

Warisan President Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal questioned the RM70 million spent on jet-setting in the recent State Assembly sitting.



Some of the illegal water pipe connections cut off in Sandakan.

43 illegal water connections cut off in S’kan

Mardinah Jikur

SANDAKAN: The Sabah Water Department detected and cut off 43 illegal water pipe connections during a large-scale integrated operation carried out in two squatter areas near Batu 3, here, Tuesday.

Two water pumps were also seized and one arrest was made in the same operation, with the offence to be probed under Section 49(b) of the Sabah Water Supply Enactment 2003.

Offenders convicted under the enactment face a fine of up to RM100,000 or a jail term of up to one year, or both.

The operation, led by Sabah Water Department Enforcement and Security Branch Chief Assistant Director Azmie Sabli, involved 89 personnel from 18 federal and state enforcement agencies, along with members of the media.

The department said the operation aimed to curb illegal water pipe connections and address the critical non-revenue water crisis in Sandakan.

The operation also focused on detecting, cutting off and enforcing the law against manipulation of the water supply system.

The team also uncovered a water source area that had been deliberately concealed with overgrown bushes, where illegal electrical wire connections were also found.

At the same time, Sabah Electricity



The concealed water source uncovered.

detected and cut off 40 illegal electrical wire connections weighing 82kg during the operation.

The Sandakan Municipal Council issued three compounds for offences and seized 11 packs of suspected contraband cigarettes during checks carried out in the same squatter area.

The Sabah Water Department said monitoring operations will continue in other hotspot areas to ensure clean water supply for legitimate consumers in the district is not affected.

Call to reveal the workforce of Kibing and SK Nexilis

KOTA KINABALU: Warisan Supreme Council member Chen Ket Chuin (pic) wants the State Government to reveal whether Kibing Group and SK Nexilis are complying with Sabah's policy requiring at least 80 per cent local employment.

He said the policy announced by the Sabah Government was welcome but must be enforced.

He said the relevant ministry should publish the total workforce at both companies, along with the number and percentage of Sabahans employed, the job categories held, the number of foreign and non-Sabah workers and whether Sabahans are being trained for technical, supervisory and management roles.

He said Kibing Group and SK Nexilis



were promoted as major investments that would create job opportunities for Sabahans and the Government must now demonstrate whether that promise had been kept.

“Sabahans should not be asked to accept vague phrases such as ‘mostly locals’ or ‘many Sabahans employed’.” The public deserves clear numbers,” he said in a statement.

He said the matter carried added weight given Sabah's role in supplying the raw materials involved, particularly silica sand and warned against a situation where the State provided land, infrastructure, incentives and materials while investors captured the higher-value gains.

“Sabah First must mean more than low-level factory jobs. It must mean real participation in skills, careers, procurement, management and long-term industrial capability,” he said.

Medical insurance premium rise affecting industry, consumers

Samantha Sulit

KOTA KINABALU: The sharp rise in medical insurance premiums is beginning to affect not only the industry but also the financial resilience of consumers, said National Association of Malaysian Life Insurance Fieldforce and Advisers (Namlifa) Sabah Chairman Wong Fui Foh.

He said while medical insurance remains an essential financial safety net, recent repricing exercises have significantly reduced the buying power of many policyholders, particularly retirees and those with existing health conditions.

“For many retirees, the higher premiums have become unaffordable, forcing them to surrender their insurance policies,” he said during the association's visit to Gleneagles Hospital, here, Tuesday.

While such decision may provide immediate financial relief, Wong warned it would create wider implications for the healthcare system.

“As rising premiums force more policyholders to drop coverage, the burden increasingly falls on the public healthcare system,” he said.

Although the need for medical protection remains, escalating premiums mean that many Malaysians can no longer afford to maintain the level of coverage they once had.

The situation is even more challenging for policyholders with pre-existing medical conditions.

“They cannot afford to surrender their policies, as they may no longer qualify for new coverage,” he said, which is



Wong (eight from left, front) and Kevin (ninth from left, front) pose for a photo together with association members, partners and hospital staff.

why many feel compelled to continue paying despite steep premium prices, placing a significant financial burden on them.

Wong said insurance advisers have an important responsibility to help clients understand long-term consequences before making the decision to cancel their coverage.

He said medical inflation, higher healthcare costs, advances in medical technology and broader economic factors have all contributed to the increase in insurance premiums in recent years.

As treatment costs continue to rise, consumers remain aware that a serious illness without insurance could result in substantial financial hardship.

He also highlighted Namlifa's long-standing partner-



Form Six to remain under MOE for now

PUTRAJAYA: The current pre-university management system for Form Six students will continue to be overseen by the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the time being, to ensure the smooth operation of the existing framework, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (pic).

He said the decision was made after taking into account several factors, including student management matters and teacher service schemes.

“For now, I have decided that the Sixth Form pre-university system will remain under the MOE,” he said during a meeting with MOE staff, Tuesday.

Also present were Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Public Service Director-General Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

Previously, Anwar was reported to have announced that the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) would fully

take over the pre-university system, covering both Sixth Form and Matriculation programmes, starting next year.

Elaborating further, the Prime Minister said although Sixth Form remains under MOE, its students must have a distinct identity as post-secondary and pre-university learners.

“Even if they are within the same school, the Sixth Form should have its separate block, and the principal should be tasked with managing it as a distinct project.

“They should not be lumped together. For example, Sixth Form students should not be included in general school assemblies. Assemblies should be for Form Five and below,” he said.

He said this approach is important to create a learning environment that reflects the true status of Sixth Form students as a pathway to higher education.

Anwar added that the Government does not rule out reviewing the proposal to place Sixth Form under MOHE in the future, once the system and its implementation are better prepared.

“We can revisit this after several

Couple held over suspected abuse of daughter

Amir Anuar

TAWAU: A foreign couple who claimed their two-month-old daughter's injuries were caused by a fall are suspected of lying as doctors found her injuries did not match their account.

Acting Tawau District Police Chief Supt Wilynton Enchana Watt said the couple's initial statement became suspicious after the attending doctor found a bruise on the victim's left forehead, bite marks on her right cheek and swelling at the back of her head.

“A police report was lodged after the victim's grandmother told the doctor on duty at Tawau Hospital that her granddaughter's injuries were most likely caused by both suspects abusing the baby,” he said, Tuesday.

Police subsequently arrested the couple, a man in his 30s and an 18-year-old woman, to assist investigations.

He said the baby was initially brought to the Tawau Hospital's Emergency Department for treatment by her parents and grandmother before the examination raised suspicions that her injuries were not caused by a fall as claimed by the two suspects.

“Both suspects are believed to have committed the act at Batu 8, Jalan Apas, on Monday, leading to their arrest at 11.45pm by a team from the District Criminal Investigation Department at the Tawau Hospital compound,” he said.

He said an investigation paper was opened under Section 31(1)(a) of the Child Act 2001 for child abuse or neglect and under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63 as both suspects did not possess valid identification documents.

Wilynton also commended the Ministry of Health, particularly Tawau Hospital's medical officers, for acting swiftly to detect the victim's injuries and alerting police, allowing immediate follow-up action to be taken.

“We take any form of child abuse case seriously and will not compromise in tracking down those responsible for abusing or mistreating children,” he said.

He added that members of the public with information on child abuse or neglect cases should immediately report it to police to allow swift action to be taken to safeguard the safety and welfare of the victims involved.

Three key dates to remember: Jeffrey



Gerry Lewis

BAU (Sarawak): Borneo Dayak Forum (BDF) President Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitin-gan (pic) called on the people of Sabah and Sarawak to continue appreciating the true history of the formation of Malaysia and to strengthen unity.

He said the people need to understand three key dates that form the historical foundation of Malaysia's formation - July 22, 1963 (Sarawak Day), August 31, 1963 (Sabah Day) and September 16, 1963 (Malaysia Day).

Speaking when officiating the 722 Sarawak Day & Tasik Biru Cultural Parade 2026 Celebration here on July 22, the Keningau Member of Parliament and Tambunan Assemblyman said the original concept of Malaysia's formation was to grant independence or self-government to Sarawak and Sabah first, before both merged with Malaya to form a new federation, namely Malaysia.

“The struggle of past leaders was based on the principle of ‘Independence First, Then Form Malaysia’.” However, that process changed when the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) was signed on July 9, 1963, while negotiations on the establishment of Malaysia had yet to be finalised.

He said Sarawak attained self-government on July 22, 1963, while Sabah on Aug 31, 1963, before both merged with the Federation of Malaya and Singapore to form Malaysia on Sept 16, 1963.

“Conversely, in the Malaysia Declaration dated Sept 16, 1963, Sabah and Sarawak were referred to as entities that already had their own governments, before merging with the Federation of Malaya to form Malaysia,” he said.

He said this standing changed following the Federal Constitution amendments in 1976, which downgraded the status of Sabah and Sarawak to be equal with other states in Malaya.

However, Dr Jeffrey said the amendment to Article 1(2) of the Federal Constitution, which came into force in 2021, was an important step towards restoring the status of Sabah and Sarawak as founding territories or equal founding partners with the Federation of Malaya in the formation of Malaysia.

Jeffrey recalled his early involvement in championing the recognition of Sarawak Day since around 2010, when he, along with fellow activists, joined a parade to raise the Sarawak flag at Padang Merdeka, Kuching, at a time when the celebration had not yet been officially recognised.

According to him, despite facing various challenges in the early stages, consistent efforts eventually bore fruit when the Sarawak Government declared July 22 as Sarawak Day and made it a public holiday starting from 2016.

Dr Jeffrey said success served as an inspiration for Sabah to continue fighting for the recognition of Sabah Day, which was finally gazetted officially on June 5, 2024, after he submitted the proposal to the State Cabinet while serving as part of the Sabah Government.

“Sabah and Sarawak need to keep moving as one team because both territories share the same history, rights and interests. Unity is the main key to ensuring the rights of Sabah and Sarawak continue to be defended for future generations,” he said.

Newborn girl’s body found

PENAMPANG: Police are investigating the discovery of a newborn girl's body in Kg Goliga Kolopis, here, at 11.52am, Tuesday.

Penampang District Police Chief Supt Sammy Newton, in a statement, said police went to the scene after being alerted of the discovery.

Preliminary investigations found the newborn, believed to be underdeveloped, near the complainant's house.

A forensic team from the Sabah Contingent Criminal Investigation Department and the K-9 unit were deployed to the scene to assist with the investigation.

The remains were sent to the forensic department at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kota Kinabalu for a post-mortem and further action.

Police are working to identify the individual responsible and are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the incident and bring those involved to justice.

Members of the public with information related to the case are urged to come forward and contact investigating officer Insp Mohamad Anis Abdullah at 013-6365734 or lodge a report at the nearest police station.

Police also advised the public against speculating or spreading unverified information on social media that could jeopardise the ongoing investigation.

Fire damages two Labuan containers

LABUAN: Fire damaged two containers at the Labuan Shipyard Jetty area early Tuesday.

The Labuan Fire and Rescue Department received an emergency call at 5.51am and deployed personnel from the Ranche-Ranche and Labuan Sentral fire and rescue stations to the scene.

A spokesperson said the fire-fighting operation involved 15 officers and personnel, supported by two Fire Rescue Tender (FRT) vehicles and a Prime Mover water tanker with a 20,000-litre capacity.

The team managed to bring the fire under control and extinguish it, with no fatalities or injuries reported.

The cause of the fire and estimated losses are under investigation. —Ahmad Apong

Sea turtles add million\$ to Sabah’s Blue Economy

Samantha Sulit
KOTA KINABALU: Sea turtles play an important part in Sabah’s emerging Blue Economy and each is easily worth half a million ringgit alive for the State’s tourism industry, according to Sabah Marine Research Foundation Founder and Executive Director Dr Nicolas Pilcher.

He said the nett value was based on a landmark study which showed that the Turtle Islands Marine Park was worth nearly RM7 million ringgit a year.

“Think about the number of tourists that come to Sabah and want to go scuba diving to see the sea turtles. How much are they spending on hotels, food, airfares, boat rentals, dive packages?”

“All their expenses add up to half a million ringgit for every sea turtle in the region,” he told the 5th International Symposium and Management of Wetlands, recently.

However, he said, reluctance by the authorities to make it mandatory for trawlers to be equipped with a Turtle Exclusion Device costing only RM500 is resulting in losses of up to RM750 million for the Sabah economy.

“In Sabah, there have been incidents where sea turtles are unintentionally caught in the nets of trawlers.”

In the best case scenario, they are released back into the sea alive, but the worst outcome is the tragic loss of an innocent creature’s life.

“We know that, on average, each trawler in Sabah catches one turtle per year. With around 1,500 trawlers operat-



Dr Nicholas:
Net value based on landmark study.



ing in the State, this means approximately 1,500 turtles are caught annually.

“With each turtle valued at RM500,000, we’re talking about RM750 million of natural resources discarded dead at sea every year,” he said.

The device allows smaller animals like fish and shrimp into the net, but blocks larger animals such as the sea turtles, which allows it to escape and prevents them from becoming bycatch.

However, 20 years later, it is still not a legal requirement for the authorities. “As long as it’s not a legal requirement, fishermen are not willing to do install it.

“So can you imagine all the work Sabah Parks does, the resources they spend on protecting turtles, they do it so that turtles can go into the ocean just to die because of our fishing boats,” he said.

He said it is time people see the worth of these creatures beyond their display on the sides of buses, the RM20 note or

on just about every single Malaysian tourism advertisement.

“They are a species that evokes all kinds of feelings among humans. And because of that, they are hugely important to Sabah’s economy,” he said.

He said in terms of social value sea turtles also play a significant role in cultures and traditions worldwide.

Ecologically, green sea turtles maintain the growth of seagrass which acts as the habitat for juvenile shrimp and commercial fish. The absence of sea turtles, dugongs and other herbivorous organisms would make these habitats unsustainable.

Another species, the hawksbill turtle, feeds on sponges which are a threat to coral reefs due to their accelerated growth rate.

Without hawksbill turtles, sponges could outcompete corals which results in a loss of effectiveness of coral reefs.

Dept begins phased rollout of new passports in Sabah, S’wak

PUTRAJAYA: The Immigration Department has begun the phased rollout of the new Malaysian international passport in Sabah and Sarawak, marking the next stage of its nationwide implementation.

In a Facebook post, the department said passport-issuing offices in both states would implement the rollout in two phases, with Phase 6 starting on Monday (July 27) and Phase 7 from Aug 3.

“The offices covered under Phase 6 are Bintulu, Sri Aman, Kuching, Miri, Sibul, Kota Kinabalu, Tawau and Keningau Urban Transformation Centres.

“Phase 7 will cover offices in Kuching, Lawas, Limbang, Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Kota Kinabalu International Airport, Lahad Datu and Labuan Urban Transformation Centre,” the department said, adding that only the offices listed would start issuing the new Malaysian passport on the specified dates.

The public is urged to check the list of participating offices and plan passport applications or renewals ahead of their visit to offices offering the new international passport service.

“There is no need to rush, as existing passports can still be used up to six months before their expiry date,” read the statement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched the new Malaysian passport on June 30, with the upgraded document equipped with 94 security features.

Malaysians aged 18 and above can choose to apply for the new passport from July 1, with a validity period of five or 10 years based on their requirements.

The new international passport was first introduced at 14 passport-issuing offices handling high application volumes, before the rollout was extended to 71 offices nationwide and is expected to be completed by early August.

Nikko Fabian

PUTATAN: Upko Putatan Division Chief Jason Lee said new housing and other projects are being approved in Putatan even as the district grapples with chronic water shortages.

Residents fear that supply will fall short of demand even after the long-awaited Kogopon II treatment plant is operational.

Jason warned that runaway development is moving far faster than critical infrastructure can keep up, dumping the burden entirely on existing residents who already face days without running water.

He said the situation is most stark at Kingfisher Condominium, where all 528



Masidi (centre) witnessing the exchange of the MoA between Hiew (left) and Khoo (second, right).

Digital techs must create tangible value: Masidi

Wu Vui Tek

KOTA KINABALU: Artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation must produce measurable improvements for businesses instead of being adopted simply for the sake of technology, said Deputy Chief Minister II Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

The Sabah Finance Minister said digital technologies should solve operational problems, improve productivity and create tangible value, enabling businesses to compete more effectively in an increasingly connected economy.

Masidi said this when witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Sri Komputer director Hiew Chee Fah and Infor (Malaysia and Indonesia) director Khoo Chee Wei at the Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC).

He said partnerships between local technology firms and international providers could strengthen Sabah’s competitiveness, innovation and productivity if they produced practical outcomes for businesses and industries.

“Digital transformation is no longer a matter of adopting technology for its own sake. It must solve real problems, improve the way organisations operate and create tangible value,” he said.

Masidi said technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, data analytics and intelligent automation were reshaping how companies planned operations, managed resources, served customers and competed in regional and global markets.

He said Sabah businesses must embrace these technologies to improve efficiency, reduce operating costs, strengthen supply chains and make better-informed decisions.

These capabilities, he added, were equally important for small and medium enterprises seeking to expand, participate in larger value chains and reach markets beyond Sabah.

However, Masidi said technology alone would not guarantee progress.

He said successful digital transformation depended on identifying operational needs, implementing suitable systems, developing capable personnel and maintaining disciplined execution.

Hurry up on QEH measures: Warisan

KOTA KINABALU: Likas Assemblyman Tham Yun Fook (pic) urged the State Government to expedite measures to address the shortage of parking spaces and traffic congestion at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), Queen Elizabeth Hospital 2 (QEH2) and Luyang Health Clinic.

In a statement, Tham welcomed the response by the Women, Health and People’s Wellbeing Ministry to his question in the State Legislative Assembly.

“The Ministry acknowledged that the issue affects patients, visitors and healthcare workers and requires both short- and long-term solutions,” he said.

He noted that measures announced by the Ministry include the construction of a multi-storey car park at QEH under the Queen Elizabeth Hospital upgrading project in the 12th Malaysia Plan.

Other initiatives include the segregation of access routes for ambulances and emergency vehicles to ease congestion within the hospital compound, discussions with Khazanah Sabah Berhad on providing temporary parking near QEH2 and the addition of 419 parking bays



under the Sabah Heart Centre project.

The Ministry is also assessing the construction of a new healthcare facility along the Kota Kinabalu-Penampang border to meet growing demand for healthcare services.

Tham said he hoped the planned measures would be translated into tangible action within a reasonable timeframe.

“Residents of Likas, Luyang and surrounding areas have long faced traffic congestion that not only affects convenience but could also hinder access to healthcare, particularly during emergencies,” he said.

He also called on the Government to expedite short-term measures, including the provision of temporary parking, improvements to traffic flow and better public transport services to healthcare facilities while larger projects are being implemented.

Tham said he would continue monitoring the implementation of the announced measures to ensure the interests of the people remain a priority.

Fears Putatan water demand will outstrip supply

households have endured prolonged supply cuts for years – and are now paying up to 570pc more for water trucked in by private suppliers.

“Residents used to pay RM1.50 per cubic metre for alternative water. Now they are being charged RM7.50 – a jump that has pushed monthly water bills alone to between RM150 and RM280,” Lee said.

The additional cost comes on top of monthly maintenance fees, with Jason calling on the management and developer to absorb part of the expense rather than passing it fully to residents.

“We were told the Kogopon II plant in Papar would resolve Putatan’s water woes. But with so many new developments

sprouting up around Kingfisher and across the district, we are worried demand will outstrip supply the moment the plant starts operating,” he cautioned.

Jason stressed that no development approval should be issued until supporting infrastructure – especially reliable water capacity – is guaranteed.

“Approvals must follow infrastructure, not the other way around. If we keep building without securing supply, this crisis will never end,” he said.

He also warned that rising diesel prices will further drive up the cost of trucked water, adding another layer of hardship for communities already struggling to cope.

Private sector must reinvent and innovate, says Premier

KUCHING: The private sector must continue to reinvent itself and innovate to complement Sarawak’s economic transformation agenda and capitalise on new opportunities arising from the State’s investments in infrastructure and connectivity, said Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg (pic).

He said businesses should emulate the approach taken in the redevelopment of Wisma Elica, here, by reimagining existing assets into value-added projects that contribute to the State’s long-term economic growth.

“The private sector also has to reimagine and reshape its services individually. We have to be creative and now, it is easier for us to calculate and envision what will happen through the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI).

“However, we must be able to judge the data generated by AI, particularly when planning for the future. We have a lot of buildings that can be transformed,” he said when officiating the grand opening of Wisma Elica, here, Tuesday.



Abang Johari said the Sarawak Government is reinvesting its increased revenue in key infrastructure projects, including the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) system, state-owned airline, AirBorneo and the coastal highway, to enhance connectivity and strengthen Sarawak’s competitiveness as a destination for investment, tourism and quality living.

“Today’s opening symbolises confidence in our future. It reflects the willingness of the private sector to invest in our economy, create new opportunities and contribute meaningfully towards the long-term development of our state,” he said.

The former hotel building was redeveloped into Wisma Elica, which now houses Malaysia’s first voco by IHG Hotels & Resorts and Care Collective, East Malaysia’s largest senior wellness centre.

The development integrates hospitality, wellness and lifestyle services under one roof through the adaptive reuse of one of Kuching’s longstanding hospitality landmarks.

RM414m logging road upgrade

KUALA LUMPUR: Two projects worth RM414 million to upgrade former logging roads in Baram and Julau, Sarawak, have entered the pre-qualification open tender stage, the Dewan Negara was told.

Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Rubiah Wang said the projects, approved in 2024, involved allocations of RM231 million for Baram and RM183 million for Julau, with the Sarawak Public Works Department (JKR) serving as the implementing agency.

“The tender for the Lapok to Long Aya route upgrading project (Phase 1: Lapok to Long Teran) in Baram, Miri,

closed on May 19, 2026, and is currently undergoing the first-stage tender evaluation by JKR,” she said during the question-and-answer session.

She said this in response to a question from Senator Abun Sui Anyit regarding the allocation, location and status of rural logging road upgrading projects in Sarawak, particularly in Belaga, Hulu Rajang and Baram, as of June this year.

Rubiah said the Nanga Meluan to Nanga Maong road upgrading project in Julau, Sarikei, had entered the second stage of the pre-qualification open tender process, with the invitation period running from June 27 to Sept 15.

