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Interior regions hammered by El Niño

Prolonged drought takes toll on Ulu Baram, Upper Tinjar as river levels fall, water sources dry up



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MIRI: Prolonged drought linked to the El Niño phenomenon has left several areas in Ulu Baram and Upper Tinjar facing water shortages, with falling river levels affecting both daily water needs and river travel.

In Long Kerong, villagers said the water level has dropped significantly, making boat travel to the remote settlement increasingly difficult, while river levels in Upper Tinjar, including at Long Teran and Long Jegan, have also fallen considerably.

The situation has raised concerns among residents, particularly those who rely on rivers for their daily needs, including for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

Telang Usan assemblyman Dato Dennis Ngau said the situation in several areas is increasingly worrying, with some communities already facing difficulties accessing clean water.

"Long Bangan is among the affected areas. Last week, the river near the village was extremely murky.

"I was shown photographs and when I saw them, the people were bathing in water as murky as Milo," he told The Borneo Post in an interview.

Dennis said the Long Bangan chief subsequently contacted him to seek assistance with water supply.

Following the request, Dennis said he contacted the Telang Usan District Office and Welfare Department to arrange for bottled water to be sent to the village.



I was shown photographs and when I saw them, the people were bathing in water as murky as Milo.

Dato Dennis Ngau

However, Dennis said the assistance could only meet the villagers' needs for a limited period, stressing that a long-term solution was needed.

"The question is, how long can the water supply last? The water is being used for cooking and drinking. What about their needs for bathing?

"This will be a very challenging situation for our people," he said.

He said residents in need of bottled water supplies should submit applications through their village heads, village security and development committee (JKKK) chairmen or respective village secretaries.

The applications must then be submitted to the district office for verification before arrangements could be made for water deliveries, he explained.

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PATRIOTIC ENDEAVOUR
Residents of Kampung Bukit Hantu in Jitra, Kedah fly a giant Jalur Gemilang atop Bukit Hantu to mark the upcoming Malaysia Day. The feat saw them carrying the flag, measuring 15 feet wide and 30 feet long, and its pole to the peak of the hill 120 metres above sea level. Kampung Bukit Hantu Community chairman Arif Fazilah Abdullah said it took them four climbs to complete the task after the flagpole broke from being hit by strong winds. — Bernama photo

High expenses causing young M'sians to rethink marriage — Minister

Desiree David

KUCHING: Rising living costs are among the factors prompting young Malaysians to think more carefully before getting married and starting a family, said Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

The Women, Family and Community Development Minister said economic considerations have become an important part of the decision-making process, with young people increasingly assessing whether they are financially capable of supporting a family before taking the next step.

"We hear that some do not want children and want to be childfree. You can't blame them if they are not ready economically," she told reporters after officiating at the state-level World Population Day 2026 here yesterday.

Nancy said this was why the government was providing support to help young people prepare themselves before marriage and throughout their journey into parenthood.

"The SmartStart programme is comprehensive in its content; from before they get married until they become parents. Economic and financial management are also included," she said.

She said many responsible young people are cautious about marriage because they do not want to find themselves unable to cope financially after starting a family.

"They really calculate carefully before making the decision to get married because they do not want to have a family but be unable to afford it.

"There are also those who have children and later find that they cannot afford to support them. We do not want that situation either," she said.

In her speech earlier, Nancy said the government recognised the need for programmes and interventions involving young people to take into account their realities, concerns and aspirations.

She said this commitment was reflected in the National Family KASIH Policy and National Family Action Plan 2026-2030, which serve as the government's strategic framework to strengthen family institutions and support the development of young people.

Nancy said various programmes and services were also provided through the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) to help Malaysians prepare for marriage, family formation and parenthood.

These include the SmartStart premarital education programme, family and parenting education, marriage and family counselling, reproductive and social health education, services at Klinik Nur Sejahtera, as well as fertility screening and treatment for couples requiring assistance to conceive.

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Emergency declaration in Serian lifted as haze situation improves

KUCHING: His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, yesterday consented to lift the haze emergency declaration in Serian Division imposed last Friday.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the decision was made after taking into account the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Sarawak Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, and relevant agencies, which found that Air Pollutant Index (API) readings in the area were no longer at hazardous levels.

"However, the haze in Sarawak has yet to fully subside, with several areas, particularly Serian and Samarahan, still recording very unhealthy levels," the PMO said in a statement.

As of 7pm yesterday, seven areas in Sarawak recorded very unhealthy API readings, namely Lundu (298), Serian (270), Samarahan (237), Kanowit (220), Kuching (207), Lubok Antu (204) and Tebedu (202).

All other areas recorded unhealthy air quality, except for Kapit and Bario which recorded moderate air.

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas in a separate statement said Sarawak's haze situation remained influenced by wind direction and hotspot activity.

"The federal and Sarawak governments will continue to monitor the situation closely.

"We advise the public to take the necessary precautions, including limiting outdoor activities and following the advice of the relevant authorities," said Uggah, who is Sarawak Disaster Management Committee chairman.



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Nancy: Child protection a shared responsibility



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KUCHING: A total of 6,266 cases involving children in need of care and protection were recorded nationwide from January to June this year, said Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

The Women, Family and Community Development Minister said the statistic showed the need to strengthen the child protection system in an integrated and continuous manner, with the involvement of all parties, including the community.

"Therefore, I would like to emphasise that child protection is a shared responsibility.

"We need to build a society that is alert and courageous enough to act when there are signs that children are at risk," she said when officiating at the 2026 National Child Protection Team (PPKK) Symposium here on Sunday night.

Nancy noted that in 2025, a total of 10,904 children nationwide were recorded as being in need of care and protection.

In efforts to protect children at the community level from 2024 to 2026, she said 141 PPKs comprising 1,225 members had been appointed in accordance with Section 7(1) of the Child Act 2001.

To further strengthen these efforts, she said her ministry, through the Welfare Department (JKM), had allocated RM705,000 for the implementation of PPK



Nancy (left) visits a sales booth during the 2026 PPKK Symposium. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

programmes and activities, while about RM3.5 million had been allocated for the management and operation of Child Activity Centres (PAKK) nationwide.

Of this, RM365,000 was allocated to 14 PPKs in Sarawak, while RM435,340 was allocated for the operation of 14 existing PAKs and one new PAK in the state.

She also noted that the ministry is implementing a pilot project involving 15 PAKs as Child Services Hubs or One Stop Centres under the 2026 New Policy.

"This initiative is based on the concept of one PAK, one

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partner for each state, with an allocation of RM365,000, including increased allowances for hub supervisors, the creation of hub staff positions, and the implementation of programmes and activities for the benefit of children in the local community," she explained.

From January to May this year, 1,580 programmes and activities were implemented through collaboration between PPKs and PAKs, benefiting 29,754 children nationwide.

She hoped the empowerment of PPKs and PAKs could be utilised strategically, with

approaches strengthened by identifying hotspot areas through risk mapping, early detection, and the collection of relevant information on children requiring attention.

"Additionally, PPKs should also play a role in supporting the reintegration of children into their families and communities after they have received services at welfare institutions managed by JKJ," she added.

She also urged all PPKs to make full use of PAKs in their respective communities by conducting continuous advocacy programmes with strategic partners at the community level.

KPWKM to continue bringing welfare services directly to communities

KUCHING: The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry (KPWKM) will continue bringing welfare services directly to communities, particularly those in remote and hard-to-reach areas, rather than waiting for those in need to seek assistance.

Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said the ministry is guided by the principle that services must reach the people, especially those living in areas where geographical challenges make access difficult.

"We do not wait for the people to come looking for us," she told reporters after officiating at the state-level World Population Day 2026 celebration at i-CATS University College here yesterday.

"We go to the communities rather than expecting them to come and look for every agency individually."

She said this approach had been implemented through outreach initiatives such as Kembara Kasih, which bring various government agencies and service providers directly to communities throughout Sarawak.

Nancy said the ministry was also relying on a growing network of volunteers to strengthen its outreach, particularly in villages where residents may not know they are eligible for welfare assistance.

She said as at Aug 31 this year, Sarawak has 1,417 volunteers, comprising 480 men and 937 women, assisting the ministry and the Welfare Department (JKM) in carrying out their duties statewide.

She added that volunteers from within their own communities play an important role in identifying individuals and families who required assistance.

"There are people in villages that are actually eligible to

receive welfare assistance but have never received it because they simply do not know about it.

"This is where our volunteers can help JKJ because the officers may not necessarily live in that particular village or know everyone in the community," she said.

Nationwide, Nancy said there are currently 7,397 volunteers, comprising 2,033 men and 5,364 women, with the number expected to increase as the ministry expands its outreach to areas that have yet to be adequately covered.

"We will not stop at that number. When we go into certain areas and find that there are no volunteers there, we will appoint new ones.

"So, the number will continue to grow from time to time as we reach communities that we may not have reached before," she said.

Nancy added that the ministry was not looking at limiting itself to having just one volunteer in every village, as larger communities would require a stronger support network.

"It is not just one volunteer for one village. That is not enough. It depends on the size of the village and the needs of the community. "When people from the village themselves become volunteers, there is a sense of belonging and they will naturally want to help their own community," she said.

She said the ministry would continue finding ways to reach communities that remain difficult to access, including through mobile services and convoy-based outreach programmes.

"If they cannot reach us, then we have to find a way to reach them. We have already started doing this by going out with our mobile services, bringing together the agencies and facilities needed to serve the people."



Snowdan, flanked by Susan (second right) and Hii, and others pose after unveiling the Miss Sarawak Tourism 2026 crown. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

Snowdan: Sarawak maintains 5 mln visitor target despite haze, travel disruptions

KUCHING: Sarawak remains committed to achieving its target of five million visitors this year despite various challenges, said Datuk Snowdan Lawan.

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts acknowledged that the current haze situation, coupled with travel disruptions, had affected the tourism sector.

"We are facing some problems; these things have affected our tourism, but whatever it is, we will still try our best," he said during the Miss Sarawak Tourism 2026 press conference here yesterday.

Snowdan said Sarawak was fortunate to have its own airline, AirBorneo, which could play an important role in strengthening connectivity and supporting the state's tourism industry.

"Connectivity is important in bringing in direct tourists to Sarawak, without them having to

transit somewhere else first."

In relation to this, he suggested that AirBorneo help promote the state's tourism products, culture and identity to travellers.

"Possibly, you can put some photographs of Sarawak inside the cabin, like what AirAsia does, that feature the tourism attractions, indigenous communities, longhouses and traditional elements.

"It is something to promote with the elements, because AirBorneo is owned by Sarawak. We are not only proud of AirBorneo, but we are also proud of our culture," he said.

On Miss Sarawak Tourism 2026, Snowdan regarded the Sarawak Tourism Ambassador concept introduced through the pageant as meaningful.

"A tourism ambassador is not only someone who looks good in front of the camera, the ambassador needs to have

confidence, good communication skills and a sense of pride in the place."

Miss Sarawak Tourism 2026 will gather 17 finalists at the grand finale, to be staged at the Riverside Majestic Hotel here this Saturday.

The pageant will also host non-competing delegates from Indonesia, South Korea, Bangladesh, Zambia and the Czech Republic.

The competition will feature three titles: Miss Sarawak Tourism, Miss Sarawak Tourism Global, and Miss Sarawak Tourism Metropolitan.

The Top 2 will represent Sarawak at Miss Malaysia Tourism this October.

Also present were the Premier's political secretary Susan Clement Ingun, AirBorneo senior marketing manager Lazim Yassin, and Miss Sarawak Tourism 2026 organising director Joeyce Hii.

'We have activities and programmes to help strengthen relationships'

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She said government support also extended to Malaysians facing fertility difficulties.

"There are those who cannot have children, so we have other programmes such as IVF and IUI. We also provide assistance for men who are not very fertile.

"Perhaps this is not highlighted very much, but it is something that does happen," she said.

Nancy added that the

government's efforts were not limited to helping people prepare for marriage and parenthood, but also included initiatives aimed at strengthening relationships and preventing family breakdown.

"We also do not want people to get married and then end up divorced. So, we have activities and programmes to help strengthen relationships again.

"We even have a second honeymoon programme. It does not mean getting married for a

second time."

She explained that couples who felt they needed to improve their relationship after several years of marriage could take part in programmes aimed at bringing them closer together and strengthening family bonds.

"Other initiatives include family programmes designed to bring family members together and strengthen relationships between parents and their children," she said.

Situation may worsen if hot, dry spell persist — Dennis

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"As long as the district office receives and verifies the application, they will usually arrange for the water to be delivered. This is important," he said.

Dennis said drinking water has been delivered to Long Bagan in the latest round of assistance, while several other villages had also received supplies previously based on applications and verification by the district office.

The prolonged drought has also affected river transport and other activities, including tourism and boat operators who depend on sufficient water levels to operate.

Dennis said the impact could become more serious if the hot and dry conditions persisted, particularly for communities that depend entirely on rivers for access and water supplies.

Meanwhile, he called for the implementation of the Sarawak Alternative Water Supply (Sawas) project in rural areas to be expedited to address water supply problems more effectively.

He pointed out Long Urang and Long Nakan were among the villages in the Telang Usan constituency that already had Sawas systems and had not faced water supply problems like other villages.

"I went to Long Urang last

month. While other villages were struggling to obtain water, the residents there had access to water because the system was already in place and functioning well.

"So, it has been a great help. I hope the system can be expedited and extended to other villages," he said.

Under the next phase, Dennis said about 40 villages in the Telang Usan area are expected to receive Sawas projects.

He hoped implementation of the system could be expedited to ensure more villages had sustainable water supply, particularly during the drought season.



Dead fish are seen on the dry riverbed in Long Kerong.

SWSB: Sibu Jaya water woes expected resolved with larger-capacity main pipe installation

SIBU: The water supply problem in Sibu Jaya is expected to be resolved by the end of this year with the installation of a larger-capacity main pipe.

Sarawak Water Sdn Bhd (SWSB) Central Region representative Siew Kok Kiong said the 900mm-diameter main pipe will increase the water delivery capacity to 13 million litres per day compared with 10 million litres per day currently.

"We hope the water supply problem can be resolved by the end of this year. Installation of the larger-capacity main pipe is still ongoing," he said during a dialogue session with Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) Dudong, the Rural Water Supply Department (JBALB), and Sibu Resident yesterday.

The session was chaired by PDP Dudong branch chairman Datuk Teo Boon Siew.

Siew said the water supply situation in Sibu Jaya had shown positive improvement, with disruptions no longer occurring on a widespread basis as before.

However, he said residents on the second and third floors of several blocks of flats in Sibu Jaya still experienced intermittent water supply disruptions, particularly during peak usage periods.

He said pipe-related problems in Durin had also been given attention, with SWSB planning to carry out pipe replacement works in the area starting next year.

According to Teo, areas in Dudong including Assan Tengah,

Assan Nunggang, Sibu Jaya and Durin, as well as several schools had been experiencing water supply problems for a long time.

"Water supply issues in Dudong have persisted for a long time and require more drastic action from your side. What is important is that agencies such as SWSB and JBALB need to increase their communication or explanations regarding issues that arise.

"This will provide a clearer understanding to affected residents and reduce misunderstandings involving their elected representatives," he said.

Teo also urged the relevant agencies to regularly update the public on water-related projects in the affected areas.

Premier in Manila for working visit to ADB headquarters

KUCHING: Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg arrived in Manila, the Philippines yesterday for an official working visit to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters in Mandaluyong City, scheduled to take place today.

Abang Johari is leading a Sarawak delegation comprising senior government officials and representatives from several state agencies and strategic entities, including the Development Bank of Sarawak (DBOS), Sarawak Energy Berhad, and Petroleum Sarawak Berhad (Petros).

Among those accompanying him are Deputy Minister for Utility (Sarawak Energy and Petros) Datuk Ibrahim Baki and Sarawak Energy group chief executive officer Datuk Sharbini Suhaili.

Also in the delegation are acting State Secretary Dato Sri Dr Wan Lizozman Wan Omar, Economic Planning Unit director Awang Fadillah Awang Redzuan, and DBOS chief executive officer Datu Laura Lee Ngien Hion.

Following his arrival, Abang Johari attended an afternoon tea with members of the delegation, followed by a dinner and briefing



Abang Johari (second left) is pictured on his arrival in Manila. — Photo from Facebook/Sarawakku

session.

The Premier is scheduled to hold a private meeting with the ADB president today, followed by a meeting with the ADB Board of Directors.

He is also scheduled to participate in a fireside chat with ADB.

ADB is a multilateral development financial institution that supports economic and

social development across Asia and the Pacific through financing, technical assistance and advisory services.

The official working visit provides an opportunity for Sarawak to engage with the regional development institution on matters relating to economic and social development, financing, technical assistance and advisory services.

Miri Lorry Terminal earth filling works reach 70 pct completion

MIRI: The Miri Lorry Terminal project has reached about 70 per cent completion of its earth filling works, said Transport Minister Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin.

The remaining works, including surcharge and soil settlement, are expected to be completed by the end of March next year, he said after a working visit to the site yesterday.

According to him, the project was proposed as Sarawak's first dedicated lorry terminal designed to meet the growing needs of the freight and logistics industry in Miri and northern Sarawak.

"Miri is a strategic transit point for long-haul lorry movements between Kuching, Sib, Bintulu, Brunei, Limbang, Lawas and Sabah.

"Every day, an estimated 50 or more long-haul lorries and prime movers from Kuching, Sib, and Bintulu pass through Miri, with some stopping overnight before continuing to Brunei, Limbang, Lawas and, in some cases, Sabah," he said.

Lee said the increasing volume of cargo movement had not been matched by adequate facilities, resulting in some heavy vehicles being parked along roadsides, industrial areas and other unsuitable locations.

He said some long-haul drivers also had to sleep in their vehicles with limited access to proper toilets, showers, food, and rest facilities.

The terminal will be an integrated facility with lorry parking, driver accommodation, food outlets, toilets, showers, rest areas, and light vehicle maintenance services.

It will also include tyre, battery and basic mechanical services,



Lee (eighth left) takes a group photo with other agency representatives after the working visit.

fuel services, warehouses, cargo handling areas, loading and unloading bays, security systems and closed-circuit television (CCTV).

Lee said the warehousing facilities could help turn Miri into a more efficient cargo consolidation and distribution centre for Northern Sarawak.

"Logistics operators from Kuching, Sib, and Bintulu can unload and temporarily store goods at the terminal before they are delivered using smaller lorries to Miri and surrounding areas.

"This can reduce the need for long-haul lorries to enter congested urban areas while improving the efficiency and safety of cargo distribution," he said.

He said the system would also work in reverse, allowing goods from Miri and northern Sarawak

to be consolidated at the terminal before being transported by long-haul vehicles to Bintulu, Sib, Kuching and other parts of Sarawak.

Lee said the ministry had also taken note of concerns raised by the Miri Lorry Association over the lack of a suitable access route for lorries arriving from the north, including Brunei, Limbang, Lawas and Sabah.

"This matter is important and needs to be addressed early as these heavy vehicles will travel along part of the Pan Borneo Highway before entering the terminal.

"A suitable access route is essential to ensure smooth traffic flow and more efficient movement of heavy vehicles," he said.

In addressing the matter, he said he instructed his ministry to hold a coordination



Hanifah (right) is briefed by Bintulu Divisional Health Officer Datuk Dr Melvin Chung. — Photo from Facebook/Hanifah Hajar Taib

Borneo Health Tour: Hanifah visits Jepak, Tatau health clinics

BINTULU: Deputy Health Minister Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib visited the Jepak and Tatau health clinics yesterday as part of the fourth series of the Borneo Health Tour.

The working visits provided Hanifah, together with Health Ministry and Sarawak Health Department officials, an opportunity to assess firsthand the facilities, equipment, operations, and healthcare services provided to the communities in Jepak, Tatau and the surrounding areas.

At the Jepak health clinic, she received a briefing on the clinic's operations and heard from its management on challenges faced

in carrying out daily duties and delivering healthcare services to patients.

"The issues identified during the visit will be given due attention, with follow-up measures to be coordinated between the Health Ministry and Sarawak Health Department.

"The challenges faced by healthcare facilities need to be addressed promptly through solutions tailored to local circumstances and needs. This is important to ensure healthcare personnel can carry out their duties effectively, while the community continues to receive quality healthcare services," she said.

At the Tatau Health Clinic, Hanifah reviewed its existing facilities, amenities and equipment, as well as its daily operations and healthcare services.

She also received a briefing from the management on its scope of services, daily operations and challenges in meeting the healthcare needs of residents.

The Borneo Health Tour is a field-based initiative aimed at providing the deputy health minister and ministry with a direct understanding of the needs and challenges faced by healthcare personnel at healthcare facilities.

Sarawak tailors contribute to Malaysian success on global stage

KUCHING: The Sarawak First Division Tailors Association represented the state at the recent 29th Congress of the Federation of Asian Master Tailors (FAMT) held in Bali, Indonesia.

The event brought together tailoring professionals from across Asia to exchange knowledge and expertise while promoting Asian tailoring culture, professional craftsmanship and the preservation of traditional skills.

The Federation of Tailors Guilds Malaysia organised a 29-member delegation to attend the congress in Bali.

"As part of Malaysia's tailoring fraternity, the Sarawak First Division Tailors Association also actively organised representatives to participate in this international event, showcasing the professionalism and spirit of the Sarawak and Malaysian tailoring industries on the international stage," the association said in a statement.

The Malaysian delegation delivered an outstanding performance, securing several awards, including gold in the Ladies Static Evening Wear category.

It also won silver in the Ladies Static Creative Wear category and the FAMT Costume and Culture Achievement awards, as well as the FAMT Lifetime Contribution Award for Costume.

In addition to participating in the various competitions, the Malaysian delegation also took part in an international fashion showcase. Through fashion design, traditional craftsmanship and modern creativity, the delegation presented the professional standards and cultural

characteristics of Malaysia's tailoring industry to fellow professionals from across Asia.

The Sarawak First Division Tailors Association said its participation was not merely about competing internationally, but also represented a valuable opportunity for learning and professional exchange.

Through interactions with tailors and garment industry professionals from across Asia, the delegation further broadened its international outlook while creating opportunities for Sarawak's tailoring industry to reach a wider international stage.

The association expressed its appreciation to Guan Zhi Fabric Sdn Bhd and Lam Fah Textile Sdn Bhd for sponsoring the delegation's uniforms and shirts respectively, enabling the Malaysian delegation to present a coordinated and professional image on the international stage.

The association also thanked all contestants, designers, team members and the entire 29-member delegation for their continuous support, cooperation and dedication.

"Through competition, learning and professional exchange, they not only brought honour to Malaysia but also further strengthened unity within the country's tailoring industry," it said.

It noted that it would continue to actively participate in international tailoring and fashion exchange programmes, promote the preservation of tailoring skills, nurture the younger generation, and bring the tailoring culture of Sarawak and Malaysia to the international stage.

Malaysia-Indonesia framework needed to tackle transboundary haze, says rep

KOTA KINABALU: The federal government needs to establish a comprehensive and long-term bilateral framework with Indonesia to address recurring transboundary haze.

In making the call, Luyang assemblyman Samuel Wong said the issue should be treated primarily as a public health concern.

"The current haze affecting parts of Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia highlights the need for a more structured and lasting mechanism to deal with forest and land fires in the region," he said in a statement.

He stressed the need for stronger prevention, monitoring and

emergency response, rather than relying mainly on ad-hoc measures whenever haze conditions become critical.

"Haze does not recognise borders, and when air quality deteriorates, ordinary Malaysians, especially children, the elderly and those with respiratory conditions are directly affected," he added.

Wong said the severity of the current fire season warranted greater urgency, noting that Indonesia had reported about 202,000 hectares of land burnt between January and July this year, with almost half of the affected area recorded in July alone.

He said authorities had also

identified a significant number of hotspots across Kalimantan and Sumatra, while September was expected to remain a high-risk period due to continued dry conditions.

Among the measures he proposed were greater sharing of intelligence and information, including hotspot data, satellite information, fire locations and information on high-risk areas and concessions, while respecting the laws and jurisdictions of both countries.

He also called for stronger preventive efforts to identify the causes of recurring fires, including suspected deliberate burning, illegal land clearing and

fires occurring within commercial concession areas.

Wong said closer cooperation on enforcement could also allow information and evidence relating to cross-border impacts to be shared more efficiently, enabling appropriate action to be taken under the respective laws of both countries.

He further proposed the establishment of a rapid-response mechanism for major fires, including exploring the possibility of coordinating aerial firefighting resources such as water-bombing aircraft when fires reach a scale that threatens neighbouring areas.

"Water-bombing aircraft cooperation is something that

can be studied further. I am not suggesting that we immediately establish a new arrangement without examining the technical, legal and operational requirements.

"But when a major fire is burning close to our region and has the potential to affect millions of people, we should be open to every practical option that can improve the speed and effectiveness of our response," he said.

He added that a comprehensive bilateral mechanism should provide a clear channel for Malaysia and Indonesia to raise concerns, exchange information, and coordinate action before the situation develops into a regional

health crisis.

Wong said the latest haze episode should be seen as an opportunity for both countries to strengthen cooperation on an issue affecting communities on both sides of the border.

"But political will is important. We have dealt with transboundary haze for many years. If we continue responding only when the haze arrives, we will keep facing the same cycle. Now is the time to put in place a comprehensive, practical and lasting framework. For the health of our people in Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia, we cannot afford to wait for the next major haze episode before acting," he said.

Home

Growth must preserve Kuching's cultural identity — Minister



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KUCHING: Economic growth should not come at the expense of Kuching's cultural identity and character, said Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah.

The Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts said while Sarawak was focused on developing various sectors and ensuring its reserves continued to grow, it was equally important not to overlook the elements that gave Kuching its character and made the city an interesting place to live and visit.

"Sometimes we feel Sarawak is so busy with the energy, with making money, making sure that our reserves are growing bigger and bigger, but then we cannot forget the other part that makes things very interesting," he said when officiating at the opening of the HeadBox Art and/or Mask Exhibition at Westerly Galleria here on Sunday.

Recalling the late former chief minister and governor Pehin



Wong presents Abdul Karim (left) with one of the HeadBox artworks displayed at the exhibition. — Photo by Aliah Abdullah

Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, whom he had served as chief political secretary for many years, Abdul Karim said Abdul Taib had always wanted Kuching to be a 'city with a soul'.

He stressed that the vision of making Kuching a city with a soul meant ensuring that development was not solely focused on infrastructure, but also allowing the people to shape the city's identity.

"You wouldn't want to see Kuching growing up with only square buildings, and so that's why there must be green areas, and the people who stay in Kuching must be able to build it up to make the city have a soul," he said.

He said the creative industry played an important role in giving the city and Sarawak a distinctive identity, particularly as visitors increasingly sought

experiences beyond natural attractions, food and hospitality.

"Culture gives a destination its soul, and artists give that culture a contemporary voice."

On the exhibition, Abdul Karim said it had brought together 39 Sarawak-based artists and more than 60 works representing academic institutions, art societies and the wider creative community.

He said the exhibition, curated by Wong Hung Chang, was particularly interesting as every artist began with the same 26.5-centimetre cube, yet transformed it into different forms through painting, drawing, calligraphy, sculpture, found objects, figurative imagery and abstraction.

"It is my hope that exhibitions like this will eventually travel beyond Sarawak. An idea created in Kuching can reach audiences in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, Tokyo, London and other capitals of the world.

"We want visitors to return home speaking not only about Sarawak's rainforests and cuisine, but also about the contemporary artists they discovered here," he added.



Yong Choh is released back into its natural habitat at Taman Negara Terengganu. — Bernama photo

Malayan tiger's release back into natural habitat marks success of wildlife conservation effort

TASIK KENYIR: A seven-year-old female Malayan tiger has been successfully released back into its natural habitat, thanks to a historic wildlife conservation effort which came after rehabilitation undertaken at the National Wildlife Rescue Centre (NWRC) in Sungkai, Perak.

The release of 'Yong Choh' was carried out during the 'Wildlife Transfer Barge and Wildlife Release Ceremony' at Taman Negara Terengganu here on Sunday.

The programme marked the first time that a wild Malayan tiger rescued from human-wildlife conflict and rehabilitated at the NWRC was released back into its natural habitat through a scientifically planned and managed process.

Yong Choh was captured at Kampung Choh in Sungai Siput, Perak on July 22 this year, following its involvement in human-wildlife conflict.

The tiger subsequently underwent a health assessment, including veterinary examination, blood sampling and disease screening.

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (Perhilitan) then confirmed that Yong Choh was in good health and suitable for release into the wild.

The programme also included elephants, which had previously been involved in human-wildlife conflicts, released back into their

natural habitat.

According to the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry, the initiative represents a strategic step by Perhilitan to strengthen conservation efforts for the Malayan tiger and Asian elephant.

"The programme is expected to not only help increase wildlife populations in their natural habitats, but also reduce human-wildlife conflict and enhance the genetic diversity of released wildlife populations," it said in a statement.

Other wildlife species previously released by Perhilitan into their natural habitats include the 'sambar' deer, barking deer, pangolin, common palm civet, mouse deer and greater mouse deer.

At the Sunday event, Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup also officiated at the unveiling of the wildlife transfer barge used for wildlife releases, particularly for large wildlife species such as elephants.

The barge was named 'Ele Max' (Elephas maximas @ Kenyir), after the scientific name of the Asian elephant, Elephas maximas.

Also present were the ministry's deputy secretary-general (Natural Resources) Datuk Khalid Mohamed and Perhilitan director-general Datuk Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim.

LPNM Records RM2.3 bln potential pineapple investments at Maha 2026

SERDANG: The Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board (LPNM) recorded potential investments worth more than RM2.3 billion through memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed during the 10-day Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Exhibition (Maha) 2026, which ended Sunday.

LPNM director-general Mohd Khairuzamri M. Salleh said the figure represented more than 25 per cent of the RM8 billion investment target set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) through Maha

2026.

He said the achievement was driven by a new industry development strategy focusing on downstream processing and high-value products in line with market demand.

"This includes an innovative natural sweetener made from pineapple extracts of the SG1 and MD2 varieties to replace sugar and stevia, specifically for the health market," he told Bernama.

The product was developed through market-driven research involving LPNM, researchers and industry players from the early

stages.

Under the 13th Malaysia Plan, LPNM will continue focusing on increasing the productivity and value of the pineapple industry, as export supplies remain limited despite the country's pineapple self-sufficiency ratio reaching 102 per cent.

Mohd Khairuzamri said Malaysia produces more than 500,000 tonnes of pineapples annually from about 20,000 hectares of cultivated land, but limited land in the peninsula means technology and new varieties must be adopted to raise

yields.

"We cannot increase production by expanding the cultivated area or opening up new areas because land in the peninsula is limited. Instead, we are introducing technology that allows us to achieve significantly higher production on the same amount of land.

"For example, the SG1 variety can be planted at a higher density and has a shorter cultivation period. It can produce up to 30 tonnes per acre, compared with about 20 to 25 tonnes for varieties such as MD2," he said. — Bernama

Prioritise health checks for early detection, local folks advised

SIBU: Councillor Kevin Lau has called for stronger community health education and regular health screenings to help residents detect potential health problems early, amid growing attention to kidney health and health concerns affecting younger people.

The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) Bawang Assan branch chairman said raising community health awareness and strengthening disease prevention were significant, and he expressed hope that community leaders would continue organising health talks and screening programmes to assist residents better understand their health conditions.

"As various health issues continued to receive increasing attention, particularly kidney health and health concerns affecting younger people, there was a need for stronger health education and preventive awareness within the community.

"Regular health screenings could also help residents detect potential health problems at an early stage and take appropriate preventive measures," he said at the Community Health Talk and Health Screening Programme at SJKC Keng Nang, Tanjung Ensuarai here on Sunday.

The initiative was organised by the Sungai Dasin Ensuarai village security and development committee (JKKK) and Sibu Kidney Foundation (SKF).

Lau also commended the positive response from local residents towards the programme.



Lau (front, third right) joins other officials and programme participants in a group photo taken during the health drive.

He pointed out that such programmes not only provided residents with important health information, but also encouraged greater awareness of their own health and that of their families, while strengthening ties within the community.

He also thanked JKKK Sungai Dasin Ensuarai chairman Kapitan Hii Hiong Ping for actively promoting the programme, stressing that community leaders played an essential role not only in serving residents, but also in bringing the community together through activities related to health, the environment and other aspects of everyday life.

Meanwhile, organising committee chairman Hii Siong Sieng emphasised that residents should raise their health awareness, pay greater attention to their daily diet and lifestyle, and undergo regular health screenings, particularly amid the recent hot

weather and worsening haze conditions.

Sharing his father's past health experience, he said his father initially noticed a seemingly minor blister on his body, which gradually worsened and eventually affected the bone.

"Fortunately, he sought medical attention and received treatment in time, eventually making a gradual recovery."

