yi, a ranger based in Huangshan District in the city.

Anhui is not alone in applying edgy technologies to protect forests. — Xinhua

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Don't stop them now: Fans party for Freddie Mercury's 80th birthday

MONTREUX, Switzerland: Thousands of Queen fans sang, cheered and partied at the Freddie Mercury statue in Montreux on Saturday to celebrate what would have been the legendary British singer's 80th birthday.

Wearing outlandish outfits reflecting Mercury's stage costumes, fans gathered in honour of the frontman in the Swiss town where he sought peace in his final years and recorded his last vocals.

"It is a special birthday, so you've got to make the effort to come and celebrate all things Freddie," said Sonia, who travelled from Canberra.

Fans hailed from Australia to Japan to even the housing estate in Feltham, near London's Heathrow Airport, where Mercury's Parsi family moved to after fleeing the Zanzibar revolution in 1964.

The bronze statue of Mercury in a triumphant pose, erected in 1996 overlooking Lake Geneva, was decked with balloons,

flowers and tributes left by well-wishers.

Appreciation of Queen's legacy and Mercury's unique talent has only grown since his death in 1991 from bronchial pneumonia, brought on by AIDS.

Among the world's best-selling artists ever, most of the group's sales have come since the singer's passing at the age of 45.

New generation of fans

Queen owned Mountain Studios, built into the Montreux Casino, and recorded six albums there.

Now a Queen exhibition space, visitors can try out the mixing desk.

James Perkin pushed up the faders on "A Winter's Tale" — the last song Mercury wrote, and a dying man's ode to the picturesque tranquillity of Montreux.

"Such a beautiful, life-affirming song at that point in his life," said Perkin, the guitarist in Don't Stop Queen Now, the tribute band closing the festivities on Sunday.

The Freddie Days birthday event has been running since 2003 and has grown over time.

The free, five-day event's volunteer organiser Lucien Muller told AFP that 14,000 to 16,000 people were expected to attend.

"There's people who come every year. I won't say a community; I would say a family. We are all here to celebrate, to party, to have fun," he said.

"We try to honour Freddie Mercury's legacy in a town that was very important for him."

The Oscar-winning 2018 biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" brought Mercury to a new generation of fans.

One 13-year-old girl, wearing the singer's iconic 1986 Magic Tour yellow jacket, was busily sketching a portrait of Mercury by the statue.

Julie Criddle, from Wiltshire in southwest England, was at the video shoot for "We Are The Champions" in 1977 and has been coming to the Freddie Days for 11 years.



Fans gather around the iconic Freddie Mercury statue overlooking Lake Geneva during Montreux Freddie Day, marking the 80th anniversary of the birth of the Queen frontman, in Montreux, Switzerland. — AFP photo

"There's so many people here that aren't old enough to have seen Queen live, which is fantastic because it's keeping Freddie's name alive," she said.

'He'd have loved it'

Fans were dressed in a myriad of Mercury outfits, including his "Invisible Man" sunglasses, "Flash Gordon" t-shirts, 1982 "Arrows" jackets and his 39th birthday "Living on my Own" black and white leggings.

Peter Straker, Mercury's friend and fellow singer, told AFP: "He's dead, but the spirit lives on, and the joy and celebration of a human life — it's fantastic."

The event also saw concerts and talks, including one on Mercury's trailblazing 1988 "Barcelona" duet album recorded with the Spanish opera diva Montserrat Caballe.

"He would have been amazed that people still come from all

over the world in such large numbers to celebrate — he'd have loved it; he loved being idolised! — though he'd have hated being 80!" composer Mike Moran, who co-wrote the album with Mercury, told AFP.

The day culminated with Mercury's sister Kashmira Bulsara cutting the 80th birthday cake.

Fans sang "Happy Birthday" and the party continued into the night. — AFP

Director wants 'The Resurrection' to enhance teachings of church

MEL Gibson wants 'The Resurrection of the Christ' to "enhance" the teachings of the church.

The actor-turned-director has been busy working on the sequel to his 2004 film The Passion of the Christ and he has suggested he has looked beyond the traditional stories from the Bible to shine a light on different elements of Jesus Christ's life and work in order to "surprise" audiences.

He told The Christian Post: "If you look at the synoptic Gospels - and they are synoptic, which means they don't tell you everything.