Prices lower due to AirBorneo

PETALING JAYA: Sarawak premier Abang Johari Openg says AirBorneo’s planned affordable fare model of RM375 has prompted rival airlines to lower their prices to remain competitive.

He said the introduction of Sarawak’s own airline was aimed at giving travellers more options while addressing concerns over rising airfares, especially during peak travel periods, such as festive seasons and school holidays, DayakDaily reported.

“AirAsia and Malaysia Airlines also reduced their airfares when we introduced our RM375 fare (from Kuching to Kuala Lumpur),” he was quoted as saying at a PBB event in Sibul.

Abang Johari said AirBorneo, which launched its inaugural flight from Kuching to Kuala Lumpur on Monday, wanted to ensure passengers had more choices and that airfares remained reasonable.

He said Sarawakians had long been affected by steep fare increases during peak periods, adding that high ticket prices could place a heavy burden on families travelling together.

“That is why I am determined to challenge this situation. That is why AirBorneo, owned by Sarawak, was created,” he said.

“At least you have an option which airline, which aircraft you want to use. It is up to you. But the fare must be reasonable.”

SABAH ASIA-PACIFIC IMPACT INVESTING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2026

Sustainable growth must involve natives

Leonard Alaza

KOTA KINABALU: Sustainable development will remain an incomplete promise unless indigenous communities are recognised not as passive recipients of aid but as leaders, partners and custodians of the natural environment, speakers told the Sabah Asia-Pacific Impact Investing for Sustainable Development Summit 2026.

In a panel on “Sustainable Development through Indigenous Stewardship”, indigenous leaders and policy experts argued that investment in Sabah’s rural communities must move beyond conventional measures of economic growth to embrace traditional ecological knowledge, equitable development and community-led conservation.

Their message came as governments and investors increasingly seek to align capital with environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals, while indigenous peoples worldwide continue to advocate for greater recognition of their role in protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainable land management.

Executive Director of Pacos Trust, Anne Lasimbang, said indigenous communities have long practised sustainability, not as a development strategy but as a way of life rooted in generations of observation, experience and spiritual connection with nature.

“It is the wisdom that we have accumulated through generations through observation, practice and reflection,” she said.

“This wisdom is passed down



through stories, songs, lullabies and our daily practices.

Anne welcomed the summit organisers for placing indigenous leadership on the agenda of an investment forum, describing it as an important acknowledgement that indigenous communities are central, not peripheral, to discussions on sustainable finance.

She said indigenous worldviews are built upon harmony, balance, respect and stewardship, where people see themselves as part of the environment rather than separate from it.

“We are part of the land. We consider ourselves part of the environment as stewards,” she said.

Those values, however, are increasingly under pressure from rapid modernisation, changing economic priorities and large-scale development projects that often overlook indigenous rights and knowledge systems.

Anne warned that unless deliberate efforts are made to document, revitalize and pass on indigenous knowledge to younger generations, much of it risks disappearing.

“If we don’t revitalise this knowledge and these values, they will be gone,” she said.

She called for greater investment in community learning centres, youth programmes and cultural initiatives that reconnect young people with their heritage and natural environment.

Equally important, she said, is ensuring that indigenous communities have a genuine voice in development decisions affecting their ancestral lands.

“Free, Prior and Informed Consent is a must,” Anne said.

“That is part of transparency and disclosure if we want to invest in indigenous communities.”

Her remarks resonated with Datuk Dr Richard Gunting, founder of Orou Sapulot, whose community-based enterprise in Sabah’s remote interior has sought to demonstrate that conservation, cultural preservation and economic development can reinforce rather than undermine one another.

Drawing on his own childhood growing up in rural Sabah, Richard said indigenous communities already possess the knowledge and resilience needed to shape their own future.

“The communities have their own knowledge, skills and experience. After all, they have survived for a long, long time,” he said.

Reflecting on his earlier career in government, Richard admitted he once viewed rural communities as “beneficiaries” of development programmes, a mindset he now rejects.



Anne



Richard

Justice and equality core pillars of sustainable development

DATUK Ts Dr Ramzah Dambul (pic), Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), placed indigenous stewardship within Sabah’s broader economic landscape.



He argued that sustainable development has been too narrowly defined by economic indicators, overlooking the principles that should underpin inclusive growth.

“When we are talking about sustainable development, the core pillars are justice and equality.

“It is not about economic growth. It is not about how many jobs you create. It is not about how many economic values we generate,” he said at the panel session on sustainable development through indigenous stewardship.

Sabah, he noted, continues to record respectable economic growth rates and produces a larger economic output than several other Malaysian states, yet remains among the country’s poorest because wealth is unevenly distributed.

“Our problem is not about economic growth,” he said. “It is about distribution.”

The challenge is particularly acute because nearly 60 per cent of Sabah’s population lives in rural areas, many of them indigenous communities with limited access to infrastructure, investment and economic opportunities.

Ramzah said development policies have historically prioritised what he described as the “high-level economy” — large-scale investments concentrated in urban and coastal areas— while neglecting grassroots economic development that directly benefits rural communities.

“We are focusing so much on the high-level economy and not on the grassroots economy,” he said.

He stressed that he was not advocating abandoning large investments, which remain important for government revenue and economic expansion, but argued they must be matched by policies that strengthen community enterprises and indigenous-led initiatives.

“If we are talking about sustainable development, it is about justice. It is about equality. It is not just about economic growth,” he said.

Together with Ramzah, other panellists during the session presented indigenous stewardship not simply as environmental conservation, but as a framework for rethinking development itself, one that integrates cultural identity, local knowledge, economic opportunity and ecological resilience.

For investors gathered at the summit, the message was equally clear: impact investing should not merely finance projects in indigenous communities but should empower those communities to shape, own and benefit from development on their own terms.

As Sabah seeks to position itself as a leader in sustainable investment, the panel argued that its indigenous peoples possess something increasingly valuable in a changing world, not only forests and biodiversity, but generations of knowledge on how to live with nature rather than simply extract from it. – **Leonard Alaza**

Need for proper digital data infra down to villages

Sherell Jeffrey

BUILDING a proper digital data infrastructure down to the village level is essential to directing investment toward rural communities and natural ecosystems, said George Town Institute of Open and Advanced Studies (GIOAS) Head of International Sneha Poddar (pic).



“What we generally tend to focus on is health of economy or career because that is how we have been measuring our progress. But what we ignore is the spiritual, the social, emotional, intellectual, environmental and physical health,” she said in her framing keynote at the Sabah Asia-Pacific Impact Investing for Sustainable Development Summit 2026 (Sabah AIMS 2026).

For the record, the inaugural Sabah AIMS 2026 gathered over 300 delegates from more than 170 leading global organisations. It was jointly organised by GIOAS and the State Tourism, Culture and Environment Ministry representing the Sabah Government. Daily Express is the media partner.

“Public systems were historically built around physical infrastructure such as roads, universities and banks, clustered in cities because governments lacked the technology to reach remote

areas, leaving rural communities behind,” Poddar added.

She identified two blind spots in that model, namely that public systems no longer need to be physically clustered given advances in technology, and that development needs to be measured through indicators other than gross domestic product (GDP).

“How can such a public system be designed which, number one, is not physical but digital, and number two, it benchmarks more than just the GDP,” she said, pointing out that this is one of the GIOAS’ core research areas.

She said this could now be addressed through a digital public infrastructure built on five pillars, namely digital identity, data, knowledge, finance and marketplace, functioning as one integrated ecosystem rather than separate projects.

She said the digital identity concept should extend past individuals, noting that countries such as Bhutan and India had introduced national identity systems, while Malaysia had MyKad.

“We do not need digital identities just for individuals, we need it also for organisations to bring them on the ecosystem and also for ecological assets.

“If we do it for ecological assets, then we can measure the health of these ecological assets, we can see what opportunities they can create economically and

we can direct our investments there,” she said.

On data, Poddar cited her earlier work on soil restoration in India, where she said the absence of grassroots-level data made it difficult to identify farmers whose land needed intervention.

“Most of the data was being aggregated either at provincial level or at national level. So, when we had to find farmers whose soils are degraded, there was no data,” she said.

She said this shaped a proposal she developed with GIOAS Chairman Tan Sri Andrew Sheng for a One Earth Balance Sheet accounting for wellbeing and ecological health at the level of each individual, village and city, rather than only nationally or globally.

“It has to be for each individual, it has to be for each village, it has to be for each city and then it can all come together to become a global balance sheet,” she said, recounting Sheng’s guidance to her.

Poddar said scattered data currently forces anyone delivering a programme to a village to piece together information from numerous separate sources, describing water, soil and demographic data as typically held in different places entirely.

“Local research and knowledge faced a similar problem,” she said, citing a library she visited at a college of natural resources in Bhutan that held resources

for farmers which were never digitised or shared on the ground.

On finance and marketplace access, she said rural communities currently had to go through several institutions with differing standards to secure funding, and proposed a common digital platform matching development project with funding sources.

She pointed to India’s open network digital marketplace model as an example of breaking the dominance of large platforms and widening rural access to trade.

Poddar said the system could eventually take the form of an app allowing individual villagers to see how their household and village were performing on wellbeing indicators and be matched directly with relevant knowledge and marketplace opportunities, with a similar matching system envisioned for organisations.

She said a village-level data dashboard could also allow communities and planners to simulate development pathways over 10 to 15 years, rather than relying on conventional five-year trajectories, presenting an example of what such a dashboard could look like for Sabah.

“Theoretically and technologically, it is now possible to deliver wellbeing fast, but with everybody’s willingness to turn, learn and earn I think we can realise it for Sabah,” she said.

LDP divisions call for greater women role, long-term energy infra

KOTA KINABALU: The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Likas, Api-Api and Luyang Divisions unanimously adopted three resolutions calling for greater women’s representation in party leadership and the strengthening of Sabah’s long-term energy infrastructure.

The resolutions were passed during the Joint Divisional Conference, attended by more than 200 members and officiated by LDP President Datuk Chin Su Phin, with Deputy President Datuk Yong Wui Chung serving as Speaker.

The first resolution, proposed by the Likas Division, called for the gradual implementation of at least 40pc women’s participation in leadership and decision-making positions within the party.

The resolution also supports providing more capable and committed women with equal opportunities to contribute and lead, while strengthening women’s leadership development programmes and encouraging greater participation by young women in party affairs, community service and public affairs.

Likas Division Chairperson Glenna Wong said capable, visionary and dedicated

women deserve equal opportunities to contribute.

“A political party cannot progress without women’s participation, just as society cannot advance without women’s contributions,” she said.

The second and third resolutions, proposed by the Api-Api Division, urged the implementation of Phase Two of the Sabah Southern Transmission Line Project, comprising a 275kV transmission line from Padas to Tawau, and the construction of a 1,000MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) natural gas power plant along Sabah’s west coast.

The conference said natural gas should serve as a transitional energy source and that both projects are essential to strengthen Sabah’s electricity infrastructure in preparation for artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and strategic industries requiring a reliable power supply.

Api-Api Division Chairman Sim Fui said Sabah must remain united and support local political forces to strengthen the State’s position and influence in national politics.

“While the future remains uncertain, one thing is clear — Sabah must first unite in



Sylvia (back row, sixth from right) presents membership application forms to Chin (back row, eighth from left).

order to become a stronger political force,” he said.

He said stronger political leverage would enable Sabah to pursue the implementation of the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63), secure fairer development allocations and improve water, electricity and road infrastructure, while attracting greater investments and creating better education, healthcare and employment opportunities.

Luyang Division Chairman Simon Chin said the division would continue strengthening its grassroots network and encourage members to participate actively in community service.

“Our role is to serve as the bridge

between the Government and the people — bringing the people’s voices to the Government while ensuring government services reach the community,” he said.

The conference also witnessed a membership induction ceremony where a group of professionals led by Dr Sylvia Lim Sze Wei formally submitted their membership applications after embracing the party’s political ideals and policy direction.

The applications were presented to the LDP Secretary-General in the presence of the LDP President and other party leaders, symbolising the new members’ commitment to serving the people and contributing to Sabah through the party.

KDN firm on policy on Israel

PUTRAJAYA: The Home Ministry (KDN) will continue to strengthen Malaysia’s border controls by enforcing stringent immigration checks, law enforcement and security measures in line with the Madani Government’s policy on Israel.

In a statement Tuesday, KDN said it fully supports Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim’s firm stance on Israel and Malaysia’s continued commitment to defending the rights of the Palestinian people while safeguarding the country’s national interests.

“In line with the Government’s policy of having no diplomatic relations with Israel, travel documents issued by Israel are not recognised for entry into Malaysia,” the statement read.

KDN said all applications by foreign nationals to enter Malaysia are subject to comprehensive immigration screening, security vetting and risk assessments.

Through the Immigration Department, KDN will continue to enforce all relevant laws governing the entry of foreign nationals, including the Immigration Act 1959/1963 (Act 155), the Passport Act 1966 (Act 160), existing immigration regulations and security assessments conducted by national security agencies.

Trader tells court Muhyi had role in helping Nepturis secure project

KUALA LUMPUR: A businessman told the High Court Tuesday that he believed former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had a role in helping Nepturis Sdn Bhd, a company he had established, secure a project under the Jana Wibawa programme.

Metrasys Sdn Bhd Director Lian Tan Chuan, 55, said this stemmed from Nepturis winning the pre-qualification tender for the Klang Utara District Police Headquarters (IPD) project in Selangor on Jan, 12, 2022, following the issuance of a Letter of Acceptance by the Public Works Department (JKR).

“On Jan 16, 2022, I instructed Rizman (Mohd Rizman Akum Khan) to issue a cheque of RM1 million from Nepturis, payable to Bersatu. I then handed the cheque to Datuk Azman (Yusoff) at his office, and asked him to either pass it to any Bersatu leader or bank it in,” he said.

The 21st prosecution witness said Azman, who is president of the Bumiputera Contractors Association and a member of the Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia, had informed him that the government had approved the Jana Wibawa programme.

He said this while reading his witness statement during Muhyiddin's trial, in which the former prime minister faces seven charges of abuse of power and money laundering.

During examination-in-chief by deputy public prosecutor Datuk Wan Shaharuddin Wan Ladin on why the witness had dared to make a RM1 million contribution to Bersatu, Lian replied: “After we calculated the project’s profits.”

When asked by Wan Shaharuddin why he made the contribution to Bersatu, the witness said: “It was already agreed that once we received the Letter of Acceptance, we would have to make a contribution.”

Wan Shaharuddin: RM1 million is a

substantial amount? Lian: Yes, very substantial, as that amount could serve as capital for a project.

Wan Shaharuddin: In this case, was the contribution to Bersatu a reward or merely a donation? Lian: I consider it as consideration.

Wan Shaharuddin: Distinguish between the meaning of a donation and consideration. Lian: A donation means giving without receiving anything in return. It is unconditional and given voluntarily. Consideration, however, is given to obtain something in return.

Regarding the RM1 million contribution, Lian said he made the payment at Azman's request, after Nepturis secured the Jana Wibawa project through an application letter supported by Muhyiddin, who was then prime minister and Bersatu president.

“I believe that if my company's application letter had not been supported by Tan Sri Muhyiddin and processed by the Prime Minister's Office, my company would not have passed the Ministry of Finance evaluation or been awarded the project by JKR.

“When applying for the Klang Utara IPD project, I engaged Adam Radlan to obtain Tan Sri Muhyiddin's supporting minutes for my company's application,” he said.

On his meeting with Adam Radlan, Lian said Azman had introduced them at Publika in December 2020, and told him that Adam Radlan had close ties with Muhyiddin and could help his company secure projects.

The witness said Adam Radlan, who also played golf with Muhyiddin, had asked him to prepare an application letter to the then prime minister for the project on a pre-qualification basis, along with the company profile. The letter was to be submitted to Adam Radlan to obtain the supporting minutes from Muhyiddin.

“I had asked Aliza (Abd Malek) to pre-

pare five pre-qualification application letters for the Klang Utara IPD project. The letters were for Nepturis Sdn Bhd, Fastcoll Corporation Sdn Bhd, MZ Hakujaya Sdn Bhd, Permata Rebana Sdn Bhd and JM Letrik Sdn Bhd, all dated Feb 1, 2021,” he said.

He also informed the court that the letters were sent to Muhyiddin to obtain his support to participate in the pre-qualification tender for the construction project.

Muhyiddin, 79, who was then Prime Minister and Bersatu president, was charged with four counts of abuse of power for allegedly soliciting RM232.5 million in bribes for the political party from Bukhary Equity Sdn Bhd, Nepturis Sdn Bhd, Mamfor Sdn Bhd, and Datuk Azman Yusoff in connection with the Jana Wibawa project.

He was accused of committing the offence at the Prime Minister's Office, Bangunan Perdana Putra, Putrajaya between March 1, 2020, and Aug 20, 2021, under Section 23(1) of the MACC Act 2009, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of five times the value of the gratification or RM10,000, whichever is higher, upon conviction.

The Pagoh MP also faces three charges of receiving RM200 million in unlawful proceeds from Bukhary Equity Sdn Bhd, which were deposited into Bersatu's Ambank and CIMB Bank accounts, allegedly committed in Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur between February 2021 and July 2022.

These charges were brought under Section 4(1)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment and a fine of either five times the value of the proceeds from unlawful activities or RM5 million, whichever is higher.

tence ordered to run consecutively.

For the second charge under Section 377C of the Penal Code, the man was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment from the date of his arrest and 20 strokes of the cane.

In addition, he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and two strokes of the cane under Section 16(1) of the same Act, with the sentence also ordered to run consecutively.

The court ordered all sentences to run concurrently except for the two sentences imposed under Section 16(1) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, which are to run consecutively.

The court also ordered that the man be referred to the Immigration Department for deportation after completing his sentence.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Yuvan Bharathan appeared for the prosecution, while the accused was unrepresented.

Trader charged in mosque scam

Cynthia D Baga

KOTA KINABALU: A 35-year-old trader was charged with cheating a man out of RM40,000 over a mosque construction project.

Adb Rudi Jenain pleaded not guilty before Sessions Court Judge Hurman Hussain to the charge on Tuesday.

Rudi is accused of cheating the 44-year-old victim by deceiving him into believing that he had secured a project to build a mosque in Pitas, inducing the victim to hand over RM40,000.

The offence allegedly occurred at about 12pm on May 9, 2023, in the Grace Point area along Jalan Sembulan here.

The charge, under Section 420 of the Penal Code, carries a jail term of between one and 10 years, whipping, and a fine upon conviction. The court fixed Aug 28 for pre-trial case management and released Rudi on bail of RM4,000 with two local sureties.

Rudi, who was unrepresented, told the court that he intended to engage a lawyer.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Bryan Francis appeared for the prosecution.

Court awards 13 activists

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court here Tuesday ordered the government and the police to pay a total of RM195,000 in damages to 13 activists for their wrongful arrest during a candlelight vigil held at Dataran Merdeka in 2021, amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Judge Datuk Anand Ponnudurai awarded each plaintiff RM15,000 in general damages.

“Having regard to the totality of the evidence in this case, this court considers that an award of RM15,000 to each plaintiff fairly and appropriately reflects the injuries established in these proceedings.

“That award also recognises the importance of the constitutional rights infringed whilst remaining proportionate to the nature and duration of the detention as well as the absence of aggravating features,” he said in his judgment, Tuesday.



Muhyiddin arriving at the High Court in Kuala Lumpur.

28 years, rotan for raping daughter, 15

Mardinah Jikur

SANDAKAN: A 50-year-old illegal immigrant was sentenced to a total of 28 years' jail and 25 strokes of the cane after pleading guilty to raping his daughter and sexually assaulting her.

Sessions Court Judge Roslinda Razali handed down the sentence after the man pleaded guilty to two charges on Tuesday.

On the first charge, he was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and 18 strokes of the cane for raping the 15-year-old girl at about 3am on March 1 this year at a house in Batu 21 here.

The offence, under Section 376(3) of the Penal Code, carries a jail term of between eight and 30 years, and not fewer than 10 strokes of the cane upon conviction.

On the second charge, he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and five strokes of the cane for committing sexual assault against the same victim at the same place and time.

The court also imposed an additional one year's imprisonment and two strokes of the cane under the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 because the offender was the victim's father.

The court ordered the additional one-year jail term to run consecutively with the

other sentences. As a result, the man will serve a total of 21 years' imprisonment, while the whipping sentences amount to 25 strokes of the cane.

The court heard that at about 3am on March 1 this year, the man raped his biological daughter while she was asleep in the living room of their house in Batu 21.

During the incident, the victim's mother tried to stop him but was assaulted, leaving her in fear and unable to prevent the attack.

Investigations also revealed that the man sexually assaulted the victim during the same incident.

The victim lodged a police report on March 2, after which the man was arrested.

Although there was no official document identifying the man as the victim's biological father, investigations confirmed their relationship through witness testimony and DNA analysis of blood samples.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Yuvan Bharathan urged the court to impose an appropriate sentence, submitting that the accused had committed the offences against his own daughter, whom he was duty-bound to protect.

He added that the sentence should also serve as a deterrent to others.

48 illegals jailed four months

Alexander Cassius Alliu

KOTA KINABALU: Forty-eight illegal immigrants were each jailed four months by the Sessions Court here for entering Sabah without valid passes.

Judge Hurman Hussain handed down the sentences to the immigrants, comprising 32 Filipinos and 16 Filipinas, after they pleaded guilty to the charges.

They committed offences under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63, which provides for imprisonment of up to five years, a fine of up to RM10,000, or both, upon conviction.

12 jailed, fined over immigration offences

KOTA KINABALU: Twelve illegal immigrants were jailed and fined by the Sessions Court here for various immigration offences.

Judge Hurman Hussain handed down the sentences to the immigrants from the Philippines and Indonesia after they pleaded guilty.

The group was arrested during enforcement operations conducted in Kota Kinabalu, Kudat, Sipitang and Tenom.

Eight Filipinos were each jailed four months for entering Sabah without valid passes.

They committed offences under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63, which provides for imprisonment of up to five years, a fine of up to RM10,000, or both, upon conviction.

Another two foreigners – an Indonesian and a Filipino – were jailed for overstaying in Sabah after their documents had expired.