He said the experience had given him a deep understanding that health should never be neglected, urging residents to pay attention to any abnormalities in their bodies and practise early detection and early treatment.

Siong Seng also thanked the SKF and supporting organisations for their contributions towards the programme, which enabled residents to gain access to professional health information and free health screenings.

'All communities must benefit from inclusive infra devt in Sarikei'

SARIKEI: Equitable development regardless of race or background remains a key priority for the government to ensure all sections of society benefit from development and infrastructure projects.

Deputy Plantation and Commodities Minister and Sarikei MP Datuk Seri Huang Tiong Sii said an inclusive approach to development was vital to ensure the needs of the people at the grassroots level continued to receive attention.

He said basic infrastructure such as roads and street lighting would continue to be upgraded to enhance the comfort, safety and well-being of residents.

"Government development should not be viewed based on race or specific groups, but should benefit the entire community fairly and comprehensively.

"Good basic infrastructure not only supports economic and social activities, but also has a direct impact on the quality of life and safety of the people.

"Therefore, the focus on basic infrastructure and community development in Sarikei will continue to be strengthened," he said.

Huang said this in a speech delivered by his representative Pemanca Chan Phan Chan at the Mooncake Festival Gathering organised by the Sarikei Kwong Wai Siew Association on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Huang praised the vision of Premier Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg in ensuring the state's development was carried out inclusively while taking into account the needs of its multiracial population.

He said the government's people-oriented approach highlighted that Sarawak's development continued to

be driven by the principles of harmony, inclusiveness and social justice.

Huang, also Repok assemblyman, said continuous development efforts in both rural and urban areas should be viewed as long-term investments to improve the people's well-being and strengthen community unity.

He also expressed his appreciation to the Sarikei Kwong Wai Siew Association for its continuous efforts to preserve cultural heritage and traditions, as well as promote community activities that foster closer ties among residents.

In support of the association's efforts, he announced an allocation of RM15,000 to assist in organising various activities in the future.

"The allocation is hoped to strengthen the association's role in carrying out community, cultural and unity activities that benefit the local community," he said.

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Bridging transition to adulthood for special needs youths

Aliah Abdullah
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KUCHING: For many young people, leaving school marks the beginning of a new chapter. It is a time to discover strengths, build a career, and find a place in society, but that journey can sometimes come to an abrupt halt for individuals with special needs.

Once the familiar routines of school come to an end, the opportunities to learn, develop talents and build the confidence needed to navigate life independently may also become limited.

It is a gap that the Kuching Association of Talent Development and Welfare of Special Needs (KATSN) hopes to address.

For its president Sugi Kueh, growing up should never mean growing out of opportunities.

"Whether they are children or adults, they should continue to be supported and guided until they are able to survive on their own," she said during The Gifted Art Gallery press conference here yesterday.

With around 200 members comprising about 70 volunteers and parents of children with special needs, KATSN is working to create pathways for individuals to continue discovering what they can do long after they have left the classroom.

Kueh shared that starting this October, the association will pilot a baking workshop—The Gifted Kitchen—from Monday to Thursday from 8am to 11am, with cooking to be introduced eventually for special needs youths who have graduated from secondary school.

She said the initiative was designed to bridge the often-overlooked transition between education and adulthood, particularly for those who may not yet be ready to enter the workforce independently.

"From what I have observed, many special needs youths graduate from school but are not yet ready to enter the workforce or live independently.

"We want to help close this gap by providing them with the necessary training and skills to become more independent," she said.

The workshop, which costs RM500 per month, is not intended simply to teach participants how to bake or cook, but also seeks to give them something more valuable—the opportunity to turn their abilities into a sense of purpose and, eventually, a means of supporting themselves.

"Through the workshop, we will train them so that they are better prepared for employment and can reduce the challenges faced by employers who wish to hire individuals with special needs," she said.

With the aim of encouraging the participants to work towards independence, Kueh said they would take part in various projects, with the products subsequently marketed for sale.

"From the returns, 20 per cent will be given back to the children. Our aim is to guide them towards earning back their own fees and, eventually, becoming independent enough to enter the workforce and function within society," she said.

For Kueh, independence is largely influenced by the level of support a person receives in finding a path suited to their individual needs.

"We always emphasise supporting children when they are young, whether they are in primary or secondary school. But



Whether they are children or adults, they should continue to be supported and guided until they are able to survive on their own.

Sugi Kueh

what happens when they become adults?

"Adults with special needs should also continue to receive support and guidance, without interruption, until they are able to survive and live independently," she said.

Special needs do not disappear at 18, nor should opportunities.

A person may learn differently, communicate differently or require more time and support than others, but that should not determine the limits of what they can become.

Through its programmes, KATSN hopes to create an environment where individuals can continue learning at their own pace, discover their abilities and gain confidence through meaningful participation.

For more information on the association, visit its official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/share/19DCrngQUV/?mibextid=wwXlfr>.



Sim (seated centre) and others in a photo call after the press conference. — Photo by Aliah Abdullah

Celebrate creativity, inclusivity at week-long Gifted Art Gallery 4.0

KUCHING: A week-long event at Plaza Merdeka here will highlight not just artistic talents and creativity, but also inclusivity.

Running from Sept 11 to 20, the Gifted Art Gallery brings together gifted artists under a platform that will enable them to express themselves and connect with the community, in line with the slogan 'Celebrating Talents, Inspiring Creativity and Championing Inclusion'.

Kuching Association of Talent Development and Welfare of Special Needs (KATSN) advisor Dato Sim Kiang Chio said the event, now in its fourth year, represents a part of the efforts to help families recognise the abilities and potential of children with special needs.

"A lot of parents who have these children might still be, as they say, 'in the closet'. They

don't dare to come out and acknowledge that their children have this condition.

"So, KATSN wants to help these parents. Come and see us, we will help you," he said at a press conference on the event.

Sim said some children might possess talents that were not immediately recognised, and in this regard, KATSN sought to help uncover and develop these abilities.

"We may have a lot of uncut diamonds that KATSN can help. We have children who can sing, who can bake; these are the things that our main focus is on," he said.

More than just an art exhibition, the gallery will feature visual artworks, as well as performances by the participating artists alongside members of the Bocce Club.

The eight featured artists are Dave Hwang, Steven Hwang, Rachel Lee, Kelvin Li, Alister Sim, Tommy Tie, Darryon Leong and Damian Clarke.

Moreover, the gallery will also hold creative workshops throughout the week, including a 'Craft Workshop with Recycled Materials' on Sept 14 and 18, a 'Healing Art Workshop' on Sept 16, as well as a live portrait drawing session by Fook Liew.

The programme will conclude on Sept 20 with a 'Lantern Making Workshop', open to all.

Visitors can also purchase mooncakes at the Gifted Kitchen.

Minister for Women, Childhood and Community Wellbeing Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah has been invited to officiate at the opening ceremony this Sept 14.

Long Banyok's potential highlighted at AgriCOP 2026

TELANG USAN: Long Banyok exhibits significant potential in the agri-food sector, including livestock and downstream food processing, said Datuk Martin Ben.

The Deputy Minister of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development acknowledged that the area had the land, resources and experienced farming community needed to develop the sector further.

"What we need is knowledge, planning, technology, cooperation and market access," he said in a speech for the closing ceremony of the Agriculture Community Outreach Programme (AgriCOP) 2026 at Kampung Long Banyok here yesterday.

The text of his speech was read by Telang Usan assemblyman Dato Dennis Ngau.

Martin said paddy cultivation deserved greater attention, with proper development planning, technology, mechanisation, suitable irrigation systems and more systematic management capable of supporting production on a more commercial scale.

He added that paddy development would not only provide income for farmers but also contribute towards increasing local food production and strengthening food security.

However, he said the community should not depend on a single crop, adding that durian, banana, local fruits, vegetables, livestock and downstream food processing could also be developed according to local

suitability and market demand.

Moreover, Martin said the state government also wanted rural communities to move from traditional farming towards modern, productive and market-oriented agriculture.

On AgriCOP, he described it as a two-way relationship that the ministry wanted to establish with the agriculture community.

"AgriCOP is important because the government comes to the people, officers come to the farmers, and knowledge is brought directly to villages and longhouses.

"At the same time, the community can convey to the government the actual problems and challenges that they face," he said.

On the banana-chips processing course run during the AgriCOP, which registered 60 participants from eight villages, Martin viewed the response as a positive indication of the community's interest in acquiring new skills and exploring economic opportunities from agricultural produce.

"Bananas have greater potential beyond being sold as fresh fruit, as they can be processed into various food products and generate added value.

"When agricultural produce is processed, we create added value: from raw materials to products, from products to brands, and from brands to markets and income," he said.

AgriCOP 2026 in Long Banyok also placed emphasis on

durian and banana cultivation technology, attracting 150 participants, he added.

"Participants were exposed to various technical aspects, including the selection of quality planting materials, land preparation, planting, fertilisation, pruning, and pest and disease management.

"However, agricultural technology does not necessarily mean expensive or sophisticated equipment, as it also involves adopting methods that are more precise, efficient and productive while being suited to local conditions and farmers' capabilities."

Martin also called for a shift in mindset among farmers from 'plant first, then look for buyers', to 'identify the market, plan production and produce according to market demand'.

"A market-driven approach would help make agriculture a more sustainable and viable business."

He also encouraged youths in Long Banyok, and generally in Telang Usan, to view agriculture as a career and business opportunity rather than merely a traditional occupation.

"Modern agriculture now involves mechanisation, drones, digital technology, modern irrigation systems, data utilisation and digital marketing.

"I want to see more young agropreneurs emerging from this area, not merely working in agriculture but becoming owners of agriculture businesses," he said.



Unchi stands next to her daughter after the handover of the specialised wheelchair. Seen behind them are Ting (fourth right), Dr Selvam on his left, Juhaili (fifth left), Rotary Club representatives, and local community leaders.

Specialised wheelchair brings relief to mum of cerebral palsy girl

MIRI: A specialised wheelchair should facilitate better mobility for seven-year-old SK South pupil Malisha Sigh.

The girl's mother Unchi Thomas was overcome with emotion upon receiving the wheelchair yesterday, saying that the specialised equipment would make a significant difference to her daughter's daily life.

Malisha, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at 18 months old, is unable to stand or walk

independently.

"Although her condition limits her movement, she still wants to stand.

"I'm thankful (to those who have helped)," she told reporters.

She was met at the handover of the specialised wheelchair, led by Rotary Club of Miri Oil Town president Dr Selvam Shanmugam and witnessed by Deputy Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Dato Sebastian

Ting.

Also present was SK South headmaster Juhaili Junadi.

According to Dr Selvam, the wheelchair presented to Malisha is among four provided through financial support from sponsors mobilised by the club, with some sponsors choosing to remain anonymous.

It is informed later that the other wheelchairs will be handed to the recipients in Long Seridan, Long Lellang and Bario Central.

Saga Central Region streamlines committee, membership structure

SIBU: The Sarawak Australia Graduates Association (Saga) Central Region has introduced several constitutional amendments, including reducing the size of its committee and restructuring its membership fees, following its 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Saga Central Region chairman Temenggong Dato Vincent Lau said the association had agreed to reduce the number of committee members from 15 to nine.

"We will submit the amendment to reduce the number of committee members from 15 to nine to the Registrar of Societies Malaysia (RoS)," he told reporters after the AGM here yesterday.

The new committee will serve a



Lau (seated centre) with the Saga Central Region committee members after the AGM. — Photo by Maxwell Atan

two-year term from 2026 to 2028.

Lau said the association had also simplified its membership

structure by abolishing the associate and student membership categories, retaining

only ordinary and honorary members.

The association also changed

its fee structure from separate registration and annual fees to a one-off payment of RM100.

"If you join the association, you only need to pay RM100," he added.

Apart from the organisational changes, Lau announced two activities planned for the second half of the year, including an English public speaking competition for secondary school students on Oct 18, and a Christmas gathering for the members on Dec 6.

Following the AGM, Saga Central Region organised a seminar titled 'Influential Leadership' from 1pm to 5pm, followed by a dinner at RH Hotel.

Organising chairman Eta Ting

has also arranged a local tour for interested participants, covering Sibu Central Market, Sibu Heritage Centre and a longhouse visit.

Meanwhile, the AGM saw Lau retain his position as chairman for 2026-2028, with Dr Clement Chen as vice-chairman.

Tony Hii and Pauline Pau were appointed secretary and assistant secretary respectively, while Chiang Yew Hee and Lang Jai Lee will serve as treasurer and assistant treasurer respectively.

The committee members are Wong Toh Hee, Lucy Tang Tung Eng, Kellie Tiong, Joseph Ling, Paul Ngu, Eta Ting, Lily Wong and Serene Ling.



The foreigner and the seized Brunei-registered vehicle are seen at the police station. — Police photo

Police nab foreigner over crash near Tudan intersection

MIRI: Miri police have detained a foreign man believed to have been driving a Brunei-registered four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicle involved in an accident near the Emart Tudan traffic light junction on Saturday night.

Miri police chief ACP Mohd Farhan Lee Abdullah said the suspect in his 30s was detained and the vehicle impounded at the Sungai Tujoh border area following assistance from the Royal Brunei Police Force, Belait District.

The accident occurred at about 8.35pm when the driver allegedly ran a red light before colliding with a motorcycle ridden by a woman in her 30s.

"The motorcyclist sustained minor injuries and subsequently

received treatment at a private clinic," Mohd Farhan said in the statement.

The case is being investigated under Section 43(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987 for driving without due care and consideration.

The suspect and 4WD have since been brought to the Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Division of Miri District Police Headquarters for further investigation.

Those with information on the accident can contact traffic investigating officer Insp Mohd Faizul Ab Rahim on 014-8582582 or 085-430479, or head to the nearest police station.

Police also advised the public against speculating or circulating unverified information on the

incident.

Separately, Mohd Farhan said a teenage girl died after her motorcycle crashed into the rear of a pickup truck that had stopped along the side of KM9 Jalan Lambir, Jalan Bintulu-Miri yesterday.

He said the victim, 18, suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead at the location by medical personnel.

The pickup driver, a 61-year-old man, did not sustain any injuries, he added.

The case is being investigated under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987, with Mohd Farhan calling on witnesses to contact traffic investigating officer Insp Nor Afifah Nordin on 019-5264640 or 085-430479 to assist.



Police photo shows the scene of the accident.

Motorcycle crash claims life of senior citizen

KUCHING: A 67-year-old man died after his motorcycle went out of control and crashed along Jalan Haji Baki here yesterday.

Padawan police chief Supt Barry William said the incident happened around 6am when the victim was riding towards Jalan Kampung Semeba.

"Based on initial investigation, the victim's motorcycle is believed to have gone out of

control before crashing on the left side of the road.

"No other vehicles were involved in the incident," he said in a statement.

Barry said the victim suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene by medical personnel.

The case is being investigated under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987.

Drug-positive man jailed for stealing from supermarket

KUCHING: A 37-year-old man was sentenced by the Magistrates' Court here yesterday to one month in jail for stealing two packs of Milo from a supermarket in Tabuan Jaya last week.

Magistrate Nursyaheeqa Nazwa Radzali convicted Awang Zaidi Awang Star on his guilty plea to a charge under Section 380 of the Penal Code, which

provides for up to 10 years' imprisonment or a fine, or both.

The offence was committed at the supermarket in Wisma Wan, Tabuan Jaya at about 10am on Sept 3.

According to the facts of the case, the supermarket manager stopped and searched the accused outside the premises and search his bag.

Upon the discovery of two

unpaid-for 900g packets of Milo worth about RM41 in the bag, the police were contacted to take custody of the accused.

A subsequent urine screening conducted on the accused found him positive for drugs.

Deputy public prosecutor Ahmad Fauzulutfi Suriani appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was unrepresented.

Man caught in possession of RM265,000 in smuggled ciggies

MIRI: Marine Police personnel arrested a man and seized contraband cigarettes worth over RM265,000 during an inspection in Bandar Baru Permyjaya here last Friday.

Sarawak Marine Police Force commander ACP Ab Rahman Mat Hasan said the suspect, a local, was driving a car when he was stopped around 10am.

"In the back seat of the car, Marine Police personnel found boxes containing cartons of cigarettes, all of which did not bear excise stamps from the Royal Malaysian Customs Department," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the total value of the seized contraband is estimated at RM265,566.

The suspect and seized items were handed to Miri Criminal Investigation Division for further action under the Customs Act 1967.

The case is being investigated under Section 135(1)(e) of the Customs Act 1967 for possessing, keeping, concealing or having in possession uncustomed or prohibited goods.

The Section provides for a fine not exceeding RM500,000 or imprisonment for up to five years, or both, upon conviction.



Handout photo shows the boxes of smuggled cigarettes found in the car driven by the suspect.

Two arrested over cable theft, intimidation at Kubah Ria

KUCHING: Police have arrested two men in connection with a cable theft incident and criminal intimidation at Kubah Ria, Jalan Matang in Petra Jaya last Friday.

Kuching police chief ACP Alexson Naga Chabu said the suspects, aged 36 and 38, were later tested positive for drugs.

"Background checks found the 36-year-old suspect had eight criminal records, while the 38-year-old had nine records," he said in a statement.

Seized during the arrest were two cars, a cable cutter and a keychain, he added.

Alexson said police are now hunting for another suspect in connection with the case.

"The case is being investigated under Section 379 of the Penal Code for moving another person's property without consent and with dishonest intent, as well as Section 506 of the same Code for criminal intimidation," he said.

A viral video of the incident showed two of the suspects being caught red-handed stealing cables at the premises.

One suspect can be seen intimidating the person recording the video, with the other wielding a cable cutter at the person.



KOTA KINABALU: The 80th witness in the inquest proceedings into the death of Zara Qairina, her father Mahathir Mohd Hashim, 45, told the Coroner's Court here yesterday that his daughter would have remained in a permanent coma had she survived.

Mahathir testified that a female physician conveyed this to him during a visit to his daughter, who was then ward in the Emergency Unit of Queen Elizabeth Hospital I on July 16 last year.

He said he was also informed that Zara's condition at the time was critical, with serious injuries including cerebral haemorrhage, lung and kidney damage, as well as a fractured leg.

"While I was at Zara's bedside with the other doctors, I noticed that the pillow under her head was soaked with blood.

"I held her head and kissed her forehead. When I touched the back of her head, I could feel that the upper portion of her neck was soft and appeared to have a depression.

"I saw Zara's left leg was wrapped in a bandage from her thigh down to her foot," he said, while reading his witness statement before Coroner Amir Shah Amir Hassan.

Mahathir testified that he arrived at the hospital's Emergency Unit between 1pm and 3pm on July 16 after being informed that Zara was hospitalised.

Upon arrival, he saw the teenager's mother Noraidah Lamat outside the emergency unit and immediately inquired about their daughter's whereabouts.

After Noraidah gave him directions, Mahathir said he proceeded to his daughter's bedside after obtaining permission from a nurse at the unit, where he observed two female doctors attending to her.

However, Mahathir said he could not recall the doctors' names nor did he know their positions or ranks.

He further testified that his consent was never sought for a post-mortem examination to be conducted on Zara.

Mahathir testified that he was present at Queen Elizabeth Hospital I on July 17, 2025 when a doctor pronounced Zara dead.

He said he remained at the hospital from July 16 to 17 and slept within the premises while awaiting updates on his daughter's condition.

He added that he had met with several female teachers outside the emergency unit and inquired about what had actually happened to Zara, as well as whether they were wardens.

"However, they only introduced themselves as the History teacher and the Bahasa Melayu

teacher," he said.

When asked by Coroner Amir Shah whether he wished to say anything after concluding his testimony, Mahathir said he no longer wanted Zara's name to be associated with any falsehoods, and expressed hope that the inquest proceedings would be concluded fairly.

Zara, 13, died on July 17 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where she had been admitted a day earlier after being found unconscious near a drain at her school hostel in Papar at 4am.

The Attorney-General's Chambers ordered her remains exhumed for a post-mortem on Aug 8, before announcing a formal inquest into her death on Aug 13. — Bernama

RTP funds boost Miri schools' learning environment

Cindy Lai
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MIRI: Thirty-six primary and secondary schools here have benefitted from more than RM14 million in Rural Transformation Project (RTP) allocations, channelled in stages to upgrade facilities and create a more conducive learning environment.

Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Dato Sebastian Ting said education remains among the priority areas under the RTP, particularly in his Piasau constituency which has 25 primary and secondary schools.

"The other 11 primary and secondary schools are outside Piasau constituency, but they were still given allocations as there were requests that required urgent action," he told reports after inspecting a newly-completed RTP project at SK South Miri.

He said the assistance had enabled various projects to be implemented at the schools based on their respective needs.

"Every year, a large portion of RTP allocations, particularly for Piasau constituency, is channelled to education sector because good school facilities are significant in providing a comfortable and safe learning environment," he said.

On the latest project at SK



Ting (centre) and his team with Juhaili (second right) during the site inspection.

South Miri, Ting said it involved the construction of a waiting area and pedestrian walkway outside the school compound at a cost of RM160,000.

The project started in July and was initially scheduled for completion at the end of October but was completed on Sept 7, more than a month ahead of schedule.

It includes the installation of a roof, 30 seats made from large pipes, 22 solar lights, a 115-metre-

long concrete walkway, and 12 concrete drain covers.

Ting added that SK South Miri had so far received a total of RM630,000 in funding for six projects implemented in stages since 2017.

He hoped the latest project would provide greater comfort and convenience for pupils, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times.

Other projects at the school involved upgrading various

school facilities, including a stage, a court, toilets, rain shelters, and other facilities required by the school.

Ting said efforts to assist schools would continue from time to time to address urgent needs and to improve facilities that directly benefit pupils and teachers.

Also present was the school's headmaster Juhaili Junaiddi, Councillor Leslie Lau, and Kapitan Aries Leong.



Kong (left) presents the assistance to Jain.

Elder brother of late accident victim receives support under tertiary education aid fund

KUCHING: The elder brother of a victim of a fatal accident that occurred at Jalan Teo Kui Seng-Stutong Baru here early last year has received assistance from the Democratic Action Party (DAP).

Jain Kemin, the recipient of the Tertiary Education Assistance Fund, lost his brother Japin Kemin to the tragedy, which claimed four lives while injuring five others early last year.

Japin, aged 16, was a student of SMK DPHA Gapor.

"In the wake of the tragedy, we extended financial assistance to the family to help them navigate the immediate aftermath of their devastating loss.

"More than just providing aid, we made a heartfelt pledge to support the family in the long run, particularly Jain, who is currently pursuing an

architecture course at UiTM (Universiti Teknologi Mara)," said Stampin MP Chong Chieng Jen's special assistant Michael Kong in a statement.

Kong acknowledged that Japin's untimely passing had left a deep mark on the community, but he also hoped that the DAP Tertiary Education Assistance Fund would inspire Jain to persevere in his studies and work towards a brighter future for himself and his loved ones.

"We know that no amount of help can truly replace the pain of losing a loved one. Still, we want to assure the family that they are not alone in their journey.

"We will continue to stand by them, offering support in any way we can, as they move forward in healing and towards hope," he said.



Yap (third right) symbolically hands over the chairs to Dr Nurul.

Kota Sentosa Health Clinic gets new chairs donated by assemblyman

KUCHING: Kota Sentosa assemblyman Wilfred Yap has donated nine units of five-seater linked chairs and 20 plastic chairs to Kota Sentosa Health Clinic.

In a statement yesterday, he said the latest contribution was part of his continued efforts to support improvements of facilities at public healthcare institutions within his constituency.

Having had previously donated 10 three-seater linked chairs and 30 plastic chairs to the clinic, Yap stressed that adequate and comfortable seating was important as the clinic served a large number of residents, including patients and family members who might have

to wait long for registration, consultation and other services.

"While the provision of healthcare services is primarily the responsibility of the relevant authorities, community support and small improvements to facilities can make a meaningful difference to patients and frontline healthcare workers.

"A comfortable waiting environment may seem like a small matter, but for patients and their families who spend time at the clinic, it can make their experience much better," he said in the statement.

"This contribution is a simple gesture of support for Kota Sentosa Health Clinic and its dedicated healthcare personnel."

Yap expressed appreciation

to the clinic's management and healthcare staff for their continued service to the community.

The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) deputy treasurer reiterated his commitment to working with government agencies and community stakeholders to improve public facilities and services in Kota Sentosa.

"We will continue to listen, respond and deliver for the people of Kota Sentosa. Every improvement, big or small, matters when it directly benefits our community," he added.

The donation was accepted by Kota Sentosa Helathc Clinic's senior medical officer Dr Nurul Azlin.

Cash prizes await Top 10 10km race finishers of RunnoVation 2026

SIBU: Cash prizes await the Top 10 finishers in both the 10km Men and Women's Open categories of RunnoVation 2026-Run for Innovation, scheduled for flag-off at the University of Technology Sarawak (UTS) Campus here this Oct 25.

The winner of each category will receive RM400, the first runner-up RM300, and the third runner-up, RM200. The other seven race finishers will each be given RM50.

"Moreover, all registered participants stand a chance to win one of 50 lucky draw prizes," said UTS in a press release.

RunnoVation 2026, which will also feature the 5km category, is organised by the UTS School of Engineering and Technology (SET) in collaboration with the UTS Staff Recreational Club and Underground Runner Sibu (UGRS).

A recent coordination meeting was led by event director

Mohammad Hafsanjani Salleh representing SET, also involving UTS Staff Recreational Club chairman Mohd Kamarul Anwar Mohd Suhaimi and UGRS president Abdul Musrafiq Abdul Razak.

"The organising committee will continue working closely with the UTS Staff Recreational Club and UGRS over the coming weeks to finalise race operations and ensure an impactful event," said UTS.



Hafsanjani, flanked by Abdul Musrafiq (fifth right) and Kamarul Anwar, with other members of the RunnoVation 2026 organising committee following the coordination meeting.

Institute: Recurring haze highlights deeper management, environmental issues

BINTULU: The recurring haze linked to peat and forest fires highlights a deeper issue involving peatland management, water, climate, fire and public health, said the Universiti Putra Malaysia Sarawak (UPMS) Institute of Ecosystem Science Borneo (IEB).

"Behind the smoke is a bigger story. One that connects peatland, water management, land-use change, fire, air pollution, human health and climate," it said in a statement.

The institute stressed that what happens in Kalimantan, Indonesia does not necessarily remain there, as smoke can travel across large areas depending on wind and atmospheric conditions, affecting neighbouring countries.

"Kalimantan's peatlands are unique ecosystems formed over

thousands of years, with organic matter accumulating under waterlogged conditions and storing significant amounts of carbon.

"Some inland peat deposits are more than seven metres deep, while exceptionally deep deposits can reach between 10 and 18 metres," it said.

However, it said water was critical to keeping peatlands stable.

"When peatlands are drained, groundwater levels fall. The peat becomes exposed to oxygen, decomposition increases and more carbon is released. As the peat dries, it also becomes much more vulnerable to fire."

This means a peat fire could begin long before flames become visible, with changes in the water regime creating the conditions for peat to dry out and become

highly flammable, it said.

IEB said human activities contributed to the majority of fires in Indonesia, with fire sometimes used as a relatively cheap and easy method of clearing land.

"Research in Kalimantan also showed that fire occurrence was influenced by climate, land type and livelihoods.

"Dry conditions associated with El Niño could further worsen the situation by reducing rainfall and drying already degraded or drained peatlands," it said.

The institute stressed, however, that El Niño did not cause fires on its own, but could create conditions that allowed fires to spread and persist.

"Once peat catches fire, the problem moves from the ground into the air. Peat fires release particulate matter and

gases, including fine particulate matter known as PM2.5, which is particularly concerning because the particles can penetrate deep into the respiratory system," it said.

Citing research from Central Kalimantan, the IEB said a study examining peatland fires between 2011 and 2015 estimated that peat fires increased annual mean PM2.5 concentrations by about 26 microgrammes per cubic metre.

The study also linked long-term exposure to increased risks of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases as well as premature mortality.

The institute said the health consequences were ultimately felt by communities, with people breathing polluted air, children spending less time outdoors and families having to alter their

daily routines because of haze.

Against this backdrop, the IEB called for greater emphasis on prevention rather than relying solely on fire fighting after fires have already started.

It said maintaining appropriate water levels, protecting remaining peatlands, restoring degraded areas and strengthening fire and air-quality monitoring were crucial.

"Fire suppression will always be necessary when fires occur. But prevention starts much earlier," it said.

Technology could also play a greater role through satellite observations, early-warning systems and artificial intelligence to identify high-risk areas and hotspots more quickly.

The institute stressed that the issue was not confined to Indonesia, noting that Malaysia

also had peatland ecosystems important for biodiversity and carbon storage.

It therefore called for continued regional cooperation in addressing peatland fires and transboundary haze.

"After decades of recurring haze, perhaps the most important lesson is simple, the response should not begin when the smoke appears. The real work begins much earlier, beneath the surface in how peatlands are managed, how water is maintained and how risks are identified," IEB said.

The institute said the haze seen today was ultimately a visible symptom of a problem that could have been developing beneath the surface for years.

"The haze is what we see. The deeper story begins long before the fire," it added.

Soon Li Wei & Wan Muhammad Aslah Wan Razali

KUALA LUMPUR: four years, Fatin, an Indonesian national who worked in a factory in Penang 12 years ago, endured the discomfort of living with eight other fellow Indonesians in a cramped terrace house that had been converted into a workers' 'hostel' by her employer.

The 30-year-old woman, who is now a homemaker and resides in Setiawangsa here, said they slept on bunk beds and shared two bathrooms, while the employer did not provide kitchen facilities, leaving them unable to cook at home.

"We were able to cope with the living conditions because we worked different shifts, so it was rare for all of us to be at home at the same time. However, problems arose when some of the occupants secretly brought their family members home to sleep in the living room.

"At those times, the house became really crowded, especially when we were getting ready for work or trying to rest after a tiring day. It was certainly uncomfortable," she told Bernama.

Fatin's case is not an isolated one. News reports estimated Malaysia's migrant workforce at 2.14 million as of August 2025, with many workers living in cramped conditions in flats or houses rented by their employers.

Recognising the problems surrounding workers' accommodation, the government subsequently amended the Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446) to require employers to provide accommodation that meets prescribed standards and offers a safe, clean and conducive living environment.

The amendments were enforced in stages, beginning Sept 1, 2020 in Peninsular Malaysia and Labuan before being gazetted under the Emergency Ordinance on Feb 25, 2021 to extend enforcement to Sabah and Sarawak.

Six years after the amended provisions came into full force, some workers still do not have access to basic accommodation facilities.

Diwarq (not his real name), a Nepalese national who has been working as a security guard at a condominium in Subang, Selangor for the past three years, lives in a low-cost flat near his workplace provided by his employer. He shares the unit with six of his fellow Nepalese security guards.

"I don't mind where I stay as long as I have somewhere to sleep and shower, that is enough," he told Bernama.

"We are provided with free accommodation and a monthly food allowance of RM800 because there are no kitchen facilities in the house. Even on our days off, we usually go out and rarely stay home because each of us is only provided with a bed. We return to the house mainly to sleep and rest."

Basic facilities

Foreign workers are usually housed in low-cost flats, shop lots and terrace houses. More recently, medium-cost apartments are also being used as workers' hostels.

Despite the enforcement of amendments to Act 446, some employers continue to rent vacant residential units, leaving workers to obtain their own beds and kitchen equipment.

Malaysian Society for Occupational Safety and



News reports estimated Malaysia's migrant workforce at 2.14 million as of August 2025, with many workers living in cramped conditions in flats or houses rented by their employers. — Bernama photos

Cramped 'hostels' a reality for foreign workers

Despite the enforcement of amendments to the Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990 since September 2020, many employers continue to house their foreign workers in 'hostels' that do not comply with the stipulated requirements. The first article in this two-part series provides an overview of the issue.

Health president Datuk Ahmad Fakhrul Anuar Ismail said accommodation conditions are closely linked to workers' safety, health and welfare.

He said an employer's responsibility towards workers should not end when they return home after work, more so when the accommodation is provided by the employer as it serves as a place for them to rest and recuperate before returning to work the following day.

"Employers must ensure that workers remain safe not only at the workplace but also when they return to their accommodation," he told Bernama.

He said this underscored the importance of minimum standards for workers' accommodation as stipulated under Act 446.

The Act, enforced by the Department of Labour of Peninsular Malaysia, provides for penalties of up to RM50,000 for each offence against employers or operators of workers' hostels found to be in breach of its requirements.

Ahmad Fakhrul said the detailed standards were important as the quality of accommodation has a direct impact on workers' ability to rest and their overall health.

"As stipulated (under the Act), apart from basic facilities such as beds, toilets and kitchens, even mattress thickness is taken into consideration, with a minimum thickness of four inches (10.2 cm). Each bed must also occupy a minimum space of 1.7 square metres, while adequate electricity and water supplies must be provided.