"And even John says, 'I know, hey, there were many other things [Jesus] said and did which, if they were to be written down, couldn't fill all the libraries of all the world,' right? So there's a lot of stuff that wasn't written and the Gospels are synoptic.

"One can look at these things and go, 'I wonder what was around that?' and try and analyse those things and make suppositions about what might have been. Not to go against anything in orthodox teaching but to enhance, I think, what's there for everyone to see and hopefully they'll be surprised by some of those revelations."

The synoptic Gospels are Matthew, Mark and Luke, and refer to the three Gospels that present the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in a similar fashion.

The 70-year-old star also teased the story "gets around" beyond Earth.

He said: "I mean, you'll be in the firmament before the creation. You'll be in the Hell of the just, and then you'll be in the Hell of the damned. And so it jumps around a little bit. It doesn't just stay on the planet here. It gets around."

Mel previously declared the two-part Resurrection of the Christ to be a major part of his "life's work".

In a statement to mark the end of filming in May, Mel - who is directing the films - explained: "I'm deeply grateful to my incredibly talented cast and crew for pouring their hearts into this production.

"Together, we created something powerful. This film represents a major part of my life's work, and it has demanded everything of me as a filmmaker and as an artist.

"This is far more than a film to me. It's a mission I've carried for over twenty years to tell what I believe is the most important story in human history. Reuniting with many of my original collaborators from The Passion of the Christ - true masters of their craft - allowed us to bring this story to the screen exactly as I envisioned it."

Part one will debut on 6 May 2027, with the second due on 25 May 2028.

Both release dates coincide with Ascension Day, when Christians celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven. — Bang Showbiz



EMMY WINNERS (From left) Maria Cuomo Cole, Kim A. Snyder, winners of the Exceptional Merit In Documentary Filmmaking for 'The Librarians', Jimmy Kimmel, winner of the Outstanding Host For A Game Show award for 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire', and Lois Vossen, Becky Calzada, Amanda Jones and Janique L. Robillard, winners of the Exceptional Merit In Documentary Filmmaking for 'The Librarians', poses in the Winner's Walk during the 78th Emmy Awards Night 1 at Peacock Theater in Los Angeles, California. — AFP photo

Indian Oscar-nominated filmmaker turns camera on his cancer

NEW DELHI: Indian filmmaker Shaunak Sen's new documentary began as a "coping" mechanism after a shock cancer diagnosis, but continues the motifs of environmental degradation and caregiving that drove his previous work.

Sen's "All That Breathes", which follows two brothers running a largely self-funded clinic for birds falling victim to Delhi's polluted air, won top documentary prizes at Sundance and Cannes in 2022 and was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2023 Oscars.

"It became a kind of coping strategy, or a way to deal or dissociate or displace the terror of what you've just been told," Sen, 39, told AFP about his as-yet-untitled project, in an interview from his home in New Delhi.

The diagnosis brought home "the same risks" that make hundreds of birds fall every year from New Delhi's throat-burning polluted skies — this time on "my own body", Sen said.

"Whenever you ask most oncologists why this happened, or why this current giant spike in cancer rates is occurring, a lot of them would talk about environmental factors like toxins or chemicals or the air," he said.

New Delhi and its sprawling metropolitan region of 30 million residents is regularly ranked among the world's most polluted capitals, due to a mix of emissions from power plants, heavy traffic and the burning of rubbish and crops.

A 2024 study in The Lancet Planetary Health estimated



This photograph shows Shaunak Sen speaking during an interview with AFP at his residence in New Delhi. — AFP photo

that 3.8 million deaths in India between 2009 and 2019 were linked to air pollution.

'Meditative'

The central protagonist in Sen's new work is not the filmmaker himself but his surgeon.

"I did not want to make something that was solipsistically inwards folding," he said.

It echoes his documentary "All That Breathes", where caregiving is at the emotional core of the film.

"What I loved in a surgeon was the ability to completely lose yourself, to be immersed in the absolute present," he said.

"That feels meditative and contemplative. It's a kind of melting away of everything extraneous, and you're in the pinprick of the moment."

City as 'wallpaper'

The film is also about Sen's

relationship with New Delhi, where he grew up, went to school and university, and the setting for all his work.

"The city," he said, is the "wallpaper of this film."