Kitchen helper fined RM5,000 for retaining stolen laptop

Jo Ann Mool

KOTA KINABALU: A kitchen helper was fined RM5,000, or nine months' imprisonment, by the Magistrate's Court here for dishonestly retaining a stolen laptop.

Calvin On pleaded guilty before Magistrate Marilyn Kelvin to dishonestly retaining the stolen laptop at about 3:30pm on Jan 5 this year in a rented room at 88 Commercial Centre here.

The offence, under Section 411 of the Penal Code, carries a jail term of up to five years, or a fine, or both, upon conviction.

The court heard that the complainant had stopped by a friend's house at Austral Park before returning home at about 1am on Oct 3, 2025.

He later discovered that the laptop, which had been left in his car, was missing and lodged a police report.

Following investigations, police arrested Calvin and recovered the stolen laptop from him.

Through counsel, Calvin pleaded for a fine, saying, among other things, that he had consumed alcohol at the material

time, which had impaired his judgment.

In a separate case, a 35-year-old man claimed trial to a charge of dishonestly retaining a stolen motorcycle.

Airul Nur Ali pleaded not guilty to dishonestly retaining a stolen Honda motorcycle belonging to Zakinah Yunus at about 7:35pm on July 22 this year near a restaurant in Jalan Putatan.

The charge, under Section 411 of the Penal Code, carries a jail term of between six months and five years, and is also punishable with a fine upon conviction.

The prosecution applied for a pre-trial case management date and offered bail of RM5,000 with two sureties.

Counsel Lim Ming Zoong, representing the accused, sought lower bail, saying that Airul is married and has two children.

The court fixed Sept 15 for pre-trial case management and released Airul on bail of RM1,600 with two sureties.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Ronnie Anthony and Inspector Yusdi Basri appeared for the prosecution.

Mardinah Jikur

SANDAKAN: The Sessions Court on Tuesday sentenced an illegal immigrant to 22 years' imprisonment and 44 strokes of the cane after he pleaded guilty to two charges of raping and sodomising his underage stepdaughter in 2023 and this year.

Judge Roslinda Razali handed down the sentence after the man admitted to the charges.

The court heard from the prosecution that the first incident occurred in mid-May 2023, when the victim was eight years old, at about 8am in the victim's room at a house in a village here.

The second incident occurred at another house in the same village on April 29 this year at about 5am, when the victim was 11 years old.

Investigations also found that the victim told investigators she had been raped multiple times by the man but could only



recall two incidents.

The abuse came to light after the victim told her school friends about her ordeal. A teacher was informed and subsequently notified the victim's biological mother, who lodged a police report on the same day.

The victim also underwent a medical examination.

For the first charge under Section 376(3) of the Penal Code, the court sentenced the man to 20 years' imprisonment from the date of his arrest and 20 strokes of the cane.

He was also sentenced to one year's imprisonment and two strokes of the cane under Section 16(1) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, with the sen-

Filipino jailed, caned for sexually assaulting teen girl

KOTA KINABALU: An illegal Filipino who claimed he was under the influence of alcohol when he sexually assaulted a local teenage girl was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and one stroke of the cane by the Sessions Court here.

Judge Herman Hussain imposed the sentence on Jesbir Rasmin after he pleaded guilty to the charge on Tuesday.

Jesbir, 28, admitted to touching the private parts of the 17-year-11-month-old victim for a sexual purpose at about 12.57pm on July 17 this year at a Buddhist temple near here.

The offence, under Section 14(a) of the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, carries a jail term of up to 20 years and whipping upon conviction.

The court ordered Jesbir to serve his sentence from the date of his arrest.

During mitigation, Jesbir, who was unrepresented, pleaded for leniency, saying he was married and had one child.

He admitted that what he had done was wrong and claimed he would not have committed the offence had he not been intoxicated.

Jesbir apologised for his actions and promised not to reoffend.

When asked by the court who had told him to drink until he became intoxicated, Jesbir replied that he had chosen to do so himself.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Bryan Francis urged the court to impose a heavy sentence, submitting that the offence was serious and committed in broad daylight.

Jesbir was also sentenced to four months' imprisonment for entering the State illegally.

The court ordered that, upon completing his jail terms, he be referred to the Immigration Department for further action.

The court heard that the victim was working at the temple when Jesbir entered the premises.

She told him not to enter her workplace, but he ignored her. He then approached the victim and touched her private parts.

The victim pushed his hand away and screamed because she was frightened by his actions.

Jesbir fled the scene but was arrested on July 20 after the victim lodged a police report. – **Cynthia D Baga**

Missing schoolgirl found safe

Sisca Humphrey

KOTA KINABALU: A 13-year-old girl reported missing after failing to return home from school has been found safe.

Acting Kota Kinabalu Police Chief Supt Syed Lot Syed Ab Rahman said Gwynne Mia Erbin was found at about 3pm on Tuesday in front of her friend's house in Lorong Seri Pelangi, Inanam.

“The girl was alone when she was found and was in good health, with no injuries,” he said in a statement.

Preliminary investigations found that she had been staying with a friend

since the previous day.

The girl's mother later took her to the Kota Kinabalu district police headquarters to lodge a follow-up report.

Police said investigations into the case are ongoing.

The public has been advised not to speculate or spread unverified information that could affect the investigation.

Syed Lot also thanked members of the public for their cooperation in sharing information and helping to circulate the missing person notice.



The band during its final 10-minute warm-up before taking the stage.

Tshung Tsin shines at S’pore Band Festival

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Tshung Tsin Wind Symphony (TTWS) won a Gold Award and was crowned Division 2A (Junior College/High School Division) champion at the 10th Singapore International Band Festival (SIBF) 2026.

Held from July 21 to 27 at the National University of Singapore (NUS), the biennial Singapore International Band Festival is widely regarded as one of Asia’s premier wind band events.

This year’s edition brought together outstanding ensembles from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, providing a platform for musical excellence, cultural exchange and educational collaboration through competitions, performances and workshops.

The concert band competition featured five categories: Concert Division (Professional), Division 1 (Open), Division 2A (Junior College/High School), Division 2B (Middle School), and Division 3 (Primary School). Competing in Division 2A, TTWS faced strong competition from ensembles representing Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines and China.

The band took to the stage on July 23, with the results announced during the festival’s closing ceremony on July 27.

Besides receiving the coveted Gold Award, TTWS emerged as the overall Division 2A champion, taking home the championship trophy and a SGD2,000 cash prize.

The latest triumph marks another significant milestone in the band’s history at the Singapore International Band Festival. TTWS previously won a Silver Award in 2010, followed by consecutive Gold Awards in 2012 and 2014.

After a 12-year hiatus, the ensemble reclaimed the Gold Award and, for the first time, secured the Division 2A championship.

The achievement is believed to be the first overall divisional championship won by a Malaysian ensemble in the history of the Singapore International Band Festival, making it a landmark accomplishment for both Sabah Tshung Tsin Secondary School and Malaysia’s wind band community.

With this latest success, TTWS has also become the Malaysian ensemble with the highest number of Gold Awards in the festival’s history.

For the competition, the ensemble performed two Grade 4 works: “Rapture” by acclaimed American composer Brian Balmages and “One Life Beautiful” by internationally renowned composer Julie Giroux.

Both compositions demand exceptional musicianship, requiring precise tone production, ensemble balance, musical phrasing, dynamic control and expressive interpretation.

Beyond technical proficiency, the repertoire challenged the students to demonstrate maturity, teamwork and artistic communication at the highest level.

TTWS Music Director and Conductor Ho Chee Kiang, who has led the school wind band for more than two decades, believes music education extends far beyond mastering an instrument.

“One of the most important skills in an ensemble is listening. Listening is not only

about pitch, rhythm and harmony. It is understanding when to bring out the melody and when to support the overall sound.

“A truly outstanding band is not one where everyone plays the loudest, but one where everyone works together to create beautiful music.”

He said a successful wind band is built on discipline, self-motivation and responsibility.

Members are expected not only to attend rehearsals consistently but also to take ownership of their own development through independent practice and continual refinement.

“Music teaches students to respect others while also learning self-discipline. Every rehearsal and every correction develops perseverance, patience and resilience – qualities that extend far beyond the classroom.”

Sabah Tshung Tsin Secondary School Principal Dr Chung Chin Hing described the achievement as the culmination of years of dedication rather than a single outstanding performance.

He noted that, except during the weeks leading up to the mid-year and final examinations, band members spend almost every afternoon practising after school. Many also voluntarily stay behind after rehearsals to perfect challenging passages and refine every musical detail.

“The competition performance lasts only a few minutes, but it represents countless hours of dedication accumulated over many months.

“Our students’ willingness to invest their time, challenge themselves and continually strive for excellence reflects the true value of music education.”

Sabah Tshung Tsin Secondary School Board of Governors Chairman Datuk Jimmy Yong Kyok Ming expressed his appreciation to Tan Sri Paul Lim Pau Chang, Datuk Kong Kwok Wah and I-World Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd for their unwavering support of the school’s wind band programme.

He said their generous sponsorship has enabled more students to participate in international competitions by easing financial burdens, allowing them to focus on training and proudly represent both the school and Malaysia on the international stage.

The Sabah Tshung Tsin Wind Symphony will hold its annual concert on Sept 19, 2026, with ticketing details to be announced soon.

Members of the public are invited to attend and support the young musicians as they showcase the culmination of a year’s dedication, discipline and musical growth.

Meanwhile, registration for the school’s Form One Entrance Examination is now open.

Dr Chung encouraged primary school pupils, particularly those with experience in school bands, to consider enrolling at Sabah Tshung Tsin Secondary School, where they can receive structured wind band training while developing artistic excellence, teamwork, leadership and strong personal character.

For enquiries regarding admission, call 088-254154.

National fruit to be decided via public feedback

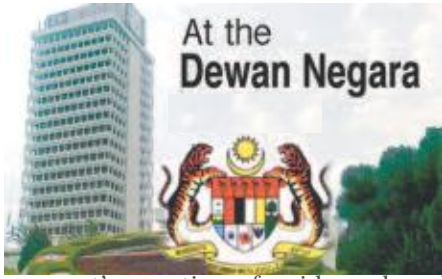
THE Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM) has proposed that the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) conduct a census to determine which local fruit should be recognised as Malaysia’s national fruit.

Its Deputy Minister Datuk Chan Foong Hin said the proposed census was necessary to obtain comprehensive public feedback as Malaysia has yet to officially recognise a national fruit, unlike several countries that have adopted national fruits as part of their nation-branding strategies.

He said KPKM had received an official application from the Durian Manufacturer Association (DMA) seeking recognition of durian as Malaysia’s national fruit, while the Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board (LPNM) had submitted a similar proposal for pineapple.

“Given that more than one fruit has been proposed, KPKM is of the view that the selection process should be objective and based on data. The ministry has therefore proposed that DOSM conduct a national census to obtain the views of Malaysians on the fruit most suitable to be designated as national fruit.

“This approach is in line with the gov-



ernment’s practice of evidence-based policymaking and ensuring that decisions truly reflect the aspirations of the people. Any government decision will be made after considering the findings of the census and the Cabinet’s deliberations,” he said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara Tuesday.

He said this in response to a supplementary question from Senator Datuk Wu Him Ven Malaysia’s national fruit designation.

Responding to Senator Sheikh Umar Bagharib Ali’s original question on the government’s action plan to accelerate the transformation of the country’s pineapple industry towards achieving RM2 billion in export value by 2027, Chan said various integrated strategies were

being intensified through LPNM.

He said KPKM, through LPNM, had formulated the Strategic Plan for Increasing Pineapple Exports 2026-2027, which comprises six main strategies based on an analysis of export performance, global market demand trends and domestic supply capacity.

“This strategy includes strengthening exports to major markets, especially China, which currently accounts for 72 per cent of the country’s total pineapple exports, with demand reaching 150 containers of fresh fruit per month.

“The government is also implementing a strategic business matching programme to explore new markets such as New Zealand, intensify international promotion, increase the number of new exporters and strengthen monitoring of the supply of export-quality pineapples,” he said.

Chan said LPNM was also collaborating with the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM) to develop specific export guidelines to ensure Malaysian pineapples meet quality standards, food safety requirements and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements of importing countries.

MCMC settled 560 harmful online content cases last year

THE Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) resolved 560 cases, or 93 per cent, of the 607 investigation papers opened last year, involving various offences related to harmful online content.

The Communications Ministry said the offences under Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 588) involved obscene, indecent, false, threatening and grossly offensive content.

Of the total, 20 cases were brought before the courts, with 12 decided, resulting in total fines of RM230,000, while six offenders were sentenced to prison terms of between six and 10 months.

“The MCMC also offered compounds for 34 cases worth RM2.29 million, issued 119 warning letters, while 47 cases are still under investigation and the remainder classified as requiring no further action,” the ministry said.

This was in response to a question from Senator Datuk Wu Him Ven on the breakdown of investigations, prosecutions and convictions under Section 233 of Act 588 from January to December 2025 according to offence category, particularly those involving 3R (race, religion and royalty) issues, cyberbullying, the dissemination of false information, obscene content and other harmful content.

During the same period, MCMC investigated 202 cases involving harmful online content related to 3R issues under Section 233 of Act 588 and, of that total, 13 cases were charged in court with nine concluded resulting in total fines of RM180,000, while five offenders were sentenced to imprisonment.

KPT to tighten monitoring of overseas professional courses

KUALA LUMPUR: The Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) is strengthening strategic coordination and proactive monitoring mechanisms with local and foreign professional bodies to ensure that issues of recognition of overseas graduate study programmes can be addressed effectively.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education Adam Adli Abd Halim said the move includes creating records of Malaysian students abroad to monitor and ensure that the accreditation and quality of their studies are always maintained.

He said the improvements are important to avoid a recurrence of technical issues at the level of recognition of professional bodies such as what happened to four pharmacy graduates from Alexandria University in Egypt recently.

“The root of the problem is the change, it is a technical problem where there was a change of name to the programme they attended in Egypt. The problem also did not actually occur at the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) level. For us, the recognition continues to occur.

84,000 women benefit from Iris scheme

ABOUT 84,000 women have benefited from 78 sessions under the Women’s Legal Literacy and Rights (IRIS) programme conducted as of June, said Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Lim Hui Ying.

She said the programme aims to raise women’s awareness of their legal rights, available complaint channels and protection mechanisms to prevent them from being exploited or taken advantage of by certain parties. “This knowledge will help women better understand their rights reduce the likelihood of such cases occurring,” she said during a question-and-answer session at the Dewan Negara.

“The issue is when there is no notification made by the University of Alexandria to the professional body, namely the Malaysian Pharmacy Board,” he said during an oral question and answer session at the Dewan Negara, Tuesday.

He said this in response to a supplementary question from Senator Norhasmimi Abdul Ghani regarding the government’s readiness to introduce a monitoring mechanism for all professional programmes abroad for coordination between educational institutions, recognition agencies and professional bodies following the case involving the four graduates in question.

Adam Adli said MQA together with professional bodies are responsible for regulating the quality assurance process of programmes offered by local higher education providers through the establishment of a Joint Technical Committee.

In addition, he said the power to register graduates as professional practitioners whether from within or outside Malaysia is fully subject to the provisions of the law and regulations relevant professional bodies.

She was responding to a supplementary question from Senator Datuk Seri S. Vell Paari on the ministry’s measures to protect women facing economic difficulties, including those married to foreigners and at risk of having their names misused to set up companies or run businesses.

Lim said the ministry, through the Women’s Development Department, was also implementing the Program Meningkatkan Daya Tahan dan Psikologi Wanita (Matahari), in addition to establishing PRISMANita as a one-stop centre in every state to help women access information, support and referral services on various issues.

Youth input key to tackling climate change

KUALA LUMPUR: The 2026 National Youth Climate Change (NYCC) Report, titled “Nurture the Youth, Create the Change”, launched today, integrates the views of young people through an inclusive approach in addressing the challenges of climate change.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry (NRES) secretary-general Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainudin said the report also outlined the impact of climate change on the economy, ecosystems and public well-being.

She said the report reflected the continued commitment of the Malaysian government and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to empower young people as key strategic partners in advancing the country’s climate action agenda.

“Climate change is no longer a long-term environmental issue or merely a concern for future generations. It is a present-day reality.

“On behalf of NRES, we believe that young people are not merely beneficiaries of climate policies, but also important

strategic partners in shaping more effective solutions to build a more resilient and low-carbon Malaysia together,” she said when officiating the launch of the NYCC Report at The Godown Arts Centre here Tuesday.

The programme, organised in collaboration with UNICEF Malaysia, was attended by youth representatives, civil society organisations (CSOs) and various stakeholders, reflecting a whole-of-society approach to addressing climate challenges.

Egbert made Murut Nabaai Chief

Ethan Ryan
KENINGAU: Ir Egbert Manjin was re-elected President of the Sabah Murut Nabaai Ethnic Association (Nabaai) for the 2026-2028 term during its second Biennial General Meeting at the SIB Sabah Pasisimpungan Hall.

Egbert was also conferred the title of Aki Mangkaunan, the highest honour bestowed on a leader within the Murut Nabaai ethnic community. The title recognises his leadership, service and active role in preserving the community’s cultural heritage, strengthening its traditional customs and fostering unity.

Assistant Finance Minister and Bingkor Assemblyman Datuk Sr Ishak Ayub accepted his appointment as patron of Nabaai.

Ishak expressed his appreciation for Nabaai’s dedicated efforts in preserving the cultural heritage, customs and identity of the Murut Nabaai community in Sabah.

He said the strength of a community does not solely depend on physical development but is also rooted in its ability to preserve its cultural values, unity and identity for future generations.

Egbert expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him by the delegates,



Ishak receives the appointment of Nabaai patron from Egbert.

describing his re-election as a great responsibility.

He pledged to continue strengthening Nabaai’s mission of empowering the Murut Nabaai community.

Kudat folks urged to report security threats

KUDAT: The public here has been urged to act as the eyes and ears of the authorities by channelling information on any security threats through the comprehensive defence approach.

Assistant Finance Minister I Datuk Ben Chong Chen Bin said active community involvement is important in helping security agencies identify any elements that could threaten the harmony and wellbeing of the country.

“The presence of Malaysian Armed Forces personnel and a large number of security personnel around Pekan Kudat not only boosts public confidence but also gives residents a sense of safety and

protection.

“This situation also indirectly serves as a signal and a warning to any party intending to disrupt security and public order in this district,” he said when officiating at the Civil-Military Cooperation Programme at the Lembaga Bandaran Kudat grounds here, recently.

Ben Chong, who is also Tanjong Kapor Assemblyman, said the programme, organised by the Malaysian Armed Forces, aimed to boost the spirit of cooperation, build mutual understanding and strengthen communication links between military personnel and the community, particularly youths, through

activities focused on health, welfare and community engagement.

“Various activities were held, including a colouring contest, a nine-a-side football tournament for men, a netball tournament for women, health checks and interaction sessions between military personnel, the community and community leaders,” he said.

He said the involvement of various government agencies and the community in the programme reflected a shared commitment to strengthening the well-being of the people while fostering closer ties between the security forces and the public.

Drooping cables and leaning pole




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Review UNHCR role: Tok Mat

SEREMBAN: Malaysia should reconsider the presence of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the country if the international body refuses to cooperate in implementing a strict screening process for refugee card applicants.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan (pic) said the current existence of the UNHCR office is seen as a ‘magnet’ that attracts more refugees, especially the Rohingya ethnic group, to Malaysia.

In this regard, he said the government through the Home Ministry (KDN) is working on a mechanism to ensure that the screening process is carried out jointly by UNHCR and local authorities before any refugee card is issued to any individual.

He said the matter was also raised in the Cabinet Committee meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, with him requesting that the Host Country Agreement be expedited to set guidelines and stricter controls on the issuance of UNHCR cards.



“We want cooperation and strict screening. If they do not want to cooperate, in my opinion, it is time for us to reconsider the presence of UNHCR in the country so that we do not continue to be burdened,” he said after reviewing the early voting process at the Sendayan Air Base, here Tuesday.

On Monday the media reported that hundreds of ethnic Rohingya were camped out in front of the UNHCR office at Jalan Bukit Petaling in Kuala Lumpur, before being transferred to the Kuala Lumpur police contingent headquarters (IPK) for the documentation and identity verification process.

Commenting further, Mohamad said that among the issues that needed to be addressed was the refugee card application process which he claimed was too easy to the point of allowing individuals to apply online from their country of origin before obtaining the card upon arrival in Malaysia.

“Right now there is no SOP (Standard Operating Procedure), they give it to them after doing it online... he is in Myanmar, he has done it online, he comes here to get the card directly. So we do not have screening, this is what we need to manage,” he said. – Bernama

Include kids in decisions impacting them

Sherell Jeffery

KOTA KINABALU: Children must be included in decisions that affect them instead of being left out of advocacy efforts, said human rights advocate Mary-Anne Baltazar (pic).



“We adults tend to think we know better based on what we believe is the best interest of the child. But we have to remember child participation matters too. We have to always listen to what the child wants,” said the Advocates for Non-Discrimination and Access to Knowledge (ANAK) founder.

Baltazar was among the panellists at the inaugural Child Safeguarding Conference held recently at the Sabah International Convention Centre.

The conference is jointly organised by the Child Safeguarding Initiative (CSI), the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and the Sabah Council of Social Services.

For the record, ANAK is a Sabah-based grassroots non-profit organisation dedicated to upholding the rights of every child in Sabah.

Baltazar, a PhD candidate with over 16 years of experience in children’s rights, statelessness, child labour and migration in Sabah, said ANAK’s work centres on paralegal documentation, helping families apply for birth certificates and citizenship.

She said all children can and must be registered at birth under the mandate of the National Registration Department, but registration does not automatically grant citizenship. Green birth certificates are issued to citizens and red certificates to non-citizens.

“Most of ANAK’s citizenship cases involve children between 11 and 16 years old still waiting for recognition even though one parent is a Malaysian citizen, calling the process long and difficult,” she said.

She said the scale of need in Sabah, home to 3.4 million people across a landmass roughly half the size of Peninsular Malaysia, requires organisations to work collectively rather than in isolation.

“The CSI is an example of such collective efforts that brings together groups covering indigenous communities, gender-based violence, statelessness and children with disabilities,” she said.