"The building structure must also meet fire safety requirements and have proper ventilation. When workers are healthy and able to sleep comfortably, this



Datuk Ahmad Fakhrul Anuar Ismail

directly contributes to higher productivity.

"Therefore, providing proper facilities should not be viewed as an additional cost or burden to employers, but rather as an investment in their workforce," he said.

Flats, apartments turned into hostels

Flats, particularly the older ones, built under the federal government's People's Housing Programme (PPH) have been among the types of accommodation used by employers in an attempt to comply with the requirements under Act 446.

An older PPH unit, usually measuring about 600 to 700 square feet and intended to accommodate a maximum of five people, may instead be crammed with between eight and 10 workers.

The presence of large numbers of migrant workers in some PPH schemes has also created other problems for residents, most of whom are Malaysians from the B40 group.

"Many migrant workers live in some of these units," said PA Seri Sarawak Association chairman Azmi Zakaria when met by Bernama.

PA Seri Sarawak is a high-rise public housing scheme in Kuala Lumpur.

"In our public housing scheme, it led to various social problems (and incidents) such as smashed car windows and theft, and a lack of cleanliness."

He said the problems were particularly widespread before the Covid-19 pandemic but were brought under control after the association lodged complaints with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

"The issue was that the units were being rented out by the original owners or tenants. So, when we lodged complaints with DBKL, the migrant workers were evicted and the units were repossessed (by the government)," he said.

Firm action by local authorities, including repossessing the units or terminating tenancy agreements when occupants are found to have sublet them to third parties, has helped reduce

the concentration of migrant workers in most PPR and public housing schemes.

Residential Tenancy Act

Although the number of PPR units rented out to foreign workers has declined in recent years, National House Rental Association president Prakash P. Kalivanan said he did not rule out the possibility that some PPR units and low-cost flats are still being used as hostels for foreign workers.

He said some owners have partitioned their units into smaller spaces to accommodate more than 10 people. These units are then rented out to employers, allowing the landlords to reap easy profits. According to Prakash, the situation can be largely attributed to the lack of specific legislation governing residential rentals, resulting in widespread misuse of rental properties, including their conversion into shared accommodation or even premises for criminal activities.

He also said there were cases where original tenants had sublet or converted the premises without the owners' knowledge, particularly when they engage agents to manage the rental arrangements.

"This situation exposes homeowners to the risk of legal action even though they may be unaware of the activities being carried out by their tenants," he said.

Prakash also urged the government to expedite the drafting and implementation of the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) to safeguard the rights and interests of both homeowners and tenants.

"At present, the measures in place are limited to tenancy agreements as well as regular

or surprise inspections by property owners. However, these measures are still insufficient to address the misuse of rental premises," he said.

He added that the proposed Act should provide for an official registration platform for landlords and tenants to strengthen monitoring and accountability on both sides and prevent units from being converted into shared accommodation or workers' hostels without permission.

On Aug 4, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Aiman Athirah Sabu said during a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara that the Residential Tenancy Bill is currently being finalised.

Improve enforcement

Meanwhile, migrant rights non-governmental organisation Asylum Access Malaysia's director of operations Sivaranjani Manickam said PPR and apartment units should not be allowed to turn into rumah kongsi (shared housing) for foreign workers.

She said it is clearly stated in Act 446 that employers must provide proper accommodation to their workers, but questions remain over whether employers and accommodation providers are being monitored closely enough.

"We are very suspicious about the extent to which employers are following the law because (currently) the (housing) conditions (for migrant workers) are still bad.

"The existence of overcrowding and poorly maintained accommodation indicates that some employers and housing providers are not being monitored effectively.

"If this is still happening, it means enforcement has to be improved," she said.

Sumitha Shaanthinni Kishna, director and founder of migrant rights nongovernmental organisation Our Journey, acknowledged that stronger enforcement and the development of more employer-provided and centralised accommodations have led to a reduction in the number of migrant workers living in PPR flats.

"There could be cases where the (PPR) owner rents a unit to a local tenant, who then sublets it to foreign workers without the owner's knowledge. Hence, enforcement must also cover those who rent the unit from the owner and then sublet it to others," she told Bernama in a Zoom interview. — Bernama

Tomorrow: When cost-cutting comes at the expense of worker safety



Many owners or tenants at PA Seri Sarawak were found to have rented out their units to foreign workers. Acting on complaints by local residents, the migrant workers were evicted and the units repossessed by the government.



The cramped living space of a foreign worker's home discovered during a raid in Johor. Foreign workers are usually housed in low-cost flats, shop lots and terrace houses.



Some flat owners partition their units into smaller spaces to accommodate more than 10 people, before renting out the units to employers of foreign workers.



Chong (standing centre) and others in a group photo taken during the visit.

SUPP reaches out to Bau branch member still recovering from injuries

KUCHING: The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) has extended care and support to a member of the party's Bau branch who was injured in a recent accident.

Led by SUPP Bau chairman Chong Yie Loong, the team brought over some essential supplies as a gesture of support, hoping to ease the member's burden amid his recovery.

It is understood that the branch member sustained injuries in the road accident, which has affected his work and daily activities.

According to Chong, apart from serving the wider community and addressing grassroots concerns, SUPP Bau also focuses on fostering closer ties with its

members and providing support during difficulties.

"Road accidents can happen within a matter of seconds, and the consequences may have a lasting impact on the injured individuals and their families.

"Thus, I call upon all to exercise extra caution on the road, and to always comply with the traffic rules," he said in a statement.

He said motorists should avoid sleep-deprived driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, speeding and other forms of dangerous driving.

"Refrain from using mobile phones or engaging in other distracting activities while driving. We should never take road safety for granted, because

one wrong decision can result in consequences that cannot be reversed," he added.

Adding on, Chong encouraged members of the public to play their part by adhering to the traffic regulations, planning their journeys ahead and avoiding fatigue and dangerous driving.

He wished the injured SUPP Bau member a smooth recovery and hoped that he would be able to return to his normal routine soon.

"SUPP Bau will uphold its commitment to serving the people and reaching out to the grassroots, while caring for its members and paying attention to the practical difficulties faced by the community," he said.

Startup Village Borneo puts Sarawak on global tech talent map

KUCHING: Sarawak is seeking to attract Malaysian and international technology builders to the state through Startup Village Borneo 2026, providing opportunities to develop solutions while connecting with the global technology ecosystem.

Co-hosted by state-based technology company Socoe Sdn Bhd, the Solana Foundation and SuperTeam Malaysia as anchor partners, alongside an international group of supporting ecosystem and investment players, the programme runs from Sept 6 to 9 here.

"The event brings together builders, founders, engineers and technology architects working

across artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain and other emerging technologies," the company said in a statement.

More than 100 participants, including those from outside Sarawak, such as Peninsular Malaysia, Europe, Vietnam, the wider Asia-Pacific region, the US and Russia are participating in the programme.

According to Socoe, Startup Village Borneo represents a broader effort to make talent development part of Sarawak's digital infrastructure, while demonstrating that the state can attract rather than merely export technology talent.

"Talent development is not

simply about organising an event or competition, but about building capability, networks and an environment where people can come to Sarawak, create, and remain connected to the global technology ecosystem."

Socoe said instead of having Sarawakian talents travel to Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or other established technology hubs to access those networks, initiatives such as Startup Village Borneo could bring part of that global ecosystem directly to Kuching.

"Sarawak should not only be a place where technology is adopted, but a place where global technology talent comes to build," it added.



The lecturers and students pose for a group photo with Taman Tumbina Bintulu staff during the visit. — Photo by Taman Tumbina Bintulu

Tokyo NODAI delegation visits Taman Tumbina Bintulu

BINTULU: A delegation from the Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo NODAI) in Japan paid a visit to Taman Tumbina Bintulu on Sunday.

Eighteen lecturers and students from Tokyo NODAI and Universiti Putra Malaysia Sarawak (UPMS), led by Prof Mami Irie and Dr Maky Otsuka and accompanied by UPMS senior lecturers, were welcomed by Taman Tumbina Bintulu manager Alisee Sherrylin Bagol and guide Mohd Elfi.

"During the visit, participants were briefed on the park's diverse flora and fauna, biodiversity, as well as conservation initiatives undertaken to protect and preserve its natural environment.

"The visit also provided the delegation with an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of Bintulu's biodiversity while exchanging perspectives on environmental conservation and sustainability," said Taman Tumbina Bintulu in a statement.

It said the visit reflected the importance of strengthening cooperation and knowledge-sharing between Malaysian and Japanese institutions, particularly relating to biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

It expressed appreciation to the delegation for the visit, and hoped the ties established would continue to grow and contribute towards efforts promoting environmental conservation and sustainability.

LIS student's global english success a pride for school, Malaysia

LABUAN: Labuan International School (LIS) has made its mark on the international stage after its nine-year-old student Keeona Mark Phillips secured second place at the JOEY - The Young Kangaroo International English Competition Global Finals in Istanbul, Turkiye.

LIS principal Fadlin Aimuni said Keeona's achievement was not only a proud moment for the school but also for Malaysia, as she was among only 14 participants representing the

country at the Global Finals.

"This achievement is a great source of pride for LIS and also for Malaysia. Keeona has shown that with confidence, dedication and determination, our young students are capable of competing and excelling on the global stage," she told Bernama.

Keeona, who competed in the Pre A1, Grade 3 category, also received the Joey of the Year Award for being the most active participant throughout the competition held from Sept 1 to 6.

The Global Finals brought together 300 participants from 34 countries.

It was Keeona's first participation in JOEY, making her achievement of second place and the Joey of the Year Award a notable debut at the international competition.

JOEY is an international English competition that provides young learners with a platform to demonstrate their English proficiency, confidence and communication skills across

various categories.

Fadlin said Keeona's success also reflected the school's efforts to nurture students who are confident, capable and ready to take on opportunities beyond the classroom.

She also acknowledged the strong support of Keeona's parents, whose encouragement had played an important role in building their daughter's confidence to embrace the international challenge.

— Bernama



Lau (right) presents the donations to Kevin.

Kelly Group ramps up support for underserved folks with assistance

KUCHING: Kelly Group has continued its support for Hope Place Kuching by donating essential supplies worth about RM6,500 to the non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The group's leader Lau Hong Eng presented children's milk powder and adult diapers to Hope Place founder Kelvin Wan at the group's office on Nanas Road here recently.

Kelly Group has consistently supported Hope Place in its effort to assist underprivileged communities in and around Kuching.

"Kelly Group is no stranger to Hope Place as the group is our long-term donor and supporter," said Kevin in a statement.

The contribution included 10 packets of children's milk powder for infants aged up to 12

months, 94 packets for children aged one to three years, and another 94 packets for those aged four to six.

The group also distributed 100 packs of adult diapers, which would be presented to underserved individuals including those with disabilities or chronic illnesses.

"We are truly grateful to benefactors like Kelly Group for supporting the underserved community regardless of background or creed," said Kevin.

Hope Place welcomes public donations to reach out to communities in need. Donations can be deposited directly to its Maybank account (5128900160) or by scanning the S Pay Global QR code on its Facebook page.

For further enquiries, call Hope Place on 082-505 987 or 013-567 2775.

RM270,000 Unifor boost to support BEM church devt in Miri

MIRI: A total of RM270,000 has been allocated through the Unit for Other Religions (Unifor) for the upgrading of the Borneo Evangelical Mission (BEM) Long Iman church in Mulu and construction of a new pastor's house.

Deputy Minister in the Premier's Department Dato Gerawat Gala said the funding was aimed at improving facilities and the wellbeing of the local community.

Gerawat, who is Mulu assemblyman, expressed his appreciation to Unifor for approving an additional RM70,000 allocation to enable the remaining upgrading works at BEM Long Iman to be completed.

He said the additional allocation was significant as it would ensure that the project could be completed properly and provide more comfortable facilities for church members and the local community.

At the same time, he commended Unifor for its continued commitment to addressing the needs of places of



Gerawat (front, centre) and Georgina, on his right, with BEM Long Iman committee members during the visit.

worship, particularly in rural and interior areas.

"For the Sarawak government, development is not focused solely on urban areas," he said during a visit to BEM Long Iman yesterday.

"Every community, regardless of location, has the right to enjoy good, comfortable facilities that meet their needs."

Gerawat was accompanied by Unifor director Dato Georgina

Apphia Ngau to inspect the progress of the church upgrading works and construction of the new pastor's house.

He said allocations channelled through Unifor went beyond financing physical infrastructure, forming part of the state government ongoing efforts to boost community wellbeing while preserving religious harmony and diversity in the state.

Gerawat also commended Unifor staff for their willingness to visit the ground to assess project progress and community needs, including in interior areas such as Long Iman.

He hoped the ongoing works would be completed according to schedule and provide greater comfort to church members while benefiting the wider Long Iman community in the long term.

27 top STPM 2025 students receive bachelor's degree tuition fee sponsorship

PUTRAJAYA: Twenty-seven top-performing Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) 2025 students from 18 public universities have received sponsorship in the form of tuition fees to pursue bachelor's degree studies.

The initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and the Malaysian Examinations Council (MPM), aims to ensure that academic excellence is continued at the higher education level while providing young talents in the country with

opportunities to build a better future.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said the sponsorship was provided in recognition of the students' outstanding achievements in the STPM 2025 examination, as well as the government's efforts to support their potential to continue succeeding in their respective fields.

He said the sponsorship covered various fields of study, including critical fields such as medicine, engineering and education.

"At the MoHE level, we selected the best students from across the country who achieved the best results at STPM level and awarded them full scholarships, meaning tuition-free education.

"This involves various fields, including critical fields such as medicine, engineering, education and others," he told the media after the presentation of sponsorship letters for tuition fees to STPM MPM students.

Zambry said the recognition was also given regardless of racial background, in line with the

government's efforts to ensure that students who achieve academic excellence are given opportunities to pursue their studies at local higher education institutions.

"I could see their happiness and their parents'. I am proud of their achievements, which involve all races. Those who achieve outstanding results are given recognition and can continue their studies at our local universities," he said.

He said the sponsorship was provided because the government believed that the recipients had

the potential to continue excelling and contribute to the country's development in the future.

In a separate statement, MPM chairman Prof Datuk Dr Md Amin Md Taff, who is also Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris vice-chancellor, said the tuition fee sponsorship was a form of trust in the potential of outstanding young people.

He said the sponsorship was not merely assistance, but an investment in knowledge, talent and, most importantly, the country's future.

"MPM remains committed to ensuring that the STPM is implemented with high assessment standards, integrity and credibility.

"In line with the global education landscape, MPM will continue to strengthen research, psychometrics, assessment innovation, digitalisation and international strategic networks to enhance the competitiveness, credibility and comparability of the STPM within the global higher education ecosystem," he said.

— Bernama



Arthur (right) and others join in releasing the juvenile river terrapins. — Photo from Facebook/Arthur Joseph Kurup

400 juvenile river terrapins released into natural habitat

KUALA TERENGGANU: A total of 400 juvenile river terrapins were released into their natural habitat in Sungai Terengganu, Kuala Berang near Hulu Terengganu yesterday to strengthen the conservation of the endangered species and safeguard the country's biodiversity.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup said the release programme, organised by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Peninsular Malaysia) (Perhilitan), was part

of the government's ongoing efforts to restore the population of the reptile species in the country.

"River terrapins are among the unique wildlife species that play an important role in maintaining the balance of aquatic ecosystems.

"The threats facing their habitat and the risk of extinction must be taken seriously. Through Perhilitan's breeding, conservation and release programmes, we aim to restore river terrapin populations along the country's river basins," he said in a Facebook post.

Arthur said the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) would continue to support community- and science-based conservation programmes to ensure the survival of increasingly threatened wildlife species.

However, he said the success of such conservation efforts did not depend solely on government agencies, but also required the continued cooperation and support of local communities to maintain the cleanliness and safety of river habitats. — Bernama

Perlis Unity Complex set to enhance community engagement, growth

PUTRAJAYA: The development of the Perlis Unity Complex is among the Madani government's efforts to strengthen the country's infrastructure and ecosystem, particularly at the state and community levels.

National Unity Minister Dato Sri Aaron Ago Dagang said the complex would serve as the second Unity Complex developed as a one-stop centre for the delivery of unity-based services, education and community initiatives.

The project, which commenced on Feb 20, 2024, is expected to be completed this Oct 19.

It will comprise the Perlis Unity Office, Unity Taska, Unity Tabika, Community Mediation Centre, Rukun Tetangga Centre, multipurpose hall, and mini library.

According to Aaron, the development underscores the Madani government's commitment to providing spaces that bring communities together, broaden interaction among different groups, and foster understanding, harmony and a sense of togetherness.

He said the initiative is also in line with the ministry's aspiration for nation-building,

which remains one of its key agendas.

"The Madani Government will continue to strengthen these efforts through plans to develop the third Unity Complex in Bukit Besar, Kuala Terengganu in 2027 under the 13th Malaysia Plan," he said in a statement.

Aaron said the development of the Unity complexes would continue to serve as a strategic platform to bring the unity agenda closer to the people while building a more united, harmonious and inclusive Malaysia.



Aahrthi with some of her works. The registered counsellor advocates the use of Pastel Nagomi Art as a means to help people, particularly senior citizens and low-income communities, express their emotions. — Bernama photo

Using Pastel Nagomi Art as medium for emotional expression

KUALA LUMPUR: Not all emotions are easy to put into words, but for registered counsellor K. Aahrthi, the gentle touch of the fingers and interplay of colours on paper can serve as a medium for expressing pent-up emotions.

The 27-year-old advocates the use of the Japanese Pastel Nagomi Art as a means to help people, particularly senior citizens and low-income communities, express their emotions.

Also known as the 'Art of Hope', the tactile art form does not require participants to have advanced drawing skills. Instead,

they use colours to create artwork while expressing their emotions in a relaxed setting.

"In Malaysia, therapy and counselling are still perceived as difficult or intimidating by some people. So, I use this space to allow them to express their emotions in a relaxed manner.

"It helps them reflect and understand themselves better, while also creating an avenue for them to become more comfortable sharing their feelings during counselling," she told Bernama when met at the Puan-Tastic Festival here recently.

Aahrthi, who is also a certified

Pastel Nagomi Art instructor, was introduced to the art form while attending a workshop.

"Initially, I thought this method would only benefit my counselling clients, but I later realised that bringing it into the community could benefit many more people. At first, participants were hesitant and said they could not draw, but by the end of the session, they realised they were capable of creating artwork.

"When the activity focuses on mental health, some participants have also said that it allowed them to see themselves from perspectives they had never noticed before," she said, adding

people are better prepared for their tax responsibilities," he said.

He proposed that tax education programmes be conducted in a more informal and accessible manner through collaboration between the government, youth associations and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Meanwhile, Pahang Traditional Archery Association chairman Mohd Zhafran Md Zin urged the government to support alternative sports that promote physical activity, discipline and skills among young people.

He said traditional archery also offers opportunities to learn skills such as making bows and arrows while promoting the country's heritage. — Bernama

Govt mulls temporary hostels for students affected by Numbak fire — Minister

KOTA KINABALU: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak) Datuk Mustapha Sakmud and Education Minister Datuk Seri Fadhlina Sidek will jointly study a proposal to temporarily accommodate students affected by the recent fire in Numbak at school hostels with available places.

Mustapha said the initial proposal was among the measures being considered to ensure that the learning process of the affected students was not disrupted, particularly those sitting for the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination and Form 6 students.

He said the Sabah Education Department had been instructed to identify the needs of the affected students, including the option of placing them in other school hostels if placements were available.

"That is among the proposals

put forward by the state education department. We need to study the proposal and find ways to give the students priority so that their learning process is not disrupted.

"We will focus on helping these students so that they have a conducive environment to continue their studies," he told reporters after the presentation of contributions to fire victims at Kolej Tingkatan Enam Pra Universiti Kota Kinabalu yesterday.

Mustapha said special attention should be given to students who are sitting for major examinations as they require a more conducive environment to concentrate on their studies.

He said based on initial observations, some affected students were still staying in tents at the site of the incident as well as at a mosque, adding

that the situation needed to be given attention to ensure that their studies were not affected.

At the presentation ceremony, nine Form 6 students from Kolej Tingkatan Enam and 129 students from Sekolah Kebangsaan Kibagu received school supplies.

Mustapha said based on records from the state education department, a total of 410 students from eight schools were affected by the fire.

Each affected student will receive RM300 in financial assistance under the Poor Students Trust Fund, in addition to school bags and stationery.

On Aug 30, a devastating early-morning fire destroyed about 200 stilt houses in the Kampung Numbak area, with three young children—two siblings and their cousin—found burnt to death. — Bernama



Mustapha speaks with some of the Form 6 students affected by the Kampung Numbak fire. — Bernama photo

Budget 2027: Pahang youths urge greater focus on mental health, starting salaries

KUANTAN: Mental health, fairer starting salaries and opportunities to strengthen skills are among the issues Pahang youths hope will be addressed in Budget 2027.

Pahang Youth Council president Saharuddin Ahmad said mental health awareness efforts should be strengthened to encourage young people to recognise early signs of problems and seek help when needed.

"I hope next year's Budget will focus on mental health not only through treatment services but also by stepping up awareness campaigns at community level," he told Bernama.

He said such campaigns should be conducted widely, including through digital platforms,

to make information more accessible to young people.

Saharuddin also called for starting salaries to better reflect young workers' skills and rising living costs, saying adequate income would help them meet basic needs, save money and plan for home ownership.

Meanwhile, Taman Aneka Jaya Unity Youth Club (BPJAYA) chairman R Darrshan said Budget 2027 should also focus on improving young people's knowledge of taxation, particularly the Inland Revenue Board's (LHDN) e-Filing system.

"Government assistance should not necessarily be in the form of financial aid, but should also include knowledge. Such exposure is important so young

Budget 2027: Perak seeks smarter, inclusive cities for ageing society

IPOH: The Perak government hopes Budget 2027 will breathe new life into the smart city agenda by focusing not only on the digitalisation of local authorities, but also on urban development that is more efficient, accessible and prepared to meet the needs of an ageing society.

Housing and Local Government Committee chairman Sandra Ng said federal government support was crucial to help local authorities accelerate digital transformation, including through more consistent allocations for implementing smart technologies and systems.

She said the use of sensors and smart monitoring systems, smart lighting, data integration and a more integrated complaint management system could help local authorities improve service delivery efficiency.

"A smart city is not merely about installing more gadgets. The goal is to utilise technology so that problems can be identified earlier, action can be taken faster and public money can be used more efficiently," she told Bernama.

Ng said the technology could also be expanded to monitoring assets, traffic, cleanliness and infrastructure, enabling local

authorities to identify needs and damage more quickly without relying excessively on manual monitoring.

She said a data-driven approach would enable local authorities to make decisions based on actual ground conditions, while ensuring public resources and allocations were directed towards needs that delivered greater impact to the people.

"When we have better data and interconnected systems, local authorities can make decisions based on actual ground conditions rather than just waiting for complaints from the public," she said.

However, Ng said the smart city agenda must be implemented inclusively, with technological advancements accompanied by improvements to physical facilities that could be used by all segments of society.

She said universal design principles must be emphasised in developing and upgrading public amenities, including pedestrian walkways, toilets, ramps, lighting, resting areas and facilities that were more friendly to senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwD).

According to her, this was becoming increasingly important amid demographic shifts and an

expanding elderly population, to ensure they could continue living safely and comfortably within their communities.

"Perak must also start preparing more seriously for an ageing society. Urban infrastructure and public facilities that we build or upgrade today must take into account the needs of senior citizens and PwDs.

"Basic necessities such as roads, drains, drainage systems, street lighting, markets, parks and public amenities must also be given attention because these facilities are among the things closest to the daily lives of the people," she said. — Bernama

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Nepal holds day of mourning as families pray missing still alive

KATHMANDU, Nepal: Nepal held a national day of mourning on Monday for victims of devastating glacial floods, as families of missing hydropower workers feared trapped in tunnels prayed rescuers might yet find them alive.

The August 26 glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,398 people, with more than 5,500 missing, including around 800 foreigners.

Flags flew at half-mast, with candlelight vigils planned later in the day, as the nation marked the 13th day after death, following Hindu mourning rituals.

Hundreds of hydropower workers are among the missing,

but the rescue of three of them from deep inside tunnels – two Nepalis on Friday and a Chinese man on Saturday – have buoyed hopes that more could still be alive.

Nepal Army spokesman Raja Ram Basnet said rescue efforts were continuing at “the same tempo” to make sure “that no one is still stranded”.

But families of some of the missing workers who gathered in the capital Kathmandu said the government must move faster.

“We have a lot of hope,” said Reena Amatya Shrestha, whose brother is among the missing.

“They say they are doing rescue. If the rescue is there, where’s the result? We need the result.”

Australian tunnel rescue expert Arnold Dix, who is advising Nepali teams, said the operation presented an unprecedented challenge.

“We are facing something I have never faced before,” said Dix, president of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association, in a post on social media.

“Not one rescue, but multiple potential rescues, unfolding at the same time, in different places, each with its own dangers, uncertainties, and lives that may still be saved.”

Foreign experts, including from China, India and South Korea, are aiding Nepali teams in rescue efforts.

“We are measured not only by the lives we save, but by the lives we refuse to abandon,” said Dix.

Nepal President Ram Chandra Paudel visited relief camps in Nuwakot district on Monday, speaking to those left homeless by the disaster “caused by the unprecedented flooding”.

With mortuaries overflowing, Nepal has buried hundreds of bodies in mass graves after taking DNA samples for future identification, police said.

In Nepal, rescuers have retrieved 1,355 bodies, while around 4,996 people are missing, according to the disaster agency.

In China, the toll is 43 dead and 519 missing, according to state media. — AFP



Buddhist monks offer prayers for flash flood victims at a temple in Trishuli, in Nepal's Nuwakot district. — AFP photo

Indonesia extends airport closures over volcanic ash

Anak Krakatau eruption strands over 270,000 passengers

JAKARTA: Indonesia's main airport and three others postponed reopening on Monday after halting operations following a volcanic eruption that left hundreds of thousands of passengers stranded.

Mount Anak Krakatau, about 150 kilometres from Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, erupted on Saturday, spewing a fountain of lava and a plume of volcanic ash.

Eight airports halted operations over the weekend after ash was detected in their airspace, disrupting thousands of flights and leaving more than 270,000 passengers stranded, the transport ministry reported Monday.

“These figures are the cumulative operational impact since Sept 5, 2026 and cover flights that have been cancelled, delayed, or diverted,” the ministry said in a statement.

Italian tourist Michel Miegge was on holiday with his girlfriend and due to fly home in time for work on Tuesday, but their flight was cancelled.

“We don't have any news from the airline. We don't know if we stay another day in Jakarta or find another flight,” the 32-year-old software engineer told AFP.

“I don't think it's possible now. We found a nearby hotel, but we saw that many hotels were fully booked.”

French painter Carol Odile said she came with a group of friends to see Komodo dragons in Flores when she was notified that her flight was cancelled. “We are disappointed, but our group is optimistic. We hope we can go to Flores Island very soon,” the 60-year-old said.

At least four airports, including



Handout aerial picture shows Mount Krakatau spewing smoke and volcanic ash during an eruption. — AFP photo

Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, extended their closure from Monday morning to 6 pm, airport operator Angkasa Pura said in a social media post.

Halim Perdanakusuma, a smaller airport that caters to both civil and military flights, will also remain closed.

Another small airport in south Sumatra resumed operations on Monday morning.

More than 240 domestic and international flights were cancelled or delayed due to volcanic ash on Monday morning alone, Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport said, adding that nearly 30,000 passengers were affected.

The Transport Ministry has

prepared six alternative airports – including airports in East Java, Central Java, and Yogyakarta – as options for aircraft that were originally scheduled to land in Jakarta.

“We are encouraging airlines to use these airports to avoid passenger congestion, both for arrivals and departures,” Transport Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said in a statement.

Airport operators would provide free bus services for passengers who wish to fly from other airports.

Dudy said that the Indonesian government also relaxed rules for foreign passengers who may have overstayed as a result of flight cancellations.

Benjamin Foatelli, 48, a

perfumer based in Jakarta for a French company, left Italy on Sunday evening for Jakarta on an Etihad flight via Abu Dhabi.

However, his connecting flight from the UAE was delayed. “I don't know yet if I'll be able to get back tonight, but I have everything I need to keep working so I can wait calmly for the situation to resolve.”

The probability of an eruption remained high, the country's geology agency warned.

“The threat from an eruption comes from the ejection of incandescent rocks accompanied by heavy ashfall. Another potential hazard arises from lava flows if the eruption resumes and continues,” agency head Lana Saria said. — AFP



Firefighters spray water in a street to clear volcanic ash caused by the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatoa in Bandar Lampung. — AFP photo

Indonesia plans cloud seeking to clear volcanic ash

JAKARTA: Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) is preparing weather modification operations to help wash volcanic ash from Mount Anak Krakatau's eruption away, after it spread across parts of Greater Jakarta, Banten, and Lampung, reported Antara news agency.

BNPB Head Suharyanto said in Jakarta on Monday that the operations will begin once weather conditions and flight safety permit, noting the volcanic ash has disrupted operations at several airports.

“Once conditions are more favourable, we will launch the operation. The aircraft are ready at Pondok Cabe Airport,” he said.

He noted that weather modification, or cloud seeding, is one of the government's measures to help clear volcanic ash from the atmosphere by triggering rain.

Additionally, BNPB is preparing water misting to boost the chances of rainfall in the affected areas.

In response to the volcanic activity of Mount Anak Krakatau, BNPB has coordinated with

regional disaster management agencies (BPBD) in areas affected by the volcanic ash to monitor the situation on the ground and identify response needs.

BNPB has also dispatched personnel to several affected areas to monitor the situation firsthand and ensure local authorities are prepared for potential impacts of the volcanic activity.

In this regard, Suharyanto called on local governments to ensure the readiness of disaster management mechanisms, including early warning systems, evacuation shelters, contingency plans, and stocks of food and necessities.

“If additional supplies are needed, we will request assistance from the central government,” Suharyanto said.

So far, he added, none of the affected regions have declared a state of emergency.

Nevertheless, BNPB will continue to coordinate with relevant ministries and agencies to anticipate further activity from Mount Anak Krakatau and its potential impact on the public. — Bernama-Antara

Five dead, five injured after Amazon cargo plane overshoots Miami runway

MIAMI: At least five people were killed when an Amazon cargo plane overshoot a runway after it landed Sunday at Miami International Airport, crashed into vehicles and caught fire, officials said.

Miami-Dade County fire chief Ray Jadallah told reporters that in addition to five fatalities, three people were transported to trauma centers “in critical condition” and two more were treated at a local hospital.

“The airplane did strike a couple of vehicles,” which left “a couple of victims that were actually trapped in the vehicles,” Jadallah said. “A complex extrication with our technical rescue team” was needed, “including a search and rescue of the pilot and co-pilot that were trapped in this aircraft.”

Jadallah did not clarify whether the pilot or co-pilot survived.

Video showed thick smoke billowing from the blue and white Boeing 767 after it arrived at 1:58 pm from Puerto Rico, as fire trucks raced to the scene. The plane operating as Prime Air Flight 7598 caught fire as a result of the “crash,” fire officials said.

“A total of 60 fire apparatuses arrived, just short, just shy of 200



Officials investigate a cargo plane at Miami International Airport after it overran the runway. — AFP photo

men and women from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, to begin the actual search and rescue and firefighting,” Jadallah said.

“The actual cause of the incident will be determined by the FAA and the NTSB,” he added, referring to the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board.

In a statement posted to X Sunday evening, fire officials said they used foam to extinguish a fire in the engine compartment.

“One person was trapped under

one of the involved vehicles and had to be extricated by specialized technical rescue personnel. Specialized hazardous materials (HazMat) units safely shut down the aircraft's engine and worked to control a fuel leak,” the statement said.

The NTSB said in an X post on Sunday the B-767-300 cargo airplane was flying into Miami from San Juan, Puerto Rico and they have “launched a go team to investigate Sunday's runway excursion accident.” — AFP

UN's Nepal chief makes emotional plea for flood-ravaged country

KATHMANDU, Nepal: The United Nations chief in Nepal issued an emotional plea for aid on Sunday, saying survivors of the catastrophic flooding had seen their lives transformed in just “one to two minutes”.

After visiting battered mountain communities, UN Resident Coordinator Lila Pieters Yahia told AFP that people were struggling to comprehend how suddenly their Himalayan homes had become an expanse of ruin and destruction.

“You lose your home, you lose your livelihood, you lose your loved one and you lose the breadwinner of your family,” Pieters Yahia said in Kathmandu.

“And you know, this happened in one to two minutes.”

The devastating August 26 flood that crashed through the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,384 people and left more than 5,500 missing across both countries.