"In this case, the wallpaper is doing things to me, and I'm kind of reacting to it — through a more personalised lens than I ever have."

His 2016 debut documentary, "Cities of Sleep", examined the city's homeless population through the lens of sleep, following them in their quest for a safe place to rest.

Sen is also heading to the Toronto International Film Festival in September to screen "Termite", his first fiction short, about two Delhi termite exterminators.

Yet the nature of his latest undertaking means it is inevitably different from his previous work. — AFP

Chinese opera 'Xiju' captivates audience at 33rd Cairo international theatre festival

CAIRO: With a spotlight on him, a Chinese actor slowly descended from the stage and made his way through the aisles of a packed Cairo theatre, delivering an anguished soliloquy amid warm applause.

It was one of several moments when performers of "Liaozhai: Purple Tail", an experimental Chinese Xiju production, moved beyond the stage and into the audience during their performance at the 33rd Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre (CIFET).

The Chinese production, presented by Wuxi Xiju Theatre, brought to life a story weaving together the human and supernatural worlds.

"For moments, we felt we had been transported from Cairo to China," Hamada Shousha, an Egyptian actor, director and theatre professor at Heliopolis University, told Xinhua.

"We did not just see and hear the story; we lived its atmosphere," he said, noting "the costumes, music and presentation all carried a distinctly Chinese character."

The play follows Qiao Sheng, a kind and honest scholar who unexpectedly saves a fox maiden. In gratitude, she gives him a magical fox tail capable of granting any wish. Armed with this power, Qiao Sheng gradually succumbs to his desires, exposing the darker side of human nature.

The play is adapted from Liaozhai, or Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio, a classic collection of Chinese ghost stories and supernatural folk tales written over a period of 40 years from the late 1600s to the early 1700s.

Though performed in Chinese, English, Arabic and Chinese surtitles were displayed on a monitor to the left of the stage, allowing Egyptian and international spectators to follow the story without diverting their attention from the action.

Hui Haifeng, who plays Qiao

Sheng, said the response of the Egyptian audience had left a deep impression on him.

"Although we speak different languages, I could tell from their eyes, expressions and reactions that they were following the story attentively and were deeply immersed in it," Hui said.

"Art knows no borders, and neither does emotional communication," he said.

"Language may present a barrier, but emotions are shared, and body language and stage expression can also communicate across cultures."

Founded in 1951, Wuxi Xiju Theatre has spent over seven decades preserving and developing xiju, a form of traditional Chinese opera, while taking its productions to audiences abroad.

Li Mengheng, a lead performer, said audiences could feel the story and its emotions through the stylized movements and body language of traditional Chinese opera even without prior familiarity with the form.

"I feel that Egyptian audiences understand the rhythm of our performance particularly well. They know when to applaud and when to give the performers some encouragement," Li said.

The Chinese play is one of 15 productions from 13 countries in the festival's official competition, including entries from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Spain, Germany, and Russia, spanning dramatic and physical theatre, contemporary dance, puppetry, visual theatre and multimedia performances.

Sabine Liebherr from Germany described the production as "absolutely magical," saying it carried "something of a general truth about human existence."

"You have to be careful what you wish for," she said, referring to a theme of the play. "If your wish does not come from a good heart, the result can be disastrous." — Xinhua



The Chinese opera 'Liaozhai: Purple Tail' is staged at the 33rd Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theatre (CIFET) in Cairo, Egypt. — Xinhua photo

‘Chelot’ charges past RM10 mln, adding to M’sia’s success story

Ian Jeremiah Patrick

KUALA LUMPUR: Another Malaysian film has crossed the RM10 million mark in box office collections, with Adrian Teh’s action-thriller Chelot becoming the latest 2026 release to achieve the milestone.

As of 8 pm Saturday, Chelot has collected RM10.6 million domestically, continuing its strong run since its nationwide release on August 27.

Produced by ACT 2 Pictures, Golden Screen Cinemas (GSC), Astro Shaw, SunStrong Entertainment and Marvellous Culture & Film, Chelot has also maintained its No. 1 position on the box office charts for 11 days, which now even surpasses Spider-Man: Brand New Day.

Its momentum has continued to grow, with additional halls recently being added to accommodate demand.

The movie Chelot had already generated attention long before its nationwide release.

One of its biggest talking points was its record-breaking action sequence, which earned a place in the Malaysia Book of Records for the longest single-take action sequence in Malaysian cinematic history.