Ewon: KAR Ultra promotes Kadamaian

KOTA BELUD: The annual Kadamaian Adventure Race (KAR) Ultra helps promote Kadamaian as one of Sabah’s key tourism destinations, said Deputy Chief Minister III cum State Industry, Entrepreneurship and Transport Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick.

“I have seen a marked improvement in the quality of KAR’s organisation which will certainly help promote Kadamaian as one of the tourism destinations in Sabah.

Congratulations to the Organising Chairperson, Javadius Bollah, along with the committee members, volunteers and all strategic partners who made KAR a success,” he said.

He said this after officiating the prize presentation ceremony for the KAR Ultra 2026, covering the 160-kilometre, 80-kilometre and 35-kilometre categories, at Kampung Tambatuon, Kadamaian, here.

The ultra-trail race attracted more than 2,300 local and international runners this

For the record, the CSI is a collaborative council established in May 2024 by a coalition of non-governmental organisations and associations, with founding members including ANAK, Persatuan Tadika Sabah, Persatuan C.H.I.L.D. Sabah, Persatuan Perkhidmatan Taska Sabah and Pacos Trust.

She cited another example of collective effort that secured citizenship rights for children born to Malaysian mothers overseas as among the success stories of collaboration, following a Federal Constitution amendment passed but yet to take effect.

“Before this, if you are a Malaysian woman and you give birth outside the country, your child cannot get automatic citizenship. Because of the constitutional amendment, Malaysian women are now able to pass on citizenship to their children,” she said.

She said the change came after two years of research, evidence gathering and lobbying by the Malaysian Citizenship Rights Alliance, a coalition of non-governmental organisations from Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah.

“If the mother is a Malaysian citizen and the child is born here, the child is automatically a citizen.

It does not depend on the father, because under our Federal Constitution, the highest law of the land, it is the mother’s status that matters when the child is born in Malaysia,” she said.

The alliance also succeeded in blocking two of five regressive amendments proposed alongside the reform and later formed the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia, bringing NGOs together with cross party parliamentarians on child rights issues.

She said the group held the first ever Parliament symposium on child rights recently.

For the record, the Dewan Rakyat passed the Constitution Amendment Bill 2024 on citizenship with a two-thirds majority on October 2024.

The amendment ensures children born abroad to Malaysian mothers married to foreign men will automatically acquire Malaysian citizenship, a right previously granted only if the father was Malaysian.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said earlier this year that the change is expected to take effect by June or July 2026.

year, including participants from Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, Japan, India, the United States, Great Britain and Romania.

Ewon, who is also the Kadamaian Assemblyman, said the event serves as a sports tourism platform while also boosting the local community’s economy, benefiting homestay operators, campsite owners, transport service providers and traders.

At the ceremony, he presented a contribution of RM25,000 from Cement Industries Sabah (CIS) Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of the Sabah Economic Development Corporation, towards the organisation of KAR 2026.

“I appreciate the contribution from CIS and hope the corporate sector will continue giving support to ensure events like KAR can keep growing as one of the leading sports tourism events in Sabah,” he said.

WEDNESDAY Woman

Do you really need to wear a bra all the time?

WHEN it comes to bras, it’s not uncommon to ponder whether to wear one or not. While bras provide breasts with support and a well-fitted one can give you a confidence boost – plus sexy cleavage when you want to show it off – they can also be a pain, literally.

Picture wired bras poking into the skin or ill-fitting ones that give your breasts an unnatural shape.

But before we consider the pros and cons of wearing a bra, we first need to understand a little more about breasts.

Dr Sabrina Ngaserin, general surgeon (breast) at Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital, explained that breast tissue is made up of glandular components (for milk production), fibrous connective tissue (which provides internal support), fat and milk ducts.

These are held in place by the skin envelope and Cooper’s ligaments – fibrous bands that anchor breast tissue to the chest wall.

The case for wearing a bra

A well-fitted bra is needed for “structural assistance”, said Dr Ngaserin, supporting the breast tissue and reducing strain on the ligaments.

Associate Professor Lim Geok Hoon, head and senior consultant, KK Breast Department, at KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, added: “Wearing a bra with good support can alleviate breast pain, which some women experience, and may improve posture. Women who are breastfeeding or have large breasts particularly need the support of a bra.”

... And not

If you find bras restrictive or uncomfortable, Dr Ngaserin said there is nothing wrong with exploring alternative options. These include stick-on covers or adhesive bras that offer minimal support while maintaining coverage.

Or you could choose to go entirely bra-free, as a matter of personal comfort or expression.

“Ultimately, bra-wearing is a personal choice, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to feeling supported – both physically and emotionally,” Dr Ngaserin added.

Bras and breast cancer

One myth surrounding bras is that they may increase your risk of breast disease, particularly breast cancer. Dr Ngaserin said population-based studies have found no evidence to support an association between bra use and breast cancer risk.

“This misconception likely arose from the unfounded belief that bras restrict lymphatic drainage, leading to a build-up of ‘trapped toxins,’” she said.

“Scientifically, there is no credible evidence that factors such as the age at which one begins wearing a bra, the



A well-fitted bra offers support, improves breast movement control and can positively influence a woman’s mood and confidence. (Photo: iStock/Suwanb)

number of hours worn per day, cup size or underwire design have any impact on breast cancer risk,” Dr Ngaserin added.

Should you wear a bra to sleep?

At night, Dr Ngaserin noted that there is no scientifically proven health benefit or harm in whether you sleep with or without a bra. Once again, it’s a personal choice guided by comfort and individual preference.

“Anecdotally, some individuals may choose to wear a bra at night to reduce nipple sensitivity caused by friction from fabric movement,” she added.

A must during exercise

Wearing a bra during your workouts is recommended. “High-impact physical activity, particularly without adequate support, can increase strain on the breast ligaments, leading to greater risk of sagging over time, especially in those with larger breasts,” said Dr Ngaserin.

Health consequences of ill-fitting bras

“Over 80 per cent of women may be wearing the wrong bra size, often due to errors in selection or natural changes in body shape over time,” Dr Ngaserin said. “Regular fluctuations in weight, hormonal shifts, pregnancy and ageing can all impact breast size and fit.”

Wearing an ill-fitting bra may lead to health issues in the long run. Assoc Prof Lim said it can cause discomfort to the breasts, shoulders and back. She added that over the years, this could aggravate breast sagging, which can occur with ageing.

“Women with large breasts may suffer from chronic back pain and poor posture and a poorly fitted bra may worsen this,” she said.

“Persistent compression from an

overly tight bra can damage the skin and result in red marks, and indentations from the shoulder straps. A very tight bra could even affect breathing during exercise.”

Dr Ngaserin recommended that women get professionally fitted by a qualified bra-fitting specialist to ensure the right combination of support and comfort.

And these fittings should be revisited at regular intervals, especially when significant body changes occur.

“A well-fitted bra does more than just offer support; it can improve breast movement control, enhance posture and positively influence one’s mood and self-confidence,” she said.

Breasts and ageing

Over time, “the natural support systems weaken”, said Dr Ngaserin – ageing and hormonal changes lead to a reduction in glandular and fibrous tissue, which is gradually replaced by fat.

“Cooper’s ligaments also lose their elasticity, especially when stretched by the effects of gravity, repeated fluctuations in breast size due to changes in body weight and the physical demands of pregnancy and lactation,” Dr Ngaserin said.

She added that smoking and excessive sun exposure degrade collagen and elastin, the proteins responsible for skin firmness and elasticity, “hastening the loss of support”.

All these cause the breasts to sag or droop over time. And while bras do not prevent sagging entirely, they can reduce the cumulative effects of stress on breast structures, said Dr Ngaserin. “A well-fitted bra can help mitigate some of these changes.” – CNA

What’s the deal with peptides? The hyped market under US review

NEW YORK (United States): Glowing skin, deeper sleep, stronger muscles, an alert mind?

Such are the enticing promises of peptides, an increasingly buzzy class of substances touted by influencers and celebrities as the key to an optimized life.

Starting Thursday, a US review panel convened by the Food and Drug Administration is to consider whether seven of these peptides should be recommended for compounding – when pharmacists or outsourcing facilities create custom drugs – as interest in them surges.

Many medical experts have warned against that recommendation, citing a lack of evidence.

“There’s just not enough clinical data to say whether these peptides are safe and effective,” said Alexander Weber, an orthopedic surgeon and chief of sports medicine at the University of Southern California.

And yet, “peptides come up with my conversations with patients every single day,” he told AFP.

The substances under review – including BPC-157, TB-500 and Semax – are among those Joe Biden’s administration restricted from compounding, notably over lack of human clinical trial data.

But that hasn’t thwarted use in many cases. Substances can be purchased online from chemical suppliers “for lab use only.”

Wellness influencers, industry advocates, and Robert F. Kennedy Jr – President Donald Trump’s health chief, who says he has used peptides to treat injuries – say the restrictions have fueled gray markets of overseas suppliers with no oversight or standards.

“With the gray market you have no idea if you’re getting a good product,” Kennedy said in an interview this year with podcast host Joe Rogan. “And a lot of this stuff that we’ve looked at is just very, very substandard.”



Peptides are short chains of amino acids, which are the building blocks of proteins. (Pic: Olga Volkovitskaia via Pixabay)

Medical experts accuse Kennedy of packing the FDA advisory panel with people who have strong ties to the peptide industry, given his personal interest in the products.

“In ordinary circumstances, I would say that these products are dead,” Peter Lurie, president of the Center for Science in the Public Interest and a former FDA official, told AFP.

“But given the way that the committee is stacked,” he said, “I don’t have that confidence at all.”

Peptides are short chains of amino acids, which are the building blocks of proteins.

They are naturally occurring in the body, signaling molecules that dictate major physiological processes like tissue repair or metabolism.

Insulin is a peptide, for example.

GLP-1 medications like Ozempic are also peptides: they mimic a naturally occurring molecule that regulates appetite, blood sugar and digestion.

Both of those treatments are well-studied.

But the synthetic peptides touted by influencers and biohackers, which are often injectable, are not.

Such substances have not undergone the kind of large-scale trials the FDA would normally require to establish safety and efficacy.

The FDA’s own career scientists have published documents outlining concerns that even if peptides are trendy, evidence to support loosening restrictions is still inadequate.

Their conclusions mirror those of a white paper jointly published in May by the nonprofit ECRI and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).

“The commercial market has grown faster than the clinical evidence base,” the paper read, and “the absence of adequate clinical evidence for use in humans is an alarming safety concern.”

Rita Jew, the ISMP president, told AFP “there’s no new information that will make us feel comfortable” that the seven peptides should be authorized for compounding.

Ed Lee is an Orlando-based endocrinologist who is hopeful for compounding approvals, especially for BPC-157, which is popular in the wellness community for its purported ability to repair tissues, including muscles and ligaments.

Lee co-founded the “Clinical Peptides Society” and started a petition called “Save Peptides” which has garnered nearly 10,000 signatures and urges federal legislators to loosen restrictions on peptides.

“I don’t know how they’re going to put the genie back in the bottle,” Lee told AFP. But for Lurie, the argument that demand should inevitably lead to a stamp of approval falls short given the “extremely thin science.”

“If at the end of the day these products are approved, I see nothing good coming out of it,” he said.

Weber said his patients have relayed positive anecdotes regarding peptide use – but cautioned such anecdotes are not enough to guide use more broadly, without deeper research.

“There’s a lot of bias that goes into that two cents,” Weber said. “If you’re paying for something, you want it to work.” – AFP

Upstream O&G must improve value from existing assets

Leonard Alaza

KOTA KINABALU: Malaysia's upstream oil and gas industry must focus on extracting greater value from existing assets through technology, operational discipline and closer industry collaboration as new discoveries become harder to develop economically, executives said at an energy conference recently.

Speakers at the opening panel of the recent Sabah Oil, Gas & Energy Conference & Exhibition (SOGCE) 2026 said extending the life of existing oil and gas fields, rather than relying solely on new discoveries, would be critical to maintaining production and competitiveness.

The discussion set the tone for SOGCE 2026, highlighting a broader industry shift toward maximising returns from existing infrastructure through digital technologies, operational efficiency and strategic partnerships rather than relying solely on new resource discoveries.

Operational excellence emerged as a recurring theme during the session, with representatives from Shell Malaysia Upstream, TotalEnergies EP Malaysia, Velesto Energy Berhad and Energy Dot Com outlining strategies to improve reliability, reduce costs and maximize production from mature assets.

Shell Malaysia Upstream's Conrad Thomas said operators are increasingly prioritising brownfield developments to extend the life of existing assets, though executing projects on producing facilities requires meticulous planning to minimise operational disruptions and maintain safety.

He said successful brownfield execution depended on thorough planning, in-depth understanding of existing infrastructure and integrated logistics to minimize disruptions during limited shutdown windows.

As Malaysia's producing fields mature, operators are also looking to recover more oil from existing reservoirs instead of developing new fields, according to Ts. Izwan Adnan of Energy Dot Com.

He said advances in lower-cost

**Conrad****Izwan****Sharul**

enhanced oil recovery techniques, including targeted well stimulation and reservoir modification, were making it more economical to extend production despite volatile oil prices.

Izwan added that Sabah's portfolio of mature producing fields provides decades of operational data that could accelerate the use of artificial intelligence in reservoir management, production optimisation and asset maintenance.

TotalEnergies EP Malaysia's Ismail Omar said sustaining production from mature fields requires continuous reinvestment in drilling, pressure maintenance and compression as reservoirs naturally decline over time.

However, he said existing production hubs also present new opportunities by allowing smaller nearby discoveries to be connected to existing infrastructure, reducing development costs and shortening project timelines.

Velesto Energy Berhad's Shahrul Nizar said drilling contractors are increasingly being judged on their ability to consistently deliver safe and predictable operations rather than isolated project successes.

He said closer collaboration between operators, drilling contractors and service providers before drilling begins helps reduce operational risks and improve execution certainty. He cited Velesto's reported fleet uptime of about 99.9 per cent in 2025 as evidence of the role disciplined maintenance and technology play in improving reliability.

Despite representing different parts of the upstream value chain, panelists agreed that collaboration among regulators, operators, contractors and technology providers would be essential to sustaining Malaysia's oil and gas industry as assets mature and cost pressures increase.

from 6.2 per cent of GDP in 2020.

"This has helped rebuild policy space at a time when demand for public resources continues to increase," he said.

As Malaysia enters its next phase of development, he said the financial system must also evolve alongside it into one that is guided by values, creates meaningful impact and acts with responsibility.

He said BNM's upcoming Financial Sector Blueprint 2026-2031 will be guided by three aspirations: finance for a more resilient society, finance for a more prosperous society and a future-proof financial system.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rasheed said future economic growth must be sustainable, noting that Malaysia is one of the world's 17 most biodiverse nations and that the country's natural wealth is every bit as precious as its economic wealth.

On fiscal reforms, he said sustainable public finances sit at the heart of almost every national policy, as better education, stronger healthcare, modern infrastructure, climate resilience and effective social protection all depend on the government's fiscal capacity.

Looking ahead, he noted that Malaysia's medium-term outlook remains favourable.

"Growth is expected to stay firm, while inflation remains manageable. We will continue to do what is needed to maintain price stability in a manner that supports sustainable economic growth," he added. -Bernama

S, Wak, Penang, Johor and S'gor dominate exports

KUALA LUMPUR: Penang, Johor, Selangor, Sarawak, and Kuala Lumpur dominated Malaysia's exports, accounting for 89.6 per cent of June 2026 total exports, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DoSM).

In the Export-Import Statistics by State June 2026 report released on Tuesday, DoSM said exports totalled RM177.9 billion, a 45.4 per cent rise of RM55.6 billion, versus June 2025.

Total imports for June 2026 totalled RM163 billion. Total trade amounted to RM340.9 billion.

"Penang remained as the top exporter with a 48.9 per cent share, followed by Johor (17.6 per cent), Selangor (13.8 per cent), Sarawak (six per cent) and Kuala Lumpur (3.2 per cent)," DoSM said.

The rise was due to higher exports from most states, including Penang (+RM39 billion), Johor (+RM8.7 billion), Sarawak (+RM4.3 billion), Selangor (+RM4 billion), Kuala Lumpur (+RM880.4 million), Perak (+RM567.5 million), Kedah (+RM178.7 million), Labuan (+RM153.8 million) and Negeri Sembilan (+RM99.9 million).

Perlis' exports fell by RM22.1 million, Kelantan by RM63.3 million and Terengganu by RM93.7 million. Other states which saw a fall in exports include Pahang (-RM104.6 million), Melaka (-RM508.7 million) and Sabah (-RM547.5 million), the report said.

Meanwhile, June 2026 imports increased by RM49.7 billion (+43.9 per cent) against June 2025. Penang domi-

nated with a 28.4 per cent share, followed by Johor (24.2 per cent), Selangor (22.6 per cent), Kuala Lumpur (10.9 per cent) and Kedah (4.6 per cent).

The rise in imports was attributed to higher imports in most states: Penang (+RM19.5 billion), Johor (+RM11.9 billion), Selangor (+RM9.2 billion), Kuala Lumpur (+RM8.3 billion), Kedah (+RM1.5 billion), Negeri Sembilan (+RM748.7 million), Perak (+RM398.6 million), Pahang (+RM266.6 million) and Sabah (+RM4.8 million).

Imports fell in Kelantan (-RM12.4 million), Labuan (-RM17.3 million), Perlis (-RM31.6 million), Sarawak (-RM32.6 million), Terengganu (-RM50 million) and Melaka (-RM559.7 million), DoSM said. -Bernama

Ringgit expected to trade within 3.90-4.20 against USD in 2H

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's resilient growth, durable trade surplus and disciplined monetary framework are expected to underpin the ringgit through the second half of 2026 (2H 2026), with the local currency projected to trade within the 3.90-4.20 range against the US dollar, said Juwai IQI global chief economist Shan Saeed.

He said the ringgit's case for the 2H 2026 rests less on momentum than on policy credibility and external ballast.

"Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) strategic value lies in consistency. By maintaining the Overnight Policy Rate at 2.75 per cent, the central bank has balanced price stability, domestic growth and orderly financial conditions without defending an explicit exchange-rate target.

"That measured stance matters. It allows the ringgit to absorb global shocks while preserving policy credibility, domestic liquidity and two-way market functioning," he told Bernama.

He said the macro backdrop supports the range, noting that Malaysia's economy expanded 5.8 per cent year on year in the second quarter, lifting first half growth to 5.6 per cent, while first half trade rose 22.4 per cent to a record RM1.8 trillion, exports advanced 27.5 per cent, and the cumulative surplus widened to RM147.1 billion.

Shan said June marked the country's 74th consecutive month of merchandise trade surplus, adding that the external strength is increasingly structural rather than purely cyclical.

He said electrical and electronic products, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and digital infrastructure now provide a broader export base, reducing

Malaysia's dependence on commodity cycles alone.

"Energy remains a two-sided fiscal variable. Higher crude prices increase petroleum-related revenue, with each US\$1-per-barrel move estimated to generate roughly RM300 million in additional non-dividend receipts.

"Yet, that benefit only partly offsets a projected fuel subsidy bill approaching RM40 billion in 2026. The fiscal position is therefore more resilient than exposed, but not immune to a prolonged energy shock," he added.

He said international reserves remain a further anchor, with BNM's reserves at US\$13.8 billion as at July 15, sufficient to finance 4.7 months of imports and cover 0.9 time short-term external debt, despite a modest decline from end-June.

"Within the Fabulous Five countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines, the ringgit's proposition is comparative rather than absolute.

"Malaysia offers deeper capital markets, stronger institutional continuity and a more predictable monetary framework than many regional peers," he said.

He added that the local currency's projected trading range of 3.90-4.20 against the US dollar remains defensible, barring a materially hawkish US Federal Reserve repricing, sustained portfolio outflows or a deterioration in Malaysia's external balance.

"The ringgit is not a one-way appreciation trade, it is a comparatively credible ASEAN currency underwritten by monetary discipline, external strength and improving economic complexity," he said. -Bernama

B15 biodiesel to save 386.7 million litres

KUALA LUMPUR: Increasing the biodiesel blend from B10 to B12 or B15 in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah is expected to reduce diesel consumption by 334,139 tonnes a year, equivalent to about 386.73 million litres per annum.

The Ministry of Plantation and Commodities said a cost-benefit analysis conducted by the ministry revealed that the reduction would not only lessen reliance on fossil fuels but also extend the country's diesel supply by up to 20 days.

"This proves that the National Biodiesel Programme is able to strengthen the nation's energy security and enhance Malaysia's resilience against supply disruptions and volatility in the global energy market," the ministry said in a written reply published on the Parliament website this week.

The ministry was responding to a question from Senator Norhasmimi Abdul Ghani on the effectiveness of the country's biodiesel programme in reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels and

lowering diesel costs for domestic users.

Since the introduction of the National Biofuel Policy on March 21, 2006, the National Biodiesel Programme has become one of the government's strategic instruments to strengthen national energy security while supporting the development and stability of the palm oil industry.

The ministry said the effectiveness of the programme is evident in the reduction of diesel consumption through the partial replacement of diesel with palm-based biodiesel, or Palm Methyl Ester (PME).

"As the world faced geopolitical uncertainty and a global energy crisis that disrupted supply chains and fuel prices, Malaysia took proactive steps by increasing the biodiesel blend rate for the nationwide transport sector.

"This will reduce dependence on fossil fuel, strengthen the nation's energy security and extend the availability of existing diesel supplies," it said. -Bernama

DCs will not compromise energy security

KUALA LUMPUR: Every application for a new data centre (DC) project will undergo a stringent assessment process to ensure electricity and water supplies for local households and industries are not affected, said Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Sim Tze Tzin.

He said through the Data Centre Task Force (DCTF), the government would assess each application based on investment needs, project capacity and various other factors to ensure the country's energy security remained safeguarded.

"The government is always cautious when approving any applications related to data centres," he said during a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara

on Tuesday.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Senator Susan Chemeraai Anding, who wanted to know the extent of the government's efforts to ensure national energy security and electricity capacity for households and industries were not compromised.

In response to another supplementary question, Sim said under the New Incentive Framework (NIF), the government would consider, among others, providing incentives to multinational companies (MNCs) that bring in high-impact technologies and develop local vendors, particularly in rural and less developed areas.