More than 800 foreigners from at least 34 countries are among those missing in both Nepal and Tibet in China. They include both tourists and pilgrims.

Many communities near the epicentre of the disaster remain cut off, with the UN working alongside Nepal's government



People stand atop damaged houses covered in sludge in the aftermath of flash floods in Trishuli, in Nepal's Nuwakot district. — AFP photo

to get emergency supplies into devastated areas. The UN has launched a US\$50 million appeal to help more than 84,000 people affected by the disaster.

“Those people are cut off from the rest of the world because the road is gone,” Pieters Yahia said.

“You try to find a solution to expedite access, and you find another bottleneck. We're looking into all means, but we need to to improve access.”

Floods tore through mountain

districts, destroying roads, bridges and hydropower dams.

The destruction means journeys that once took a couple of hours have now become day-long ordeals.

“The Himalayas are beautiful, they are amazing, they're spiritual,” said Pieters Yahia.

“But also they are very, very difficult terrains... And we have the landslides –and, plus we're still in the monsoon season.”

— AFP



Kim tours the destroyer 'Kang Kon' during a commissioning ceremony for the destroyer at Wonsan Port in Kangwon Province. — AFP photo

North Korea vows nuclear-armed navy as US ally drills open

SEOUL: Leader Kim Jong Un vowed to build North Korea's navy into a nuclear-armed force, state media reported yesterday as US allies' maritime drills kicked off.

This week's manoeuvres involving Japan, South Korea and the United States were established in 2023 in what officials called an effort to deter Pyongyang's missile and nuclear threats.

Kim's comments came at the commissioning of the Kang Kon – a warship that partially capsized when launched in May 2025 – in the port city of Wonsan on Sunday, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

"We should make sure that the diversified and effective operation of nuclear combat systems is conducted for an actual war through developing our navy into a nuclear armed force," Kim reportedly told the ceremony.

"Once ordered anytime, the new-generation destroyer should deal a deadly retaliatory blow at the enemies as it is a force involved in the state nuclear counteraction system," he said.

Photos released of Kim showed him accompanied by his daughter, Ju Ae, who is reportedly designated as a

We should make sure that the diversified and effective operation of nuclear combat systems is conducted for an actual war through developing our navy into a nuclear armed force.

Kim Jong Un

successor to her father.

Kim oversaw in July a test of the Kang Kon – one of two 5,000-tonne class warships launched last year – just over a year after it was damaged during its launch.

Kim's reference to a "nuclear-armed navy" suggests the vessels could serve as launch platforms for tactical nuclear-capable cruise missiles, said Lim Eul-chul, a professor at Kyungnam University.

Kim also said North Korea was carrying out an "important plan" to strengthen its navy that would be demonstrated to the world "in eight months".

That could foreshadow the unveiling of a major strategic asset, such as a new submarine capable of carrying submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), Lim said.

By deploying the Kang Kon in the East Sea, Pyongyang

is also seeking to keep the joint maritime exercises and deployments of nuclear assets "directly and within range", Lim said.

This week's US allies' drills, dubbed Freedom Edge, are set to run to Friday in international waters east and south of South Korea's Jeju Island.

The manoeuvres have pushed ahead despite President Donald Trump curtailing another set of drills with South Korea as the US leader aims to reopen diplomacy with Pyongyang about its nuclear programme.

Despite Trump's overtures, North Korea has shown little sign of reciprocating, firing missiles and condemning the downsized drills as well as Washington's approval of arms sales to South Korea and plans to fund programmes documenting human rights abuses in the North. — AFP

India teams search for trapped after deadly Delhi building collapse

NEW DELHI: Indian rescue teams searched the rubble of a building collapse in New Delhi yesterday, a day after the five-storey block crashed down killing at least six people, officials said.

Emergency teams fear there are people still trapped in the rubble.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which

treated victims from the collapse, said its trauma centre received 10 people.

"Out of the 10 patients, five were brought dead, while one patient who was in critical condition later succumbed to his injuries," AIIMS said in a statement.

Disaster agency teams, as well as fire and police teams, are using heavy machinery as well

as sniffer dogs to locate anyone who may be trapped.

The Satya Niketan area is home to hundreds of university students living in crowded accommodation. Building collapses are frequent in India, and illegal structures are common.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the incident was "distressing". — AFP



Bulldozers clear debris as rescue personnel conduct a search operation at the site following a building collapse in the Satya Niketan area in New Delhi. — AFP photo

Philippine president's lawmaker cousin charged over flood control scandal

MANILA: Philippine prosecutors filed a criminal charge yesterday against a lawmaker and cousin of President Ferdinand Marcos over his alleged involvement in a massive corruption scandal involving bogus flood control projects.

The case came more than a year after Marcos put the so-called "ghost" infrastructure projects, believed to have cost Filipino taxpayers billions of dollars, centre stage in a public address.

Several construction firm owners, government officials and politicians have been accused of pocketing funds from the projects.

Yesterday, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said the "plunder" case against Martin Romualdez, the Philippine president's congressman cousin, involved a total of 7.4 billion pesos (US\$117.9 million) in alleged bribes, anomalous budget insertions and project allocations.

Romualdez has repeatedly



Ferdinand Marcos Jr

denied wrongdoing.

Plunder is a non-bailable offence referring to large-scale corruption punishable by life imprisonment.

"We don't pick and choose, there is no name here that we're trying to avoid. Everything here is based on evidence," Remulla told reporters.

"This case proves that there are no sacred cows."

Remulla said prosecutors intended to file additional cases against Romualdez and others implicated in the flood control scandal.

Romualdez's co-respondents include former lawmaker

Elizaldy Co and several others accused of conspiring to unlawfully accumulate wealth through government funds.

He did not immediately respond to AFP's requests for comment.

In September last year, Romualdez resigned as speaker of the House of Representatives after his name surfaced in the widening investigation.

At the time, he said stepping down would allow investigators to perform their work without "undue influence". He remains a member of congress.

Over the past year, prosecutors have filed cases against a number of sitting and former lawmakers, public works officials and construction company representatives allegedly linked to the scheme.

Corruption has long been a problem in the Philippines' brand of free-wheeling democracy, and accounts for much of the massive poverty in the Southeast Asian nation of 112 million people. — AFP

'Truly scared': Blazes outpace firefighters in Indonesian Borneo

PONTIANAK, Indonesia: Toiling around the clock, haggard Indonesian firefighters on Borneo island cannot keep up with the blazes devouring landscapes and shrouding communities in a cloying haze.

They are fighting a perilous battle with limited weapons against fires blamed in part on a stronger-than-usual episode of the El Nino climate phenomenon parching Southeast Asia.

Experts also blame climate change, decades of forest degradation and slash-and-burn land clearing practices that have changed the naturally fire-resistant landscape.

"We are exhausted. Sometimes we carry out firefighting until dawn. Sometimes we don't sleep," said Sampe Ritonga, fire chief for Sintang regency.

"Our facilities and infrastructure for firefighting are very limited," he told AFP, standing on the smouldering embers of a peatland fire separated from a residential settlement by a narrow dirt road. Behind him, veiled by the haze, the sun appeared as an eerie, rust-coloured ball in the brown-grey sky.

Sampe's team only has two 6,000-litre fire engines, and deploys one at a time while the other refills. They also face a shortage of hoses.

The team has fought dozens of fires this month.

With river levels low, "we look for available water in ditches... (and) small rivers", some far from active burn sites, Sampe said.

"So there are difficulties



Forestry department firefighters extinguish a peatland fire at Kuala Dua village in Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan. — AFP photo

because they have to first carry out firefighting with high intensity, and second look for water," he added.

"With the limitations we have, we try as hard as we can to extinguish the fires and also to reduce the smoke."

Nearby, locals gathered to observe the team's efforts, offering drinking water to first responders.

"There are many houses here,

and that is what we have to protect," said Sampe.

Resident Sutrismi, 47, said she was at home on Saturday when she heard a "crackling sound", looked out of the window and saw smoke rising from the peatland across the road.

Peatland fires, common in the area, generally smoulder and spread under the soil for weeks or months, emitting huge quantities of smoke and only

rarely causing surface blazes.

"First thing, I looked for help. I contacted the village head, asked for assistance," Sutrismi told AFP.

"I am scared. Truly scared."

Some 400 kilometres away in Pontianak – the capital of West Kalimantan province – people have been breathing foul air for weeks.

The haze can be smelled even indoors in the city of about

700,000 people.

At one point on Sunday, the level of PM2.5 pollution exceeded 500 micrograms per cubic metre, according to IQAir, a Switzerland-based monitor.

That is more than 100 times the World Health Organization's recommended safe limit for airborne particles so small they can enter deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream, with potentially dire consequences for health.

Hundreds of schools have been closed indefinitely in West Kalimantan due to air pollution, with about 200,000 pupils learning from home, according to the education ministry.

The province has also recorded a surge in respiratory ailments.

"We really hope there will be some assistance or grants for us, so we can be faster, more alert and more responsive," said Sampe.

West Kalimantan governor Ria Norsan said the province was doing its best.

"We do not want officers in the field to work with limitations," he said in a statement to AFP.

"Every report regarding shortages of personnel, equipment, water, or other needs must be conveyed immediately so that solutions can be found."

The provincial government has said it has nearly 14,500 fire-fighting personnel out in the field, with nine aircraft available for water-bombing, three for patrols and one for cloud-seeding operations trying to make rain. — AFP

Japan issues landslide warnings

TOKYO: Heavy rain battered parts of Japan yesterday, killing a woman after her car was flooded in an underpass in the city of Iwaki in north-eastern Fukushima prefecture, German Press Agency (dpa) reported, citing broadcaster NHK.

Evacuation orders in Iwaki and parts of Ibaraki and Kanagawa prefectures were later lifted.

Authorities in the Fukushima town of Hirono also lifted an evacuation order for its 4,665 residents, a local official told dpa.

The Tokyo metropolitan area was also hit by the remnants of a typhoon and a storm front.

Japan's weather agency issued its second-highest warning level for parts of neighbouring Chiba and Saitama prefectures and parts of Fukushima over the risk of landslides.

The agency forecast further heavy rain across wide areas along Japan's Pacific coast.

The government has set up an emergency task force.

Heavy rainfall has repeatedly caused disruption in Japan in recent weeks.

Just days ago, authorities in central Fukui prefecture urged around 400,000 people to seek safety temporarily because of the risk of landslides.

Homes and roads were flooded before the warnings were lifted. — Bernama-dpa

Iran to declare ‘prohibited zone’ near Hormuz Strait

TEHRAN: Iran's top negotiator on Sunday threatened a more forceful response to any further US attacks after Tehran targeted American warships in their latest round of clashes.

The exchanges of fire, which began with US raids last week, come amid a deadlock in the six-month war between the two foes.

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.

Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who has acted as chief negotiator in talks to end the war, said Sunday that "the era of proportionate responses has come to an end".

"Any aggression against Iran's interests and security will receive a faster, more intense and more painful response," he added, in a speech carried by state media.

Tehran's top security chief, meanwhile, said Iran would establish a 'prohibited zone' near the Strait of Hormuz in coming days.

"This zone will start from the US Navy's blockade line and include areas of the Persian Gulf. Any ship entering this new zone will be placed on the sanctions list" of Iran, Mohsen Rezaei told state TV.

On Saturday, US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees American military operations in the region, said Iran had unsuccessfully fired at two American warships -- an aircraft carrier and a destroyer.

In response, the US struck three oil tankers it said were linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC).

Video posted by the military showed large fireballs and



The bow of a vessel moored at the port of Kuhestak, is damaged following a US military strike earlier in the week on Kuhestak, Sirik County, in Iran's southern Hormozgan province. — AFP photo

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", CENTCOM said.

Iran quickly retaliated, with the Guards saying their 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 the key trade waterway via routes not approved by Tehran.

Early on Sunday Iran's Guards also said they attacked a US naval drone trying to enter the strait, according to a statement carried by state television.

CENTCOM spokesman Captain Tim Hawkins, however, called the claim 'a complete lie'.

CENTCOM commander Admiral Brad Cooper had said after the exchange of strikes: "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 condemned the attacks on its oil tankers as "illegal and aggressive actions".

The administration of US President Donald Trump has tried to downplay the significance of the six-month conflict, which has proven increasingly unpopular at home as midterm elections near.

US Vice President JD Vance has gone so far as to say that he "wouldn't call it a war".

Trump reiterated that view on Friday, calling the war "small potatoes" for Washington.

Iranian officials have maintained their defiant tone,

but US Energy Secretary Chris Wright told ABC's 'This Week' programme on Sunday that Iran was 'doing everything they can to cling on to something'.

"They know their nuclear programme's coming to an end. Their navy has come to an end. Their air force has come to an end. They're clinging on to power," he said.

A fragile ceasefire between the two sides collapsed in July after attacks on commercial ships in the Hormuz strait, through which one-fifth of world oil supplies previously flowed.

Trump has in recent weeks repeatedly threatened to claim sovereignty over the strait, even posting a map showing it as "new US territory".

Vance has insisted the US will not reopen talks with Iran until it ends attacks on commercial shipping in the strait. — AFP

Trump suggests renaming New Mexico state 'New America'

WASHINGTON, United States: US President Donald Trump's name-changing spree found an unlikely new target on Sunday when he suggested the state of New Mexico could become 'New America.'

His proposal, which was immediately dismissed by the state's governor, comes days after he signed an order to rename Lake Ontario as "Lake America" in the middle of a trade war with neighboring Canada.

"Many people suggested changing the name of New Mexico... to NEW AMERICA," the Republican president posted on social media. "So much more prestigious and beautiful for the people of that potentially incredible State. Wow, I Love It!!!"

The White House reposted an image showing the Mexico part of the state's name crossed out and replaced with "America."

Some US media reports said the idea originated as an internet hoax. State governor Michelle Lujan Grisham told Fox News that the name "isn't up for debate—it's



Donald Trump

been ours since before the United States existed."

She said the president wanted to "distract Americans" from issues such as soaring gas prices.

Trump last week suggested renaming the Strait of Hormuz as 'Trump Strait' as the war with Iran continues — then hours later implied he was not serious about the plan. He renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America" on his first day back in the White House in 2025 in a move rejected by Mexico.

Canada has also rejected the attempt to rename Lake Ontario. — AFP

Iran warns S. Korea against involvement in Hormuz

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry on Monday warned South Korea against military deployment or involvement in US operations in the Strait of Hormuz, saying such a move would have "serious consequences".

On Friday, Seoul said it was considering "contributions" to US security efforts in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran has largely controlled since the outbreak of war against the United States on February 28.

South Korea said it would consider the move provided that its own military readiness was not compromised, but added that no decision had been made. On Monday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei warned South Korea against succumbing to what he called "US pressure and intimidation".

"Any military deployment or participation in operations by other countries in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz

can only be regarded as direct support for the party responsible for that aggression and will have serious consequences," he said in a post on X.

Iran and the United States have continued to trade fire in and around the Strait of Hormuz, even after an April ceasefire brought the initial intense bombardment campaign to an end. Negotiations between the two foes have stalled as they vied for control over Hormuz, which normally carries around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas exports.

Since the war erupted, traffic through the vital waterway has been virtually paralysed, disrupting global energy markets. Iran has required vessels to seek permission to transit — a move opposed by Washington and several regional countries — insisting that there will be no return to the pre-war system of unrestricted navigation. — AFP



Siegmond, far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD)'s main candidate in the Saxony-Anhalt state election, gestures as he addresses supporters at the AfD's election party following Saxony-Anhalt's state elections in Magdeburg, eastern Germany. — AFP photo

Merz a 'major burden' for Germany, says far-right AfD after vote win

BERLIN: Germany's far-right AfD, emboldened by a state election triumph, charged Monday that centre-right Chancellor Friedrich Merz had become 'a major burden' for the country.

"No chancellor before has been as unpopular as Friedrich Merz, who has become a major burden on Germany's prosperous development," said party co-leader Alice Weidel, after her party won Saxony-Anhalt state elections in a landslide.

Speaking at a Berlin press conference, she confidently predicted that her Alternative for Germany party would beat Merz's CDU/CSU bloc in 2029 national elections.

The AfD in Saxony-Anhalt is labelled a 'right-wing extremist' group by Germany's domestic

intelligence agency, and its victory there has sparked alarm among mainstream parties, minority groups and many foreign-born residents.

Weidel said "the election in Saxony-Anhalt has shown that people expect a change in politics".

"The people in this country do not want things to continue as they are," she said, demanding an end to "illegal migration, open borders, skyrocketing rates of crime committed by foreign nationals, and a refusal to carry out deportations."

Weidel also slammed Germany's 'disastrous energy policy' and 'rampant deindustrialisation that is breaking Germany's backbone'.

AfD co-leader Tino Chrupalla meanwhile criticised German support for Ukraine in its fight

to resist the Russian invasion.

"People are simply fed up; they see us transferring billions of our tax dollars to Ukraine... effectively shipping tax revenue abroad instead of using it for our own population," he said.

The AfD scored a landslide victory in the vote in the ex-communist eastern state with 44 percent of the vote, yet it fell three seats short of an absolute majority.

Ulrich Siegmond, the top candidate, stressed Monday that he wants a governing majority to become state premier and reached out to other parties or "individual MPs who want to join us in tackling this historic task".

"It is a very clear government mandate," he said of the poll result. "It could hardly be clearer." — AFP

Cape Verde in mourning after children killed in bus crash

PRAIA, Cape Verde: Cape Verde's government announced two days of mourning on Sunday after 25 people, mostly children and teenagers, were killed in a bus crash.

The west African country's leaders joined a Mass on Sunday at a local church on the island of Fogo, where 18 coffins were on display.

Such accidents are rare in the Atlantic archipelago, where roads are generally in good condition.

Officials said the bus veered off

the road and plunged into a deep ravine late on Saturday, following an excursion to a village inside a volcanic crater.

The dead included the bus driver, who organised the excursion every year as a present for the pupils he drove to school during term time.

Prime Minister Francisco Carvalho told public television station TCV he had ordered two days of mourning and promised further measures would be taken.

President Jose Maria Neves,

meanwhile, said he would order an inquiry into the circumstances of the accident.

"Right now the priority is to show solidarity with the families of the victims," he said.

Emergency personnel worked through the night to rescue victims trapped in the wreckage, in a remote, rocky valley.

Seven victims were buried early on Sunday. The rest were set to be buried later in the day, according to public radio network RCV. — AFP



A relative cries next to the coffin of one of the victims killed in a bus crash during their funeral at Sao Lourenco Church in the town of Sao Lourenco, on the island of Fogo. — AFP photo

Yemen's Houthis accuse Saudi Arabia of air raids, missile strikes

DUBAI: Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis on Monday accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out airstrikes around the country as the rebels press a deadly offensive to seize territory bordering the strategic Bab al-Mandab strait.

The attacks targeted Houthi positions around the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country, which is divided between areas

held by the rebels and the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government.

"The Saudi enemy targeted the provinces of Jawf, al-Bayda, Marib and Taiz with several airstrikes and cruise missiles," said the Saba news agency, which is affiliated with the Houthi movement.

Days of fighting near the Red Sea coast has left more than

300 people dead and displaced hundreds of families as the Houthis try to capture land bordering the Bab al-Mandab.

The narrow waterway forms the southern entrance to the Red Sea, a shipping artery that has become a vital route for Saudi oil exports since Iran blockaded the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf, during the US-Iran war. — AFP

Sport

An sends Asian Games warning at China Masters

BEIJING: Badminton world number one An Se-young sent a warning for the Asian Games as she clinched her third China Masters title in a row in ominous fashion.

South Korea's reigning Olympic and world champion will defend her crown when the Asian Games begin on September 19 in Aichi-Nagoya in Japan.

The 24-year-old will be overwhelming favourite after winning the China Masters on Sunday with a ruthless 21-17, 21-6 demolition of Tomoka Miyazaki in Shenzhen. An did not drop a game all week on the way to her seventh title of the season.

"I'm so proud of myself. I'm really pleased with the result and I feel so happy," An said.

Despite being the undoubted dominant force in women's badminton once more this year, An said: "There are many players coming up and challenging. I don't think any match can be

There are many players coming up and challenging. I don't think any match can be taken lightly.

An Se-young

taken lightly."

The men's singles final was surprisingly an all-Hong Kong affair, with world number 32 Jason Gunawan defeating Lee Cheuk-Yiu 21-9, 21-16.

In the men's doubles, India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat home duo He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu in a three-game battle. Shetty and Rankireddy will defend their Asian Games men's doubles title in Japan.

"Going into the Asian Games winning a title definitely



An celebrates winning the women's singles final against Miyazaki at the China Masters badminton tournament in Shenzhen, in China's southern Guangdong province. — AFP photo

reassures us what we are working on is heading in the right direction," said Shetty.

"We will go back home, push ourselves to the limit, train for the next 10 days and go all guns blazing in Japan. We want to go

out there and have some fun."

China's Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping won the mixed doubles while Sumire Nakade and Miyu Takahashi of Japan clinched the women's doubles crown. — AFP

Alcaraz books quarter-final clash with Shelton

NEW YORK: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz posted his most convincing win in his injury return at the US Open, downing Tommy Paul in straight sets on Sunday to line up a quarter-final clash with Ben Shelton.

Two-time women's defending champion Aryna Sabalenka also advanced, booking a last-eight date with Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova.

Second-seeded Alcaraz, playing his first tournament since he was sidelined by a right wrist injury in April, looked closer to his brilliant best in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Paul, the 20th-seeded American who posed the Spaniard's sternest test yet.

"I played my game," said Alcaraz, who unleashed 33 winners as he moved fluidly around the court, thwarting Paul at every turn in the two-hour 20-minute match.

He'll face red-hot Shelton – a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 winner over Stefanos Tsitsipas – for a place in the semi-finals.

"I tried to play my style. Tommy is such a talented player. His shots are pretty dangerous and sometimes it's really difficult

to control the ball when it comes to you. I just tried to be ready for a battle and tried to be aggressive all the time," Alcaraz said.

Alcaraz grabbed the first break of the contest in the final game of a tight first set. From there he was in control. He broke Paul twice in the second set and again early in the third.

He finished it off with a gutsy hold of serve in which he saved a pair of break points, the second with a swinging forehand volley that he followed with a forehand winner to set up the only match point he needed.

"I'm really happy with the performance today," Alcaraz said.

Shelton, who needed four sets in each of his first three matches, raised his game to dismantle former world number three Tsitsipas in just one hour and 52 minutes. The American, riding high after a strong August that included a title at the ATP Montreal Masters, blasted a dozen aces and never faced a break point.

"I played a complete match from start to finish," said Shelton, who was looking forward to taking on Alcaraz. — AFP

Tennis sensation Eala looks to 'fun' at Asian Games

NEW YORK: Philippines sensation Alexandra Eala said she can't wait to experience the 'really fun environment' of the Asian Games after a battling defeat in the third round of the US Open.

The rising 21-year-old will be favourite to win women's singles gold when the Games begin in Japan on September 19.

At the previous edition of the Games, in 2023 in China, Eala went home with bronze medals in singles and mixed doubles.

Much has changed for Eala since, last month becoming the first player from the Philippines to win a WTA singles crown and now ranked 18 in the world.

Her ground-breaking exploits have made her a superstar back home.

"I love playing and competing with the Philippines team," Eala said after her agonizing three-set loss to United States teenager Iva Jovic in New York on Saturday.

Proud Filipino Eala has been a regular at the Southeast Asian Games, winning singles gold last year, and she added: "I think it's a really fun environment, and I love being with the team, especially this last SEA Games in December, I had such a great time. I think they are really memories that stick with me."

China's Zheng Qinwen won Asian Games singles gold three years ago on home turf. She will not defend her title in Aichi-Nagoya.

Also not involved will be Japan's four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka, who will be in action at the China Open in Beijing. — AFP



Antonelli celebrates with his trophy on the podium after winning the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza circuit in Monza. — AFP photo

Antonelli living 'a dream' after astonishing home win

MONZA, Italy: Kimi Antonelli had every reason to pinch himself on Sunday after his spectacular triumph for Mercedes from 19th on the grid gave the Monza fans a first home winner of the Italian Grand Prix for 60 years.

As he battled his emotions, Antonelli, who only turned 20 two weeks ago, admitted on team radio that 'it feels like a dream.' His win was delivered from the most distant starting position since John Watson raced to victory for McLaren at the 1983 United States Grand Prix West in Long Beach from 22nd on the grid.

More pointedly, victory over teammate George Russell opens up a 66-point lead in the title race.

"It's a dream come true. What an incredible day. I couldn't do this without my team, my family and everyone who supports me," he said.

He resisted the temptation, however, to talk about becoming the first Italian world champion since Alberto Ascari in 1953.

"There's still a few races to go, so we will try to keep our heads down. But now, yes, we are going to enjoy today. I did not expect this. Unbelievable. Unbelievable. I am so happy. I could not have imagined to be here today, but we managed to pull it off and I am really, really happy."

Antonelli did have one scare in the race, four laps from the end when he was trying to overtake Russell and found himself in the gravel.

"It was quite scary because the tarmac was breaking up, but I still thought I could do the corner. I went straight. I was thinking like maybe I lost my chance, but luckily we had the pace and I could bring it home."

Starting Sunday's race from the back of the grid due to penalties after taking a new power unit, he said he had felt capable of winning after going from 19th to 12th in the opening laps. Then Charles Leclerc crashed his Ferrari to bring a red-flag stoppage and a re-start.

"After the second re-start, I was up there and I knew I could have had a shot for the win. So definitely I believed in it, especially when I was behind George," he said.

"But it was difficult to break away with it all being so strong. At the end we pitted, he stayed out and he struggled with his tyres at the end so with fresher tyres we could increase the pace and get the win." — AFP

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MALAYSIA IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI IN BANKRUPTCY NO. MY2-28NC-C-36-7/2026 (HC)

Re: CHRISTINA JOSEPH BARAUK (NRIC No. 76829-13-6922) Lot 7561, Taman Pemas, Jin Dato Pemas, Bandar Baru Pempin, 98000 Miri, Sarawak. ... DEBTOR

Ex-Parte: TOYOTA CAPITAL MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. (Company No. 11547-M) Suite G07, Ground Floor, Crown Towers, 88, Jalan Pending, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak. ... CREDITOR

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

In the matter of a Bankruptcy Notice dated the 17th day of July, 2026

To: CHRISTINA JOSEPH BARAUK (NRIC No. 76829-13-6922) Lot 7561, Taman Pemas, Jin Dato Pemas, Bandar Baru Pempin, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice has been issued against you in the High Court at Miri, Sarawak on the 17th day of July, 2026 by TOYOTA CAPITAL MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. (Company No. 11547-M) of Suite G07, Ground Floor, Crown Towers, 88, Jalan Pending, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, and that the Court has ordered that the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service be served on you by the publication of this notice in one (1) issue of "The Borneo Post" newspaper and by causing a copy of the said Bankruptcy Notice to be placed on the Notice Board of High Court at Miri, Sarawak and that the advertisement in the newspaper shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service upon you and that service of the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service upon you shall be deemed to have been effected on the day of the publication of the said advertisement in the said newspaper.

The Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application to the Court.

Dated the 4th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

Senior Assistant Registrar High Court, Miri

This Notice of Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice is filed by Messrs. William Kong & Co., Advocates, for the above-named Creditor whose address for service is Lot 142, 1st Floor, Jalan Peta, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

(Section 50(4)(a) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012)

Notice is hereby given that KOPI SENTRAL CAFE PLT (LLP No.: LLP0005242-LGN) will be making an application to the Registrar of Limited Liability Partnerships for a declaration of dissolution pursuant to section 50(2) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012 within seven (7) days after the publication of this notice.

Any partner or creditor of KOPI SENTRAL CAFE PLT desiring to object to the application may do so in writing to the Companies Commission of Malaysia within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice.

Date: 8th September 2026

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Permit No. RBN/PPW/13/2026/0008 SHA DARI: 17/02/2026 HINGGA 16/02/2028

MALAYSIA IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS NO. KCH-28NC-252-7/2026 (HC-4)

RE: MOHAMAD FAIZAL BIN JAMALI (WN.KP.900101-13-5427) No. 50, Kampung Sungai Bedil Besar, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak. ... DEBTOR

EX-PARTE: MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD (Company No. 200701029411) 3rd Floor, Sublots 6, 7 & 8, Lot 1970, Block 10, KCLD, Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ... CREDITOR

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE IN NEWSPAPER [In the matter of a Bankruptcy Notice issued on 15th July, 2026]

To: MOHAMAD FAIZAL BIN JAMALI (WN.KP.900101-13-5427) No. 50, Kampung Sungai Bedil Besar, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice has been issued against you in this Court by MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD of 3rd Floor, Sublots 6, 7 & 8, Lot 1970, Block 10, KCLD, Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak and the Court has by an Order made on 1st September, 2026 ordered that the Bankruptcy Notice be served upon you by:

- publication of a Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice in Newspaper in one (1) issue of "The Borneo Post";
- placing a copy of the Bankruptcy Notice and the Court Order for Substituted Service on the Notice Board of the High Court, Kuching;
- posting a copy of the Bankruptcy Notice and the Court Order for Substituted Service by registered post to the last known address of the Debtor

and the service thereof shall be deemed sufficient and good service of the Bankruptcy Notice herein on you and shall be deemed to be effected a day after the last act of the publication, placing or posting.

This Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application at this Court.

Dated this 3rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, HIGH COURT, KUCHING.
This Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice in Newspaper is taken out by Messrs. REDDI & CO., Advocates for and on behalf of the above-named Creditor, whose address for service is 2nd & 3rd Floors, Reddi Building, No. 353, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak.

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Permit No. RBN/PPW/13/2026/0008 SHA DARI: 17/02/2026 HINGGA 16/02/2028

MALAYSIA IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING COMPANIES (WINDING UP) NO. KCH-28NC-46-7/2026 (HC-3)

NOTICE In the matter of Section 465(1)(e) of the Companies Act, 2016 AND In the matter of TORING MEEI IMPORT & EXPORT SDN. BHD. (Company No. 201301024956 (1054785-W))

BETWEEN MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD (Company No. 200701029411 (787435-M)) 3rd Floor, Sublots 6, 7 & 8, Lot 1970, Block 10, KCLD, Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ... PETITIONER

AND TORING MEEI IMPORT & EXPORT SDN. BHD. (Company No. 201301024956 (1054785-W)) Lot 2250, Jalan Daya, Bintawa Industrial Estate, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak. ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the winding-up of the above-named Respondent Company by the High Court was, on the 23rd day of July, 2026, presented by the said Petitioner. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Kuching at 8.00 o'clock in the forenoon, on the 5th day of October, 2026; and any Creditor or contributory of the said Respondent Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any Creditor or contributory of the said Respondent Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner is MAYBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD and the Petitioner's address is 3rd Floor, Sublots 6, 7 & 8, Lot 1970, Block 10, KCLD, Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.

The Petitioner's advocates is Messrs. REDDI & CO., 2nd & 3rd Floors, Reddi Building, No. 353, Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak.

Dated this 6th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.

REDDI & CO., Advocates for the Petitioner.

NOTE - Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition, either to oppose or support, must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs. REDDI & CO., 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 Messrs. REDDI & CO. not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 2nd day of October, 2026.

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Forever loved,
forever missed,
forever in our hearts.

Eternal rest grant unto Adrian Oh Lord and let perpetual
light shine upon him and may he rest in peace. Amen

Dearly missed and will always be remembered by all loved ones

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Mourinho's Euro revival bid starts with Inter reunion

MADRID: When Jose Mourinho left Inter Milan for Real Madrid in the summer of 2010, after leading the Italian outfit to Champions League glory, he was at the peak of his powers.

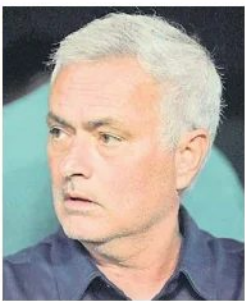
The Portuguese coach claimed an historic treble with Inter, clinching Serie A in the last week of the season and lifting the Coppa Italia.

Inter beat Bayern 2-0 in the Champions League final at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium, winning the trophy for the first time since 1965 and becoming the first Italian team to win the treble.

The day after the final Mourinho said it was likely his last match in charge and around a week later his appointment at Real Madrid was finalised.

Now 16 years on, and beginning his second stint at Madrid, Mourinho kicks off the record 15-time Champions League winners' European campaign against Inter on Tuesday at the Bernabeu. Neither the veteran coach nor Inter have been able to reproduce that level of European success since.

Inter have reached the final on two subsequent occasions, beaten in 2023 by Manchester City and then thrashed by



My attraction to Real Madrid is due to its history, its frustrations in recent years and its expectations to win.

Jose Mourinho

Paris Saint-Germain in the 2025 showpiece.