The sequence stretches across 1.9 kilometres, travelling from Quill City Mall to Pertama Complex in Kuala Lumpur.

Shot continuously with a single camera, the sequence runs for 5 minutes and 19 seconds without being edited.

The film’s commitment to practical filmmaking has also been a major part of the conversation.

In a previous interview with Malay Mail, Teh revealed that Chelot is 95 per cent practical effects, ranging from explosions to bullet-hit effects, while keeping



‘Chelot’, starring Beto Kusyairy as Azraf (left) and Shukri Yahaya as Inspector Haqqim (right). — Photo courtesy of GSC Cinemas

CGI use to a minimum.

With its latest box-office achievement, Chelot now joins a growing list of Malaysian films released in 2026 that have hit and crossed the RM10 million mark.

Leading the current box-office race is Tarung: Unforgiven with RM20.6 million, followed by Polong at RM15 million, Libang Libu with RM14.1 million, Malaikat Malam with RM12.2 million, and Matt Lai’s Ah Beng vs Liang Po Po, which reached RM10 million.

Now at RM10.6 million and still playing in cinemas, Chelot has given Malaysian audiences another homegrown success story to talk about.

More importantly, its performance adds to the growing momentum surrounding the local film industry, which continues

to produce films capable of drawing audiences and making a significant impact at the box office.

Chelot stars Beto Kusyairy, Shukri Yahaya, Shaheizy Sam, Nadhir Nasar, Alicia Amin, Mustaqim Bahadon, and Theebaan G among others.

The story follows special operations police officer Inspector Haqqim (Shukri), who is crushed by debt and family pressure.

When a high-stakes raid goes tragically wrong, he secretly becomes an informant for a dangerous weapons-smuggling ring led by Datuk Bakri (Shaheizy) and his right-hand man Azraf (Beto), trapping him in a deadly game between the law and the underworld. — Malay Mail

Kiefer Sutherland still in action, but ibuprofen lending helping hand

VENICE: Action films are still the name of the game for Kiefer Sutherland, but the 60-year-old star of television series ‘24’ now gets a little help from anti-inflammatories and body braces.

Sutherland — in Venice for the premiere of his new film ‘Father Joe,’ where he shares the limelight with Al Pacino — told AFP Saturday that some things had changed in the two and a half decades since ‘24’ first aired on television.

The political thriller about US counterterrorism agent Jack Bauer ran from 2001 to 2010, with a revival and finale in 2014.

“I do remember the days when I could run around on ‘24’ and I could do it for 12 hours straight,” he told AFP in an interview.

“And now I’ve got this brace going on, I’ve got that brace going on, I’ve got whatever else, you know, these pads and these,” he said.

“And so there’s a lot of anti-inflammatory medicine used now that wasn’t used 20 years ago,” he joked.

In the film directed by



Kiefer Sutherland

Barthelemy Grossmann from a screenplay by Luc Besson, Sutherland plays a gun-wielding New York priest seeking justice for the city’s youth, menacing drug dealers and the mob boss, played by Pacino.

“I don’t get a lot of opportunities to do a fantasy, which this film is. It lives in its own world. It’s good versus evil. It’s broad strokes,” the actor told a press conference earlier Saturday.

Sutherland said he had to master a different style of fighting than what he was used to in the film, and learned a lot during the process.

“And I only got hurt twice,” he

added.

On the vicissitudes of his career, the Canadian/British actor said that now at age 60, he worries less about the inevitable dry spells.

“It’s going to go down. Then it’s going to go back up,” said Sutherland.

“And I think that just when you’re down, the confidence that it’s going to go back up — because it always does, you know — is like, ‘Oh! You don’t need to worry as much.’ A rough patch came at about age 27 when he didn’t work for a few years, he said.

“I was panicked that it was over. And that really messes with your head,” he said.

“If it’s the thing you love doing and it’s the thing you want to do the most and it’s the thing you care about the most, the feeling that someone can take that away from you is real. And it’s very frightening,” he added.

“And so every time it has kind of gone back up, the relief is significant.”

Sutherland last appeared in the 2025 UK holiday film ‘Tinsel Town’. — AFP

New Oasis film captures band’s frosty reunion

VENICE: A new film about Oasis’s historic 2025 world tour, which premiered Saturday in Venice, captures the frosty reunion of the British band’s Gallagher brothers — and shows how their children have become the ‘cement’ in their volatile relationship.