"The government also conducts various matching programmes between MNCs and local companies to enable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to become suppliers to MNCs, while encouraging the use of at least 40 per cent local content through the Malaysia Certificate of Origin.

"This will, to some extent, help local companies," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Senator Tan Sri Low Kian Chuan on measures taken by the government to help SMEs benefit from the spillover effects of multinational investments in artificial intelligence, semiconductors and biotechnology. -Bernama

Matrade to provide exporters timely intel

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) will continue to monitor market conditions in real time, feeding intelligence back to Malaysian exporters as conditions shift.

Its chairman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the situation in West Asia remains fluid, and global supply chains will continue to require careful navigation in the months ahead.

"This is precisely why MATRADE's role does not end with the publication of a set of statistics. As encouraging as this half-year has been, MATRADE does not view it as a moment of complacency.

"This half-year's numbers show one thing clearly, Malaysian exports have made a significant contribution to our national export success," he said in a statement.

MATRADE's task, as it has always been, is to reinforce and fortify trade resilience and export competitiveness in global markets, he said.

Reezal Merican added that the agency, through its network of 47 overseas trade offices, will continue to monitor market conditions in real time, feeding intelligence back to Malaysian exporters as conditions shift.

Through its Trade Resilience Task Force, MATRADE will bring together the insights needed to help exporters, from its largest industrial players to the smallest small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), anticipate disruption rather than merely reacting to it.

"And through our continuing engagement with the business community, we remain committed to ensuring that every Malaysian company, regardless of size or sector, has access to the market intelligence, commercial diplomacy and strategic guidance needed to convert global demand into sustained, domestically rooted growth," he said.

Malaysia's total trade grew by 22.4 per cent year on year to a record RM1.796 trillion; exports grew by 27.5 per cent to RM971.59 billion, the fastest pace since 2021. Malaysia's trade surplus also expanded 159.8 per cent to RM147.15 billion, matching 94 per cent of what the country had achieved in the whole of 2025.

Equally significant, Malaysia recorded trade surpluses with 158 trading partners, with 92 posting wider surpluses than a year ago. -Bernama

New ARM tokens in three weeks

KUALA LUMPUR: The government expects to announce the next batch of companies receiving the Arm Flexible Access (AFA) and Arm Compute Subsystems (CSS) tokens under Arm Ltd's semiconductor design access programme within the next three weeks.

Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said he and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani will jointly chair a meeting this Thursday to review the applicants before finalising the list of new recipients.

"Expect that within two to three weeks we will announce the next group of token recipients, but it is subject to the administrative process," he told reporters after attending the Arm's AFA token briefing here this week.

In total, the government has allocated 25 AFA and seven CSS tokens, and so far, three companies have been given access to the tokens.

Akmal Nasrullah said the selection of recipients is based on several criteria, including the company's commitment to creating job opportunities and involvement in the local semiconductor ecosystem.

He said the government's collaboration with Arm will open up opportunities for local companies to gain access and develop their own chips, in addition to training programmes conducted by Selangor Information Technology and Digital Economy Corporation (Sided) to bolster talent development. - Bernama

Govt mulls econ security framework for crisis resilience

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is looking to establish an economic security framework to strengthen the country's resilience against future crises, says the economic advisor to the Prime Minister's Office Nurhisham Hussein.

However, he said, the proposal has yet to be tabled to the Cabinet as it forms part of the government's broader internal reform agenda.

"Recent crises have raised awareness of some of our key vulnerabilities. Therefore, we are looking at addressing that in terms of having an economic security framework.

"(Under this framework), we can address some of the supply chain weaknesses that we saw during this (global supply) crisis and create a team to actually look at that," he said.

He said during a plenary session titled "Resilience: Implications for Policy and

M’sia 7.1pc below WB high-income threshold

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia is now just 7.1 per cent below the World Bank’s high-income threshold, thanks to the 5.8 per cent economic expansion in the second quarter of this year, said Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir (pic).



He said the government will ensure that this momentum translates into higher productivity, quality jobs and rising incomes for Malaysians.

“The economy grew by 5.8 per cent, inflation remained contained at 1.9 per cent, and unemployment stood at 3.0 per cent. Malaysia is now just 7.1 per cent below the high-income threshold.

“These are encouraging numbers, but crossing that threshold is not an end in itself. What matters is whether growth delivers better wages, more quality jobs and stronger purchasing power for Malaysians,” he said in his speech at the launch of the OECD Economic Surveys: Malaysia 2026 here on Tuesday.

Akmal Nasrullah said the independent, evidence-based report would serve as an important reference for strengthening the implementation of the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), 2026-2030, and accelerating the country’s structural economic reforms. In 2025, Malaysia’s gross national

income (GNI) per capita rose to RM57,200, or about US\$13,351, against the World Bank’s high-income threshold of US\$14,375.

He said the government is maintaining its full-year growth target of between four and five per cent for 2026, supported by domestic demand, private investment, exports and technology-intensive sectors, including semiconductors and data centres.

The OECD Economic Surveys: Malaysia 2026 also identified ensuring investments in education and training lead to higher productivity and incomes as a key structural challenge, noting that 35.6 per cent of tertiary-educated workers remain in skill-related underemployment.

He said that under the 13MP, the government will strengthen the alignment of curricula with industry needs and expand technical and vocational education and training (TVET), Academy in Industry (AiI), and upskilling programmes in semiconductors, artificial intelligence and the digital economy.

“When 35.6 per cent of tertiary-educated workers remain in jobs below their skill level, we cannot measure success by graduate numbers alone. Education and training must lead to high-value jobs, stronger productivity and wages that reflect workers’ skills,” he said.

Meanwhile, the federal fiscal deficit narrowed from 5.5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022 to 3.7 per cent in 2025.

The government remains committed to reducing the deficit to three per cent or lower by 2030 through better-targeted assistance and reduced leakages while safeguarding vulnerable groups.

“We have reduced the deficit from 5.5 per cent to 3.7 per cent and are targeting 3 per cent or lower by 2030. Fiscal consolidation is not about withdrawing support from the people; it is about ensuring that every ringgit is used more effectively for education, healthcare and infrastructure,” the minister said.

To strengthen productivity, the Government Service Efficiency Commitment Act 2025 (the Iltizam Act) sets a target of reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens by 25 per cent over three years.

Through the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (Pemudah), the Economy Ministry will identify high-impact business approvals for end-to-end review, with clearer service standards, more predictable decisions and stronger accountability for delays, Akmal Nasrullah said.

The OECD Economic Surveys: Malaysia 2026, the fifth OECD Economic Survey of Malaysia since 2016, features a thematic chapter on improving skills, education and training.

Its findings will help inform the implementation of the 13MP in key areas, including productivity, education, skills development, digitalisation and climate resilience. –Bernama

Pay growth lags productivity

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) sees the country’s wage growth has lagged productivity growth and believes there is a need to review its wage-setting system, particularly how adjustments to the minimum wage translate into wages at higher levels.

BNM deputy governor Datuk Marzunisham Omar said statistically, Malaysia still does not have sufficient high-skilled jobs.

“If you look at it, our (high-skilled) underemployment rate is still high, about 35-36 per cent. Meaning that 35-36 per cent of our workers are working in jobs that require less qualifications than what they already have at the moment,” he said at a plenary session titled “The Future of Investment: Competing in A Fragmented World” at the two-day BNM’s Sasana Symposium 2026 (SS2026) here.

He opined that Malaysia needs to create more high-skilled jobs through investments while continually improving the quality of its labour force through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, as well as reskilling and upskilling initiatives.

Meanwhile, Marzunisham said BNM believes there is a need to look at the country’s wage-setting system, particularly how adjustments to the minimum wage translate into wages at higher levels.

He said initiatives such as living wage, progressive wage, wage linked to productivity are among the measures that are being put in place to help address the issue.

“When the minimum wage is implemented, it does not cascade into the higher income brackets. Instead, we see a wage compression, where the starting

salaries of qualified professionals remain close to the minimum wage.

“At the end of the day, I think, what really matters is for our rakyat to have good quality life, good jobs with reasonable and high level of income. And that is what I think our policy should strive for,” he said.

Concurring with Marzunisham, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) chairman Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz admitted that Malaysia faces a wage issue, and emphasised that wages should rise in tandem with productivity and the country’s growth in wealth.

He said while Malaysia has enjoyed low inflation and unemployment rate, many people do not feel the benefits of economic growth, questioning why their wages have not increased despite Malaysia’s advance gross domestic product (GDP) estimates showing the economy expanded 5.8 per cent in the second quarter of 2026.

Tengku Zafrul commended government-linked investment companies (GLICs) and government-linked companies (GLCs) for initiatives such as the living wage, saying more companies should adopt similar measures despite the challenges involved.

He acknowledged that raising the minimum wage to RM1,700 was not easy, particularly among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) due to productivity concerns, stressing that improving productivity remained key to ensuring economic growth translated into higher wages.

“This is where we need to focus on the fundamentals so that, at the end of the day, this can translate into wages,” he said.

In another development, Tengku Zafrul said about 90 per cent of approved investments between 2020 and the first quarter of 2026 had been implemented, reflecting Malaysia’s strong execution capability from investment approvals to project implementation.

He said investors were generally satisfied with the government’s coordination, including with local councils, but stressed that Malaysia must continue improving its competitiveness as some countries were moving faster in certain sectors and should not take for granted its strong global connectivity despite its population of just 36 million.

Themed “Reforms for Resilience: Navigating Uncertainties”, SS2026 features discussions on key economic and financial issues, including economic resilience, wages, cost of living challenges, investments, energy security, Islamic finance and private healthcare costs. –Bernama

PPI rises 9.2pc

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia’s Producer Price Index (PPI) rose 9.2 per cent in June 2026, up from 7.8 per cent in the previous month, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

In its latest report, PPI Local Production, June 2026, DOSM said the increase was the highest recorded so far this year.

“Sectoral performance in June 2026 was similar to that of the previous month, with all sectors recording increases.

“The mining sector registered an increase of 29.0 per cent, following a 52.6 per cent rise in May 2026. The double-digit increase was driven by the crude petroleum extraction index, which rose 40.7 per cent,” it said.

DOSM said the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector increased 9.1 per cent, compared with 8.9 per cent in the previous month.

The increase was supported by the fishing and growing of perennial crops indices, which rose 12.5 per cent and 10.8 per cent, respectively.

The manufacturing sector increased 7.2 per cent, up from 3.5 per cent in May 2026, mainly driven by higher prices in the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products, as well as computer, electronic and optical products, which rose 30.1 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, DOSM said the water supply and electricity and gas supply sectors increased 12.7 per cent and 10.2 per cent, respectively. –Bernama

Strong demand for \$1.5b sukuk

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) — Malaysia’s successful US\$1.5 billion global sukuk issuance last week shows investors’ confidence in its economic fundamentals, said Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour.

He said the response to the issuance was exceptionally strong, with demand reaching nearly five times the amount offered.

“Investors were not only willing to commit capital to Malaysia. They were willing to do so on very favourable terms, with record-low spreads.

“It was a clear vote of confidence in Malaysia’s economic fundamentals, our reform agenda and our commitment to sound economic management,” he said in his keynote address at the opening of the two-day Sasana Symposium 2026 (SS2026) here this week.

Themed “Reforms for Resilience: Navigating Uncertainties”, SS2026 features discussions on key economic and financial issues, including economic resilience, wages, cost of living challenges, investments, energy security, Islamic finance and private healthcare costs.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rasheed said Malaysia has approved RM815 billion in investments over the last two years, equivalent to almost half of its annual gross domestic product, which could create close to 245,000 jobs if fully realised.

“A sizeable number of them are expected to be higher-skilled roles.

“Yet creating jobs is only half the equation. Malaysians must also have the skills to step into them,” he said, adding that at present, more than two thirds of Malaysians continue to be employed in low-skilled or mid-skilled roles.

However, he said Malaysia has already seen encouraging signs, with the share of high-skilled employment increasing from 27.5 per cent in 2019 to 30.1 per cent in 2025.

“This progress may seem gradual, but structural shifts in the labour market rarely happen overnight. Creating higher-skilled jobs at scale takes time,” he said.

The governor said that as technology and artificial intelligence reshape industries, the days of learning a skill once and relying on it for a lifetime are over, and workers will need opportunities to upskill and reskill throughout their careers continuously. – Bernama

Nestlé declares RM155m profit, 80 sen dividend

KUALA LUMPUR: Nestlé (Malaysia) Bhd’s net profit for the second quarter of the financial year ending Dec 31, 2026 (2Q 2026) rose to RM155.01 million from RM112.11 million a year earlier, underpinned by broad-based topline growth, effective cost management and improved efficiencies across the value chain.

Revenue for the quarter under review increased by 8.7 per cent to RM1.81 billion from RM1.67 billion previously, supported by resilient domestic demand, while export sales remained stable.

In a filing with Bursa Malaysia, the food and beverage manufacturer said continued investments in innovation and brand-building strengthened key categories such as coffee, nutrition and active lifestyle offerings under popular brands including Milo, Maggi, Nescafe and Kit Kat.

It said these efforts ensured that the group’s portfolio remained relevant to consumers across all demographic segments.

Nestlé Malaysia said the increase in revenue reflected the strength of the group’s diversified portfolio and the sustained relevance of its trusted brands across various consumer segments and consumption occasions.

“Beyond delivering solid financial performance, the group remains focused on strengthening the capabilities that will sustain profitable growth in the years ahead.

“This includes investing in the talent and skills of our people, advancing digitalisation and manufacturing excellence, reinforcing Malaysia’s position as a strategic halal manufacturing and export hub for the Nestlé Group, and delivering a steady stream of relevant product innovations,” it said.

It said these investments enhance its ability to compete in an increasingly dynamic environment.

“The group also continued to advance its sustainability programmes, including initiatives related to plastic circularity and the strengthening of its halal ecosystem.

“These efforts reflect Nestlé Malaysia’s

focus on areas where its scale, partnerships and deep-rooted presence can contribute meaningfully to consumers, communities and the nation,” it said.

Nestlé Malaysia said the group remained focused on sustaining growth by strengthening its core brands, accelerating innovation and expanding its presence across all channels. “Despite ongoing global uncertainties and evolving consumer preferences, the group remains confident in its ability to deliver a robust financial performance for FY2026.

“The group will also continue investing in digitalisation, automation and other initiatives to enhance operational efficiency, agility and long-term competitiveness,” it said.

The board of directors has declared an interim dividend of 80 sen per share, compared with 70 sen per share in 2025, for the financial year ending Dec 31, 2026. The dividend will be paid on Oct 1, 2026. –Bernama

Mi Equipment to expand advanced packaging R&D, capacity



GEORGE TOWN: Mi Equipment (M) Sdn Bhd will continue expanding its research and development (R&D) capabilities and manufacturing capacity in Penang as it strengthens its position as a global player in the advanced semiconductor packaging industry.

Its chief executive officer (CEO) Teo Chee Kheong said the company’s future growth strategy would focus on advancing its core technologies, particularly in die sorting, artificial intelligence (AI) applications and bonding solutions, while developing local talent to support the semiconductor ecosystem.

“Moving forward, we want to continue our R&D pursuit in the advanced packaging space to become a global leader in whatever we do—die sorting, AI applications and especially bonding.

“At this facility, we will continue to expand our manufacturing capacity and capabilities, creating stable employment, more career opportunities and stronger employee engagement, while working with universities and institutions to develop local talent,” he said during a media briefing after a visit by Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow to Mi Equipment’s facility here on Tuesday. Also present was Mi Technovation Group CEO Oh Kuang Eng.

Teo said the company would continue investing millions of dollars in new processes, technology and human capital to

support its growth and strengthen its role in serving the semiconductor industry.

Teo said Mi Equipment, which was founded in Penang in 2007, had grown from a local technology company into a global semiconductor equipment provider through continuous innovation.

“When we started, we believed in innovation and contributing to the semiconductor industry. That was why we entered the advanced packaging space when not many companies wanted to venture into it.

“We developed our turret-based die sorter and, through hard work, gained market access locally before expanding overseas to countries such as the United States, Taiwan and China,” he said.

Teo said the company’s flagship Mi series achieved significant market dominance in 2014, strengthening its position as a major player in die sorting technology and the company was subsequently listed on Bursa Malaysia after just 10 years of operation, marking a new phase of growth and diversification.

Following its listing, Mi Equipment embarked on a new 10-year roadmap,

expanding beyond its core business into areas including smart binning for high-performance computing (HPC), bonding, AI-driven applications and advanced die-level testing.

He said the company’s Penang facility, established in 2019, had become a key manufacturing hub producing hundreds of semiconductor equipment units for customers worldwide and while diversifying, they continue to strengthen the core and also developed a one-of-a-kind AI-enabled die sorter that reaffirms the position in the industry.

Currently, Mi Equipment operates a manufacturing facility in Suzhou, China, supported by seven overseas sales and service offices globally as well as an R&D centre in Singapore and the company has more than 330 employees, serves over 90 customers and has installed more than 1,300 machines worldwide.

Teo said innovation remained the backbone of the company, with more than 110 intellectual property (IP) rights granted across its three main technology segments—bonding, sorting and die-level testing.

He added that Mi Equipment was well positioned to benefit from the current AI-driven semiconductor growth cycle, particularly through its involvement in key segments including mobile and wearable devices, HPC and memory as well as automotive applications such as electric vehicles, solar farms and wind energy. – Bernama

BURSA CLOSING REPORT

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia closed marginally lower on Tuesday as investors turned cautious ahead of a busy week featuring the US Federal Reserve’s (Fed) policy meeting and earnings releases from major US technology companies.

At 5 pm, the FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) slid 0.61 of a point or 0.04 per cent to 1,712.48 from Monday’s close of 1,713.09.

The benchmark index, which opened 1.14 points weaker at 1,711.95, moved between 1,703.83 and 1,715.02 during the day’s trading.

In the broader market, decliners outstripped gainers 717 to 348, while 536 counters were unchanged, 1,179 untraded, and 36 suspended.

Turnover rose to 2.94 billion units valued at RM2.56 billion from 2.86 billion units valued at RM2.24 billion on Monday.

IPPPFA Sdn Bhd director of investment strategy and country economist Mohd Sedek Jantan said trading activity was subdued as market participants awaited greater clarity on the Fed’s interest rate outlook and whether second quarter earnings from the

technology sector can sustain the global artificial intelligence (AI)-driven rally.

Among companies in the tech sector are Meta Platforms Inc, Microsoft Corporation, Amazon.com Inc and Apple Inc.

“Despite Brent crude oil prices falling more than two per cent, reflecting easing geopolitical concerns and improved supply expectations, it failed to lift market sentiment as investors preferred to remain on the sidelines,” he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said there was subdued buying interest on Tuesday in line with weaker regional markets as investors reassessed the outlook for AI investments.

“Concerns intensified after reports that Nvidia’s AI financing commitments had reportedly exceeded US\$750 billion, raising questions whether AI demand can keep pace with the industry’s aggressive spending plans.

“The news triggered a broad sell-off in global semiconductor stocks, weighing on overall market sentiment across the region,” he said.

Among the heavyweights, CIMB fell four sen to RM7.76, while Public Bank rose one sen to RM5.19, Tenaga Nasional gained 20 sen to RM14.66, and Maybank as well as IHH Healthcare remained flat at RM10.90 and RM8.34, respectively.

As for the active stocks, VS Industry slipped one sen to 22 sen, SNS Network Technology and Dagang Nexchange lost two sen each to 54 sen and 43 sen respectively, Tanco added 1.5 sen to 26 sen, and Zentrix AI inched up half a sen to 69 sen.

Among the top gainers, Nestle firmed RM2.36 to RM93.66, Ideal Capital jumped 25 sen to RM4, KLCC Property and REITS surged 15 sen to RM8.84, Hong Leong Bank climbed 20 sen to RM22.30, and Dutch Lady Milk Industries added 18 sen to RM32.

Malaysian Pacific Industries led the top

losers list, falling RM2.06 to RM44, while UMS Integration dropped 68 sen to RM7.22, Fraser & Neave lost 34 sen to RM27.50, Kelington sank 31 sen to RM7.90, and Allianz slumped 30 sen to RM21.00.

Among the broader indices, the FBM Emas Index fell 21.46 points to 12,641.72, the FBMT 100 Index notched down 15.28 points to 12,476.39, the FBM Mid 70 Index decreased 68.16 points to 17,901.86, the FBM Emas Shariah Index reduced 29.33 points to 12,457.53, and the FBM ACE Index eased 32.58 points to 4,866.29.

By sector, the Energy Index trimmed 5.92 points to 763.42, the Industrial Products and Services Index edged down 1.37 points to 185.47, and the Plantation Index gave up 52.92 points to 9,231.59.

However, the Financial Services Index gained 13.79 points to 20,254.46.

The Main Market volume declined to 1.51 billion units valued at RM2.27 billion compared to 1.53 billion units valued at RM1.96

billion on Monday.

Warrants turnover expanded to 978.15 million units worth RM126.23 million versus 868.06 million units worth RM144.18 million previously.

The ACE Market volume shrank to 452.85 million units valued at RM159.81 million from 461.04 million units valued at RM157.34 million on Monday.

Consumer products and services counters accounted for 121.07 million shares traded on the Main Market, industrial products and services (365.30 million), construction (78.52 million), technology (350.11 million), financial services (70.75 million), property (204.60 million), plantation (23.02 million), real estate investment trusts (27.68 million), closed-end fund (188,100), energy (101.63 million), healthcare (69.40 million), telecommunications and media (20.76 million), transportation and logistics (53.95 million), utilities (23.49 million), and business trusts (196,100). –Bernama

Korean Air eyes M’sia expansion

KUALA LUMPUR: The planned integration between Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, a South Korean airline headquartered in Seoul, is expected to enhance network connectivity for Malaysian passengers transiting through Korean Air’s dedicated Terminal 2 at Seoul International Airport.

According to Korean Air regional manager for Malaysia, Brunei and Bangladesh Kang Sang Bum, Korean Air is reviewing long-term plans to expand its network in Malaysia, including deploying larger aircraft, increasing flight frequencies and potentially introducing passenger services to Penang following the merger.