Mourinho was unable to help Real Madrid past the semi-finals and after leaving the club in 2013 has mainly spent his time competing in lower levels of European competition.

The 63-year-old led Manchester United to the Europa League in

2017 and won the Conference League with Roma in 2022.

Fished out of the relative wilderness by Madrid president Florentino Perez this summer after two seasons without a major trophy for Los Blancos, Mourinho's main task is to return the club to their European throne.

Only five coaches have won the trophy more times than Mourinho, who also lifted it with Porto in 2004 to kickstart his career and earn him passage to Chelsea and Europe's biggest leagues.

"My attraction to Real Madrid is due to its history, its frustrations in recent years and its expectations to win," said Mourinho in 2010, although the same holds true now, after a remarkable period of success ended.

In his first reign Mourinho helped disrupt Pep Guardiola's Barcelona's dominance within Spain but was unable to help Madrid end their wait for a 10th European Cup. That came under his successor Carlo Ancelotti, who claimed three with Madrid over two spells at the club.

Zinedine Zidane also lifted the trophy three times in consecutive seasons, with Madrid winning

six in a remarkable 10-year spell.

Perez credits Mourinho with building the foundations for those trophies.

"I'm glad my work had some positive impact, but the titles belong to Carlo, Zidane, the players, and the fans," said Mourinho.

Madrid's grip on the trophy has loosened during the past two years, knocked out in the quarter-finals by Arsenal in 2025 and last season they were eliminated by Bayern Munich in the last 16. Mourinho's challenge is to prove both he and Real Madrid still can rule among Europe's elite, and stopping Luis Enrique's PSG retaining it for a third year running.

"Finishing without trophies at Real Madrid is not a successful season," said Mourinho in August.

The coach's second stint at Madrid started smoothly with three wins from three games, but on Friday they fell to their first defeat, 1-0 at Real Betis.

Inter's visit to the Spanish capital will be an early test of whether Mourinho can restore Madrid's European fortunes, against the club with which he last reached the pinnacle of the competition. — AFP



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Marquinhos present the UEFA Supercup trophy to supporters before the start of the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and AS Monaco at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. — AFP photo

PSG go for three in a row as Champions League returns

PARIS, France: Another UEFA Champions League season gets going this week with the beginning of the league phase as Paris Saint-Germain bid to join the tiny band of clubs to have won the competition three years running.

PSG successfully defended their title last season when they beat Arsenal on penalties in Budapest, retaining the trophy they won for the first time in their history 12 months earlier.

Luis Enrique's side have already secured their status as one of the competition's greatest teams by winning it back-to-back, something only Real Madrid had previously achieved since the inception of the modern Champions League in 1992.

Winning three in a row would be on another level entirely. Real did exactly that under Zinedine Zidane between 2016 and 2018. The only other teams to manage such a feat are Ajax (1971-73) and Bayern Munich (1974-76), while Madrid also won the first five editions of the European Cup from 1956 to 1960.

"Our objectives are clear. I want to win important trophies and there are none more important than the Champions League," said Luis Enrique, who also led Barcelona to glory in 2015.

The back-to-back titles for the French giants have coincided with the introduction of the new Champions League format, with 36 teams in the league phase now playing eight games against eight different opponents.

The Parisians struggled in the league phase in each of the last two campaigns, finishing outside the top eight and having to come through the additional play-off round to make the last 16.

Tough draws were partly responsible for that, and PSG will face some familiar opponents this time in Manchester City, Barcelona and Aston Villa.

With each passing year, the prospect of a team other than one of Europe's super clubs winning the Champions League seems more remote.

The Premier League's financial strength means all of its representatives can be expected to feature prominently, with Arsenal chief among them.

Over the last three years, the Gunners have lost in the quarter-finals, the semi-finals, and then the final. There is therefore a logical next step for Mikel Arteta's side, Arsenal topped the league

phase last season with a perfect record. They have a tough start this time away to Napoli.

There are five English clubs involved, with Manchester City and Liverpool joined by the returning Manchester United and Villa.

Bayern Munich are formidable, while Jose Mourinho has returned to Real Madrid charged with the task of leading them back to continental glory. Barcelona are itching to get their hands on the trophy again.

It is hard to see beyond one of those clubs, although Inter Milan could have a say and Atletico Madrid will be desperate to reach a final to be held in their stadium.

The only club outside Spain, England, Germany, Italy and France to have won the Champions League in the last 30 years remains Mourinho's Porto in 2004.

Plenty of new names will add freshness to the competition, including Como, who finished fourth in Serie A last season under Cesc Fabregas to qualify at the expense of AC Milan and Juventus.

Viking Stavanger are in the Champions League proper for the first time after winning a first Norwegian title in 34 years.

Sabah start with a trip to Old Trafford after winning a first Azerbaijani title and coming through four qualifying ties. Their manager, Valdas Dambrauskas, got into coaching with the money he made appearing on the Lithuanian version of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'.

"Since I was 12, when I realised I will not be a professional player, I knew I wanted to be a football coach. I cannot guess what would have happened without this game, but I believe I would have found a way to achieve my dream," he said in an interview with Flashscore.

Sabah might not qualify for the next stage – although compatriots Qarabag did that last season – but just being in the league phase is worth almost 20 million euros (US\$23.2m) at a minimum, significant sums for clubs from lesser leagues.

The Champions League winners pocket around 90 million euros in prize money, before adding millions more, notably from television – it is understood PSG earned around 150 million euros for each of their last two victories. — AFP



Chelsea defend a corner during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium. — AFP photo

Arsenal fight back to end Chelsea's flying start

LONDON: Arsenal delivered an emphatic response to Chelsea's emergence as potential Premier League title contenders with a 2-1 win that ended their rivals' unbeaten start on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side trailed to Morgan Rogers' second-minute goal in a pulsating London derby at the Emirates Stadium.

But the champions showed why they are firm favourites to retain the title with a blistering response to that early setback.

Kai Havertz bagged the equaliser against his former club midway through the first half and Martin Odegaard netted Arsenal's winner soon after the interval.

It was a statement of intent from second-placed Arsenal, who have won all three league matches to sit behind leaders Manchester City on goal scored.

The Gunners' mature display underlined their desire to win the club's first back-to-back titles since the 1930s.

For Chelsea boss Xabi Alonso, the defeat ended his three-game winning run in all competitions since taking charge at Stamford Bridge in the close-season. Alonso will realise just how much work Chelsea still have to do before they are in position to end a title drought dating back to 2017.

Arteta and Alonso have known each other since their days as childhood friends in the Basque

region of Spain.

The chaotic matches of their youth on a gravel pitch in the Berio district of San Sebastian would have seemed calm in comparison to the blood and thunder their teams brought to a raucous corner of north London.

Chelsea beat Arsenal in the race to sign Rogers from Aston Villa in the close-season after the Gunners refused to match the Blues' £117 million (US\$158 million) bid for the England midfielder.

Rogers showed why Chelsea made him the most expensive British player in history as he put the Blues ahead after just 77 seconds.

Arsenal's rock-solid defence had allowed just one shot on target in their first two games. So often masters of the set-piece, Arteta's men were found wanting at a free-kick for once.

Reece James' lofted delivery wasn't cleared by Declan Rice or Odegaard, giving Rogers the chance to drive a low volley past David Raya from the edge of the penalty area.

It was the first goal conceded by Arsenal this season. Having conceded five times in their first two league games under Alonso, Chelsea's three-man central defence remains flawed and they were exposed again in the 25th minute.

Havertz was allowed to drift

from the right flank to the edge of the area unchecked by Jorrel Hato before the German smashed a low strike through the slow to react Maxence Lacroix's legs and past Emiliano Martinez at his near post.

Martinez was signed from Villa to replace the error-prone Robert Sanchez but the Argentine's weak attempted save was hardly an improvement on his hapless predecessor.

Pedro Neto was inches away from restoring Chelsea's lead just before half-time when the Portugal winger slapped his shot against the far post.

Where Chelsea were profligate, Arsenal have developed a ruthless touch in front of goal. They exploited Chelsea's weakness at the back to net with a superb-crafted move in the 50th minute.

Christos Tzolis has made an impressive start following his close-season move from Club Brugge and the Greek winger's incisive pass sliced through the Chelsea defence to Havertz.

The German's clever dummy let the ball run through to Odegaard and he kept his composure to slot home from 10 yards.

Chelsea had chances to silence the taunts, but Malo Gusto blazed over from a good position before Estevao Willian's rocket was tipped over by Raya in the final minutes. — AFP

Carrick says Man Utd 'fine' after Everton draw

LIVERPOOL: Michael Carrick said Manchester United's start to the Premier League season has not been 'that bad' despite conceding twice late on to draw 2-2 at Everton on Sunday.

The Red Devils appeared to have an inviting start against newly-promoted Hull and Ipswich before the trip to the Hill Dickinson Stadium, but have taken just four points from their opening three games.

"It's not that bad," said Carrick. "We've got that close to coming away with three points today, that's football, there are moments we can deal with a bit better, but we'll be fine."

United concentrated their limited transfer budget in reinforcing Carrick's midfield in their three new signings. But only Youri Tielemans has started the last two games with Andrey Santos dropped to the bench and Carlos Baleba out injured.

The decision not to strengthen an ageing defence could prove costly with United having conceded twice in all three games so far. Much tougher tests are also to come with Manchester City next up in the league at Old Trafford next weekend. Twice United looked on course for all three points on Merseyside.

Bryan Mbeumo opened the scoring inside the first minute of the second half and Benjamin Sesko restored the visitors' lead in the 88th minute.

However, they failed to hold out as blistering strikes by Tyrique George and Ainsley Maitland-Niles secured a point for an Everton side short on attacking options. — AFP

Augsburg sink Frankfurt to top Bundesliga table

BERLIN: Bavarian minnows Augsburg came from a goal down to a 4-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga on Sunday, while a dominant Mainz put five goals past Hamburg.

Augsburg's victory brought them to the top of the Bundesliga table after two matches, the first time the club, who were promoted to the top flight in 2011, have ever ended a round in

first position.

Bayern Munich's surprise scoreless draw at Schalke on Saturday meant their 67-matchday streak atop the Bundesliga table came to an end after more than two years.

"As people we live for moments like this," a beaming Augsburg coach Manuel Baum told reporters.

"When we see each other in a

few years, we'll tell stories about how we were the ones who topped the table with Augsburg. That's something to enjoy for a day. I even took a screenshot of the standings."

Augsburg won thanks to goals from Arijon Ibrahimovic, Robin Fellhauer, Alexis Claude Maurice and Fabian Rieder after Jonathan Burkardt had opened the scoring for the hosts. — AFP

Alonso urges Chelsea to learn from painful defeat at Arsenal



Xabi Alonso

LONDON: Xabi Alonso urged Chelsea to use their 2-1 defeat at Arsenal on Sunday as a valuable lesson in the race to catch the Premier League champions.

Blues boss Alonso had presided over free-scoring wins against Fulham and Brighton in the top-flight and Luton in the League Cup. But Arsenal, who have won their opening three games, inevitably proved a far

more formidable opponent in a pulsating London derby at the Emirates Stadium.

Morgan Rogers put Chelsea ahead after just 77 seconds but Kai Havertz equalised in the first half and Martin Odegaard bagged Arsenal's winner after the interval. The result once again exposed flaws in Alonso's defence, which has conceded seven goals in three league matches.

Chelsea's vaunted attack was also held in check by Arsenal after Rogers' opener, giving Alonso plenty of food for thought.

"I learnt about the game, about us, about what we are doing, what we are starting. This is a process. It's still early days for us. We want to start having clean-sheets. They will come," Alonso said.

"The players are committed to working hard, to knowing that

we're on the way to compete in each game. Not happy that we couldn't get anything but we need to keep calm and carry on."

Alonso was beaten for the first time in four games in all competitions since taking charge in the close-season.

The Spaniard was frustrated with the way Chelsea failed to take advantage of their early lead.

"It hurts because a defeat has to hurt. It was a very intense game. We had chances to equalise. After we scored, there were 15 or 20 minutes where we had to defend too much and we were struggling a bit to get control. Overall, it was a very tight, very intense game."

"We could do better with the second goal. You need to control the overloads on the right side," he said. — AFP





Alysha Aryana
Mohd Khairul Azli

Alysha, 12, making dream debut at Para Sukma

SHAH ALAM: What started as an effort to build her confidence in the water has blossomed into a record-breaking Para Sukma debut for 12-year-old Selangor swimmer Alysha Aryana Mohd Khairul Azli.

Competing at the Selangor Aquatic Centre here on Monday, Alysha won the women's 100-metre freestyle S14 (intellectual disability) in Alysha Aryana won the women's 100m freestyle S14 in 1 minute 4.84 seconds (1:04.84s) breaking her own national record of 1:07.34 set at the MSNM Para Circuit Series 2/2026.

Alysha was delighted to lower her own mark, saying hard work and constantly chasing personal bests were key to her progress in the pool.

"I'm happy because I broke the record too. I have to work hard and then break my PB (personal best)," she told reporters after the event here.

Interestingly, Alysha's specific preparations for Para Sukma lasted only about a week, although she has been swimming and training consistently from a young age.

Her mother, Nurul Ain Roslan, said Alysha was introduced to swimming at the age of eight after the family was shocked by the news of a child of the same age drowning, initially hoping only to help her daughter become more confident in the water.

"From there, I sent her for swimming and noticed that she became more interested and inclined towards it. This is what calms her down; it is really her comfort place," she said.

She now hopes her daughter's progress will open the door to a bigger stage, including representing Malaysia at the 2027 ASEAN Para Games. — Bernama



Bibiana reacts after she won the gold medal in the women's 61kg powerlifting during the Para Sukma Selangor 2026 at Selangor International Trade Centre. — Bernama photo

Sarawak's Bibiana proves hunger for Para Sukma gold



It was drastic. I didn't eat for two days. I only drank a little water and took medication at night. During the day, I didn't take anything. So, when I got this result, it was definitely worth it.

Bibiana Ahmad

SHAH ALAM: Two days of barely eating to make the weight proved worth the sacrifice for Sarawak para powerlifter Bibiana Ahmad, who struck gold while smashing her own national record at the Selangor 2026 Para Malaysia Games (Para Sukma) here on Monday.

Bibiana erased her own national record of 85kg with an 86kg lift in the women's lightweight under-61kg category at the Selangor International Trade and Convention Centre (SITCC) here.

The 2025 ASEAN Para Games gold medalist in the 67kg category admitted that she had to undergo a drastic weight cut after previously competing mostly in heavier categories.

"It was drastic. I didn't eat for two days. I only drank a little water and took medication at night. During the day, I didn't

take anything. So, when I got this result, it was definitely worth it," she said after her event here.

Bibiana said the decision to move down to the under-61kg category was made after discussions with her coach, taking into account the tougher competition in the heavier categories.

"This is really the first time I've had to struggle to lose weight, so I didn't expect to break the record either," said the 38-year-old.

Perak's Aphiradi Singchang took silver with a 59kg lift while Sarawak's Nurul Rabi'atul Adawiyah Bakri settled for bronze with 56kg.

Meanwhile, Kelantan para powerlifter Ahmad Shahmim Mohd Kadri completed a hat-

trick of Para Sukma gold medals after winning the men's under-72kg category.

The 24-year-old achieved the feat in three different weight categories, having won the 49kg category at the 2022 edition in Kuala Lumpur and 54kg at the 2024 edition in Sarawak before continuing his dominance this time.

He also broke the Games record three times today, starting with a 161kg lift on his first attempt to erase the 157kg mark held by his coach Ma Hussein Mat Noh, before improving it to 166kg on his second attempt and 171kg on his third.

Muhd Syalqi Shikri of Perlis took silver with 131kg while Johor's Mohd Auf Kasdan won bronze with 115kg. — Bernama



WARNING SHOT

Sarawak para swimmer Rusdianto Rusmadi savours his Para Sukma gold medal after sending an early warning ahead of next month's Para Asian Games in Nagoya, Aichi in Japan. He won the men's 400m freestyle S8 with a new national record of 5:24sec at the Para Sukma XXII Selangor on Monday. The 33-year-old shaved four seconds off his PB in a timely boost to his preparations for the continental Games. Rusdianto is also targeting a six-medal haul at the Para Sukma including relay events. Meanwhile, another Sarawak para swimmer Ng Jia Tak claimed bronze in the men's 400m freestyle S9 with a time of 6:37.

Sarawak trio blaze to two wins at MFOS in Sepang

Matthew Umpang

KUCHING: Team SCMC Sarawak celebrated two victories at the Malaysia Festival of Speed (MFOS) 2026 at the Sepang International Circuit over the weekend.

The Sarawak trio of Louis Sia, Cameron James and Stella Sigi competed in the Male Solo, Male Doubles, Female Solo and Mixed Doubles categories.

Sia successfully defended his Male Solo title to secure P1 for the second consecutive year. He then teamed up with Cameron for the Male Doubles, with the duo notching another P1 finish to give Team SCMC Sarawak its second championship. Stella finished fourth in the Female Solo category before partnering Cameron for third place in the Mixed Doubles.

Team manager Alan Kon expressed satisfaction with the results especially given the stronger field assembled for this year's competition.

"The level of competition this year was tougher with our drivers competing alongside some of the best drivers from Malaysia and international competitors. Despite the challenges, they stayed focused and gave their best throughout the competition. We are proud of their performance and commitment, and we thank all our supporters

who have continued to believe in our drivers and support their journey," he said.

Sia also described defending his title and winning the Male Doubles event with Cameron as memorable achievements.

"Facing intense competition on limited time and resources made this physical and mental battle worth every sacrifice," he said, while also crediting Stella for her performance.

Meanwhile, Cameron said competing against the nation's most accomplished drivers was challenging but the results demonstrated Sarawak's potential in motorsport.

"With a first-time partnership with Sia in the Male Doubles and Stella in the Mixed Doubles, every second behind the wheel counted under intense pressure," said Cameron.

He said that with the right platforms and opportunities to develop, local drivers were more than ready to make their mark on the national stage.

The MFOS campaign is part of Team SCMC Sarawak's ongoing efforts to develop local motorsport talent by providing drivers with greater exposure to national and international competition. The MFOS Auto-Gymkhana held on Sept 5 and 6 gathered some of Malaysia's top competitors as well as experienced international drivers.

Pickleball camp ends with follow-up activities planned

KUCHING: Organisers believe a three-day junior pickleball camp here last week is helping lay the foundation for a new generation of young players. They are now planning to expand their grassroots programme through monthly clinics and a junior tournament next year.

The second edition of the Junior Pickleball Holiday Camp was held at The Mad Pickleball courts at Boulevard Shopping Mall from Sept 2 to 4. It brought together children aged seven to 12 for a programme combining skills development, competitive play and character building.

The camp, jointly organised by Daywalker Junior and VIBRANCE Pickleball Group and endorsed by Kuching Pickleball Association also featured skill challenges, mini-tournaments and mixed doubles matches.



Officials and participants in a group photo after the event concluded last week.

Participants were put through drills focusing on speed dinking, footwork and match play while also being taught the importance of discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship. The camp culminated in the 'Future Pro' finals for the young players to demonstrate skills including serve placement, third-shot

drops and court communication.

In a press statement, Daywalker Junior Academy founder Sally Bong said the second edition had again provided children with an opportunity to stay active during the school holidays while developing their sporting and social skills. The positive response had encouraged the

organisers to expand their junior development programme.

"With pickleball growing rapidly in Malaysia, we want to continue giving children opportunities to learn the sport in a fun and positive environment," she said after each participant received a certificate for attending the camp.



Sia (right) and Cameron (left) celebrate their achievements with team official Jagjeet Singh.

Miri host UCI Pump Track qualifier over weekend

Rachel Purai Lihan

MIRI: The UCI Pump Track World Championships Qualifier has provided young cyclists in Sarawak with greater opportunities to compete at an international level.

This is according to Deputy Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Datuk Sebastian Ting who said the event exposed younger cyclists to different levels of experience and could motivate them to further improve their skills.

"This will give them some kind of motivation, especially to the younger generation. They will

learn from what they saw and the experiences they have gone through," he told reporters after the programme on Sunday.

He added that the international event demonstrated that local facilities could attract riders from overseas.

The qualifying event held from Sept 5 to 6 attracted riders from Japan, France, China, Australia, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam. It also featured categories from children Under-9, boys U11, boys U13 and Women U17 to elite women and elite men.

Lauryne Sutor from France won the elite women event while Tetsuya Furuno from Japan emerged as elite men champion to qualify for the UCI Pump Track

World Championships Final in Beijing.

Deputy minister Ting was particularly proud of Sarawak hosting the qualifying event which he believed provided an opportunity for participants to build friendships and international fellowship through sport.

"We are very proud as this is the first pump track event held in Sarawak," he said.

Hethanked the Sarawak Cycling Association and organisers for bringing the international qualifier to Sarawak. Among those present were councillor Huang Hong Siong and Sarawak Cycling Association president Irawan Sudarsono.



(From second left) Irawan, Ting and Huang (second right) pose with the elite women and elite men's prize winners.

Govt to review Bumiputera 31 pct GDP contributions

KUALA LUMPUR: The target for Bumiputera-owned companies to contribute 31 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP) by 2035 will be reviewed at the end of this year or early next year, said Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir.

He said the review would be based on a report on the current progress of the Bumiputera Economic Transformation Plan 2035 (PuTERA35), which has a 10-year implementation period.

"When PuTERA35 was developed, the targets were set for 10 years up to 2035.

"At the same time, I see a need to review the overall progress to date.

By the end of this year or early next year, we hope to have a report on the current progress," the minister told reporters after attending a dialogue session with the economy minister titled "Bumiputera Wealth Creation and Corporate Control" here yesterday.

Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar moderated the session.

Akmal Nasrullah said the report would enable the government to assess which targets could be achieved within the stipulated timeframe and identify the shifts needed to improve implementation of the agenda.

However, he said the

When PuTERA35 was developed, the targets were set for 10 years up to 2035.

Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir

assessment of PuTERA35 should not focus solely on statistics or figures, but should also take into account the effectiveness of the implementation process and the actual outcomes to be achieved.

Akmal Nasrullah said discussions at the forum also focused on equity ownership, available opportunities and efforts to enhance the potential of Bumiputera-owned companies, as well as land ownership issues.

"The country's six per cent economic growth in the second quarter of this year is a positive achievement at a time when the global economy is still facing an energy supply crisis.

"However, this achievement needs to be assessed in terms of how far the opportunities and benefits of economic growth are being enjoyed by the people, particularly Bumiputera.

With increased Bumiputera ownership, control and participation, the economy will continue to grow more strongly," he said.

Akmal Nasrullah also said the Ministry of Economy would examine mechanisms to ensure

that salary offers were more transparent and fair, particularly for graduates entering the workforce.

"Economic growth needs to translate into higher wages for the people, especially given that income disparities persist among Bumiputera despite the national median wage being around RM3,600.

"Salary transparency is also important to ensure that young people and workers receive more commensurate returns," he said.

The forum, jointly organised by the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (TERAJU), Ekuiti Nasional Bhd (EKUINAS) and UDA Holdings Bhd, brought together representatives from the government, government-linked investment companies, government-linked companies, financial institutions, capital market players, property developers and the private sector.

The forum aimed to outline strategic interventions to strengthen the transition of Bumiputera from economic participation towards ownership and control. — Bernama

Malaysia yet to decide on compulsory aviation carbon tax — Loke

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has yet to decide whether to implement a compulsory carbon tax for the aviation sector, although the country remains committed to the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, said Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook.

He said Malaysia would adopt a phased approach in implementing measures to reduce aviation emissions, with details to be announced from time to time.

"But in terms of our strategy and implementation, it differs from country to country.

As far as Malaysia is concerned, we have yet to determine whether to implement a carbon tax.

"Of course, implementation will take place in stages, and a more detailed implementation will be announced from time to time. But at this point, we have yet to make any decision."

CAAM (Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia) has not made any decision regarding compulsory carbon taxation," he told a press conference in conjunction with the 61st Directors General of Civil Aviation Conference for the Asia-Pacific Region (DGCA/61)



Anthony Loke Siew Fook

here yesterday.

Loke said reducing emissions was part of Malaysia's national obligation as well as an international obligation under ICAO, with all member states requiring to work towards the 2050 net-zero target.

Meanwhile, the conference, hosted by Malaysia for the first time, brings together civil aviation leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss issues including aviation safety, emerging technologies and sustainability.

Loke said the conference, themed "Smart Skies: Emerging Technologies for Safe, Secure, Sustainable, and Efficient Aviation", was significant as aviation demand continued to grow while new technologies developed rapidly.

"Technology is already

transforming the way aircraft are operated, airspace is managed, and aviation risks are identified.

AI (artificial intelligence), unmanned aircraft systems, and advanced air mobility will create further possibilities for connectivity, logistics, and public services," he said.

He said innovation must be supported by clear policies, credible regulations and strong public confidence to ensure that technological advancement would enhance aviation safety and efficiency rather than create new risks.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Loke said aviation remained a strategic pillar of national development for Malaysia as an open and trading nation.

"Malaysia aims to strengthen its position as a resilient and competitive regional aviation hub through modern infrastructure, more efficient airspace, strong regulatory institutions and a highly skilled workforce."

He said Malaysia had established a pathway towards net-zero carbon emissions for international aviation by 2050 through the Malaysia Aviation Decarbonisation Blueprint, aligned with ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal. — Bernama

Malaysia hosts 61st Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific Region

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is hosting the 61st Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific Region (DGCA/61) from Sept 7-11 2026, bringing together more than 500 participants from 35 countries for one of the region's most significant civil aviation gatherings.

In a statement, the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) said the conference convenes directors general of civil aviation, senior government officials, regulators, international organisations and aviation industry leaders from across the Asia and Pacific region.

With the theme, "Smart Skies: Emerging Technologies for Safe, Secure, Sustainable and Efficient Aviation", the conference reflects

the aviation community's shared commitment to harnessing innovation and emerging technologies while ensuring that the highest standards of safety, security, sustainability and operational efficiency remain at the heart of the sector's continued growth.

Over the five-day conference, CAAM said delegates will deliberate on key priorities shaping the future of civil aviation, including aviation safety and air navigation, aviation security and facilitation, environmental sustainability, economic development, capacity building and regional cooperation.

Additionally, discussions will also focus on the responsible adoption of emerging

technologies, digitalisation and innovation to strengthen regulatory capabilities, improve operational resilience and support the sustainable growth of air transport across the region.

Transport Minister Loke Siew Fook said Malaysia's hosting of DGCA/61 reflects the country's commitment to supporting stronger regional and international cooperation in civil aviation.

"DGCA/61 provides an important platform for the region to exchange perspectives, strengthen cooperation and develop practical approaches to the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies," he said. — Bernama

KUCHING: Shin Yang Group Bhd (SYGroup) is acquiring a parcel of leasehold land together with the buildings erected on it at Pending Industrial Estate here for RM34 million in a related party transaction with Forescom Plywood Sdn Bhd.

The company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia on Friday that it had on September 4 entered into a sale and purchase agreement (SPA) with Forescom Plywood as vendor.

The property is around 8,316 hectares and is held under Lot 2233, Section 66, Kuching Town Land District, at Jalan Semangat, Pending Industrial Estate.

The buildings on the land include a single storey office building, a double storey semi-concrete worker quarters, a double storey worker quarter/store, a single storey workshop building and an outbuilding.

SYGroup said the acquisition is to support the expansion of logistics development for door-to-door services in terms of constructing a warehouse and container depot as a complete logistic service provider.

It is also to "reduce rental dependency and related party transactions by acquiring instead of leasing from Forescom Plywood Sdn Bhd," it said.

It added that the property was strategically located within the industrial hub of Kuching and Kuching Port, which would enhance its operational capacity and logistical efficiency.

"The acquisition aligns with SYGroup's long-term expansion strategy and is expected to contribute positively to its operational performance and asset base," it said.

The acquisition is fully funded through partly bank financing

and partly internally generated funds and is not expected to have a significant effect on the net assets per share and earnings of the group for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2026.

The land is held under a 60-year lease expiring on March 30, 2037 and is categorised as mixed zone land/town land with no encumbrances, meaning there is no bank charge, caveat or other third-party interest registered against the title.

Its market value was assessed at RM34 million based on a valuation report dated Aug 14 by CH Williams Talhar Wong & Yeo Sdn Bhd.

Forescom Plywood, which is principally involved in the manufacturing and sale of plywood and veneer, is held by Shin Yang Holding Sdn Bhd (SYHSB), the direct major shareholder of SYGroup.

Smart logistics modernises Malaysia-Singapore cross-border freight — FedEx

SINGAPORE: Express logistics operators are integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and remote monitoring technology across their ground networks to boost cross-border freight efficiency ahead of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) integration.

FedEx Malaysia managing director Woon Tien Long said that as trade volumes expand across the southern corridor, industry players are moving beyond traditional manual processes to digital platforms that support customers around the clock and secure cargo in transit.

He said digital innovation, particularly AI-driven customer operations, is essential to managing the increasing complexity of cross-border trade movements.

"For us, AI is about the ability to do multiple things at one time and the possibilities that it creates for our customers. Yes, productivity improves, and costs come down, but that is not the whole story," Woon told Bernama during the FedEx Johor-Singapore Cross-Border Media Tour at the FedEx South Pacific Regional Hub in Singapore.

"Historically, when you chat with us, there used to be a human



Woon Tien Long

behind it.

"But it is not practical to have someone staying up at two in the morning just to reply to a customer. When you build in technology to support your customers 24/7, the customer is

able to self-serve and have that conversation," he added.

Woon said physical security and ground infrastructure are undergoing a parallel digital upgrade to safeguard freight moving along the vital FedEx Asia Road Network, a 3,800-kilometre cross-border road corridor with over 100 weekly schedules connecting Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

He said the network's existing monitoring capability gives FedEx a head start as cross-border volumes grow under the JS-SEZ.

"We have the know-how, the technology and the

infrastructure already set up.

"We have the ability to remotely monitor, and in the worst-case scenario of a highway hijack, we have the ability to remotely lock down that vehicle to protect the personnel, the driver, as well as the contents inside the truck.

You cannot replace the experience that we have under FedEx when it comes to cross-border trucking.

We have a view from the ground in each location and a macro view because we operate across multiple points," he added.

He said facilities along this corridor are already built

for high-volume automated sorting, anchored by the FedEx South Pacific Regional Hub in Singapore, a 26,265-square-metre facility capable of sorting up to 12,000 packages per hour and the 2,676-square-metre FedEx Senai facility in Johor, which sorts up to 1,600 packages per hour using automated conveyor systems.

He said that to absorb seasonal demand surges during end-of-year peak periods, FedEx can dynamically scale up its cross-border routes into Singapore by up to 10 per cent through flexible fleet deployment, ensuring uninterrupted trade connectivity across the corridor. — Bernama

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Pictured at the signing ceremony are Crewstone International chief executive officer, Keng Fai Wong, Mirai Bridge Capital co-founder, Tommy Ng and Thirty Three Digitec Solutions director, Ng Kae Shen marking the formalisation of a strategic co-investment partnership between the three parties.

Crewstone, MBC enter strategic co-investment through Digitec

Nur Atiqah Quratulaini
reporters@theborneopost.com

KUCHING: Crewstone International Sdn Bhd has entered into a strategic co-investment with Mirai Bridge Capital Sdn Bhd through Thirty Three Digitec Solutions Sdn Bhd (Digitec), a non-bank financing platform.

The partnership is led by Crewstone through an initial RM5 million commitment and aims to scale a structured non-bank financing ecosystem supported by capital access, governance, origination data and repayment monitoring.

Digitec currently supports about 83,000 borrowers and processes around 8,000 applications a month, with its services reaching gig economy workers, micro-entrepreneurs and thin-file borrowers.

Following the partnership, Digitec expects to expand its footprint by about 40per cent over the next 12 to 18 months. Its digital acquisition has recorded year-on-year growth of 40per cent.

Crewstone chief executive officer Keng Fai Wong said the partnership would combine the firms' respective capabilities.

"By combining Crewstone's capital and growth capabilities with MBC's platform familiarity and operating proximity, we are building from a stronger base,"

Keng said.

MBC co-founder Tommy Ng said the partnership brought strategic value to Digitec.

"Crewstone's strength in capital formation, structuring, and growth strategy makes them a strong partner for this next phase," Ng said.

Digitec director Ng Kae Shen said the initial commitment would strengthen the platform's ability to scale its loan book and expand access to structured financing.

"This initial commitment strengthens our ability to scale the loan book, deepen our underwriting capability, and expand access to structured financing across segments that continue to be underserved," Ng Kae Shen said.

Steel Hawk recovery remains uncertain amid weak order visibility

KUCHING: Steel Hawk Berhad's (Steel Hawk) earnings recovery remains dependent on project execution, while limited orderbook visibility and uncertainty in the oil and gas (O&G) sector continue to weigh on its outlook, according to TA Securities Holdings Bhd (TA Securities).