Titled ‘Oasis: Don’t Look Back in Anger’, the documentary reveals the moment Liam Gallagher arrived for the first meeting in 15 years with estranged brother Noel for a rehearsal ahead of their ‘Live ’25’ tour.

His first words are to object to some acoustic shields on the drums — ‘they’re giving me the hump’ — before he launches into the songs in characteristic style and then leaves without saying

a word.

“They’re English working-class men, they’re not going to show emotion, not going to even shake hands,” film creator Steven Knight, creator of the ‘Peaky Blinders’ TV series and the writer of the new James Bond film, told AFP.

Over the course of the tour, the combustible brothers gradually bury one of the most famous feuds in modern rock music, which dates back to a 2009 backstage fight before a concert in Paris.

Fans began gathering at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday morning ahead of the premiere, with the Gallagher brothers waving to them from a boat as they arrived in the sun-drenched

Italian city.

Their on-stage reunion last year saw an outpouring of 1990s nostalgia and support for Oasis, one of the biggest rock bands of the past 30 years, with the film seeking to explain why they have such strong cross-generational and cross-language appeal.

Liam and Noel’s reconciliation was helped by the budding relationships between their children who didn’t know each other before the band reunion, according to Knight.

“I think once their kids got involved, that was the cement. Their kids met and became mates,” he added.

Asked about his work on the next Bond, Knight said he couldn’t talk about it, adding

only: “I’m very much looking forward to that. It’s going to be really good.”

“Don’t Look Back in Anger” is part of a lucrative new trend of major artists releasing tightly controlled films about their tours, allowing fans who missed out on tickets to get an alternative view of the shows in the cinema.

Taylor Swift’s film about her Eras Tour in 2023 grossed an estimated \$260 million worldwide, while Beyonce also released a movie the same year about her tour, raking in \$44 million.

“I think it’s really good, and the reason that anyone wants to fund something like this is because they see a precedent,” Knight added. — AFP



Liam and Noel Gallagher (right) attend the red carpet event for the screening of ‘Oasis: Don’t look back in anger’ presented out of competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido. — AFP photo



The producers, director and cast of ‘Tikus!’ at the gala premiere on August 20 at TGV Pavilion Damansara Heights.

How Malaysian Feisk Productions keeps making films despite modest returns

KUALA LUMPUR: In an industry where box-office numbers can decide a film’s fate, Feisk Productions continues to make movies even when the returns are far from spectacular.

Founded in 2010 by brothers Iskandar and Feisal Azizuddin, Feisk Productions began with a simple ambition: to make films independently, using whatever resources were available while constantly improving their craft and telling stories they genuinely believed in.

“From the beginning, we have taken a very independent and resourceful approach to filmmaking, finding ways to create and produce projects with the resources available to us while continuing to develop our craft and tell the stories we want to tell,” Iskandar told Malay Mail.

Taking on unique and bold stories

That independent approach has become a defining feature of Feisk Productions.

While much of Malaysian cinema continues to be dominated by established genres such as horror and action, the company has ventured into science fiction, post-apocalyptic settings and more experimental narratives.

Iskandar, mentioned its partly driven by the limited number of Malaysian films exploring such subjects.

“We explore themes and genres that are uncommon because there is a lack of these kinds of stories in Malaysia, or stories of this nature being told by Malaysians generally.

“From time to time, I’ll come across comments such as, ‘How come there are no Malaysian post-apocalyptic or science-fiction films?’

“By making these types of films, we want audiences to know that these concepts and genres can exist here too, and that Malaysian filmmakers are capable of telling those kinds of stories from our own perspective.”

Tikus! brings a Malaysian twist to Agatha Christie’s The Mousetrap

Over the past 16 years, Feisk Productions has built an extensive body of work, producing two reality shows, one television series, one documentary, more than 40 short films and nine feature films.

Its feature-film journey began with Suraya (2020), followed by The Tides Will Decide (2020), Kabus (2022), Ceroboh (2022), Bilik Tepi (2023), Tafakur (2024), This Land of Mine (2024), Angkat (2025), and its latest murder mystery,

Tikus! , which was released on September 3, 2026.