Both airlines will be merged into a single integrated flag carrier from Dec 17, 2026, operating under the Korean Air brand.

“We are reviewing long-term expansion options for the Kuala Lumpur-Incheon route, including aircraft upgrades and frequency increases. However, we have to assess market demand and there are still challenges related to aircraft delivery schedules,” he said during a media round-table here this week.

Beginning with the upcoming winter schedule, he said passengers travelling from Kuala Lumpur will enjoy shorter transit times to major North American destinations, with minimum connection times reduced to one hour and five minutes for Los Angeles and one hour and 35 minutes for New York.

He added that the combined network would also provide Malaysians with greater access to destinations previously served by Asiana Airlines, particularly in Japan and North America.

Kang said the airline serves more than 15 cities in Japan, enabling Malaysians to reach smaller Japanese destinations that are not directly accessible from Kuala Lumpur.

Following the integration in December, he said transit passengers from Malaysia would gain broader access across East Asia, including same-day connection options to regional Japanese destinations previously operated by Asiana Airlines such as Sendai and Miyazaki.

Korean Air currently operates daily passenger flights between Kuala Lumpur and Seoul, while its cargo division serves both Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

Kang said the Kuala Lumpur-Seoul route recorded an average passenger load factor of about 86 per cent in the first half of 2026, up from around 76 per cent in the same period last year.

The airline carried 86,507 passengers on the Kuala Lumpur-Seoul route, while Malaysia-originating traffic to Seoul recorded 27,222 passengers, up 34 per cent year-on-year.

He attributed the improvement to stronger demand, particularly among passengers connecting via Incheon to the United States, Europe and Japan.

“To address the long-term traffic trends and cargo requirements across the sector, the airline is monitoring market conditions to assess future supply adjustments.

“After the Asiana Airlines integration, we expect to start deploying the larger aircraft, after which we can increase the frequency, but we are still figuring this out,” he said.

The airline serves 116 cities in 39 countries on five continents with a fleet of 165 aircraft, including 23 freighters that cover 45 cities in 26 countries.

Meanwhile, Korean Air general manager for Kuala Lumpur Cargo Branch Lee Man Seok said Malaysia, particularly Penang, has become an increasingly important market due to its thriving semiconductor and high-technology manufacturing industries.

year and retained the top position in the automotive category in 2026.

Building on this momentum, Chery Auto in a statement said its mid-to-premium new energy vehicle (NEV) brand, LEPAS, is accelerating its global expansion with the rollout of new NEV models.

The LEPAS L6 EV, an all-electric sport utility vehicle (SUV) designed for intelligent urban living, was officially launched on July 24 in Thailand, while the LEPAS L8 PHEV officially went on sale in Indonesia on July 26.

Looking ahead, LEPAS plans to expand further in the third quarter of 2026 with the LEPAS L8 PHEV, LEPAS L6 EV, LEPAS L6 PHEV



He said the airline has increased cargo capacity by operating daily freighter services to Penang after adding extra flights in July to meet rising demand from electronics exporters.

Lee said Korean Air has built strong expertise in transporting high-value and temperature-sensitive cargo, including semiconductors, making Malaysia a strategic cargo market within its global network.

Meanwhile, the airline said the geopolitical tensions in West Asia have temporarily altered travel patterns, with the airline recording an increase in bookings on some long-haul routes as passengers sought alternatives to Middle Eastern hubs.

Kang said the airline experienced higher booking levels among travellers from Australia, New Zealand and parts of Asia during the initial months of the conflict, as some travellers avoided transiting through the region.

“We saw an uptick in reservations during the first two to three months after the conflict broke out. However, demand has since normalised over the past few weeks,” he said.

On fuel costs, he said the airline has maintained a stable fuel supply by diversifying its procurement channels and maintaining strategic fuel reserves, helping cushion the impact of oil price volatility arising from the conflict.

Kang added that while airfares on the Kuala Lumpur-Seoul route had increased following the rise in fuel surcharges, the impact on Malaysian passengers was relatively moderate compared with some other markets due to Malaysia’s fuel pricing structure.

Korean Air has served the Malaysian market for more than four decades since launching its inaugural Kuala Lumpur service in 1984. –Bernama

and LEPAS L4 EV entering markets across Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

The brand will leverage Chery Group’s global ecosystem in vehicle manufacturing, components, embodied AI robotics and intelligent technologies to localise its research and development, manufacturing, sales and after-sales operations.

The milestone of 20 million global sales marks a significant achievement for Chery Auto and a new chapter in LEPAS’s global expansion as the brand continues to strengthen its presence through localised operations. –Bernama

Tiffany and Bulgari’s iconic lines,” chief executive Bernard Arnault said in a statement.

Following the post-pandemic boom the luxury sector hit a rough patch as the Chinese market slowed and global trade being disrupted with tariff wars and now the Middle East war.

While the reported sales figures showed only slight growth, that included a five percent negative impact from changes in exchange rates.

Stripping out that effect, and changes in business operations, sales rose by two percent in the first half and by three percent in the second quarter.

The main fashion and leather goods business group saw sales fall by five percent on a reported basis and by one percent on a comparable basis.

But sales rose one percent on a comparable basis in the second quarter on a comparable basis in the first quarterly gain in two years.

Sales rose by in most regions on a comparable basis, including by six percent in Asia excluding Japan and four percent in the United States.

Sales in Europe were flat. –AFP

year and retained the top position in the automotive category in 2026.

Building on this momentum, Chery Auto in a statement said its mid-to-premium new energy vehicle (NEV) brand, LEPAS, is accelerating its global expansion with the rollout of new NEV models.

The LEPAS L6 EV, an all-electric sport utility vehicle (SUV) designed for intelligent urban living, was officially launched on July 24 in Thailand, while the LEPAS L8 PHEV officially went on sale in Indonesia on July 26.

Looking ahead, LEPAS plans to expand further in the third quarter of 2026 with the LEPAS L8 PHEV, LEPAS L6 EV, LEPAS L6 PHEV

Boeing reports loss on costs from US presidential plane

NEW YORK: Boeing reported a bigger-than-expected loss Tuesday fuelled by \$280 million in additional costs in outfitting two US presidential planes, but said broad-based revenue growth showed progress after several troubled years.

The US aerospace giant scored an eight percent increase in revenues to \$24.6 billion on increased commercial plane deliveries and higher volume in defense, space and security.

Boeing reported a second-quarter loss of \$428 million, smaller than in the year-ago period, but bigger than projected by analysts.

The results included \$280 million in losses on the VC-25B program for the presidential plane, Air Force One, which has been beset by delays and cost overruns.

The latest Air Force One expenses are for “additional production and certification resources,” Boeing said in its earnings press release. The original 2018 contract was to modify and outfit two 747-8 aircraft for presidential use.

Boeing described certification efforts for new 737 MAX and 777 planes as on track with US air regulators. Boeing has said the first of these planes—the 737 MAX 7— as in the “last throes” of the process.

Chief Executive Kelly Ortberg said he was pleased with the company’s progress. When Ortberg joined Boeing about two years ago, the company was reeling after crashes and safety problems.

“Our focus has been on restoring trust,” Ortberg said. “While there is more work ahead in the second half of the year, the momentum we are building continues to move Boeing in the right direction.”

Shares of Boeing rose 0.2 percent in pre-market trading. –AFP

TOKYO: Chinese giant BYD launched an electric “kei” car in Japan on Tuesday with an ad campaign featuring a top actor, taking on local rivals whose own pint-sized vehicles rule the road.

Ideal for Japan’s often narrow roads, the super-compact category of cars up to 1.4 metres (4.9 feet) wide and 3.4 metres long accounts for some 40 percent of new vehicle sales there.

BYD, which is also making major inroads in Europe and which overtook Tesla in 2025 as the world’s biggest seller of EVs, said the Racco is the first “kei” car launched in Japan by an overseas automaker.

The car has a height of 180 centimetres and is priced from 2.1 million yen (\$12,830).

To help market it, BYD has hired one of Japan’s best-known actors, Alice Hirose, for its advertisements.

“We want to deliver unprecedented convenience and enjoyment to all people across Japan through our technology,”

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BYD launches ‘kei’ car in Japan



BYD Japan president Liu Xueliang said at a launch event in Tokyo.

Foreign automakers have traditionally struggled to gain much market share in Japan, including BYD.

The Chinese carmaker has established 77 sales locations across Japan, according to Bloomberg News.

“Kei” cars—“kei-jidosha” (“light vehicle”) in Japanese—have a cult following. Admirers include US President Donald Trump, who told US firms in December to “START BUILDING THEM NOW!” –AFP

last month.

Tokyo’s Nikkei tanked four percent as Kioxia, Advantest and Tokyo Electron shares all tumbled.

Taipei also fell more than four percent as market heavyweight TSMC took a hit.

Investors are now awaiting earnings this week from SK hynix, Samsung and Kioxia, as well as US titans Microsoft, Meta, Apple and Amazon.

The rest of Asia was also mostly down, though there were gains in Hong Kong.

London, Paris and Frankfurt all traded higher in midday deals, supported by corporate earnings and lower oil prices.

British consumer goods giant Unilever jumped seven percent to top London’s FTSE 100 index, after lifting its full-year outlook.

Barclays slid five percent, however, after the bank’s upgraded full-year group income target disappointed investors.

Markets also responded to renewed optimism over the US-Iran crisis, with both sides pausing tit-for-tat strikes that were sparked by a breakdown in diplomacy over the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump expressed hope that renewed diplomacy could bring an end to the war that began in late February.

“I have a lot of patience... We’ll see what happens,” he said aboard Air Force One. “I think there is a good chance that something could happen.”

Reports said Oman and Iran were trying to reach an agreement to restart shipping through Hormuz, a route which normally carries around a fifth of global oil and LNG.

Hopes for a deal sent both main oil contracts sharply lower. –AFP

FOREIGN CLOSING REPORT

Tech stocks tank on AI jitters

LONDON: A rout in tech stocks dragged down Asian markets Tuesday on fresh concerns over the AI boom, while European equities held up as oil prices extended losses.

The sell-off overshadowed a further drop in oil prices after US President Donald Trump signalled optimism about a deal to end Middle East hostilities.

“The AI powered rollercoaster has taken another lurch downwards, with chip stocks falling sharply, as investors reassess rising competition and future demand,” said Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

South Korea’s Kospi stocks index plunged almost 11 percent after a report of a breakthrough in China’s chip industry compounded worries about the longevity of the AI boom.

“Just as geopolitical tensions appear to be easing slightly, there’s been a refocus on the runners and riders of the tech revolution, with a new kid on the chip block causing mayhem,” Streeter added.

Chipmakers led losses after tech news outlet The Information reported that China’s Shanghai Yuliangsheng had started mass production of a chipmaking technology long dominated by Dutch firm ASML.

The losses extended a recent sell-off in tech stocks following an eye-watering rally over the past two years that sent several indexes and companies to record highs.

Seoul-listed SK hynix sank 14.7 percent and Samsung more than 13 percent. Both firms have shed nearly 50 percent of their market value since hitting all-time highs

last month.

Tokyo’s Nikkei tanked four percent as Kioxia, Advantest and Tokyo Electron shares all tumbled.

Taipei also fell more than four percent as market heavyweight TSMC took a hit.

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Hopes for a deal sent both main oil contracts sharply lower. –AFP

US tariffs refund boosts Philips

AMSTERDAM: Dutch healthcare technology giant Philips bolstered its earnings outlook Tuesday after obtaining 186 million euros (\$211 million) in US tariff refunds, winning back almost all of the cash levied, director general Roy Jakobs said.

The US Supreme Court in February struck down the bulk of US President Donald Trump’s tariff blitz saying the tariffs exceeded his powers to regulate commerce.

“When there was the opening to claim for tariff refund based on the court ruling, we were one amongst the first to very proactively hand in all the requirements to apply for it,” Jakobs told reporters on a conference call.

“And therefore, we are also one of the first to get it back almost in full.”

Given the company makes almost half of its sales in North America, Philips had been hard hit by the tariffs and the refund helped it to report better than forecast second-quarter profit margins.

Whilst the remainder of this refund will be paid out in the third quarter, the company is still facing the customs duties most recently imposed by the US president.

“We believe tariffs is an unfortunate... reality that we need to take into account if you want to do business in this world,” said Jakobs.

Philips reported late Monday its net profit

had risen to 386 million euros in the second quarter, compared with the 240 million for the same period in 2025.

Long known for its light bulbs and televisions, the Dutch consumer electronics giant has since refocused production on medical equipment.

Quarterly sales came in at 4.4 billion euros, compared with 4.3 billion for the same period last year.

The group maintained its forecast for annual revenue growth of between 3 and 4.5 percent.

The group continues to face legal proceedings following a recall, initiated in 2021, of its DreamStation sleep apnoea devices, found to stop working intermittently.

Since 2021, the company has been battling a series of crises over its DreamStation machines for sleep apnoea, a disorder in which breathing stops and starts during sleep.

Millions of devices were recalled over concerns that users were at risk of inhaling pieces of noise-cancelling foam and fears it could potentially cause cancer.

In April 2024, it announced it had reached a \$1.1 billion deal to settle US lawsuits over the faulty machines without admitting any liability. –AFP

Chery Automobile Co surpasses 20 million global sales

KUALA LUMPUR: Global automotive manufacturer, Chery Automobile Co Ltd (Chery Auto) announced that its cumulative global sales had surpassed 20 million units, marking another milestone in the company’s global expansion.

The milestone coincided with Chery Auto’s debut in the 2026 Fortune China 500 as a publicly listed company, where it ranked 87th and topped automakers in return on equity (ROE), reflecting its strong profitability and global operations.

The company was also named to the Kantar BrandZ Top 50 Chinese Global Brand Builders for the ninth consecutive

GSK targets savings after profits slide

LONDON: British pharmaceutical giant GSK on Tuesday said it was targeting future annual savings of £1.9 billion (\$2.5 billion) after bottom-line profits tumbled in the second quarter.

Net profit in the second quarter slumped 70 percent to £435 million compared with the April-June period a year earlier after the company abandoned a chronic cough treatment, GSK said in an earnings statement.

GSK said it had taken a hit totalling £1.3 billion after not proceeding further with camlipixant following final stage trials.

The company announced earlier this month that the most recent tests showed “limited efficacy” and that the treatment was therefore “unlikely to transform patient care”.

GSK on Tuesday announced also the start of “a three-year cost savings programme to simplify the organisation and to reallocate capital and resources”.

It added that a 2029 target had been set for the £1.9-billion annual savings, without being drawn on possible job losses.

“We’re not going to give a number today in terms of people changes,” GSK chief executive Luke Miels told a call with media.

“That’s because I want the chance and I want my team to have the chance to discuss this with our people first.”

Stripping out the hit caused by camlipixant, GSK said its core operating profit rose seven percent in the second quarter to £2.8 billion.

Group revenue grew five percent to £8.4 billion.

“GSK has delivered another quarter of strong core results performance, with our key growth drivers performing well,” Miels said in the earnings release.

“We remain focused on operational delivery, execution, and accelerating” research and development (R&D).

GSK in June announced a \$10.6-billion deal for Nuvalent, a Boston-based specialist in cancer treatments, furthering its push into both oncology and the United States.

The deal includes Nuvalent’s three lung cancer therapies currently in their testing phase. –AFP

LVMH growth accelerates in second quarter

PARRIS: LVMH, the world’s top luxury group, said Monday that sales growth accelerated in the second quarter as it beat analyst expectations with stable net profit in the first half of the year.

The performance of the group, whose brands include Louis Vuitton, Dior, Celine and Hennessy, could be a sign that the struggling luxury sector is starting to turn the corner.

LVMH said it posted a net profit of 5.7 billion euros (\$6.5 billion) despite the “geopolitical and economic environment that remained disrupted, amplified by the conflict in the Middle East”.

First-half sales dipped by three percent to 38.6 billion euros. Both figures beat the consensus of analyst expectations compiled by FactSet.

While the group’s sales slumped six percent in the first three months of the year, they edged 0.1 percent higher in the second quarter to 19.5 billion euros.

“Accelerating growth in the second quarter arose in particular from the success of Jonathan Anderson’s first designs for Christian Dior, the remarkable performance of Louis Vuitton’s exceptional new stores in Beijing and Seoul, and

Unilever lifts outlook amid turnaround efforts

LONDON: British consumer goods giant Unilever on Tuesday upgraded its full-year outlook as it slims down and refocuses on its core home and personal care business.

Profit after tax fell more than five percent to 3.3 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) compared with the first half of 2025, said the maker of products including Dove soap and Cif surface cleaner.

Unilever reported increases in both volume of sales and prices in the first half.

Under chief executive Fernando Fernandez, the company is undergoing a turnaround to boost its performance, including cutting jobs and spinning off its food and ice cream divisions.

Fernandez highlighted a “strong volume-led performance in the first half, with a significant step-up in the second quarter.”

“The macroeconomic environment remains uncertain, but... we are well positioned to deliver our upgraded full year outlook,” he said in an earnings statement.

Higher inflation, triggered by a surge in energy costs linked to the Middle East war, has weighed on consumer confidence, dampening the outlook for spending.

Tawau goat farming venture hailed

TAWAU: Deputy Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Mohamad Alamin (**pic**) said the goat farming project undertaken by Koperasi Usaha Sejahtera Tawau Berhad (KUSTB) demonstrates the potential of cooperatives to grow into competitive commercial enterprises that contribute to local economic development.

He said developing the agri-food sector through cooperatives not only creates opportunities for communities to increase their incomes but also serves as a catalyst for more comprehensive rural development.

“The government, through the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (KUSKOP), will continue to support efforts to strengthen the cooperative movement so that it becomes one of the country’s key contributors to economic growth.

“Projects like this prove that cooperatives have the capability to generate sustainable economic activities while helping to strengthen the national food security agenda,” he said after a working visit to KUSTB here on Saturday.

During the visit, Mohamad was briefed



on the progress of the goat farming project, including its farm management, production capacity, operational challenges and future expansion plans.

He also toured the farm and interacted with cooperative members to observe the project’s implementation and obtain feedback on the potential of the goat farming industry as a viable source of economic growth.

Mohamad said he was proud to see the commitment shown by cooperative members in developing commercial goat farming enterprises, particularly the active involvement of young people who are will-



ing to venture into the agri-food sector as entrepreneurs.

He said the participation of the younger generation demonstrates that modern livestock farming and agriculture continue to offer significant prospects for producing competitive entrepreneurs, while creating more job opportunities and increasing community incomes.

In this regard, he urged more cooperatives nationwide to take advantage of the financing facilities, training programmes and development initiatives provided by

KUSKOP and the Malaysian Cooperative Commission (SKM).

According to him, the adoption of modern technology, improvements in productivity and the production of value-added products must be prioritised to ensure cooperatives remain resilient in an increasingly challenging economic environment.

“When cooperatives prosper, the benefits are not limited to their members. They also generate positive economic spillovers for local communities through employment opportunities, increased incomes and stronger food supply chains,” he said.

At the same time, Mohamad reiterated the government’s commitment to strengthening the cooperative ecosystem in line with the aspirations of the National Cooperative Policy (DaKoM) 2030, which aims to develop a progressive, innovative, resilient and high-impact cooperative movement that contributes to the well-being of the people and the nation’s prosperity.

Also present were Sabah Malaysian Cooperative Commission director Awang Russli Mohamad and representatives of cooperative movements from Sabah’s East Coast Zone. – **Iskandar Dzulkifli**

SAHAM AMANAH SABAH (MANAGER'S PRICES FOR JULY 27)	
BUYING:	0.3129
SELLING:	0.3129
NAV:	0.3129

■ GOLD PRICES	
THE physical price of gold as at 5pm stood at RM514.09 per gramme, down RM6.02 from RM520.11 at 5pm Monday. –Bernama	

■ CLOSING INDICES	
FBMEMAS	12,641.70 (- 21.40)
FBMKLCI	1,712.48 (- 0.61)
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	492.95 (- 0.97)
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	185.47 (- 1.37)
CONSTRUCTION	286.13 (- 0.98)
FINANCIAL SERVICES	20,254.40 (+ 13.79)
ENERGY	763.42 (- 5.92)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	403.85 (+ 1.33)
HEALTH CARE	1,474.92 (+ 0.69)
TRANSPORTATION	1,016.48 (- 3.79)
PROPERTY	1,095.63 (- 3.35)
PLANTATION	9,231.59 (- 52.90)
FBMSHA	12,457.50 (- 29.30)
FBMACE	4,886.29 (- 32.50)
TECHNOLOGY	72.43 (- 1.68)

■ INTERBANK RATES						
KUALA LUMPUR INTERBANK OFFER RATES: JULY 28						
1M	2M	3M	6M	9M	12M	
3.01	3.35	3.45	3.48	-	3.79	
SIBOR (\$S) SIBOR (US\$) HIBOR (HK\$)						
1M	—	2.71875				
2M	—	2.84482				
3M	—	2.95000				
6M	—	3.19899				
12M	—	3.52964				

■ RINGGIT WATCH	
THE ringgit closed higher against most major currencies but eased against the greenback on Tuesday amid cautious investor sentiment ahead of the US Federal Reserve’s (Fed) interest rate decision later this week.	
At 6 pm, the local currency dropped to 4.0885/0930 against the US dollar from Monday’s close of 4.0835/0875.	
Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the ringgit continued to trade within a narrow range as market participants awaited the outcome of the Fed’s two-day Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on July 28 and 29. “Markets are anxious to see the Fed’s latest assessment of the (American) economy, as well as its guidance on the US interest rate outlook,” he told Bernama.	
Mohd Afzanizam said global crude oil prices had been trending lower following the resumption of negotiations between the United States and Iran, raising hopes of a possible reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a military de-escalation in West Asia.	
The ringgit traded higher against a basket of major currencies at the close Tuesday.	
It edged up against the Japanese yen to 2.4948/4976 from 2.4969/4994, appreciated vis-à-vis the euro to 4.6429/6480 from 4.6536/6581, and rose versus the British pound to 5.4287/4347 from 5.4433/4486 on Monday.	
The ringgit also traded mostly higher against regional currencies.	
It strengthened against the Indonesian rupiah to 226.0/226.4 from 226.7/227.0, advanced versus the Singapore dollar to 3.1603/1640 from 3.1653/1686, and improved vis-à-vis the Thai baht to 12.1494/1681 from 12.1612/1775 previously. However, the local currency edged down against the Philippine peso to 6.63/6.64 from 6.62/6.63 Monday. –	

Rubber targeted to hit minimum price of RM5/kg by end-2027

SEREMBAN: The minimum price of rubber is targeted to hit RM5 per kilogramme by the end of 2027 as part of efforts to improve the income and standard of living of more than 500,000 rubber smallholders nationwide, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the Minister

of Rural and Regional Development, said the target presents a challenge for the Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (RISDA) to develop new approaches to ensure the commodity can be traded at higher prices, despite being influenced by global supply and demand factors.