The research house said management expected the company to at least break even in the third quarter of financial year 2026 (3QFY26), with profitability expected to resume in 4QFY26, supported by its RM63.4 million current orderbook scheduled for execution over the next three to four months.

However, the research house remained cautious on the pace of recovery following a sharp decline in Steel Hawk's gross profit margin to 10.4 per cent in 1HFY26 from 41.2 per cent in 1HFY25.

"Earnings recovery remains execution-dependent," the research house said. The research house stated lower work-order utilisation, higher raw material

costs and the absorption of sales and service tax (SST) as factors affecting margins.

It said the company's RM63.4 million current orderbook provided some revenue visibility into 2HFY26, but remained modest compared with its RM575.8 million tender book.

Non-O&G projects accounted for 76.1 per cent of the current orderbook and 77.9 per cent of the tender book, covering power and utilities, infrastructure, data centres and healthcare.

The research house said management expected only 10 to 20 per cent of the tender book to be converted into awards, leaving earnings visibility beyond 2HFY26 uncertain.

On the O&G segment, the research house said work-order activity remained subdued, with competition intensifying among contractors for a limited pool of projects.

"O&G work-order recovery remains uncertain," it said.

The research house noting that several CMW tenders had been delayed to late September

or early October.

It also said the ongoing transition of Petronas Carigali contracts to Searah Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture between PETRONAS and Eni, had disrupted three of Steel Hawk's O&G contracts.

It maintained its earnings forecasts and kept its Sell recommendation on Steel Hawk, with an unchanged target price of RM0.10 per share, based on 6.0 times CY27 earnings per share.

The research house's estimates show revenue rising from RM122.3 million in FY2025 to RM153.2 million in FY2026, before declining to RM145.9 million in FY2027.

Core net profit is projected at RM9.7 million in FY2026 and RM8.7 million in FY2027.

Steel Hawk's expanded EPCC orderbook comprises two projects with a combined estimated contract value of RM96 million, including a RM61 million TNB underground cable project and a RM35 million 275kV bulk supply project for a data centre in the southern region.



Steel Hawk's RM63.4 million current orderbook provided some revenue visibility into 2HFY26, but remained modest compared with its RM575.8 million tender book.



From left Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad (KIBB) head of research, Peter Kong Nien Sian, KIBB executive director, head of group equity business, Chan Tuck Kiong, KIBB group managing director Datuk Chay Wai Leong and KIBB head, equity markets and group head equity derivatives, Philip Lim Kuok Wei.

Kenanga Investment Bank secures four accolades at Global Banking and Finance Awards 2026

KUCHING: Kenanga Investment Bank Berhad has been recognised with four awards at the Global Banking and Finance Awards 2026.

The awards are Best Investment Bank 2026, Best Securities House Malaysia 2026, Best Warrants Issuer Malaysia 2026 and Best Research House Malaysia 2026.

Kenanga said it retained the Best Investment Bank and Best Warrants Issuer Malaysia titles for the third consecutive year, while also receiving the Best Research House Malaysia award for the second year running.

"The awards underscore the Group's strengths across investment banking, brokerage, structured products and research," the group said.

It said the recognition reflected its continued commitment to corporate finance and advisory solutions, trading and brokerage services, structured warrants and research insights to support informed investment decisions.

Kenanga said the accolades reinforced its position in Malaysia's capital markets as it continued to strengthen its capabilities and expand its range of financial solutions.

Selangor's SDEC rebranded AiSEM@Selangor, sharpens focus on AI, semiconductors

KUALA LUMPUR: Selangor's flagship technology convention, formerly known as the Selangor Smart City & Digital Economy Convention (SDEC), has been rebranded as AiSEM@Selangor, the AI & Semiconductor Summit, reflecting the state's stronger focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductors.

Its organiser Selangor Information Technology & Digital Economy Corporation (Sidec) said the summit's 11th edition will be held from Oct 14-17, 2026, at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) and Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, as part of the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) 2026.

The Advanced Semiconductor Academy of Malaysia (ASEM) will be the co-organiser of the summit, Sidec said in a statement.

"As the digital economy matured, AI and semiconductors became the bigger opportunity.

AiSEM@Selangor carries that forward, spotlighting homegrown Malaysian chips powering robotics, autonomous systems, and the low-altitude and low-orbit economies," it said.

Sidec said the summit will feature more than 60 speakers, with ShunSin Technology Holdings Ltd chairman and Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd (Foxconn) board member Chiang Shang Yi headlining the lineup.

They will be joined by FuriousAI founder and chief executive officer (CEO) June Paik, Synopsys Taiwan global vice-president and chairman Robert Li, Amazon Web Services head of cloud solutions for semiconductor and high-tech Umar Shah, and TCab Tech chief executive officer Yon Wui Ng, it said.

It added that the summit will also feature more than 150 technology exhibitors, including

global chipmakers Intel and Sandisk, homegrown players such as Oppstar, SkyeChip and Maistorage Technology, as well as national agencies including MIDA, MRANTI and several Selangor local councils.

"For job seekers, the draw is the Malaysia Semiconductor Recruitment Day, where more than 50 industry employers - including Sandisk, Sophic MSC and Tektronix - will meet directly with engineering and technical talent, from students to experienced professionals," it said.

The summit will open with the Triple Accelerator Programme Grand Final Demo Day at the Plenary Theatre, KLCC, on Oct 14, featuring 24 finalists comprising the top eight companies from each of Selangor's Deep-X, Retail-X and Token-X tracks.

Sidec said the programme has run 11 cohorts since its

inception and drawn nearly 1,900 applications, and backed 380 companies that have collectively raised RM212 million in funding.

Sidec chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping said the summit would contribute to Malaysia's efforts to build a globally competitive AI and semiconductor ecosystem by bringing together talent, technology and investment.

"Selangor sees itself as one part of a national semiconductor story, and AiSEM - designed by Malaysia, for Malaysia - is our contribution to writing it, by putting talent, technology and investment in the same room, in the same week," he said.

Admission to the exhibition and Malaysia Semiconductor Recruitment Day is free, while conference passes are priced at RM399 for a two-day all-access pass or RM299 for a one-day pass.

— Bernama



Sidec chief executive officer Yong Kai Ping said the summit would contribute to Malaysia's efforts to build a globally competitive AI and semiconductor ecosystem by bringing together talent, technology and investment. — Bernama photo

Shenzhen forum advances Asia-Pacific media cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asia-Pacific Media Forum in Shenzhen has brought together more than 400 representatives from over 220 media organisations, think tanks, government bodies, diplomatic missions, United Nations (UN) agencies and international organisations from 42 countries and regions.

Themed "Building a Path to Shared Prosperity for the Asia-Pacific Community: Media Consensus and Action", the forum focused on strengthening regional media cooperation ahead of the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, which China is scheduled to host later this year.

The event resulted in several new cooperation mechanisms, including the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Media Partnership Organizing Committee and the signing and exchange of media cooperation documents.

It also saw the launch of the "Gather in Shenzhen, Create a Better Asia-Pacific" Media Cooperation Initiative, which focuses on technology sharing, joint content production and



The opening of Asia-Pacific Media Forum in Shenzhen, Guangdong province on Sept 5.

professional training, as well as the release of the Shenzhen Consensus, according to a statement.

Under the technology pillar, Shenzhen plans to establish the Asia-Pacific Digital & Smart Media Intelligence Shenzhen Center to promote exchanges in digital media technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and the OpenHarmony ecosystem.

For content collaboration, the forum launched the "Witness Miracles, Seek Solutions" programme, which invites media organisations from across the region to jointly develop and broadcast reporting projects using Shenzhen as one area of focus.

The initiative also includes a Training Base for Asia-Pacific Youth Media Professionals, which is expected to host media

professionals, particularly those under 45, for study visits, exchanges and training programmes.

The Shenzhen Consensus calls for greater regional cooperation in areas including digital transformation, AI, green development, media exchange and multilateral trade, while encouraging greater dialogue and mutual understanding across the Asia-Pacific. — Bernama

AM Best sees steady prospects for China's non-life insurance

KUALA LUMPUR: Global credit rating agency, AM Best has maintained its stable outlook on China's non-life insurance segment, citing improved regulatory oversight, new growth opportunities and ongoing digitalisation and innovation.

The Best's Market Segment Report, "Market Segment Outlook: China Non-Life Insurance", said that enhanced regulatory oversight, particularly for non-motor lines such as property and liability, is expected to support pricing discipline, strengthen distribution practices and promote prudent market conduct.

New growth opportunities are also emerging from initiatives under the nation's latest five-year plan, which focuses on technology finance, green finance, inclusive finance, pension finance and digital finance, as well as the expanding Chinese Interest Abroad business, despite moderating gross domestic product (GDP) growth and slower premium growth in traditional non-life business.

"For Chinese Interest Aboard business, while expansion may enhance China non-life insurers' geographical diversification over time, it is important to note that insurers could also be exposed to unfamiliar risks that require advanced underwriting skills and robust risk management systems to protect against large financial losses," said AM Best associate director, analytics, Lucie Huang



The report said investment returns have driven the China non-life segment's bottom line, while underwriting margins remain thin amid intense competition.

in a statement.

Meanwhile, its director, analytics, James Chan said the industry's priorities are increasingly shifting towards sustainable profitability and operational efficiency, supported by accelerated digitalisation and innovation.

"Beyond traditional reinsurance support, they are also adopting proactive risk reduction measures to better

manage exposures, while enhancing the client experience and improving post-disaster response," he said.

The report said investment returns have driven the China non-life segment's bottom line, while underwriting margins remain thin amid intense competition.

Although underwriting profits are largely concentrated among large insurers that benefit from

economies of scale, some smaller local insurers have achieved favourable underwriting margins by focusing on niche market segments.

At the same time, concerns over China's economic momentum have emerged amid lower GDP growth forecasts, prompting insurers to shift their focus from top-line growth to bottom-line protection and operational efficiency. — Bernama

AI adoption prompts APAC firms to rethink cybersecurity investment

KUCHING: Artificial intelligence (AI) adoption is prompting organisations across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region to reassess their information security investments, according to Kaspersky's latest research.

The research found that 41 per cent of enterprises globally said AI adoption had prompted them to increase investments in information security.

Across APAC, organisations are at different stages of AI adoption, with varying levels of concern over AI vulnerabilities, deepfakes and employees' use of third-party AI tools.

The survey, conducted by Kaspersky's internal research centre, found that 13 per cent of enterprises across APAC identified AI vulnerabilities among their top cybersecurity threats.

Software vulnerability exploits remained the leading concern at 20 per cent, followed by phishing at 19 per cent.

India recorded the highest proportion of organisations identifying AI vulnerabilities at 20 per cent, followed by Malaysia at 15 per cent, Thailand and Vietnam at 13 per cent each, Indonesia at 10 per cent and China at seven per cent.

Employee use of third-party AI tools such as ChatGPT and DeepSeek for work-related tasks was also identified as a security concern.

Known as "Shadow AI", the behaviour was identified as a common risk factor by 30 per cent of respondents across APAC.

India recorded the highest proportion of organisations reporting employees' use of external AI tools at 36 per cent, followed by Malaysia at 35 per cent, Vietnam at 33 per cent, China at 31 per cent, Indonesia at 24 per cent and Thailand at 18 per cent.

The research also found that 60 per cent of organisations across APAC allow the use

of third-party AI tools under certain restrictions, including prohibiting employees from uploading company names or internal documents, while providing guidelines and training on their safe use.

The approach was similarly reported in China at 62 per cent, and India, Malaysia and Vietnam at 61 per cent each.

Meanwhile, AI integration among APAC organisations continues to advance, with 85 per cent of companies actively discussing, developing or piloting internal AI tools powered by Large Language Models (LLMs).

Another 10 per cent have already integrated the technologies into their workflows.

For organisations that have adopted their own internal AI solutions, the main drivers include improved decision-making, increased process efficiency and reduced human error.

90 pct of Gen Zs in APAC experienced at least one cyber incident in past year

KUCHING: Some 90 per cent of Generation Z respondents in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region experienced at least one cyber incident in the past year, despite their confidence in navigating the digital environment, according to research by Kaspersky.

The research, conducted by Kaspersky's internal market research centre among 7,200 respondents from 18 countries, found that 67 per cent of Gen Z respondents in APAC were confident navigating the digital environment, while only 26 per cent considered their understanding of digital threats and protective measures to be advanced.

Gen Zs in APAC also spend a greater share of their time online than any other generation, with 56 per cent saying they spend more time online than offline.

Smartphones were the main device for regular internet use among 75 per cent of Gen Z respondents in APAC.

In Malaysia, 54 per cent of

Gen Z respondents said they were confident navigating the digital environment, the lowest proportion among the APAC markets surveyed.

Only 28 per cent of Malaysian Gen Z respondents said they had an advanced understanding of digital threats and protective measures, while 21 per cent reported using antivirus software on their smartphones.

The research also found that Gen Z respondents were less likely than other generations in APAC to adopt certain protective measures.

Only 26 per cent of Gen Z respondents said they used antivirus software on their smartphones, compared with 31 per cent of Millennials, 28 per cent of Gen X and 43 per cent of Boomers.

Similarly, 35 per cent of Gen Z respondents said they changed their passwords regularly, compared with 48 per cent of Millennials, 50 per cent of Gen X and 53 per cent of Boomers.

Meanwhile, 90 per cent of Gen

Z respondents in APAC reported experiencing at least one cyber incident in the past year, comparable with Millennials at 90 per cent.

Incidents reported by Gen Z respondents included social media account hacks, personal data leaks, scams and investment fraud, as well as loss of access to gaming accounts.

The study also found that smartphones contain information considered valuable by Gen Z users.

Globally, 38 per cent of Gen Z respondents considered photos and personal documents critically important, while 30 per cent said passwords and login credentials were critical.

Only about one-third of Gen Z respondents in the region regularly backed up important data from their smartphones.

Kaspersky vice-president for consumer product management Irina Ermilova said confidence in using digital services should not be confused with security expertise.



162,275 new mobile banking Trojan installation packages were detected in Q1 2026.

Mobile banking Trojans surge in Q1 2026, says Kaspersky



KUCHING: Kaspersky detected 162,275 new mobile banking Trojan installation packages in the first quarter of 2026, more than twice the number recorded throughout 2024.

The figure also represented roughly two-thirds of the total recorded for 2025 in a single quarter, according to Kaspersky.

Banking Trojans accounted for 52.96 per cent of all malicious mobile applications detected in the first quarter of 2026, compared with about 31 per cent for the whole of 2025.

Kaspersky's head of consumer channel for APAC Choon Hong Chee said cybercriminals were using various methods to distribute malicious mobile applications.

"Cybercriminals are increasingly leveraging sophisticated techniques to distribute malicious mobile applications through unofficial app stores, phishing links, fake giveaways, modified legitimate applications, malicious advertising campaigns, and mobile scam schemes designed to trick users into revealing sensitive information," he said.

Attackers were also increasingly abusing legitimate online services and trusted tools to evade detection, with attacks often unfolding in multiple stages that begin with seemingly harmless files, links or applications before progressing to malicious activity.

The findings, based on anonymised data from the Kaspersky Security Network, showed that attackers were intensifying efforts to exploit the growing dependence on mobile devices for shopping, entertainment, communications and work.

Kaspersky also blocked more than 2.67 million attacks involving malware, adware and unwanted mobile software during the quarter.

It detected more than 306,000 malicious installation packages, comprising 306,070 samples, while 439 packages were associated with mobile ransomware Trojans.

Preinstalled backdoors embedded in device firmware during manufacturing, including Triada and Keenadu, were also among the most frequently encountered mobile threats.

"These numbers demonstrate that smartphones are no longer secondary targets for cybercriminals — they are now one of the primary battlegrounds," Kaspersky said.

The findings build on the trend observed throughout 2025, when Kaspersky solutions blocked more than 14 million mobile attacks globally, averaging about 1.17 million attacks a month.

Separately, Kaspersky's consumer research into messaging-app fraud, The Great Messaging Heist, found that a single successful scam message costs the average victim US\$733.

More than half of successful scams, or 52 per cent, were completed in less than 30 minutes from first contact to the point where money or personal data changed hands.

The research also found that 66 per cent of victims believed artificial intelligence was used against them, most commonly through AI-written messages at 42 per cent, followed by generated or cloned voices at 31 per cent and deepfake images or videos at 25 per cent.

Kaspersky recommends users install applications only from trusted marketplaces, avoid suspicious links and promotional offers, regularly update operating systems and applications, verify requests for personal information received through messaging platforms and use dedicated mobile security solutions to detect malicious activity in real time.

Highlights

Bursa Malaysia rises on buying interest in banking, telco stocks

BURSA Malaysia traded higher yesterday, supported by renewed buying interest in selected banking and telecommunications heavyweights, an analyst said.

At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) rose 6.69 points, or 0.39 per cent, to 1,714.79, compared with Friday's close of 1,708.10.

The benchmark index opened 1.60 points higher at 1,709.70 and fluctuated between 1,708.26 and 1,715.29 throughout the trading session.

The broader market, however, was negative with losers outpacing gainers 611 to 488, while 580 counters were unchanged, 1,109 untraded and 25 suspended.

Turnover declined to 3.60 billion units valued at RM2.45 billion from 4.33 billion units valued at RM2.98 billion on Friday.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said major regional indices ended mixed after a weaker lead from Wall Street last Friday, although technology stocks remained resilient as renewed artificial intelligence optimism spurred demand for chipmakers.

Meanwhile, he said sentiment in China received some boost after Beijing announced a 360 billion yuan capital injection into state-owned banks and insurers, including 300 billion yuan to be funded through special Treasury bonds.

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA)

Average Retail Prices Of Selected Commodities In Kuching (7 September 2026)

COMMODITIES	
VEGETABLES	Prices (RM/Kg)
Round Cabbage	6.00
Spinach	7.00
Chinese Mustard	9.00
Chinese Kale	8.23
Bean Sprout	3.00
Cucumber	4.95
Brinjal	8.45
Local Tomato	6.00
Highland Tomato	9.00
Long Bean	7.75
French Bean	14.45
Lady's Finger	7.95
Loofah	6.00
Pumpkin	6.00
Bitter Gourd	10.00
Lembding (Midin)	10.00
Old Ginger	8.23
Young Ginger	8.90
Red Chilli (Kulai)	18.00
Red Chilli (Local/Oil)	17.75
Shallot	6.00
Onion (Bombay)	4.50
Onion (Holland)	4.50
Garlic	7.50
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	11.50
Super Chicken	11.70
Fresh Meat Local	65.00
Imported Meat	40.00
EGGS* RM/BIJI	
Chicken Egg - Grade A*	0.57
- Grade B*	0.54
- Grade C*	0.50
- Salted Egg*	1.20
FRUITS* (RM/KG)/(* RM/BIJI)	
Papaya	5.45
Exotica Papaya	5.25
Watermelon	5.00
Guaava	6.83
Starfruits 10	4.88
Orange (Local)	4.68
Mas Bananas	4.95
Emban Bananas	2.50
Rastali Bananas	4.38
Honey Dew	6.85
Sarawak Pineapple	3.50

* Prices collected at Medan Niaga Satak

Local institutions extend buying streak with RM120.3 mln inflow

KUALA LUMPUR: Local institutions extended their net buying streak on Bursa Malaysia to six consecutive weeks, recording net inflows of RM120.3 million last week, according to MBSB Investment Bank Bhd (MBSB IB).

In its weekly Fund Flow Report for the week ended Sept 4, 2026, the investment bank said average daily trading volume saw a broad-based decrease, with retailers down 10.8 per cent, local institutions by 9.4 per cent, and foreign institutions by 30.5 per cent.

"Meanwhile, retailers extended their net buying



Lee Mong Khai

Butterfield FB's ACE Market IPO oversubscribed 18.67 times

KUCHING: Butterfield FBBhd's initial public offering (IPO) has been oversubscribed by 18.67 times under the public portion ahead of its listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia on Sept 15.

According to the coffee and tea extract powder blends manufacturer in a bourse filing on Friday, a total of 12,670 applications for 786.67 million new shares with a value of RM377.60 million were received from the Malaysian public for the 40 million new shares made available.

For the Bumiputera portion, a total of 7,773 applications for 439.61 million new shares were received, representing an oversubscription rate of 20.98 times.

For the public portion, a total of 4,897 applications for 347.06 million new shares were received, which represents an oversubscription rate of 16.35 times.

The 16 million new shares available for application by eligible persons have been fully subscribed.

The 100 million shares, comprising 94 million issue shares and six million offer shares, made available by way of private placement to Bumiputera investors approved by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), have been

on Tuesday with RM488.4 million, followed by Thursday (RM74.6 million), Wednesday (RM56.8 million) and Friday (RM20.5 million)," it said.

MBSB IB said the top three sectors to record net inflows from foreign institutions were plantation with RM138.2 million, followed by transportation and logistics (RM81.4 million), and energy (RM40.3 million).

Meanwhile, it said the top three sectors to record net foreign outflows were financial services, recording outflows of RM462.9 million, followed by technology (RM118.8 million)

Bukit Minyak premises, install our fourth manufacturing line, and continue to innovate and expand our product range to meet the evolving lifestyle and needs of our customers," he said.

Lee added that the group has introduced a dedicated manufacturing for matcha powder blends with a production capacity of 312 tonnes annually, in line with growing market trends and the rising popularity of matcha.

He said the matcha powder blends manufacturing has commenced operations in February and the initiative reflects its commitment to diversifying our product portfolio and capturing growth opportunities in convenience-driven beverage markets.

"Moving forward, we will continue to enhance our product offerings, ensuring that we meet our customers' evolving requirements and provide high-quality, consistent and convenient beverage solutions," he said.

Upon listing, the group will have a market capitalisation of around RM384 million based on an enlarged share capital of 800 million shares at RM0.48 per share.

M&A Securities Sdn Bhd is the Principal Adviser, Sponsor, Underwriter and Placement Agent for the IPO exercise.

Money Market

SHORT-TERM rates remained stable yesterday after Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) conducted operations in the financial system.

Liquidity in the conventional system slid to RM37.70 billion from RM40.87 billion earlier, while liquidity in the Islamic system decreased to RM22.57 billion from RM23.64 billion yesterday morning.

Earlier, BNM conducted reverse repo tenders as well as an Islamic reverse repo (sell-and-buyback agreements) tender.

At 4 pm, BNM called for a RM37.70 billion conventional money market tender and a RM22.60 billion murabahah money market tender, both for one-day funds.

The Malaysia Islamic Overnight Rate (MYOR-i) was at 2.75 per cent as of Sept 4, 2026.

Rubber

THE rubber market ended higher yesterday, with Standard Malaysian Rubber 20 (SMR 20) reaching a new high this year, amid supply concerns in Thailand due to persistent heavy rainfall.

The dealer said expectations of stronger demand and El Niño-related production risks supported sentiment, while tighter US monetary policy limited gains.

"El Niño risks provided additional support, as the weather phenomenon is expected to peak between September and November, increasing the risk of further production cuts," she told Bernama.

At 3 pm, the price of SMR 20 increased 27 sen to 985.5 sen per kilogramme (kg), while latex in bulk added 10 sen to 700.5 sen per kg.

August foreign inflows into Malaysian govt bonds hit RM11.1 bln

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign inflows into Malaysian government bonds totalled RM11.1 billion in August, according to Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd (Kenanga IB).

"Foreign investors turned net buyers of Malaysian government bonds, with RM11.1 billion of inflows in August and RM5.6 billion of that in the final week," it said in its Bond Market Weekly Outlook yesterday.

Kenanga IB said Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) and Government Investment

Issues (GII) yields rose across the curve by between 1.3 basis points (bps) and 11.1 bps.

The 10-year MGS yield rose 11.1 bps to 3.985 per cent, while the 10-year GII yield increased 10.1 bps to 3.953 per cent, with the sell-off concentrated in the seven- to 10-year segment, it said.

"External rates led the move. Cautious remarks from US Federal Reserve chair Kevin Warsh at the Jackson Hole symposium tempered expectations for near-term Fed rate cuts, while escalating United States-Iran tensions

Exchange Rates

EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: SEPT 7

	SELLING	BUYING	BUYING
	TT/OD	TT	OD
1 US Dollar	4.1200	3.9700	3.9600
1 Australian Dollar	2.9770	2.8550	2.8390
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2460	3.1410	3.1330
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9690	2.8830	2.8710
1 Euro	4.7790	4.6200	4.6000
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4250	2.3340	2.3180
1 Papua N Guinea Kina	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2460	3.1410	3.1330
1 Sterling Pound	5.5620	5.3800	5.3600
1 Swiss Franc	5.1090	4.8870	4.8720
100 UAE Dirham	113.160	107.190	106.990
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.4120	3.1680	2.9680
100 Chinese Renminbi	61.6300	58.9600	N/A
100 Danish Krone	65.5500	60.2500	60.0500
100 Hongkong Dollar	52.9600	50.2600	50.0600
100 Indian Rupee	4.4400	4.1200	3.9200
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0244	0.0215	0.0165
100 Japanese Yen	2.6580	2.5330	2.5230
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	45.3400	41.6600	41.4600
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5400	1.3700	1.1700
100 Philippine Peso	6.6600	6.2500	6.0500
100 Qatar Riyal	113.890	108.120	107.920
100 Saudi Riyal	110.560	104.960	104.760
100 South Africa Rand	26.7000	24.1000	23.9000
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3200	1.1500	0.9500
100 Swedish Krona	44.2700	40.2700	40.0700
100 Thai Baht	13.0500	11.5600	11.1600

Scoreboard

	UP	DOWN	+/-	TRADED
CONSUMER PRIC & SERV	49	52	68	169
IND-PROD & SERVICES	73	60	68	201
CONSTRUCTION	13	15	23	51
TECHNOLOGY	27	21	12	60
FINANCIAL SERVICES	12	10	10	32
PROPERTY	26	23	38	87
PLANTATION	13	13	11	37
REIT	10	2	7	19
CLOSED END FUND	1	0	0	1
ENERGY	12	16	11	39
HEALTH CARE	9	5	8	22
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA	6	7	3	16
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	4	8	12	24
UTILITIES	3	2	8	13
BUSINESS TRUST	0	0	1	1
STRCWARR	151	298	180	629
ACE-MKT	77	70	119	266
BONDS/LOAN	1	1	1	3
ETF	0	7	2	9
LEAP-MKT	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	488	610	582	1,680

MRB Prices

SMR CLOSING PRICES (SEN/KG): SEPT 7

OCTOBER

	SEN PER KG/CENTS PER KG
SMR LV	1,187.50 / 299.50
SMR L	1,177.50 / 296.95
SMR 5	1,005.50 / 253.60
SMR GP	1,000.50 / 252.35
SMR 10	990.50 / 249.80
SMR 20	985.50 / 248.55
CENTRIFUGED LATEX: LOCAL PRICE (ISO 2004) IN SEN/KG (60% DRC)	
LATEX IN BULK	700.50
TONE OF MARKET	FIRM



TOP 20 GAINERS

STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
PETGAS	407,200	1,770.0	1,722.0	1,770.0	+44.0
MPI	155,900	4,042.0	3,938.0	3,982.0	+42.0
KLK	509,900	2,266.0	2,208.0	2,250.0	+24.0
TENAGA	6,263,400	1,392.0	1,364.0	1,384.0	+22.0
NIKKEH-C10	10,800	81.5	75.5	81.5	+20.0
UTDPLT	773,100	3,266.0	3,194.0	3,220.0	+14.0
UMSINT	48,000	825.0	810.0	824.0	+14.0
SLVEST	5,388,600	338.0	315.0	330.0	+13.0
PEKAT	3,274,800	203.0	185.0	201.0	+12.0
CEPCO	3,000	400.0	390.0	400.0	+10.0
TM	2,845,100	796.0	776.0	790.0	+10.0
UMCCA	5,400	605.0	600.0	605.0	+10.0
AMBEST	3,155,800	143.0	132.0	143.0	+9.0
NIKKEH-C18	31,900	70.0	66.0	68.5	+8.5
MI	951,300	582.0	566.0	578.0	+8.0
UWC	1,607,400	644.0	632.0	640.0	+8.0
SERNKOU	277,400	85.0	77.5	85.0	+7.5
SWKPLNT	291,500	485.0	472.0	484.0	+7.0
FAREAST	6,500	399.0	399.0	399.0	+7.0
SAM	759,800	434.0	421.0	434.0	+7.0

TOP 20 LOSERS

STOCK	CHANGE	LACP	BUY	SELL	L/DONE
NESTLE	24,100	9,538.0	9,390.0	9,390.0	-94.0
CARLSBG	739,600	1,310.0	1,260.0	1,276.0	-26.0
HLIND	76,500	1,778.0	1,736.0	1,740.0	-22.0
ALLIANZ	4,500	2,158.0	2,138.0	2,138.0	-20.0
HLFG	71,500	1,908.0	1,882.0	1,882.0	-18.0
PETDAG	190,600	2,030.0	1,996.0	1,998.0	-18.0
NIKKEH-CZ	12,000	9.5	9.5	9.5	-16.5
HEIM	579,000	1,498.0	1,460.0	1,468.0	-16.0
F&N	22,800	2,492.0	2,460.0	2,460.0	-16.0
KGB	2,483,900	873.0	851.0	855.0	-14.0
HSI-CWSV	66,000	1.5	1.5	1.5	-13.5
SUNCON	1,175,800	797.0	783.0	783.0	-12.0
VITROX	1,897,300	928.0	899.0	904.0	-12.0
FRONTKN-C5620.500	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	-11.5
HSI-CWS4	20,000	65.0	62.5	62.5	-11.0
HENGYUAN8.427.600	298.0	278.0	282.0		-11.0
MCEMENT	1,201,600	618.0	599.0	603.0	-11.0
HSI-CWSQ	3,562,000	43.5	35.5	35.5	-10.5
HENGYUAN-WA1.817.200	198.0	183.0	183.0		-10.0
NIKKEH-H15	94,200	73.0	70.0	72.0	-10.0

Closing Indices

KLSE	FBMEMAS	12,660.49	(+35.04)
	FBMKLCI	1,714.79	(+6.69)
	CONSUMER PRODUCTS	482.11	(-1.20)
	INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	186.96	(-0.00)
	CONSTRUCTION	309.12	(-1.74)
	FINANCIAL SERVICES	20,188.74	(+27.25)
	ENERGY	809.21	(+3.59)
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	400.87	(-2.55)
	HEALTH CARE	1,497.75	(+10.37)
	TRANSPORTATION	1,022.86	(-6.99)
	PROPERTY	1,082.35	(+1.39)
	PLANTATION	9,388.68	(+50.76)
	FBMSEA	12,410.53	(+49.83)
	FBMACE	5,258.31	(+40.84)
	TECHNOLOGY	72.62	(+0.17)

* S'PORE SII 5,794.94 -7.02

* TOKYO NIKKEI 66,399.84 +1,378.90

TOPIX 4,125.80 +22.57

* HK HANG SENG 25,413.12 -237.75

* AUST ALL ORDS 9,200.60 +4.60

Commodities

PEPPER

Date: 7.9.2026

* Average Pepper price (RM/tonne)

SOUTHERN REGION

KUCHING SERIAN SRI AMAN BETONG

25,230 25,730 25,130 26,250

36,290 36,380 35,750 37,810

NORTHERN REGION

SARIKEI BINTANGOR SIBU KAPIT BINTULU MRR

BLACK G1 24,960 25,500 24,130 24,130 21,750 21,880

WHITE G1 36,180 36,500 34,450 34,450 31,500 31,250

Source: Malaysian Pepper Board

http://www.mpb.gov.my

COCOA

Dealer's buying prices of dry cocoa beans (RM/MT)

Centres in Sabah & Sarawak

SMC 1 SMC 2

High Low Avg High Low Avg

KUCHING 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,300 14,300 14,300

SARIKEI 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,300 14,300 14,300

SIBU 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,300 14,300 14,300

TAWAU 15,000 15,000 15,000 14,800 14,800 14,800

TENOM 15,000 15,000 15,000 14,800 14,800 14,800

* Not Graded

Source : Malaysian Cocoa Board

Ten Most Active

COUNTER (MID)	VOL (SEN)	HI (SEN)	LO (SEN)	L/DONE	+/- (SEN)
ZETRIX	579,584,000	27.5	24.0	27.0	+1.5
HHRG	184,814,000	21.5	16.0	20.5	+6.0
INGENIEU	119,667,800	4.0	3.0	3.5	+1.0
KEYASIC	60,054,100	8.5	7.0	7.0	+0.5
ZETRIX-CBK	50,700,100	0.5	0.5	0.5	unch
CAPITALA	37,542,300	31.0	28.5	29.0	-2.0
NIHSIN	36,990,200	29.5	28.5	29.5	+1.5
HSI-CWSO	35,396,800	22.0	16.0	16.0	-5.0
JAKS	34,238,500	13.0	11.0	12.5	+1.5
ZETRIX-CBQ	33,100,300	0.5	0.5	0.5	unch

Interbank Rates

KUALA LUMPUR INTERBANK OFFER RATES: SEPT 7

	HIBOR(HK\$)
1M 3.01	1M 2.85476
2M 3.35	2M 2.96708
3M 3.47	3M 3.06470
6M 3.50	6M 3.24292
12M 3.79	12M 3.59196

Gold

THE PHYSICAL PRICE OF GOLD AS AT 5 PM STOOD AT RM563.40 PER GRAMME, UP RM5.01 FROM RM558.39 AT 5 PM PREVIOUSLY.