Tikus! marks another bold move by the production house, bringing an unconventional murder mystery to local cinemas, starring Qiu Qatina, Nicholas Chin, Fattah Fawzy, Harris Andria, Iski Senna, Diana Ooi, Marsha Biddulph, Haiccal Hazim and Roshafiq Roslee.

At its gala premiere on August 20, Malay Mail found the film’s ending unexpected, as the story took a bold and surprising turn.

Writer-director Ellina Abdul Majid said English author Agatha Christie’s The Mousetrap inspired the film, after Iskandar suggested that she put her own Malaysian spin on the classic murder mystery.

“It was actually Iskandar who suggested that I write my own take on the famous Agatha Christie play The Mousetrap,” said Ellina.

She said the appeal of the genre lies in getting audiences involved in solving the mystery alongside the characters.

“I guess I can say Tikus! is my homage to Agatha Christie and my love letter to the murder mystery genre.

“At the same time, it is uniquely Malaysian, packed with local jokes and humour that Malaysian audiences will truly appreciate.”

She added that the film also explores themes of patriotism and racial harmony, with subtle details for audiences to discover.

A box-office success, but not the only measure of a film’s worth

Among its films, Suraya is considered its most commercially successful that starred Ainul Aishah.

Feisal said the film was made specifically with the mass market in mind — and audiences responded.

“The film went on to capitalise on key revenue streams — box office, pay-per-view, international cinema release, licensed to a TV channel, and now on a major streaming platform.

“I believe the film was a commercial success because it was exactly what the audience wanted: a film that was easy to digest, a few scares here and there, and starring a popular actress.”

Still, Feisal said the company does not measure success purely by commercial performance.

“Every film has its own journey, so rather than defining one particular production as our most successful, we value the fact that each one has allowed us to tell a story, reach an

audience and continue growing as filmmakers,” he added.

The motivation to create more films

With nine feature films under its belt, Feisk Productions has continued creating despite returns that have often been modest.

For the team, the motivation goes beyond box-office numbers.

“That desire to tell different kinds of stories is one of the things that motivates us to continue making films,” said Feisal.

“With our films, we aim to add some variety to Malaysian cinema and introduce audiences to films of different tastes, genres and styles.

“In this way, we hope to contribute towards greater diversity in the kinds of stories that are produced for Malaysian audiences,” he added.

Feisal said keeping budgets flexible, balancing commercially viable projects with passion projects, and recovering costs through film sales, licensing and festival opportunities have helped Feisk continue producing films despite modest returns.

Hope for the Malaysian film industry

While the quality of Feisk’s films may have drawn differing opinions over the years, the team’s passion for filmmaking and commitment to telling stories remain undiminished.

For Feisk, the goal remains simple: to keep making films, telling stories and finding new ways to bring their ideas to audiences.

If anything, Feisk Productions embodies the spirit of independent filmmaking, showing that passion, creativity and determination can keep Malaysian stories alive beyond the mainstream.

Asked about hopes for the Malaysian film industry, Iskandar said he wants Malaysian stories to reach audiences both at home and abroad.

“I hope that one day Malaysian storytelling can be enjoyed by people from all walks of life and across different cultures, both here and abroad.

“More than gaining the attention of any one industry or country, I hope Malaysian stories can resonate with audiences in many nations and be recognised for the unique perspectives, voices and experiences that we have to offer,” he concluded. — Malay Mail

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THE BORNEO POST



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MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NC-54-8/2026 (HC 3)

In The Matter of Section 485 (1)(e) of The Companies Act 2016
and
In The Matter of BERMUDA NIAGA SDN. BHD. (formerly known as BERMUDA MARINE SUPPLY CO. SDN. BHD.)
(Company No. 19820100225 / 79969-V)

BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA
BERMUDA NIAGA SDN. BHD. AND RESPONDENT
(formerly known as BERMUDA MARINE SUPPLY CO. SDN. BHD.)
(Company No. 19820100225 / 79969-V)

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION
NOTICE is hereby given that Petition for the winding-up of the abovenamed company by the High Court was, on the 20th day of August, 2026 presented by the Government of Malaysia. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the High Court sitting at Kuching at 09:00 o'clock in the forenoon, on Tuesday, the 20th day of October, 2026 and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of the order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is care of Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri Malaysia, Wilma Hasil, Lot 2996, Jalan Aduan, Taman MDL, 96000 Miri, Sarawak.
The Petitioner is Nurulnita Binti Kota, Revenue Counsel of Inland Revenue MIRI, for and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

[NURULNITA BINTI KOTA]
Revenue Counsel
For and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above named Petitioner, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be served or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above named not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 19th day of October, 2026.