He said efforts to raise rubber prices are not only aimed at increasing the income of smallholders but are also crucial to ensuring the sector remains sustainable and attractive to younger generations, encouraging them to venture into and continue in the rubber industry.

“Many say rubber prices depend on global supply and demand. That is indeed economic theory, but we need to find new approaches so that the dignity, performance and economic growth of our smallholders can be enhanced. We want rubber prices that reflect the true value of the commodity. This is not merely about promoting rubber, but about helping smallholders who are the backbone of the country’s rubber production,” he added.

The deputy prime minister said this in his speech at the opening ceremony of the RISDA Central Zone Smallholders Convention here on Tuesday, which was also attended by Deputy Minister of Rural and Regional Development Datuk Rubiah Wang and RISDA chairman Manndzri Nasib.

Ahmad Zahid said that about 80 per cent of the country’s rubber production is contributed by smallholders, underscoring

their role as the backbone of Malaysia’s rubber industry. He said improving smallholders’ incomes should not depend solely on higher rubber prices but must also be supported by increased productivity through the adoption of technology, mechanisation, digitalisation, and more systematic plantation management.

“I urge that smallholders should never be forced to plant low quality seedlings. We want them to use only high-quality planting materials so that productivity can be enhanced,” he said, adding that Malaysia’s natural rubber production has so far shown positive growth, increasing by 9.1 per cent.

Ahmad Zahid said smallholders should also be given opportunities to diversify their income sources through other crops, agri-food activities, livestock farming, entrepreneurship, and downstream industries to reduce their dependence on rubber alone. He said the approach is expected to produce more entrepreneurs among smallholders who will not only produce rubber, but also be capable of managing costs, leveraging technology and producing value-added products to ensure more sustainable incomes. – Bernama

Rubber mixed on oil, trade tensions

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kuala Lumpur rubber market ended mixed on Tuesday, tracking weaker crude oil prices, a dealer said.

He said oil prices fell as the pause in United States strikes on Iran raised hopes for a diplomatic solution and the normalisation of energy flows from West Asia, reducing support for rubber prices.

At the time of writing, the Brent crude oil price was down 2.93 per cent to US\$85.77 per barrel.

The dealer said renewed US-China trade tensions also weighed down market sentiment.

“Renewed US-China tariff tensions raised

concerns over trade and global economic growth, weighing on rubber market sentiment,” he told Bernama.

Nevertheless, he said further losses were partly cushioned by positive US economic data.

“US core capital goods orders rose 0.9 per cent in June following a 1.9 per cent increase in May, signalling resilient business investment,” he said.

At 3 pm, the price of Standard Malaysian Rubber 20 (SMR 20) rose one sen to 897.50 sen per kilogram (kg), while latex in bulk dropped six sen to 706.50 sen per kg. – Bernama

Mihas applications officially open

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) has officially opened applications for the Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) Awards 2026, inviting eligible exhibitors to submit their entries before Aug 10.

In a statement, MATRADE said the MIHAS Awards are being held to recognise outstanding exhibitors for their achievements in business growth, product and service excellence, innovation, sustainability and digital transformation, as well as their contributions to the advancement of the global halal industry.

According to the group, this year’s awards feature 15 accolades distributed across three flagship categories, namely the MIHAS Excellence Awards; the MIHAS Innovation, Sustainability & Digitalisation Awards; and WiEX @ MIHAS (Anugerah Wira Ekonomi Wanita) Awards.

“The MIHAS Excellence Awards recognise achievements in Product Excellence, Service Excellence and Emerging Star categories, while the MIHAS Innovation, Sustainability & Digitalisation Awards honour exhibitors that leverage advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and other digital solutions.

“The WiEX @ MIHAS awards celebrate exceptional women-led businesses across the Product, Service, and Innovation, Sustainability and Digitalisation categories,” MATRADE said.

Meanwhile, MATRADE chairman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican (**pic**) said the awards continue to play an important role in elevating industry standards and recognising forward-thinking companies that are shaping the future of halal trade.

“The MIHAS Awards have become a hallmark of excellence within the global halal industry, recognising businesses that continuously raise the bar through innovation, resilience and sustainable growth.

“As the halal economy continues to expand beyond traditional sectors, companies must embrace innovation, sustainability and digitalisation to remain relevant and competitive,” he was quoted as saying.

He said this year’s awards place greater emphasis on future-ready businesses embracing digital transformation, sustainability and emerging technologies to create lasting value.

“Through the MIHAS Awards, we aspire to inspire more companies to innovate, compete globally and contribute to the continued growth of the international halal economy,” he added.

The awards are open to all MIHAS 2026 exhibitors, including Malaysian and international participants, while Malaysian companies must also be registered as MATRADE members.

Applicants must meet the prescribed financial eligibility criteria, with average annual sales exceeding RM500,000 for product categories and RM250,000 for service categories. – Bernama



■ 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS					
COUNTER	TURNOVER (UNITS)	HIGH (SEN)	LOW (SEN)	L/DONE (SEN)	UP/DOWN (SEN)
VS	121,906,700	23.0	21.0	22.0	-1.0
TANCO	94,477,800	27.5	23.5	26.0	+1.5
ZETRIX	93,750,600	70.0	67.0	69.0	+0.5
SNS	54,148,100	60.0	53.5	54.0	-2.0
DNEX	51,462,200	44.5	42.0	43.0	-2.0
HHRG	40,532,800	16.0	14.0	14.0	-1.5
TWL	34,319,100	2.5	2.0	2.5	+0.5
ZETRIX-CA	34,118,200	4.0	4.0	4.0	-1.0
VELESTO	33,461,400	25.5	24.5	24.5	-1.0
ZETRIX-CB	30,100,000	9.0	8.5	8.5	-1.0

■ BURSA SCOREBOARD				
	UP	DOWN	UNCHANGED	TRADED
CONSUMER PROD & SERV	45	54	66	165
IND-PROD & SERVICES	43	67	85	195
CONSTRUCTION	13	18	22	53
TECHNOLOGY	6	39	13	58
FINANCIAL SERVICES	12	10	7	29
PROPERTY	25	38	29	92
PLANTATION	4	14	16	34
REIT	10	4	6	20
CLOSED END FUND	0	1	0	1
ENERGY	7	19	10	36
HEALTH CARE	5	5	11	21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA	6	6	5	17
TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS	4	10	11	25
UTILITIES	5	5	3	13
BUSINESS TRUST	0	0	1	1
STRCWARR	104	341	136	581
ACE-MKT	58	81	111	250
BOND&LOAN	0	1	1	2
ETF	1	4	2	7
LEAP-MKT	0	0	1	1
	348	717	536	1,601

BURSA MALAYSIA DERIVATIVES EXCHANGE: JULY 28 THE CRUDE PALM OIL FUTURES CLOSING (ALL PRCS ARE IN RM/MT)						
DEL MONTH	OPEN (RM)	HIGH (RM)	LOW (RM)	LAST	VOLUME (RM)	OPEN POSITION
AUG-26	4554	4563	4499	4530	2,229	10,737
SEP-26	4633	4641	4562	4603	7,472	53,145
OCT-26	4678	4685	4603	4643	34,308	104,243
NOV-26	4709	4718	4636	4674	13,157	53,603
DEC-26	4737	4745	4666	4706	8,956	38,197
JAN-27	4759	4768	4694	4734	9,771	36,767
FEB-27	4777	4780	4712	4756	3,849	18,083
MAR-27	4782	4786	4720	4760	4,395	24,621
APR-27	4774	4781	4718	4757	2,081	11,858
MAY-27	4760	4769	4710	4748	2,453	19,842
JUN-27	4746	4746	4691	4730	836	3,133
JUL-27	4722	4729	4668	4704	1,038	7,203
SEP-27	4692	4698	4651	4658	421	6,769
NOV-27	4686	4694	4652	4652	173	5,664
JAN-28	-	-	-	-	-	28
MAR-28	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OPEN POSITION : 393,893 CTRS						
TOTAL TURN OVER : 91,139 LOTS						
MARKET TONE : LOWER						

MPOB PALM OIL PRICES (RM/MT): JULY 28				NOTE : PRELIMINARY PRICES UP	
PRODUCT	JULY'26	AUG'26	SEPT'26	TO 4.00 P.M. NT – NO TRANSACTION	
CPO (LOCAL DELIVERED)	4,495.50	4,498.00	NT	LOCAL MALAYSIA CPO PRICES TRADED EASIER DUE	
PK (EX-MILL)	3,720.00	NT	NT	TO WEAKER SOYABEAN OIL AND BRENT CRUDE OIL	
CPKO (LOCAL DELIVERED)	NT	NT	NT	PRICES IN THE WORLD MARKET. CPO DELIVERY PRICES	
RBD PALM OIL (FOB)	NT	NT	NT	TRADED BETWEEN RM4,480/TONNE AND RM4,500/TONNE.	
RBD PALM OLEIN (FOB)	NT	NT	NT	PK PRICES TRADED BETWEEN RM3,710/TONNE AND	
RBD PALM STEARIN (FOB)	NT	NT	NT	RM3,730/TONNE. – BERNAMA	

DAILY FFB REFERENCE PRICE SUMMARY BY REGION (RM/TONNE) JULY 28						
	NORTH GRADE	SOUTH GRADE	CENTRAL GRADE	EAST COAST GRADE	SABAH* GRADE	SARAWAK* GRADE
DATE						
RM/ 1% OER	49.64	49.84	49.75	49.48	44.27	44.36
Note : OER - Oil Extraction Rate (Kadar Perahan Minyak) NT - No Trade PH - Public Holiday						
* Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Tawau ** Miri and Bintulu.						

■ EXCHANGE RATES			
EXCHANGE RATES ISSUED BY MALAYAN BANKING BHD: JULY 28			
	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.1595	4.0125	4.0025
1 Australian Dollar	2.9130	2.7950	2.7790
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2140	3.1120	3.1040
1 Canadian Dollar	2.9360	2.8540	2.8420
1 Euro	4.7240	4.5690	4.5490
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4030	2.3140	2.2980
1 Papua N Guinea Kina	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2140	3.1120	3.1040
1 Sterling Pound	5.5210	5.3440	5.3240
1 Swiss Franc	5.0990	4.8810	4.8660
100 UAE Dirham	114.2700	108.3200	108.1200
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.4370	3.1870	2.9870
100 Chinese Renminbi	61.7300	59.1000	N/A
100 Danish Krone	64.7800	59.5800	59.3800
100 Hongkong Dollar	53.4700	50.7900	50.5900
100 Indian Rupee	4.4200	4.1100	3.9100
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0241	0.0213	0.0163
100 Japanese Yen	2.5550	2.4360	2.4260
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	44.0300	40.4900	40.2900
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5600	1.3900	1.1900
100 Philippine Peso	6.8300	6.4300	6.2300
100 Qatar Riyal	115.0800	109.2500	109.0500
100 Saudi Riyal	111.7200	106.0600	105.8600
100 South Africa Rand	25.6100	23.1300	22.9300
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.3000	1.1300	0.9300
100 Swedish Krona	44.0000	40.0600	39.8600
100 Thai Baht	12.8800	11.4200	11.0200

Narathiwat attack forces Thais to put peace talks on hold

BANGKOK: Thailand has temporarily suspended peace talks with the southern insurgent group, originally scheduled for September in Malaysia, following last week's deadly attack in Narathiwat that killed five rangers.

Director of the National Intelligence Agency Thanat Suwannaont said the dialogue process had initially progressed well before the attack prompted authorities to reassess the situation.

“There will be no negotiations in September. We had arranged the meeting in advance, but then the incident happened. The violence was too severe for us to accept. We were in the middle of talks when this happened.”

“Although the fighters may have acted according to their instincts, we had already begun the dialogue process. Once violence occurs, we have to start all over again,” he told reporters on Tuesday.

Thanat, who also heads Thailand's Southern Border Provinces Peace Dialogue

Panel, said the government had sent a letter to the insurgent group seeking an explanation for the attack, which occurred while the peace process was under way.

He added that Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul had consistently emphasised that dialogue remained one of the key long-term approaches to resolving the conflict in Thailand's southern border provinces, rather than serving as a short-term response to individual incidents.

“Negotiations must proceed according to an established process and require time,” he said.

Last Wednesday, six masked assailants dressed in dark clothing opened fire and hurled pipe bombs at a security checkpoint at about 6.45 pm local time in Ban Bukit Sami, Rangae district, Narathiwat province, killing five rangers and injuring six civilians, including a three-year-old girl.

Following the attack, Thailand imposed Martial Law in 13 districts of Narathiwat to facilitate the manhunt for the suspects

and strengthen security measures in the restive southern province.

Meanwhile, the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) Region 4 said in a statement that the Narathiwat Provincial Court had issued arrest warrants for two suspects believed to have been involved in the attack.

ISOC said the suspects, aged 45 and 43, had been identified by investigators as being linked to the armed assault on July 22.

“They are charged with jointly committing acts of terrorism, premeditated murder of a government official, armed robbery resulting in death, as well as offences involving firearms and explosives,” the statement said.

ISOC added that the operation to apprehend the suspects was ongoing, with the military authorised to establish road-blocks across Narathiwat at any time if intelligence indicated the suspects were in the area. – Bernama

Asean ministers voice concern over West Asia tensions, online scams

JAKARTA: Asean foreign ministers expressed concern over escalating tensions in West Asia and the growing threat posed by transnational online scams, calling for stronger regional cooperation, Asean Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn said on Tuesday, reported Xinhua.

Speaking at the Asean Secretariat in South Jakarta, Kao said the ministers discussed geopolitical rivalry, regional security and developments in West Asia during their annual retreat in Manila.

The ministers later issued a joint statement calling for dialogue, expressing concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reaffirming the need to protect civilians in accordance with international law.

Kao said the ministers also agreed to

strengthen coordination through Asean-led security mechanisms to mitigate the impact of the conflict on Southeast Asia, particularly on energy and food security, supply chains and the safety of Asean nationals in the region.

The ministers also identified online scams and transnational organised crime as pressing regional challenges, warning that increasingly sophisticated criminal networks are fuelling human trafficking, money laundering and the misuse of digital technologies across borders.

“This is an issue that is affecting all of us now, and there is a need to strengthen regional cooperation, both within Asean and between Asean and its external partners,” Kao said. – Bernama

Death sentence for cyberscam offences

YANGON: Myanmar's military-backed parliament approved a law on Tuesday authorising capital punishment for those who detain or violently coerce victims into working in online scam centres.

Internet fraud factories have flourished in war-torn Myanmar, part of Southeast Asia's thriving scam economy, targeting web users worldwide with romance and cryptocurrency investment cons.

The multibillion-dollar black market attracts many willing employees, but repatriated foreigners have also reported being trafficked to sites in Myanmar and tortured by scam centre operators.

Under pressure from other nations, including the United States and China, the Myanmar government of putschist-turned-president Min Aung Hlaing has pledged to crack down on the illicit industry.

But monitors say law enforcement raids and arrests have resulted in scam outfits relocating in the region rather than ceasing operations.

Myanmar lawmakers passed the “Anti-Online Scam Bill” at a joint session of parliament in the capital Naypyidaw on Tuesday, parliament speaker Aung Lin Dwe said during a live television broadcast.

Lower house MP Aye Chan told AFP the death sentence was included in the final version of the law.

“There were not many significant changes to the proposed draft bill... the important parts of the bill remained the same,” Aye Chan said.

A draft text published in May included sentences of 10 years to life in prison, as well as capital punishment, for “violence, torture, unlawful arrest and detention, or

cruel treatment against another person for the purpose of forcing them to commit online scams”.

For scam offences causing death, it said, “the death penalty shall be imposed”.

The draft bill also featured a maximum sentence of life in prison for those who “run an online scam centre” or convicted of cryptocurrency scams.

The anti-scam law is the first legislation passed by Myanmar's new government, headed by former junta chief Min Aung Hlaing.

He led a 2021 military coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and triggered an ongoing civil war.

In April, Min Aung Hlaing assumed the role of civilian president after heavily restricted elections that did not include the detained Nobel laureate, Suu Kyi, or her party.

Analysts describe the military-backed parliament as a rubber-stamp legislature, with pro-military lawmakers sweeping the vote which was widely criticised by Western nations and democracy watchdogs as a sham meant to launder the junta's image.

As one of his first official acts since becoming civilian leader, Min Aung Hlaing commuted all death sentences in a blanket order in April – a turnaround after his junta had resumed executions following the coup.

The return to executions after decades targeted anti-coup dissidents, rights groups said.

By 2022, more than 130 people had been sentenced to death, according to the United Nations.

This year China – which reported more than \$5 billion in scam losses in the past two years – has executed at least 15 people convicted of fraud offences linked to Myanmar scam compounds.

Myanmar's civil war has killed more than 100,000 people and seeded instability across the country, creating fertile ground for scammers to set up shop inside fortified compounds, according to monitors.

Chinese-origin syndicates “constitute the major organisational force” behind the region's cyberscam economy, running industrial-scale scam compounds in border areas and special economic zones in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, a report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said this month.

In Myanmar's conflict zones, non-state armed groups are also involved in the criminal ecosystem, it added.

Myanmar's government has vowed to combat internet fraud alongside neighbouring nations. But law enforcement actions in the region have “displaced and dispersed” scam networks rather than dismantled them, the UNODC said.

Crackdowns on established scam hubs, including KK Park and Shwe Kokko in Myanmar near the Thai border, have pushed operators to facilities in Cambodia, it noted.

Upper house MP Naw Yuzana Wah told AFP that international pressure was spurring Myanmar officials to tackle the scam scourge.

“As many armed groups and organisations are involved” in the industry, “we have many challenges to address”, she said. – AFP

Fashion carnival



AN Indonesian performer dressed in a HEAL (Humanity, Earth, and Life)-themed costume takes part in parade during the Jember Fashion Carnival in Jember, East Java island.

New BI chief urged to steady rupiah

JAKARTA: Senior economist at the Institute for Development of Economics and Finance (Indef), Didik J. Rachbini, said the new Bank Indonesia (BI) governor should take a leading role in maintaining the stability of the rupiah exchange rate.

“Coordination is essential and falls under Bank Indonesia's responsibility in maintaining the exchange rate.

The new Bank Indonesia governor should not be passive in this coordination by focusing solely on monetary duties, but should take the lead in coordinating with other ministries,” he said in a written statement received here.

According to Rachbini, the BI governor is the official primarily responsible for safeguarding the stability of the rupiah exchange rate.

Through coordination with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade, and ministries responsible for investment and industry, the BI governor is expected to help maintain exchange rate stability, which is closely linked to international trade, investment, and fiscal policy.

He said the BI governor should not only play a central role in formulating monetary policy but also lead broader efforts to safeguard the rupiah, given the significant challenges arising from both monetary and non-monetary factors.

Rachbini added that maintaining ade-

quate foreign exchange (forex) reserves requires coordination with relevant stakeholders, as the reserves are used for market intervention, government external debt payments, and maintaining market confidence.

He also emphasized that strengthening forex reserves requires close collaboration between Bank Indonesia and the government to boost trade, expand the real sector, and ensure export proceeds remain in the country.

According to Rachbini, Bank Indonesia's responsibilities extend beyond setting monetary policy through interest rates and managing payment systems, including the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, QRIS, and currency circulation.

As reported earlier, Senior Deputy Governor Destry Damayanti has been appointed acting governor of Bank Indonesia following Perry Warjiyo's resignation.

Under the Bank Indonesia Law, the President nominates a candidate for BI governor to the House of Representatives (DPR). Commission XI of the DPR then conducts a fit and proper test before approving the nomination.

Once approved by the DPR, the nominee will be formally appointed and inaugurated by the President as the definitive governor of Bank Indonesia. – Antara

Singapore births fall below 30,000

SINGAPORE: The number of babies born in 2025 fell to the lowest since Singapore's independence, with fewer than 30,000 births for the first time since 1965.

Meanwhile, the number of deaths continues to rise in a rapidly ageing society, with the twin demographic challenges of falling births and rising deaths posing what the Government has described as an existential challenge.

A total of 29,864 babies were born in 2025, 11.4 per cent fewer than the 33,703 births in 2024, according to the Report on Registration of Births and Deaths 2025. The report was released by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) on July 27.

Checks by The Straits Times found that 2025 was the first year in which the annual number of births fell below 30,000 since 1965, when 55,725 babies were born.

From the 1970s to the 1990s, the annual number of births ranged from more than 40,000 to over 50,000 in most years. In the past two decades, annual births have fallen below 40,000 in most years.

In 2025, 87 per cent, or 26,071, of all babies born had at least one parent who is a Singaporean.

With people marrying at a later age, the median age of first-time mothers has continued to rise, which adds to Singapore's fertility challenge as a woman's fertility declines with age.

Faishal Ibrahim resigned from his post as Acting Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, as an MP and from the PAP over online messages he exchanged with an unidentified woman.

The median age of first-time mothers increased from 31.3 years in 2021 to 32.1 years in 2025.

In terms of educational attainment, about two in three first-time mothers in 2025 had university degrees, while about

one in five had A Levels, a diploma, Institute of Technical Education qualifications or equivalent. Only about one in 10 first-time mothers have O-level or lower educational qualifications.

The ICA report comes about five months after Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong said in February that the resident total fertility rate (TFR) fell to a new low of 0.87 in 2025. The TFR refers to the average number of babies each woman would have during her reproductive years.

With birth rates falling at an unprecedented pace, Singapore's citizen population may start to shrink by the early 2040s without new interventions, Gan said.

While the Government's top priority is to continue supporting Singaporeans in forming families, he also stressed the need to have a “carefully managed immigration flow to augment our low birth rate”.