CITY PLUMBING SERVICE
H/P: 019-833 9969
TEL: 019-8865321, 575301
Specialised in toilet problem, blocked, pipes leakages, floor leakages, roof leakages sanitary works, tiling works, water pump, renovation etc.

SYARIKAT SESCO BERHAD
(Company No. 672931-A)
9th Floor, Menara Sarawak Energy,
No 1, The Isthmus,
93050 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Plaintiff

AND

ESEL ANAK GORI
(NRIC No. 640328-13-5693)
Kpg Bobak Singgal,
94000 Bau, Sarawak ... Defendant

ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO ORDER

To: **ESEL ANAK GORI**
(NRIC No. 640328-13-5693)
Kpg Bobak Singgal,
94000 Bau, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that SYARIKAT SESCO BERHAD (Company No. 672931-A) of 9th Floor, Menara Sarawak Energy, No 1, The Isthmus, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak, the abovenamed Plaintiff has begun an action against you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) as the Defendant in the Magistrates' Court at Kuching vide Suit No. KCH-A72-14-2/2026 by way of Writ and Statement of Claim dated 20.02.2026 claiming for the following:

a) The sum of **RM18,327.37** as at 07.11.2025;
b) Surcharge at the rate of 1% per month on the outstanding bills of **RM14,319.84** from 08.11.2025 to the date of full and final settlement of the Judgment Sum;
c) Costs; and
d) Such further or other relief as the Court may deem fit and just.

AND it has been ordered by the Learned Magistrate on 02.09.2026 that the service of the Writ and Statement of Claim both dated 20.02.2026 in this action be effected by way of substituted service by an advertisement in one (1) issue of the "The Borneo Post" newspaper and that such advertisement when published shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Writ and Statement of Claim on you on the day of such publication.

TAKE NOTICE that if you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) desire to defend the said action, you are required within fourteen (14) days after the date of such publication of this Advertisement Pursuant to Order, to cause an appearance to be entered by you or your Solicitors in the said Court to the said action, and in default of your so doing the abovenamed Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2026

Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners
Advocates for the Plaintiff.

This Advertisement Pursuant to Order is filed by **Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners**, advocates for the Plaintiff whose address for service is at 1st Floor, Lot 304, Section 9, Lorong Rubber No.7, Jalan Rubber, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
(Tel: 082-234300 Fax: 082-425300)
(File Ref: YSM/SEB/GEN/2412/72220 (TO1-63))

082-257610
016-8636368

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL
FAST APPROVAL
GET CASH IN 10 MINUTES
FLEXIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS
NO GUARANTOR REQUIRED
LOWEST INTEREST IN TOWN

PERSONAL LOAN
BUSINESS LOAN
PROPERTY LOAN
MORTGAGE LOAN
SME LOAN
CHECK CASHING
LONG TERM & SHORT TERM
BANKRUPTCY & BLACKLISTED CAN APPLY

12% - 18% P.A.

HUPLINE
MONEY LENDER SDN BHD (957307-P)
LOT 3143, BLOCK 9, 1ST FLOOR, JALAN LAKSAMANA CHENG HO, 93350 KUCHING
NO. LESEN: RBK/PPW/131/2025/0008
NO. PERMIT: RBK/PPW/131/2025/0008
SAH DARI: 06/12/2025 HINGGA 05/12/2027
SAH DARI: 06/12/2025 HINGGA 05/12/2027

MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SARAWAK AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
SUIT NO. KCH-A72-14-2/2026
BETWEEN
SYARIKAT SESCO BERHAD
(Company No. 672931-A)
9th Floor, Menara Sarawak Energy,
No 1, The Isthmus,
93050 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Plaintiff

AND

ESEL ANAK GORI
(NRIC No. 640328-13-5693)
Kpg Bobak Singgal,
94000 Bau, Sarawak ... Defendant

ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO ORDER

To: **ESEL ANAK GORI**
(NRIC No. 640328-13-5693)
Kpg Bobak Singgal,
94000 Bau, Sarawak

TAKE NOTICE that SYARIKAT SESCO BERHAD (Company No. 672931-A) of 9th Floor, Menara Sarawak Energy, No 1, The Isthmus, 93050 Kuching, Sarawak, the abovenamed Plaintiff has begun an action against you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) as the Defendant in the Magistrates' Court at Kuching vide Suit No. KCH-A72-14-2/2026 by way of Writ and Statement of Claim dated 20.02.2026 claiming for the following:

a) The sum of **RM18,327.37** as at 07.11.2025;
b) Surcharge at the rate of 1% per month on the outstanding bills of **RM14,319.84** from 08.11.2025 to the date of full and final settlement of the Judgment Sum;
c) Costs; and
d) Such further or other relief as the Court may deem fit and just.

AND it has been ordered by the Learned Magistrate on 02.09.2026 that the service of the Writ and Statement of Claim both dated 20.02.2026 in this action be effected by way of substituted service by an advertisement in one (1) issue of the "The Borneo Post" newspaper and that such advertisement when published shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Writ and Statement of Claim on you on the day of such publication.

TAKE NOTICE that if you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) desire to defend the said action, you are required within fourteen (14) days after the date of such publication of this Advertisement Pursuant to Order, to cause an appearance to be entered by you or your Solicitors in the said Court to the said action, and in default of your so doing the abovenamed Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2026

Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners
Advocates for the Plaintiff.

This Advertisement Pursuant to Order is filed by **Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners**, advocates for the Plaintiff whose address for service is at 1st Floor, Lot 304, Section 9, Lorong Rubber No.7, Jalan Rubber, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
(Tel: 082-234300 Fax: 082-425300)
(File Ref: YSM/SEB/GEN/2412/72220 (TO1-63))

RE: FELIX JOHNNY
(NRIC No. 951005-13-6665)
No 25 Rejang 20
Jln Sibn Tmn Tunku
98000 Miri, Sarawak. ... DEBTOR

Ex-Parte: **TOYOTA CAPITAL MALAYSIA SDN. BHD.**
(Company No. 11547-M)
Suite G07, Ground Floor,
Crown Towers, 88, Jalan Pending,
93450 Kuching, Sarawak. ... CREDITOR

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

In the matter of a Bankruptcy Notice dated the 4th day of August, 2026:

To: **FELIX JOHNNY**
(NRIC No. 951005-13-6665)
No 25 Rejang 20
Jln Sibn Tmn Tunku
98000 Miri, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice has been issued against you in the High Court at Miri, Sarawak on the 4th day of August, 2026 by TOYOTA CAPITAL MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. (Company No. 11547-M) Suite G07, Ground Floor, Crown Towers, 88, Jalan Pending, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, and that the Court has ordered that the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service be served on you by the publication of this notice in one (1) issue of "The Borneo Post" newspaper and by causing a copy of the said Bankruptcy Notice to be placed on the Notice Board of High Court at Miri, Sarawak and that the advertisement in the newspaper shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service upon you and that service of the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service upon you shall be deemed to have been effected on the day of the publication of the said advertisement in the said newspaper.

The Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application to the Court.

Dated the 4th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court, Miri

This Notice of Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice is filed by Messrs. William Kong & Co. Advocates, for the abovenamed Creditor whose address for service is at Lot 142, 1st Floor, Jalan Petanah, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that a Bankruptcy Notice has been issued against you in the High Court at Miri, Sarawak on the 4th day of August, 2026 by TOYOTA CAPITAL MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. (Company No. 11547-M) Suite G07, Ground Floor, Crown Towers, 88, Jalan Pending, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak, and that the Court has ordered that the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service be served on you by the publication of this notice in one (1) issue of "The Borneo Post" newspaper and by causing a copy of the said Bankruptcy Notice to be placed on the Notice Board of High Court at Miri, Sarawak and that the advertisement in the newspaper shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service upon you and that service of the said Bankruptcy Notice and Order of substituted service upon you shall be deemed to have been effected on the day of the publication of the said advertisement in the said newspaper.

The Bankruptcy Notice can be inspected by you on application to the Court.

Dated the 4th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

Senior Assistant Registrar
High Court, Miri

This Notice of Substituted Service of Bankruptcy Notice is filed by Messrs. William Kong & Co. Advocates, for the abovenamed Creditor whose address for service is at Lot 142, 1st Floor, Jalan Petanah, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

TAKE NOTICE that if you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) desire to defend the said action, you are required within fourteen (14) days after the date of such publication of this Advertisement Pursuant to Order, to cause an appearance to be entered by you or your Solicitors in the said Court to the said action, and in default of your so doing the abovenamed Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2026

Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners
Advocates for the Plaintiff.

This Advertisement Pursuant to Order is filed by **Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners**, advocates for the Plaintiff whose address for service is at 1st Floor, Lot 304, Section 9, Lorong Rubber No.7, Jalan Rubber, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
(Tel: 082-234300 Fax: 082-425300)
(File Ref: YSM/SEB/GEN/2412/72220 (TO1-63))

TAKE NOTICE that if you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) desire to defend the said action, you are required within fourteen (14) days after the date of such publication of this Advertisement Pursuant to Order, to cause an appearance to be entered by you or your Solicitors in the said Court to the said action, and in default of your so doing the abovenamed Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2026

Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners
Advocates for the Plaintiff.

This Advertisement Pursuant to Order is filed by **Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners**, advocates for the Plaintiff whose address for service is at 1st Floor, Lot 304, Section 9, Lorong Rubber No.7, Jalan Rubber, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
(Tel: 082-234300 Fax: 082-425300)
(File Ref: YSM/SEB/GEN/2412/72220 (TO1-63))

TAKE NOTICE that if you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) desire to defend the said action, you are required within fourteen (14) days after the date of such publication of this Advertisement Pursuant to Order, to cause an appearance to be entered by you or your Solicitors in the said Court to the said action, and in default of your so doing the abovenamed Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2026

Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners
Advocates for the Plaintiff.

This Advertisement Pursuant to Order is filed by **Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners**, advocates for the Plaintiff whose address for service is at 1st Floor, Lot 304, Section 9, Lorong Rubber No.7, Jalan Rubber, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
(Tel: 082-234300 Fax: 082-425300)
(File Ref: YSM/SEB/GEN/2412/72220 (TO1-63))

TAKE NOTICE that if you, **ESEL ANAK GORI** (NRIC No. 640328-13-5693) desire to defend the said action, you are required within fourteen (14) days after the date of such publication of this Advertisement Pursuant to Order, to cause an appearance to be entered by you or your Solicitors in the said Court to the said action, and in default of your so doing the abovenamed Plaintiff may proceed therein and judgment may be given in your absence.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2026

Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners
Advocates for the Plaintiff.

This Advertisement Pursuant to Order is filed by **Messrs. Loke, King, Goh & Partners**, advocates for the Plaintiff whose address for service is at 1st Floor, Lot 304, Section 9, Lorong Rubber No.7, Jalan Rubber, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak.
(Tel: 082-234300 Fax: 082-425300)
(File Ref: YSM/SEB/GEN/2412/72220 (TO1-63))

PBLT SDN. BHD.
200501022368 (704498-D)
(Sebuah Syarikat Milik Menteri Kewangan Diperbadankan)

NOTIS TENDER

CADANGAN MEMBINA DAN MENYIAPKAN IBU PEJABAT POLIS DAERAH (IPD) NABAWAN DAN PERUMAHAN DI ATAS SEBAHAGIAN LOT PT20-23151328 DI MUKIM NABAWAN, SABAH FASA 2: KERJA BANGUNAN SERTA KERJA-KERJA BERKAITAN

Untuk butiran lanjut berkenaan Notis Tender di atas sila layari laman sesawang PBLT Sdn. Bhd. di www.pblt.com.my

产业公开拍卖 PROCLAMATION OF SALE 10% deposit (Ten percent of the reserve price)

In exercise of the rights and powers conferred upon **HONG LEONG BANK BERHAD** [193401000023 (97141-X)] / **HONG LEONG ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD** [200501009144 (686191-W)] ("the Assignee") by the Assignor(s), it is hereby proclaimed that the Assignee with the assistance of the undermentioned Auctioneer will sell the property(ies) described below subject to the terms contained in the respective Proclamation of Sale and Conditions of Sale (collectively referred to as "POS") by PUBLIC AUCTION VIA ONLINE BIDDING ONLY AT THE AUCTIONEER'S WEBSITE: <https://praisemillion.com.my> ON **TUESDAY, the 15TH OF SEPTEMBER 2026 at 10.00 a.m.** (Please register by 4pm at least one (1) working day before auction).

NOTE: Prospective bidders are advised to: (1) inspect the subject property(ies) and check on the issuance of separate Individual Title(s)/Strata Title(s); (2) obtain a copy of the POS and seek independent legal advice; (3) conduct official Parent Title(s)/Individual Title(s) search at the relevant Land and Survey Office and/or other relevant authorities; (4) make the necessary enquiries with the Developer(s) and/or other relevant authorities as to whether the sale is open to all races or to Malaysian Citizens who are Bumiputras only or to Sarawakians only and with the relevant authorities on the terms and consent to the sale prior to the auction sale; and (5) A person who has not reached the age of 18 (minor) or a bankrupt shall not be permitted to participate in the auction proceedings.

LOT 1 KOTA SAMARAHAN Reserve Price RM55,000.00
Double story semi-detached (362.80 sqm)
Assignee: Hong Leong Bank Berhad
Chan Ah Choy & Magdaline Anak Jamil
Solicitors: Kadir Wong Lin & Co. Advocates (Kuch)

LOT 2 KUCHING Reserve Price RM252,000.00
3-bedroom apartment (85.5 sqm)
Assignee: Hong Leong Bank Berhad
Nayoo Ibrahim & Co. Advocates
Solicitors: Ibrahim & Co. Advocates

Lot 11070, Lorong Unit-Central 8P, Central City, Off Jalan Kuching-Samarahan Expressway, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

Lot 1444, Jln. Semangat, Pending Industrial Estate, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak

H/P: 018-2349069 / 016-2107727
Website: <https://praisemillion.com.my>
E-mail: auction@praisemillion.com.my
Licensed Auctioneers: Lo Lion Hook / Chia Fui Thean / Tiong Mei Chek

Organised by the below Auctioneer: **PRIZE MILLION SDN. BHD.** (Company No. 200301015467 (616487-K))
Lot 1444, Jln. Semangat, Pending Industrial Estate, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak
H/P: 018-2349069 / 016-2107727
Website: <https://praisemillion.com.my>
E-mail: auction@praisemillion.com.my
Licensed Auctioneers: Lo Lion Hook / Chia Fui Thean / Tiong Mei Chek

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NOTICE OF SALE
MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SARAWAK AT KUCHING
APPLICATION FOR EXECUTION OF JUDGMENT NO. KCH-28NCC-54-8/2026 (HC 3)
SUIT NO. KCH-A72-14-2/2026 (HC 3)
BETWEEN
PARK AVENUE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (ID Number: MG 01-85)
Lorong Kerani 6, Tabuan Desa, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Plaintiff/Execution Creditor

AND

JANG GYEONGWOO
(Korea/Republic of Korea Passport No. M19046488 and Republic of Korea Personal ID No. 1587914)
Unit 3-14, Level 3, Block D, Park Avenue,
Lorong Kerani 6, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Defendant/Execution Debtor

In pursuance of the Court Order dated the 23rd day of June, 2026 the undersigned Estate Agent will sell by

PUBLIC TENDERS

That the tenders will be closed and opened on the Wednesday, the 30th day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the Court Bailiff/Sheriff at the Auction Room, High Court (Judicial Department), Kuching, the property specified in the Schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

Parcel 14 Storey 3 Building 4 (Parcel No. 3 - 14 within Second Floor of Building No. Block D) Type Apartment Type E1 of Building known as Park Avenue of Parent Lot 7722 Block 11 Muara Tabuan Land District)

Area: 174 square metres, more or less
Annual Rent: Nil
Category / Classification: Town Land, Mixed Zone Land
Date of Entry: Expiring on 31/12/2099
Special Conditions Affecting Whole Building:

(i) This land is to be used only for residential purposes or for such other purposes as may be approved by the Director of Lands and Surveys in conformity with the plan of development approved under condition (ii) hereof;
(ii) The development and use of this land shall be in accordance with a plan of development approved by the Director of Lands and Surveys and shall be completed within a period of five (5) years from 6.10.1992;
(iii) No subdivision of this land may be effected except in accordance with the plan of development approved under condition (i) hereof and on subdivision, the Director of Lands and Surveys shall impose appropriate conditions on the subdivisional leases in accordance with the said plan of development; and
(iv) No sublease affecting this land may be effected without the consent in writing of the Director of Lands and Surveys during the initial period of five (5) years from 6.10.1992.

Registered Encumbrance(s): Nil
Registered Annotation(s): Nil

(i) Prohibitory Order issued by High Court (Execution No. KCH-36-12-11/2025 (HC 1)) for a period of six (6) months from 13/02/2026 vide L.3092/2026 of 13.02.2026.
(ii) Caveat lodged by the COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KUCHING SOUTH vide L.13450/2021 of 23.08.2021.

Outstanding Fees due to the Government:
Rent (RM): 0.00 Premium (RM): 0.00
Total (RM): 0.00 Due Date: Nil

Remarks: Nil

The above property will be sold subject to the reserve price of **RM650,000.00** (sold free from all encumbrances and sold subject to all the conditions and restrictions attached to the title and on an "as is where is" basis and without vacant possession) fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale by Tender set forth in the Proclamation.

For further particulars, please apply to Messrs Tang & Partners Advocates, Lots 165-166 (1st Floor), Jalan Song Thian Cheok, 93100 Kuching, Telephone No: 082-4159345/6/9 or Messrs Henry Butcher Real Estate (Sarawak) Sdn. Bhd. (Co. No. 199501019510 (348713-K), L4 14 & 15, DUBS Commercial/Office Centre, Lot 576, Section 54, KTLD, Jalan Petanah, 93100 Kuching, Telephone No: 082-423300, Fax: 082-231036.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

Estate Agent From (E695)
Messrs Henry Butcher Real Estate (Sarawak) Sdn. Bhd.
(199501019510 (348713-K), E1/0501110)

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MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NCC-54-8/2026 (HC 3)
BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ... PETITIONER
BERMUDA NIAGA SDN. BHD. ... RESPONDENT
(formerly known as BERMUDA MARINE SUPPLY CO. SDN. BHD.)
(Company No. 198201000225 / 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, 2025 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 Kofa, Revenue Counsel of Inland Revenue MIRI, for and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

[NURULNITA BINTI KOFA]
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 of the 19th day of October, 2026.

OBITUARY

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."
(John 11: 25-26)

Mr Matthias Chong
aged 79, was called to eternal rest with the Lord on
Monday, 7th September 2026 at 8:48 am.
He left behind the following loved ones to mourn his demise.

Wife: Jenny Lau Siok Kiaw

Son: Alvin Sheldon Chong Soon Hock
Daughter-in-law: Jenny Siaw Chaw Joo

Daughter: Donna Adeline Chong Sue Lin

Granddaughter: Vannesa Chong Xin Ying

Funeral Wake:
St Joseph's Funeral Chapel, Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, Kuching

Funeral Mass:
St Joseph Cathedral Kuching, Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, Kuching, Sarawak on Wednesday, 9th September 2026 at 9:30 am

Cremation:
Treasure Hall Crematorium, Nirvana Memorial Park, Jalan Kuching-Bau, Siniawan

Final Resting Place:
St. Peter's Church Columbarium, Jalan Padungan, Kuching

Telephone contact:
013 820 0229 (Alvin), 012 239 5429 (Donna)

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SHENYANG: Recent excavations at a prehistoric site dating back roughly 5,000 to 5,800 years in northeast China's Liaoning Province have shed fresh light on the origins of Chinese civilisation.

Archaeologists have uncovered monumental ritual structures and a wealth of relics, offering new insights into this ancient culture.

The Niuheliang site, discovered in 1981 in the city of Chaoyang, represents a milestone in the study of China's Hongshan culture.

Centered on the temple of the goddess and surrounded by altars and stone tombs, it stands as a large-scale prehistoric burial and religious worship site independent of the residence.

Excavations have been carried out in the archaeological site, with nine large platforms and their auxiliary structures identified, revealing the outline of a massive ancient complex covering about 100,000 square meters.

Jia Xiaobing, head of the field excavation project and a scholar at the Institute of Archaeology with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), said that his team uncovered seven neatly arranged burnt soil pits on one of the platforms, noting that their configuration mirrors the shape of the Big Dipper.

"It is believed that the Hongshan people translated their understanding of the cosmos and celestial phenomena into this model," Jia said.

At another site is a triple concentric circular altar with a maximum diameter of about 22 meters.

Researchers believe the three tiers correspond respectively to the key solar nodes of the year: the winter solstice, the spring and autumn equinoxes, and the summer solstice.

Jia noted that both the altar and the pits reflect the ancient people's practice of observing the sky and tracking time, as well as their reverence for heaven and earth, offering valuable clues for understanding later ritual systems.

Chinese archaeologists have stepped up the excavation and research of the Hongshan culture after multiple Hongshan culture sites were discovered in the west of Liaoning Province, the north of Hebei Province and the east of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.



A man visits the Niuheliang site museum within the Niuheliang national archaeological relic site park in Chaoyang City, northeast China's Liaoning Province. — Xinhua photo



Guests attend the opening ceremony of the 2026 Conference on Hongshan Culture in Chaoyang City, northeast China's Liaoning Province.

A large number of jade objects intricately carved in the shapes of dragons, phoenixes and human figures. "The Hongshan culture has evolved from 'valuing jade for its beauty' to 'using jade to connect

It is believed that the Hongshan people translated their understanding of the cosmos and celestial phenomena into this model.

Jia Xiaobing

American scholar Elizabeth Childs-Johnson, who has spent decades studying the Hongshan culture, said people back then had developed "a very sophisticated method of ritual architecture," adding that Hongshan is one of several early Neolithic cultures in ancient China that set the precedent for traditional Chinese belief in spirit metamorphosis.

Diplomats and representatives from more than 20 countries and international organizations were invited to the Conference on Hongshan Culture.

"Although the Hongshan heritage and the ancient Egyptian heritage flourished in different regions, both became a source of inspiration, cooperation and friendship," said Khaled Nazmy, ambassador of Egypt to China.

"The Egyptian and Chinese civilisations are among the oldest civilisations in the world, both contributing profoundly to the advancement of humanity," he said.

"The advancement of our bilateral cultural cooperation is reflected in the close collaboration between our museums and cultural institutions, joint efforts in the protection and restoration of historical monuments, joint archaeological excavation missions and the preparations of the nomination files to be inscribed on the world heritage list."

Eirini Anastopoulou, First Secretary for Public Diplomacy at the Embassy of Greece in China who visited the Niuheliang site before the conference, also believes that China and Greece, both with ancient civilisations, share notable similarities.

On how to promote the Hongshan culture, she suggested that more exhibitions be held globally.

"A lot of Greek exhibitions of archaeological interest are in China," she said, noting that last year alone, five exhibitions from Greece were held in China. — Xinhua

How World Heritage bid breathes new life into a Chinese village

NANCHANG: On a sultry afternoon, an elderly man sat on the doorstep of his home in Dongbu Village, a riverside settlement about 40 kilometers from Jingdezhen, idly fanning himself in the shade when a visiting official stopped to ask him a question.

"Do you know what big thing your village is doing these days?"

Without a word, he turned the fan in his hand. Printed across its face was a single line: "Supporting the World Heritage bid."

"That's it," he said. "We're applying for World Heritage status."

Everyone laughed. For Han Xiaoshan, deputy director of the World Heritage application office in Fuliang County, where the village sits, the moment was proof that years of knocking on doors had finally sunk in.

"It showed our work hadn't been for nothing," she said. "People here know now that this is everyone's business, not just ours."

It had taken years to get there - years of persuading villagers to look again at the street, houses and riverfront they had grown up with, and to see not just a familiar home, but a piece of porcelain history worth preserving.

On July 25, the Jingdezhen Handicraft Porcelain Industry Sites were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming China's 61st World Heritage site. Dongbu was among the newly listed heritage components.

For centuries, kaolin, or China clay, and other porcelain-making materials were brought down from the surrounding hills to Dongbu and shipped along the Donghe River to Jingdezhen's kilns.

Goods purchased in the porcelain-making city traveled back along the same route.

With an ancient trade route also running through the village,



A view of a porcelain stone mining and processing site in Yaoli Town of Fuliang County, Jingdezhen, east China's Jiangxi Province. — Xinhua photo

Dongbu became a busy hub for trade and transshipment by land and water.

Its old wharf, commercial street and waterways still trace the transport network that once helped supply Jingdezhen's porcelain industry.

For generations of villagers, however, those remains were simply part of everyday life.

Wu Jinghua, a former village official who has lived in Dongbu for more than 70 years, remembers efforts to protect the old street and wharf beginning around 2000. Systematic restoration gathered pace from 2015 as the World Heritage application moved forward.

Dongbu was traditionally an agricultural village. Tourism developed gradually, but few visitors came at first.

As heritage protection intensified, it began to affect residents more directly.

Concrete covering the old stone street had to be removed, old houses faced restrictions on rebuilding and renovation, and makeshift structures and accumulated clutter had to be cleared.

For some villagers, the changes initially meant inconvenience rather than opportunity.

"At first, many villagers did not understand," Wu said. "Old houses were too dilapidated to be worth preserving."

For Han, who joined the application effort in 2022, changing that perception became part of the work.

She and her colleagues went door to door, explaining Dongbu's history and why the old streets

and wharf outside villagers' homes mattered beyond the village itself.

Gradually, resistance eased. As the village became cleaner and its historic buildings were repaired, Han said, residents developed a stronger sense of belonging and pride.

The restoration itself followed a principle of "minimum intervention."

Traditional materials and techniques were used to repair old buildings, the wharf and the stone-paved street, with colors and textures kept as close as possible to the originals.

When workers moved utility lines underground, they marked each stone slab before lifting it. Once the work was complete, workers returned the slabs one by one to their original



An opencast mining site of kaolin clay in Gaoling village, Jingdezhen, east China's Jiangxi Province. — Xinhua file photo

positions. Modern shop windows were replaced with wooden latticework to better match the historic streetscape.

At the same time, the village upgraded water and drainage systems and improved other basic infrastructure.

The changes also created new opportunities for residents.

More than 80 villagers found work during the restoration projects. Others opened homestays, restaurants and teahouses or began selling local produce to visitors.

Under a large banyan tree by the Donghe River, one elderly resident now sells mung bean soup and rice jelly, often going through two buckets a day.

Dongbu has also begun hosting study tours and cultural tourism programs centered on its role in Jingdezhen's porcelain history.

The village now receives at least 190,000 visitors a year, according to Wu. More visitors

mean more customers for local food, accommodation and produce, giving villagers additional ways to earn a living beyond farming.

But another change is harder to measure.

The old houses that some villagers once saw mainly as dilapidated structures have increasingly become a source of pride. A history long taken for granted has become more closely tied to how residents see their home.

"This village isn't just our own place anymore," Wu said. "It now has international influence."

For Dongbu, World Heritage status has changed not only how its old street and wharf are protected, but also how residents understand their value.

"We all have the same hope now: to protect our ancient street and wharf well, so that our culture can be passed down for generations," said Wu. — Xinhua



US actress Zendaya and British actor Tom Holland pose during a photocall for 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' movie in a hotel in Madrid. — AFP file photo

Still on top: ‘Spider-Man’ dominates North American box office

LOS ANGELES: “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” has claimed the top spot in North American box office sales for the sixth straight week, an industry group said Sunday.

The superhero film with by Tom Holland and real-life wife Zendaya brought in another US\$18 million over the long Labor Day weekend in the United States, down 20 percent on last weekend’s take.

The latest Marvel blockbuster, which had the biggest debut weekend of all time at the domestic box office, has now brought in US\$918 million in the United States and Canada since its July 31 release – and an additional US\$1.48 billion internationally, according to industry monitor Exhibitor Relations.

Christopher Nolan’s epic “The Odyssey,” distributed by Universal, moved up a notch to second place as it took in another US\$13 million in its eighth week

in theaters, for a domestic total of US\$584.7 million.

Third place went to the much-delayed, mixed animation-and-live action Looney Tunes flick “Coyote vs. Acme,” with revenue of US\$11.3 million as it slipped from second place in its second week.

Warner Bros. shelved this work in late 2023 after filming wrapped up and sat on it for a US\$30 million tax write off, until a company called Ketchup Entertainment swooped in, acquired the rights and finally released the movie to enthusiastic reviews and a strong start.

Making its debut, “By Any Means” from Paramount grabbed fourth place with US\$7.4 million in sales. Mark Wahlberg and Yahya Abdul-Mateen II star in this civil rights-era crime thriller set in the deep south of the United States in the 1960s.

“This is a good opening for an original crime thriller,” said

David A. Gross, a film industry watcher with the FranchiseRe movie newsletter.

“Critics’ reviews are lukewarm but the audience score is very good,” he added.

Fifth place went to Sony Pictures’ “Insidious: Out of the Further,” which scared up US\$6.5 million in the third week of viewing for this sixth installment in the horror franchise.

Starring Amelia Eve, Brandon Perea and Maisie Richardson-Sellers, it follows the story of a young woman who can bring spirits into the mortal world but is herself haunted.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

- “CARS: 20th Anniversary” (US\$6.1 million)
- “Buddy” (US\$5.7 million)
- “Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie” (US\$3.3 million)
- “The End of Oak Street” (US\$2.9 million)
- “The Dog Stars” (US\$2.7 million) — AFP



UKRAINIAN FASHION WEEK
Models and Ukrainian women veteran walk on the runway during the Sidletskiy fashion show in collaboration with the U+System Military Prosthetics Center during Ukrainian Fashion Week in Kyiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. — AFP photo

Abigail Breslin joins Yasmin Kassim, Booboo Stewart in ‘Pipe Cleaner Boy’

ABIGAIL Breslin, Yasmin Kassim and Booboo Stewart will star in ‘Pipe Cleaner Boy.’

The trio have signed up for writer and director Anna Rose Moore’s new road trip comedy, which will star Little Miss Sunshine actress Abigail as Rachel, with You star Kassim as her best friend Leeze.

According to Deadline the movie follows Rachel “whose carefully ordered life implodes after she catches her fiancé cheating and loses her job. Convinced it’s

karmic payback, she sets off on a cross-country road trip with her free-spirited best friend, Leeze, to track down a boy from her past and make amends”.

Filming for Pipe Cleaner Boy will begin in October in Oklahoma City.

Pipe Cleaner Boy will be Anna Rose Moore’s feature directorial debut, after she recently wrote comedy feature, Adulting, for BuzzFeed Studios, starring Leighton Meester, Tyler Posey and Sherry Cola.

Producer Brynn Lucas said: “There is a specific sweet spot for a film like Pipe Cleaner Boy. A cast that is trusted and loved by audiences, a female-led team pushing the envelope for fresh voices in both directing and producing, and a script that deeply resonates with Gen Z. Anna Rose’s script is funny, irreverent, and captures what it feels like to be a young woman suddenly unsure if she’s been climbing the right ladder.”

Lucas will produce alongside

Director impressed by Damian Lewis’s photographic memory on set

DAMIAN Lewis impressed ‘Pressure’ director Anthony Maras with his “photographic memory” on set.

The 55-year-old actor stars in the new World War II drama as British commander Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery opposite Andrew Scott as Royal Air Force meteorologist James Stagg and Brendan Fraser as US General Dwight D. Eisenhower in the story of how weather reports affected the planning of the D-Day landings - and Maras has revealed he was taken aback by Lewis’ skill after the screen star managed to memorise a long and complicated speech just minutes before they were due to film the scene.

Speaking at the Pressure premiere in London, Maras told PEOPLE: “Damian Lewis has to do a scene where he has to speak for two minutes in front of a video or a film projector, showing what all the preparations have been done for D-Day up until that point. We didn’t cut this until the last minute.

“He didn’t have time to prepare, so initially, I was going to do it on a computer in such a way as to



Damian Lewis

time it to how he spoke. He said, ‘Forget all that, let me see the video’.