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING
NO. SBV-28NC-99-7/2026 (HC)

RE: SURAYA BINTI KIPLY (W.N.K.P. 790321-13-5328)
533, Lorong Langkat, Taman Mahabbah Indah, Kanowit, 96700 Kanowit, Sarawak.
... Judgment Debtor

EX-PARTE: BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD (19650100376) (4175-W) a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Baniquna, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Ground Floor, Lot 456, 457 & 458, Al Idris Commercial Centre, Jalan Satek, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
... Judgment Creditor

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE
In the matter of a Bankruptcy Notice dated 2nd day of July, 2026 and pursuant to the Court's Order dated 24th day of August, 2026.

To: SURAYA BINTI KIPLY (W.N.K.P. 790321-13-5328)
533, Lorong Langkat, Taman Mahabbah Indah, Kanowit, 96700 Kanowit, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice dated 2nd day of July, 2026 has been issued against you in this Court by BANK MUAMALAT MALAYSIA BERHAD (19650100376) (4175-W), a company incorporated in Malaysia with its registered Head office at Tingkat 11, Menara Baniquna, No. 21 Jalan Melaka, 50100 Kuala Lumpur and a branch office at Ground Floor, Lot 456, 457 & 458, Al Idris Commercial Centre, Jalan Satek, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak and the Court has ordered that the said Bankruptcy Notice be served on you by the publication of this Notice of Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice in one (1) issue of the "The Borneo Post" newspaper, by affixing the Notice on the court's notice board and by serving the Notice to the Judgment Debtor's address by prepaid registered post and that the publication and/or posting of this Notice shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Bankruptcy Notice upon you and the said Bankruptcy Notice shall be deemed to have been served on the day of the publication and/or posting.

The Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application to this Court.

Dated this 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR,
HIGH COURT SIBU

THIS NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE is taken out by MESSRS KADIR, WONG, LIN & CO. ADVOCATES, Advocates for the Judgment Creditor whose address for service is Room 508, 5th Floor, Wisma Bukit Mata Kuching, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 91100 Kuching, Sarawak. (File Ref: TLP/KCH/2026-1222/2025)
S1772026040003

MALAYSIA
IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AT KUCHING, SARAWAK
SUIT NO. KCH-A72NCVC-222-8/2026 (MC 3)

Between
Majlis Perbandaran Padawan ... Plaintiff
And
Chua Pheng Hock (NRIC No. 850405-13-5861) ... Defendant

NOTICE OF WRIT
To: Chua Pheng Hock (NRIC No. 850405-13-5861)
C/O No. 3, Lorong 2, Jalan Kompang, Di Jalan Ong Tiang Swee, 93200 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrates' Court in Suit No. KCH-A72NCVC-222-8/2026 (MC 3) by the above-named Plaintiff of Kota Padawan, Batu 10, Jalan Peninsulin, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak in which the Plaintiff's claim against you is for:
(a) the sum of RM6,286.05;
(b) surcharge on the sum of RM4,591.85 at the rate of 1% per month from 08.05.2026 until the date of full and final settlement;
(c) costs pursuant to section 79 of the Local Authorities Ordinance 1996; and
(d) other reliefs as deemed fit and just by this Honourable Court.

AND that it has been ordered inter alia that the service of the Order for Substituted Service and the Writ together with the Statement of Claim in this action be effected on you by advertisement of this Notice once in a local newspaper, namely The Borneo Post, and that such service shall be good and sufficient service on you on the date of such publication; and that costs of this application and incidental thereto shall be in the cause.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you desire to defend the said action you must within 14 days from the publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the Registry of the Magistrate's Court, Kuching.

In default of such appearance, judgment may be entered against you.
Dated the 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

Registrar
Subordinate Courts, Kuching

This Notice of Writ is filed for the Plaintiff by
Spring Advocates of Unit 28, First Floor, Emporium, No. 8, Jalan Tun Jugah, 93250 Kuching, Sarawak.
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