“He said, ‘Let me have a look at it.’ He looks, [says], ‘Show me it one more time.’ He goes, ‘Alright, I’m ready.’ I’m like, ‘Come on, mate.’ He goes, ‘I’m ready.’

Maras explained Lewis managed to recite the speech perfectly even though he had only heard the words twice.

He added: “I don’t know what kind of photographic, weird memory he has, but he synced his speech to the frame, to the second of what was playing behind him that he’d only seen twice.

“He’s got some kind of special talent for that, or eyes in the

back of his head maybe, I don’t know.”

Scott previously opened up about taking on the role of the wartime weatherman, telling the BBC he was happy to bring a real life “unsung hero” to the big screen.

He said: “Group Captain James Stagg may not have been the most charming person, but I think he had a huge amount of humility in the face of nature. And that’s one of the themes I think of the film.

“He appeared to me to be an extraordinarily interesting cinematic character, as well as an unsung hero from history.

“It was a wonderful part to play ... [He] wasn’t a particularly garrulous character ... So many of the heroes in our own lives don’t have that big swashbuckling moment.

“And you know, a hero comes in all different shapes and sizes. I tried not to be afraid of the fact that perhaps, at the beginning, the audience might be like, ‘Who is this guy?’ And hopefully by the end we understand his motivations and his inner workings.” — Bang Showbiz

Lilly Wachowski not likely to work on latest ‘The Matrix’

LILLY Wachowski is “kinda done” with ‘The Matrix’ franchise.

The filmmaker and her sister Lana Wachowski are best known for helming ‘The Matrix’ movie series, but Lilly looks unlikely to be working on the fifth film, which is currently in the works.

Speaking on KCRW’s weekly radio show The Business, she said: “Warner Bros., they want to make another thing.

“They’re always going to make another thing.

“Personally, I don’t wanna play in that sandbox anymore. I’m kinda done.”

However, Lilly admitted she and Lana may be tempted to “stick our noses in a tiny bit and see how we feel” due to a “complicated situation” with The Matrix 5 director Drew Goddard.

She added: “But there may be a thing that’s happening with Drew Goddard, and he doesn’t wanna go forward unless he gets our blessing.

“And so, it becomes this complicated situation where, maybe we’re gonna stick our noses in a tiny bit and see how we feel, and if we wanna pass on our blessing to Drew or not.

“So, it could be something that’s coming down the road, but it’s still unknown.”

The Wachowskis co-wrote and co-directed Keanu Reeves-led 1999 movie The Matrix as well as 2003 follow-ups The Matrix Reloaded and The Matrix Revolutions.

But Lana directed 2021’s The Matrix Resurrections on her own, and she co-wrote the motion picture alongside David Mitchell and Aleksandar Hemon.

It’s not yet confirmed if Reeves will return for The Matrix 5, and Laurence Fishburne is unsure whether he will be back for the movie.

Speaking at The Matrix reunion at New York Comic Con last October, Laurence said: “It depends on how good it is, really.

“If it’s great, then yeah, it makes sense. I don’t know if it makes sense.”

Fishburne recalled how he had contacted director Lana Wachowski about featuring in The Matrix Resurrections but didn’t hear anything back. — Bang Showbiz

Glen Powell to produce remake of ‘Confession of Murder’

GLEN Powell will produce a remake to the 2012 Korean film ‘Confession of Murder.’

The ‘Chad Powers’ actor and creator will produce the film with Dan Cohen through their Barnstorm company, alongside Winged Tiger’s Naomi Funabashi and Rishi Rajani.

According to Deadline, Chris MacBride is on board to write the script.

The original film starred Jung Jae-Yung and followed an investigation that took place after a suspected killer publishes a book detailing murders he cannot be tried for.

Powell and Cohen founded Barnstorm in 2025 and the company is currently in post-production on ‘The Comeback King,’ starring Powell and directed by Judd Apatow.

Meanwhile, it was recently revealed that Glen Powell is set to portray baseball great Lou Gehrig in a new feature directed by Richard Linklater.

The movie will reunite the filmmaker and actor, 37, for the third time as Universal Pictures brings the life of one of America’s most celebrated sports figures back to the big screen.

Richard, 65, and Glen previously collaborated on Everybody Wants Some!! and the critically acclaimed Netflix comedy Hit Man, which Glen also co-wrote and produced.

Glen, whose profile has continued to rise following the success of Top Gun: Maverick, Anyone But You and Twisters, is also due to appear in J.J. Abrams’ forthcoming film The Great Beyond.

Director Richard, meanwhile, most recently directed Blue Moon, which received Academy Award nominations for its screenplay and Ethan Hawke’s lead performance, as well as Nouvelle Vague, a drama chronicling the making of Jean-Luc Godard’s Breathless.

The new film will tell the story of Lou Gehrig, the Baseball Hall of Famer whose remarkable durability earned him the nickname “The Iron Horse”.

Lou played a then-record 2,130 consecutive Major League Baseball games before his career was cut short after he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the neurological disease that later became widely



Star of the Year US actor Glen Powell arrives for the CinemaCon 2025 Big Screen Achievement Awards at Omnia Nightclub at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP file photo

known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The sports great delivered one of the most famous speeches in sporting history during his farewell at Yankee Stadium in 1939, declaring himself “the luckiest man on the face of the Earth” before a packed crowd.

The address has since become known as baseball’s ‘Gettysburg Address’.

Lou died in 1941 at the age of 37. His story was previously adapted for the screen in the 1942 film The Pride of the Yankees, with Gary Cooper portraying the sporting icon in a performance that became one of the defining baseball biopics in Hollywood history.

The new adaptation will be produced by Saturday Night Live creator Lorne Michaels, alongside Erin David through Broadway Video under the company’s first-look agreement with Universal Pictures.

Glen will also produce through Barnstorm with Dan Cohen, while Richard is in talks to produce through Detour Film production. — Bang Showbiz

Charles Papert and Mark Myers of Citizen Skull along with Cris Cordero’s Paravox.

Meanwhile, although Breslin received a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination at age 10 for her role in the 2006 film Little Miss Sunshine, Hollywood has not always been kind to her and she revealed in 2024 that she was deemed “hysterical” for making complaints about a male co-star in recent years.

She wrote on Tumblr in 2024: “In my recent career, I’ve brought

forward concerns about a male colleague and was deemed ‘hysterical’. I was told my fears were figments of my imagination. Now, as I’m seeing this pattern pop up more, I see this is the norm.

“[I made] a confidential complaint against a coworker for unprofessional [actions].

“I had the silly and naive impression they would believe me. Instead of being believed and protected, a suit was filed against me for having the audacity to speak up.

“[I] was made to seem like someone who just goes after men, rather than being seen as someone who has been dealing as a professional in this world, since I was a child, standing up for herself... This was after I had taken all of the recommended, reasonable and appropriate measures of reporting confidentially to my union. The experience left me with a lot of questions, of the professionals in my industry, of the public, and of men.” — Bang Showbiz



Pasha (second right) speaks during a press conference in conjunction with the 'Ungu 3 Dasawarsa: Special Night in Kuala Lumpur' concert at Idea Live Arena in Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama photo

Ungu celebrates 30-year musical legacy at KL concert

KUALA LUMPUR: After three decades in the music industry, popular Indonesian band Ungu proved that its special bond with its Malaysian fans remains as strong as ever when it entertained thousands of fans at the 'Ungu 3 Dasawarsa: Special Night in Kuala Lumpur' concert at Idea Live Arena here on Saturday night.

The two-hour concert saw fans, including those from neighbouring countries such as Brunei, Singapore and Indonesia, turning up dressed in white and purple in keeping with the concert theme.

Adding a local touch to the special evening, all Ungu members looked dashing in baju Melayu as they opened the show with 'Cindai', originally performed by Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza Tarudin.

Ungu member Pasha later took

the opportunity to greet the fans and share his thoughts on Ungu's long-standing relationship with Malaysia.

"We first came to Malaysia in 2007, which was 19 years ago. This also shows that Ungu and Malaysia have a strong relationship," Pasha said.

The concert was organised by COMs.Creative Studio and DM Diamond Entertainment.

Besides performing romantic songs, Ungu also showcased the spiritual side of its music with 'Andai Ku Tahu' and 'Bila Tiba', with the audience singing along with them.

The evening also saw Ungu sharing the stage with Malaysian singer Marsha Milan, who appeared as a guest artiste to perform 'Bismillah Cinta' and 'Tercipta Untukku'.

Marsha's appearance added colour to the show before Ungu

took fans on a musical journey spanning 19 songs from various stages of the band's career, including 'Cinta Gila', 'Hampa Hatiku' and 'Percaya Padaku'.

Other songs performed that night included 'Sejauh Mungkin', 'Seperti Yang Dulu', 'Cinta Dalam Hati' and their latest release, 'Utara-Selatan'.

The band's three-decade musical journey was also celebrated with a birthday cake-cutting ceremony on stage, while a special tribute was paid to Makki, the only original member who has remained with Ungu since the band was formed in 1996.

Pasha also hinted that Ungu would be releasing new material soon, with the upcoming song expected to carry a similar musical nuance to 'Andai Ku Tahu' and 'Bila Tiba'. — Bernama

Lonely woman director in Venice sees industry backsliding on gender

VENICE: When Danish director May el-Toukhy was selected for the top competition at the Venice Film Festival in July, she was the only female filmmaker in a 20-strong field — with a movie 'about the invisibility of women'.

She joked about the irony in a press conference on Sunday, while pointing out that progress on gender bias made in the wake of the 2017 #MeToo movement appeared to be reversing.

"After #MeToo, I think all of us were really aware of this gender imbalance," she told reporters.

"And something has happened over the course of the last couple of years where we're kind of returning to, you know, what it used to be — and so we have to be better," she added.

The protagonist of 'Woman Unknown' is a bride-to-be struggling to hide her wartime secret — a relationship with a Nazi during the German occupation of Denmark during WWII.

Women accused of having consorted with the enemy are seen in the film violently stripped, their heads shaved and red swastikas painted on their bare flesh.

The powerful film, which drew enthusiastic applause after a press screening Sunday, is "about being objectified on one hand and on the other hand being unseen and voiceless," said el-Toukhy.



El-Toukhy attends the photocall of 'Woman Unknown' (Kvinde Ukendt) presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido. — AFP photo

Selection process questioned

The dearth of females in the top Venice competition has sparked nagging questions about the selection process and female representation.

Venice boss Alberto Barbera angered many observers in July when he said the initial 20-1 male domination of the top

competition was because the submissions from women "were not enough to put them into the competition".

Since then, the festival has added another film co-directed by a woman, the documentary 'NAZA' about the Israeli killing of civilians in Gaza, which will premiere on Thursday.

El-Toukhy, a Danish-Egyptian director who has worked on Netflix's 'The Queen', said she had encountered gender bias throughout her career and even with her latest film.

"When I pitched the film to people, I could see that they were glazing over because they were, like, 'Oh, another Second World

Venice festival turns gaze on war reporters, media industry

VENICE: An apartment building has just collapsed in an Israeli airstrike, hundreds are likely dead, and a cameraman runs towards the smoke and rubble in the opening scene of the Gaza documentary 'Citizen Osama'.

Palestinian director Ahmed Hassouna's film is one of several at the Venice Film Festival this year about journalism, whether the high stakes faced by war correspondents, or the morally ambiguous methods used by certain media to gain viewers.

'Citizen Osama', chosen as the Palestinian entry to compete for best foreign film in the 2027 Academy Awards, lays bare the life of a Palestinian journalist 'who suffers just like anyone else' in Gaza, said its director Hassouna.

"A journalist is not a soulless camera; he is a man struggling to find water, fighting to obtain food and constantly worrying about how to find milk for his newborn baby or how to feed his wife so she can breastfeed their child," Hassouna wrote in the film's liner notes.

The documentary powerfully captures the apocalyptic landscape of Gaza City, its streets reduced to rubble and mangled rebar, and the weighty sense of responsibility shouldered by the few remaining journalists on the ground.

"I wanted to show that the

journalist who captures suffering for the world is himself living through that same tragedy behind the lens," wrote Hassouna, who remains in Gaza.

UN experts, rights groups and activists have accused Israel of deliberately targeting Palestinian journalists, with the Committee to Protect Journalists counting more than 200 killed in Gaza since October 2023.

'Citizen Osama' covers the killing of Al-Jazeera journalist Ismail al-Ghoul in an Israeli airstrike in July 2024, an incident that was internationally condemned.

In 2025, days after a film about Palestinian photojournalist Fatima Hassouna was selected to play at the Cannes Film Festival, she was killed in an airstrike.

Foreign reporters are still blocked from entering Gaza by Israeli authorities — unless they are in tightly controlled tours organised by the military.

Freedom of the press

In a politically charged season at the Venice festival, conflicts feature prominently — with films featuring variously the Vietnam War, Chile before Pinochet's military coup, Gaza and the West Bank.

Eagerly awaited next week is the premiere of 'NAZA', a documentary from Oscar

winners Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor about the Israeli military's killing of civilians in Gaza.

Another Venice film with the protagonist a war correspondent is 'La Ragazza con la Leica' (Girl with the Leica), which reimagines real-life Spanish Civil War photographer Gerda Taro.

Long overlooked, Taro was the photographer partner and companion of legendary lensman Robert Capa and the first woman photojournalist to die on the battlefield. The film's director, Alina Marazzi, said their work was part of the "golden age of photojournalism."

"If we think that at the time, probably the majority of the population was illiterate and couldn't read what was written in the newspapers, through photographs you could show what was happening in places of conflict, the effects of war on the civilian population, for example in the Spanish Civil War," she told a press conference earlier this week.

Today, in the age of artificial intelligence and with millions of people wielding cameras on their phones, the accuracy and transparency of published images are not necessarily guaranteed, Marazzi said.

"We must defend freedom of the press," she said. — AFP

German director Wenders clarifies views on film and politics



Wim Wenders

VENICE: German director Wim Wenders clarified his views about the relationship between filmmakers and politics on Sunday after he caused an outcry at the Berlin film festival earlier this year.

Speaking in Venice, where he is presenting a new film about Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the 'Paris, Texas' director said he had been misunderstood.

While serving as the head of the jury at the Berlin film festival in February, Wenders told reporters that filmmakers 'cannot really enter the field of politics' when he was asked about Germany's support for Israel throughout the Gaza war.

"What I said then is that as

filmmakers, we are the opposite of politicians. We have empathy. Politicians work without empathy," Wenders told reporters at the Venice Film Festival when asked if he had reconsidered his views.

"We are not working with

a mindset of politicians, we are working with a mindset of empathetic people. And we are into changing things. I say that again and I hope you're not misquoting me and saying we have to stay out of politics because we do the opposite. We are the antidote," he added.

At Venice's opening press conference last Wednesday, jury president Maggie Gyllenhaal weighed in on the topic, saying that movies are "fundamentally, undeniably political".

The war in Gaza has been a frequent political flashpoint at European film festivals, with organisers and movie industry leading lights asked for their views on the conflict. — AFP



(From left) Director Andrea Pallaoro, US Sarandon, Italian actor Luca Marinelli and Swedish actress Alicia Vikander attend the red carpet event before the screening of 'The Echo chamber' presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido. — AFP photo

Susan Sarandon says still losing roles over Gaza stance

VENICE: US actress Susan Sarandon said Sunday she was still having roles 'taken away' from her in Hollywood because of her outspoken criticism of Israel's war in Gaza.

The 'Thelma & Louise' star was dropped by her agency UTA in November 2023 over controversial remarks at a pro-Palestinian rally which she later said she regretted.

Speaking at the Venice Film Festival, where she has a role in Italian film 'The Echo Chamber', she claimed the 'narrative' around the Gaza war and the United States' support for Israel had 'completely changed'.

"There's a lot of things that people are aware of now," the Oscar winner told a press conference, referring to the extent of US financial and military aid for Israel.

"I've still had movies taken away recently because there are agencies that are telling people not to hire me still. But that's the power structure," she added.

"I think there has been a change in terms of the understanding of the situation and the general public, but there are still very strongly held positions within

my industry that are held by Zionists and who have not relaxed their feelings towards me.

"But I found my family, I found my people, and I'm okay," she added to a round of applause.

The veteran star of 'Dead Man Walking' has been one of Hollywood's most outspoken pro-Palestinian campaigners and critics of the Gaza war alongside others such as Marc Ruffalo, Richard Gere and Joaquin Phoenix. Many others have signed open letters criticising Israel's conduct of the war, which has left around 73,500 Palestinians dead and 174,500 injured since October 2023, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry.

The premiere of 'NAZA' — about the killing of civilians in Gaza — by two Israeli directors looks set to be one of the most emotionally charged moments of the Venice festival when it premieres on Thursday.

Directors Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor won an Oscar for 2024's 'No Other Land', which documented the displacement of a Palestinian community in the occupied West Bank by Israeli settlers. — AFP

捐血活動

日期 / DATE : 16.9.2026 (Wednesday)
时间 / TIME : 9:30AM ~ 1:30PM
地点 / VENUE : 大星广场/Star Mega Mall (Orange Zone)

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Acknowledgement

Mr Watson Goh Hin Seng
(Husband of the late Mdm Mary Foo Kui Bui)
23.12.1938 - 02.09.2026

We, the family of the late Mr Watson Goh Hin Seng, wish to express our appreciation to all relatives, Friends, colleagues, community leaders, Miri Wu Clan Association, Miri Confucius and Mencius Teaching Association, Miri Chawan Association, SUPP Pujat Branch & Krokop Sub Branch, staff of Ah Min Funeral Service and all others for tirelessly rendering your invaluable assistance, your words of comfort, prayers, visits, monetary gifts, wreaths, and condolences during our recent bereavement, a note of thanks too to the doctors and nurses at Borneo Medical Centre for your treatment.

Son & Daughter-in-law
Benny Goh Siao Long & Alice Tham Wei Ling

Daughters & Sons-in-law
Goh Siao Yen
Goh Siao Tong & Lawrence Hwee
Laura Goh Sin Sia & Ling Ngie Hui

Grandsons
Kecan Goh, Melvan Goh

And Brothers, Sisters, Nephews, Nieces & All Relatives.

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NOTIS TENDER

CADANGAN MEMBINA DAN MENYIAPKAN IBU PEJABAT POLIS DAERAH (IPD) NABAWAN DAN PERUMAHAN DI ATAS SEBAHAGIAN LOT PT20-23151328 DI MUKIM NABAWAN, SABAH

FASA 2: KERJA BANGUNAN SERTA KERJA-KERJA BERKAITAN

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IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT KUCHING COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO. KCH-28NCC-54-2026 (HC 3)

IN THE MATTER OF Section 465 (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. 198201000225 / 79969-V)

BETWEEN
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA ...PETITIONER
AND
BERMUDA NIAGA SDN. BHD. ...RESPONDENT (formerly known as BERMUDA MARINE SUPPLY CO. SDN. BHD.) (Company No. 198201000225 / 79969-V)

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION
NOTICE is hereby given that Petition for the winding-up of the above-named 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 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, Wisma Hasil, Lot 2996, Jalan Adenium, Taman MDL, 98000 Miri, Sarawak.

The Petitioner is Nurulita Binti Kola, Revenue Counsel of Inland Revenue MIRI, for and on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.

NOTICE OF SALE
MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SARAWAK AT KUCHING APPLICATION FOR EXECUTION NO. KCH-38-11-2025 (HC 11) SUIT NO. KCH-14720-V-13-33026 (MC 3)

BETWEEN
PARK AVENUE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (ID Number: MG 01-85) Lorong Keranj 6, Tabuan Desa, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Plaintiff/Execution Creditor
AND
JANG GYEONGWOO (Korean/Republic of Korea Passport No. M19046648) and Republic of Korea Person(s) (No. 198201000225 / 79969-V) Unit 3-14, Level 3, Block D, Park Avenue, Lorong Keranj 6, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak. ... Defendant/Execution Debtor

In pursuance of the Court Order dated the 23rd day of June, 2026 the undersigned Estate Agent will sell by

PUBLIC TENDER

That the tenders will be closed and opened on the Wednesday, the 30th day of September, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the Court Bailiff/ Sheriff at the Auction Room, High Court (Judicial Department), Kuching, the property specified in the Schedule hereunder:-

SCHEDULE

Parcel 14 Storey 3 Building 4 (Parcel No. 3 - 14 within Second Floor of Building No. Block D) Type Apartment Type E1 of Building known as Park Avenue of Parent Lot 7722 Block 11 Muara Tabar Land (District).

Area: 174 square metres, more or less

Annual Rent: Nil

Category / Classification: Town Land, Mixed Zone Land

Date of Expiry: 31/12/2026

Special Conditions Affecting Whole Building:

i) This land is to be used only for residential purposes or for such other purposes as may be approved by the Director of Lands and Surveys in conformity with the plan of development approved under condition (i) hereof.

ii) The development and use of this land shall be in accordance with a plan of development approved by the Director of Lands and Surveys and shall be completed within a period of five (5) years from 6.10.1992.

iii) No subdivision of this land may be effected except in accordance with the plan of development approved under condition (i) hereof and on subdivision, the Director of Lands and Surveys shall impose appropriate conditions on the subdivisional leases in accordance with the said plan of development, and

iv) No sublease affecting this land may be effected without the consent in writing of the Director of Lands and Surveys during the initial period of five (5) years from 6.10.1992.

Registered Encumbrance(s): Nil

Registered Annotation(s):

i) Prohibitory Order issued by High Court (Execution No. KCH-38-11-2025 (HC 11)) for a period of six (6) months from 13/02/2026 vide L.3392/2026 of 13.02.2026.

ii) Caveat lodged by THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KUCHING SOUTH vide L.13450/2021 of 23.08.2021.

Outstanding Fees due to the Government:
Rent (RM) : 0.00 Premium (RM) : 0.00
Total (RM) : 0.00 Due Date : Nil

Remarks: Nil

The above property will be sold subject to the reserve price of RM650,000.00 (six hundred and fifty thousand ringgit) and sold free from all encumbrances and subject to all the conditions and restrictions attached to the title and on an "as is where is" basis and without vacant possession) fixed by the Court and subject to the Conditions of Sale by Tender set forth in the Proclamation.

For further particulars, please apply to Messrs Tang & Partners Advocates, Lots 145-168 (1st Floor), Jalan Seng Guan, 93100 Kuching, Telephone No: 982-4159/34/5/6/9 or Messrs Henry Butcher Real Estate (Sarawak) Sdn. Bhd. (Co. No. 199501019510) (348713-KJ), L4 14 & 15, DUBS Commercial/Office Centre, Lot 376, Section 54, KTLID, Jalan Petanah, 93100 Kuching, Telephone No: 982-233300, Fax: 082-231036.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2026.

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MALAYSIA
IN THE HIGH COURT IN SABAH AND SARAWAK AT MIRI IN BANKRUPTCY NO. MY-29NCC-80-7/2026 (HC)

Re: CHRISTINA JOSEPH BARAUK (NRIC No. 760829-13-5022) Lot 7951, Taman Permai, Jin Dato Permaisuri, Bandar Baru Permyjaya, 98000 Miri, Sarawak. ... DEBTOR

Ex-Parte- TOYOTA CAPITAL MALAYSIA SDN. BHD. (Company No. 11547-M) of Suite 607, Ground Floor, Crown Towers, 88, Jalan Pending, 93450 Kuching, Sarawak. ... CREDITOR

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF BANKRUPTCY NOTICE

In the matter of a Bankruptcy Notice dated the 17th day of July, 2026

To: FELIX JOHNNY (NRIC No. 951005-13-6665) No. 25 Rejang 20, Jin Sibit Tmn Tunku 98000 Miri, Sarawak. ... DEBTOR

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To: FELIX JOHNNY (NRIC No. 951005-13-6665) No. 25 Rejang 20, Jin Sibit Tmn Tunku 98000 Miri, Sarawak. ... DEBTOR

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Mourinho's Euro revival bid starts with Inter reunion

MADRID: When Jose Mourinho left Inter Milan for Real Madrid in the summer of 2010, after leading the Italian outfit to Champions League glory, he was at the peak of his powers.

The Portuguese coach claimed an historic treble with Inter, clinching Serie A in the last week of the season and lifting the Coppa Italia.

Inter beat Bayern 2-0 in the Champions League final at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium, winning the trophy for the first time since 1965 and becoming the first Italian team to win the treble.

The day after the final Mourinho said it was likely his last match in charge and around a week later his appointment at Real Madrid was finalised.

Now 16 years on, and beginning his second stint at Madrid, Mourinho kicks off the record 15-time Champions League winners' European campaign against Inter on Tuesday at the Bernabeu. Neither the veteran coach nor Inter have been able to reproduce that level of European success since.

Inter have reached the final on two subsequent occasions, beaten in 2023 by Manchester City and then thrashed by



My attraction to Real Madrid is due to its history, its frustrations in recent years and its expectations to win.

Jose Mourinho

Paris Saint-Germain in the 2025 showpiece.

Mourinho was unable to help Real Madrid past the semi-finals and after leaving the club in 2013 has mainly spent his time competing in lower levels of European competition.

The 63-year-old led Manchester United to the Europa League in

2017 and won the Conference League with Roma in 2022.

Fished out of the relative wilderness by Madrid president Florentino Perez this summer after two seasons without a major trophy for Los Blancos, Mourinho's main task is to return the club to their European throne.

Only five coaches have won the trophy more times than Mourinho, who also lifted it with Porto in 2004 to kickstart his career and earn him passage to Chelsea and Europe's biggest leagues.

"My attraction to Real Madrid is due to its history, its frustrations in recent years and its expectations to win," said Mourinho in 2010, although the same holds true now, after a remarkable period of success ended.

In his first reign Mourinho helped disrupt Pep Guardiola's Barcelona's dominance within Spain but was unable to help Madrid end their wait for a 10th European Cup. That came under his successor Carlo Ancelotti, who claimed three with Madrid over two spells at the club.

Zinedine Zidane also lifted the trophy three times in consecutive seasons, with Madrid winning

six in a remarkable 10-year spell. Perez credits Mourinho with building the foundations for those trophies.

"I'm glad my work had some positive impact, but the titles belong to Carlo, Zidane, the players, and the fans," said Mourinho.

Madrid's grip on the trophy has loosened during the past two years, knocked out in the quarter-finals by Arsenal in 2025 and last season they were eliminated by Bayern Munich in the last 16. Mourinho's challenge is to prove both he and Real Madrid still can rule among Europe's elite, and stopping Luis Enrique's PSG retaining it for a third year running.

"Finishing without trophies at Real Madrid is not a successful season," said Mourinho in August.

The coach's second stint at Madrid started smoothly with three wins from three games, but on Friday they fell to their first defeat, 1-0 at Real Betis.

Inter's visit to the Spanish capital will be an early test of whether Mourinho can restore Madrid's European fortunes, against the club with which he last reached the pinnacle of the competition. — AFP



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Marquinhos present the UEFA Supercup trophy to supporters before the start of the French Li football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and AS Monaco at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. — AFP photo

PSG go for three in a row as Champions League returns

PARIS, France: Another UEFA Champions League season gets going this week with the beginning of the league phase as Paris Saint-Germain bid to join the tiny band of clubs to have won the competition three years running.

PSG successfully defended their title last season when they beat Arsenal on penalties in Budapest, retaining the trophy they won for the first time in their history 12 months earlier.

Luis Enrique's side have already secured their status as one of the competition's greatest teams by winning it back-to-back, something only Real Madrid had previously achieved since the inception of the modern Champions League in 1992.

Winning three in a row would be on another level entirely. Real did exactly that under Zinedine Zidane between 2016 and 2018. The only other teams to manage such a feat are Ajax (1971-73) and Bayern Munich (1974-76), while Madrid also won the first five editions of the European Cup from 1956 to 1960.

"Our objectives are clear. I want

to win important trophies and there are none more important than the Champions League," said Luis Enrique, who also led Barcelona to glory in 2015.

The back-to-back titles for the French giants have coincided with the introduction of the new Champions League format, with 36 teams in the league phase now playing eight games against eight different opponents.

The Parisians struggled in the league phase in each of the last two campaigns, finishing outside the top eight and having to come through the additional play-off round to make the last 16.

Tough draws were partly responsible for that, and PSG will face some familiar opponents this time in Manchester City, Barcelona and Aston Villa.

With each passing year, the prospect of a team other than one of Europe's super clubs winning the Champions League seems more remote.

The Premier League's financial strength means all of its representatives can be expected to feature prominently, with Arsenal chief among them. — AFP

Carrick says Man United 'fine' after Everton draw

LIVERPOOL: Michael Carrick said Manchester United's start to the Premier League season has not been 'that bad' despite conceding twice late on to draw 2-2 at Everton on Sunday.

The Red Devils appeared to have an inviting start against newly-promoted Hull and Ipswich before the trip to the Hill Dickinson Stadium, but have taken just four points from their

opening three games.

"It's not that bad," said Carrick. "We've got that close to coming away with three points today, that's football, there are moments we can deal with a bit better, but we'll be fine."

United concentrated their limited transfer budget in reinforcing Carrick's midfield in their three new signings. But only Youri Tielemans has started

the last two games with Andrey Santos dropped to the bench and Carlos Baleba out injured.

The decision not to strengthen an ageing defence could prove costly with United having conceded twice in all three games so far. Much tougher tests are also to come with Manchester City next up in the league at Old Trafford next weekend. Twice United looked on course for all

three points on Merseyside.

Bryan Mbeumo opened the scoring inside the first minute of the second half and Benjamin Sesko restored the visitors' lead in the 88th minute.

However, they failed to hold out as blistering strikes by Tyrique George and Ainsley Maitland-Niles secured a point for an Everton side short on attacking options. — AFP



Chelsea defend a corner during the English Premier League football match between Arsenal and Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium. — AFP photo

Arsenal fight back to end Chelsea's flying start

LONDON: Arsenal delivered an emphatic response to Chelsea's emergence as potential Premier League title contenders with a 2-1 win that ended their rivals' unbeaten start on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side trailed to Morgan Rogers' second-minute goal in a pulsating London derby at the Emirates Stadium.

But the champions showed why they are firm favourites to retain the title with a blistering response to that early setback. Kai Havertz bagged the equaliser against his former club midway through the first half and Martin Odegaard netted Arsenal's winner soon after the interval.

It was a statement of intent from second-placed Arsenal, who have won all three league matches to sit behind leaders Manchester City on goal scored. The Gunners' mature display underlined their desire to win the club's first back-to-back titles since the 1930s.

For Chelsea boss Xabi Alonso, the defeat ended his three-game winning run in all competitions since taking charge at Stamford Bridge in the close-season. Alonso will realise just how much work Chelsea still have to do before they are in position to end a title drought dating back to 2017.

Arteta and Alonso have known each other since their days as childhood friends in the Basque region of Spain.

The chaotic matches of their youth on a gravel pitch in the Berio district of San Sebastian would have seemed calm in comparison to the blood and thunder their teams brought to a raucous corner of north London.*

Chelsea beat Arsenal in the race to sign Rogers from Aston Villa in the close-season after the Gunners refused to match the Blues' £117 million (US\$158 million) bid for the England midfielder.

Rogers showed why Chelsea made him the most expensive British player in history as he put the Blues ahead after just 77 seconds.

Arsenal's rock-solid defence had allowed just one shot on target in their first two games. So often masters of the set-piece, Arteta's men were found wanting at a free-kick for once.

Reece James' lofted delivery wasn't cleared by Declan Rice or Odegaard, giving Rogers the chance to drive a low volley past David Raya from the edge of the penalty area.

It was the first goal conceded by Arsenal this season. Having conceded five times in their first two league games under Alonso, Chelsea's three-man central defence remains flawed and they were exposed again in the 25th minute.

Havertz was allowed to drift from the right flank to the edge of the area unchecked by Jorrel Hato before the German smashed a low strike through the slow to react Maxence Lacroix's legs and past Emiliano Martinez at his near post.

Martinez was signed from Villa to replace the error-prone Robert Sanchez but the Argentine's weak attempted save was hardly an improvement on his hapless predecessor.

Pedro Neto was inches away from restoring Chelsea's lead just before half-time when the Portugal winger slapped his shot against the far post. — AFP

Augsburg sink Frankfurt to top Bundesliga table

BERLIN: Bavarian minnows Augsburg came from a goal down to a 4-1 win at Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga on Sunday, while a dominant Mainz put five goals past Hamburg.

Augsburg's victory brought them to the top of the Bundesliga table after two matches, the first time the club, who were promoted to the top flight in 2011, have ever ended a round in first position.

Bayern Munich's surprise scoreless draw at Schalke on Saturday meant their 67-matchday streak atop the Bundesliga table came to an end after more than two years.

"As people we live for moments like this," a beaming Augsburg coach Manuel Baum told reporters.

"When we see each other in a few years, we'll tell stories about how we were the ones who topped the table with Augsburg. That's something to enjoy for a day. I even took a screenshot of the standings." — AFP

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