Experts have attributed Singapore's persistent baby woes to more Singaporeans remaining single, and married couples having fewer or no children.

To tackle these issues, an inter-agency workgroup called the Marriage and Parenthood Reset Workgroup was formed earlier in 2026 to find ways to better support Singaporeans in marrying and having children.

However, the latest demographic data is not all bleak as the number of teenage mothers and single-parent birth registrations fell significantly. Single-parent birth registrations refer to babies whose births were registered without the father's name.

Only 140 babies were born to teenagers aged 19 and younger in 2025, a 43 per cent fall from the 244 births recorded in 2024.

Some 258 babies were registered without the father's name in 2025, 22 per cent fewer than the 330 babies in 2024. Only 17 per cent of these babies in 2025 were born to teens aged 19 and under. – The Straits Times/ANN

Myanmar's century-old cinema reopens

YANGON: Myanmar's century-old Wazira Cinema has officially reopened as an international-standard red-carpet theatre in Yangon after a major renovation to preserve its cultural and architectural heritage, Xinhua reported, citing the state-owned daily The Global New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday.

The reopening ceremony of the 103-year-old landmark in Kyauktada township of Yangon was attended by Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing, Union ministers, government officials, cultural attachés from foreign embassies, representatives of local and international organisations, and artistes, the report said.

The building was originally constructed in 1923 as the Excelsior Theatre by the Madan Theatre Company. During the Japanese occupation, it was renamed Yan-gon Cinema.

After World War II, it became A-1 Cinema before officially taking the name Wazira Cinema in 1969, it said.

The name “Wazira” comes from the Pali word “Vajira,” meaning something as precious and strong as a diamond. The theatre is known for its Beaux-Arts architecture, featuring grand Ionic columns, detailed decoration, and elegant European-inspired designs, according to the report.



An undated photo shows Wazira cinema in downtown Yangon. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)

Speaking at the ceremony, President U Min Aung Hlaing said the renovated theater will serve as a national cultural centre where Myanmar's traditional arts, films, theater, music, and other performances can be presented to both local audiences and international visitors.

The upgraded theatre combines its historic architecture with modern facilities, including new cinema seats, LED display screens, and advanced sound technology. It is expected to host film festivals, traditional performances, heritage exhibitions, and other cultural events, the report said. – Bernama

structure spending, pointing out that the President authorizes the national budget.

She further argued that signing off on a budget containing irregularities constitutes a serious breach.

Skeptical of claims that officials involved in flood control corruption would face prosecution, Duterte questioned the timeline of promised arrests, comparing them to past unfulfilled economic commitments.

She said some of the broken promises include personal agreements made prior to their political partnership.

The Vice President argued that the public has little reason to trust the annual state of the nation address when key political, economic, and governance pledges remain unfulfilled. – ABS-CBN

Inflation remains Filipinos' top concern

MANILA: Inflation remains the top concern among Filipinos despite easing from its March peak, while graft and corruption has emerged as the country's third most urgent issue amid heightened public attention to governance, according to the latest Tugon ng Masa survey by OCTA Research.

The nationwide poll found that 37pc of adult Filipinos identified controlling the increase in the prices of basic goods and services as the most urgent issue the Marcos administration should address, down eight percentage points from 45pc in March.

“Even with this decline, inflation continued to rank as the number one national concern, underscoring the continued importance of cost-of-living issues to Filipino households,” OCTA said.

Improving workers' wages and salaries remained the second most urgent concern at 34pc, up slightly from 33pc in the previous quarter.

“Together, these findings suggest that economic and cost-of-living issues continue to dominate the public's policy priorities,” the research firm said.

Concern over fighting graft and corruption climbed six percentage points, from 26pc to 32pc, making it the third most urgent national concern among respondents.

“This makes corruption the third most urgent national concern cited by adult Filipinos, reflecting heightened public attention to issues of transparency, accountability, and integrity in government,” OCTA said.

The survey also found concern over providing free quality education rising from 17pc to 22pc, while reducing poverty fell sharply from 20pc to 12pc — the lowest level recorded since the survey series began.

Other top concerns cited by respondents were access to affordable food (24pc), fighting illegal drugs (16pc), fulfilling the promise to lower rice prices (14pc), creating more jobs (14pc), providing assistance to the poor (10pc) and reducing taxes (10pc). – Philstar



Relations between Zelensky (left) and Trump have warmed since the beginning of Trump’s second term.

Zelensky in US to secure fresh Trump support

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is expected at the White House on Tuesday for talks with US counterpart Donald Trump, as Kyiv seeks to win fresh diplomatic and military support in its fight against Russia.

The visit—scheduled for 9:30am (1330 GMT) Washington time—comes as both Kyiv and Moscow ramp up long-range strikes and US-led diplomatic efforts to end the war remain at a standstill, more than four years on from Russia’s full-scale invasion.

Relations between Zelensky and Trump have warmed since the beginning of Trump’s second term, with the US leader this month offering Kyiv licenses to produce Patriot air defence missiles and suggesting Kyiv’s strikes on Russia could help end the war.

Zelensky is expected to push for fresh supplies of anti-ballistic missiles during his visit, as well as to discuss ways of restarting frozen talks on ending the fighting, a senior Ukrainian official told AFP on the condition of anonymity.

“Our number-one priority is anti-ballistic defense and strategic cooperation with America. Peace needs to be brought closer,” Zelensky said in a post on X announcing his arrival in the United States.

Last month was the deadliest for civilians in Ukraine since April 2022, as Russia rained hard-to-intercept ballistic missiles on Ukrainian towns and cities, according to the United Nations.

“It is crucial that Washington approve the purchase of a package of Patriot missiles. That is super important,” the senior Ukrainian official told AFP. – AFP

US bombers used Israeli bases: IDF

JERUSALEM: Israeli defence minister Israel Katz on Tuesday said that American warplanes used Israeli bases during their attacks on Iran, reiterating that his country was prepared to retaliate if targeted.

Fighting between the US and Iran has been paused since Friday after 13 nights of US strikes on the Islamic republic, after an April ceasefire collapsed.

Israel has not taken part in the latest round of hostilities in the war that began in late February with a wave of US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

“The fact is that, at the moment—and this could change within an hour—the Iranians are firing at everything in the region except one country: the State of Israel,” Katz told Israel’s right-wing Channel 14.

“They know that American aircraft are taking off from here to carry out strikes,” he added.

“This does not mean we know what will happen tomorrow; it means we know what our response will be. I announced it, the Prime Minister announced it, and we made it absolutely clear: if Israel comes under fire, we will strike back with full force,” Katz said. – AFP

Yemen: Ready for escalations with Houthis

RIYADH (Saudi Arabia): Yemen’s internationally recognised government said it is ready for any escalation with Houthi rebels after the Iran-backed group launched attacks and a maritime blockade targeting Saudi Arabia.

Fears are growing that renewed fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi rebels in Yemen may further destabilise the Arabian peninsula and rattle the region’s precarious fault lines.

“At the end of the day, we are prepared for any escalations,” Yemen’s foreign minister designate Afrah al-Zouba said during a briefing in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

The comments came just hours after the Houthis said they launched fresh drone strikes targeting Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure in response to incursions by the kingdom’s drones.

Al-Zouba said the government was increasingly worried that the Tehran-backed rebels were copying Iranian manoeuvres in the Strait of Hormuz to gain control over the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, a crucial passage into the Red Sea off the Yemeni coast. – AFP

Takaichi: Injuries, collapsed buildings in 7.1 earthquake

TOKYO: A major earthquake collapsed buildings and sparked fires in Japan’s southwest, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (pic) said on Tuesday, with broadcaster NHK saying that at least 50 people were taken to hospital.

“Many people” were trapped inside a shopping mall, emergency services said. In “Kashima town, a shopping complex’s second floor collapsed, leaving many people trapped inside,” the fire department said in a statement.

Police said earlier they had received reports of what sounded like an explosion at the Aeon Mall outlet in the Kumamoto region, with no information on damage or any casualties.

Television footage on NHK showed several blazes, damaged bridges, a derailed cargo train and cracked roads after the tremor on Kyushu island. The broadcaster reported at least 12 collapsed houses.

The quake at 4:27pm (0727 GMT) had a magnitude of 7.1, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency, but reached the



highest possible level of seven on Japan’s Shindo scale of shaking.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) measured the quake—one of hundreds that strike Japan every year—at 6.8. The vast majority cause little damage.

“We are still assessing the extent of injuries and property damage, but I have been informed that there have already been several injuries,” Takaichi said.

“Power outages and fires are happening in some areas, and roads and bridges have been damaged and buildings collapsed,” she said.

The JMA initially issued an alert for a possible tsunami of up to one metre (three feet), but withdrew the warning at around 6:10 pm.

“This earthquake occurred inland, and no tsunami activity has been observed so far. For this reason, we hope to lift the tsunami advisory at a relatively early stage, depending on future sea level conditions,” a Japan Meteorological Agency spokesperson said.

No immediate abnormalities were recorded at nuclear power plants, the Nuclear Regulation Authority said.



An explosion was reported at the Aeon Mall outlet in the Kumamoto region with no information on damage or any casualties.

Iran holds calls on Hormuz with Oman, S Arabia

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate phone calls on the Strait of Hormuz with his Omani and Saudi counterparts Badr Al-Busaïdi and Faisal bin Farhan, state TV said Tuesday.

During the calls, “they stressed the need to strengthen cooperation and advance joint diplomatic efforts to establish stability in the region and eliminate the insecurity imposed on the Strait of Hormuz due to the aggressive actions of the United States,” the state broadcaster added.

Iran has maintained control over the strait since the start of the Middle East war on February 28, disrupting shipping through the vital conduit.

In recent weeks, fighting has also spread to involve Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

The last few days have nonetheless seen a lull in hostilities in the region. Trump voiced optimism at the prospects for a negotiated peace deal with Iran, as the two sides held their fire for a third consecutive day.

Fighting between the longtime foes has been paused since Friday after 13 nights of renewed US strikes on the Islamic republic sparked by a breakdown in diplomacy over Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

But the US leader expressed hope that renewed diplomacy could bring an end to the war that began in late February with a wave of US-Israeli strikes, rattling both the region and the global economy.

“I have a lot of patience... We’ll see what happens,” he said aboard Air Force One. “I think there is a good chance that something could happen.” Tehran had earlier denied that there were any talks with the US to end the conflict.

Hanged in public

TEHRAN: Iran’s judiciary on Tuesday announced the hanging of two men over charges relating to anti-government protests that peaked in January, with media reporting it took place in a public square.

“The death sentences of Abolfazl Sepahi and Amir-Hossein Safari were carried out this morning,” the judiciary’s Mizan Online website said.

Mehr news agency meanwhile reported that the hanging took place in “a square in the city of Malekshahr” in the central Isfahan province, with people present.

The two were found guilty of “attacking police officers with machetes and knives, tying them to road signs, pulling them on the ground, dousing them with gasoline, and setting them on fire” on January 8, Mizan said.

It added that they had faced charges of “moharebeh (waging war against God) by drawing weapons and creating fear and terror” and “corruption on earth for committing acts that severely disrupted public order and security in the country”, among others. – AFP

Stillborn baby delivered after checkpoint delay

N’DJAMENA (Chad): Palestinian health workers said a woman delivered a stillborn baby in an ambulance after the vehicle was allegedly delayed by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank on Monday.

The 28-year-old woman was six months pregnant and unconscious when medics collected her from her home in the village of Qaryout, south of the city of Nablus, medic Bashar Qaryouti told AFP.

“She was suffering from very heavy bleeding and her condition was extremely critical,” Qaryouti said.

The woman was placed on oxygen and the ambulance set off for Rafidia hospital in Nablus, but soon found itself desperately searching for an open route, Qaryouti said.

The entrance to one nearby village was closed, forcing the ambulance to take dirt tracks through olive groves before reaching the Awarta checkpoint, where a gate was shut and a long queue of vehicles had formed.

Firefighters on offensive as new heatwave arrives

LEGE-CAP-FERRET (France): Firefighters in France and Spain rushed to contain the worst wildfires in living memory on Tuesday, seizing crucial hours before the arrival of another wave brings scorching temperatures.

Flames have torn through vast swathes of forest in both countries, incinerating properties and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people.

And with a fresh heatwave expected to hit western Europe this week—with oven-like temperatures returning in France from Tuesday and Spain from Wednesday according to meteorologists—firefighters are racing against time to bring the infernos under control.

French firefighters were “on the offensive” insisted commander Eric Pitault, as he stood in the middle of a 50-metre-wide, 25-kilometre-long firebreak cut with the help of civilian volunteers on the Cap Ferret peninsula, though he admitted his teams were tired.

Over the past six days, the wildfire near Bordeaux has affected 42,000 hectares (103,000 acres), forced 220,000 people to flee and destroyed 240 houses.

The prefect’s office said that while there had been flare-ups overnight in the north of the peninsula, these were under control and the burnt area had not increased.

Outside Spain’s Aldea del Fresno, on the edge of the vast fires burning west of Madrid, evacuated locals queued up in their cars in the hope of returning to properties and pets.

They were among 60,000 people forced to flee by fires that have consumed 77,000 hectares (190,000 acres), an area almost the size of New York City.

For now, though, the Guardia Civil gendarmerie was blocking their return, blaming the risk of smoke inhalation.



Charred pedalo boats are seen at the San Juan Reservoir after a wildfire ravaged the region in Pelayos de la Presa, 65 kilometres southwest of Madrid.

Galia Borisova, a 55-year-old domestic helper wanted to reach her animals in nearby Picadas but was having to wait. “They say there’s so much smoke that you can’t breathe, even with a mask. And I believe it, because you could see it from here.”

Europe has been gripped by successive heatwaves and a major drought this year, which scientists have attributed to human-caused climate change.

Extreme heat has parched the ground and dried out vegetation that had grown vigorously during wet and mild weather earlier in the year, creating tinderbox conditions.

The leaders of both France and Spain warned of the new reality that climate change has created.

Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has called the fires “the most painful expression of a climate emergency”, while French President Emmanuel Macron said: “The coming weeks will be tough and we have to hold out.”

Firefighters in Spain made progress

after a “positive night” against wildfires raging west of Madrid that have forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska said Tuesday.

While the focus is currently on Western Europe, the EU’s crisis management chief warned that conditions elsewhere on the continent could spark new fires, stretching already strained resources.

“Extreme conditions are looming for Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, in addition to France, the Iberian Peninsula... where the situation is expected to worsen, including in Portugal starting today,” commissioner Hadja Lahbib said.

Spain’s meteorological agency AEMET announced a new heatwave starting on Wednesday and lasting until at least the end of the week, with temperatures forecast to hit 42C in the northeast and 39C in the centre.

MeteoFrance also forecast more hot weather of up to 40C from Tuesday with dry wind. – AFP

Taiwan escort ships in simulated Chinese blockade

TAIPEI: Taiwan will deploy naval and coast guard ships to escort “critical supplies” during a simulation of a Chinese military blockade in waters east of the island, defence officials said Tuesday.

The exercise will be part of Taiwan’s annual “Han Kuang” military drills, which start next week and aim to prepare the island’s troops and civilians for a potential Chinese attack.

China insists Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to annex the self-ruled island of more than 23 million people.

Beijing deploys warships, fighter jets and coast guard vessels around Taiwan on an almost daily basis to assert its claim of sovereignty, which Taipei rejects.

While Taiwan faces the constant threat of a Chinese invasion, Taiwanese officials have warned that Beijing could also impose a quarantine or blockade to stop energy and other supplies reaching the

island.

As part of “anti-blockade” operations, Taiwanese naval and coast guard forces will “conduct maritime law enforcement, sea area patrols, route safety protection, and escorts for critical supplies” in the Western Pacific, Major General Lu Wen-yuan, a defence ministry official involved in operations and planning, told reporters.

“These will be conducted with live-fire drills involving actual troops and equipment... in order to strengthen various response capabilities and enhance the effectiveness of defensive operations,” he said.

This year’s “Han Kuang” will also assess “the capacity of mobilised factories to support wartime production” and test the “wartime relocation” of military and civilian factories.

Urban resilience drills will also be held during the August 5-14 military exercise

as part of the government’s efforts to prepare the entire island for a potential war or natural disaster.

Mobile internet speeds will be slowed for 30 minutes during air raid drills in central and northern regions, affecting more than 17 million residents, as the government seeks to expose ordinary people to communications disruptions.

This year’s exercises come after China launched what it called “law enforcement” patrols in waters east of Taiwan last month, which Taipei has branded as “provocative” and “expansionism in disguise”.

During the operation, the China Coast Guard for the first time radioed cargo ships passing Taiwan for information about their crew and destination.

Until June, the Chines coast guard’s presence in the Western Pacific had been largely limited to participation in military drills around Taiwan. – AFP

Carroll sworn in as 50th Premier of Victoria

MELBOURNE: Ben Carroll was sworn in as the 50th Premier of the southeastern Australian state of Victoria on Tuesday after Jacinta Allan resigned ahead of an expected challenge to her leadership of the governing Labour Party.

Allan announced on Tuesday morning that she would step down as Labour leader and premier, ending her tenure of nearly three years.

Her resignation came ahead of a party meeting at which Carroll, who had served as deputy premier, had been expected to challenge her leadership.

Carroll defeated Victorian Attorney-General Sonya Kilkenny by 50 votes to 15 in a caucus ballot. Kilkenny subsequently withdrew from the contest, and Carroll was unanimously endorsed as Labour leader before being sworn in as premier.

The leadership change came four months ahead of the state election on Nov. 28. Labour has governed Victoria since 2014, winning three consecutive elections under Allan’s predecessor Daniel Andrews, who stepped down in 2023.

Recent opinion polls have shown the governing centre-left party trailing the opposition Liberal-National Coalition ahead of the election. – Bernama

India mulls tougher punishment for exam paper leaks

NEW DELHI (India): India's government proposed on Tuesday longer jail terms and heftier fines for examination paper leaks, seeking to restore confidence after youth-led protests focused on education reforms rocked the country.

Under the proposed legal change submitted to parliament, the maximum prison term for those involved in paper leaks would be doubled to 10 years, while fines could exceed \$1 million and court proceedings would be fast-tracked.

The legislative push follows weeks of protests over exam paper leaks and other irregularities, which culminated in the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan last week.

The protests, spearhead by the online Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement, drew massive support from young students across the country and presented a major challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The proposed amendments reaffirm “this government’s deep commitment to safeguard the welfare of the students and the youth of this country”, senior minister Jitendra Singh told the lower house of the parliament.

The changes seek to make the legislation “more stringent and to ensure speedy justice”, Singh said, “so that the credibility of all these exams gets enhanced and gets reinstated”.

The parliament reconvened last week for its monsoon session, with the first few days repeatedly disrupted by opposition lawmakers seeking accountability over a police crackdown on the student-led protests.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court ordered the release of all detained protesters who are under the age of 18 and have no prior criminal record.

Examination paper leaks have long plagued India's highly competitive education system.

The intense pressure to succeed has fuelled a vast network of coaching centres and created opportunities for criminal groups to profit by selling leaked question papers. – AFP

Five dead babies found in boxes

MARSEILLE (France): French police have found the bodies of five babies in cardboard boxes at the home of a couple in southeast France, several sources said on Tuesday.

Police made the discovery in the town of Orange after the woman gave birth to a healthy baby on Monday, sources close to the investigation said, without providing details.

In March, a French court jailed a 44-year-old woman for 25 years over the deaths of two of her newborn babies, who police found in the family freezer.

In 2018, a court sentenced a woman with a depressive and sometimes violent husband to eight years in prison for drowning five of her newborn babies and freezing their bodies.

In 2015, another court jailed a mother for nine years for killing eight of her newborns, with the jury finding she had impaired judgement.

In 2014, a woman has been arrested on six counts of murder after authorities found the bodies of seven infants packed into separate cardboard boxes at a home in Utah.

Police arrested Megan Huntsman, 39, of Pleasant Grove, following a gruesome discovery at a residence formerly occupied by the woman who they say moved out in 2011.

They had reason to believe that Huntsman had given birth to the six other babies in the period between 1996 and 2006 and murdered them. – AFP

Police report over guillotine T-shirt image

LONDON: The British political party led by Nigel Farage said that it had reported to police an image showing a guillotine and referring to “plans for Nigel” reposted on social media by a rival party leader.

A top politician in the hard-right anti-immigration Reform UK, Zia Yusuf, said on X that the party “has reported this matter to the police”.

Yusuf alleged that the Instagram post by Zack Polanski, head of the Green Party, was “inciting murder”, noting it came just over two weeks after the brutal murder of a right-wing ex-MP and spokesperson for Reform UK, Ann Widdecombe.

The Green Party, which strongly opposes Farage’s policies, said Polanski “condemns the image” and “had clicked accept” to a post with multiple images “without realising there was more to it than he had seen”.

Police said in a post on X that they were looking into the matter.

Farage has repeatedly spoken of concerns over his personal security.

His supporter Widdecombe was found dead at her home on July 9 after being hit 21 times with a hammer. A 28-year-old man has been charged with her murder. – AFP

Brigadier General held in staged killing case

DHAKA (Bangladesh): Bangladesh has detained an active army Brigadier General over the alleged extrajudicial killing of a local politician during an anti-narcotics crackdown that left hundreds dead, officials said on Tuesday.

At least 466 people were killed during the nationwide anti-drug campaign launched in 2018, according to rights groups, with many deaths alleged to have occurred in staged gunfights involving security forces.

Bangladesh’s International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) last week accepted a complaint against 11 officials, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, a former police chief and six serving and retired military officers, over the killing of Akramul Haque, a councillor in the south-eastern district of Cox’s Bazar.

The officer’s detention marks one of the most significant moves yet by the ICT



against those linked to actions taken during the rule of Hasina, who was ousted in 2024.

“Brigadier General Miftah Uddin Ahmed (pic) was taken into custody for further judicial proceedings,” army officer Sami-Ud-Dowla Chowdhury told AFP.

ICT chief prosecutor Aminul Islam said investigators had submitted a report detailing the alleged involvement of the accused.

The case centres on the killing of Haque, whom Hasina’s government had described as a “meth kingpin”.

The incident sparked outrage after Haque’s wife, Ayesha Akhter, released an audio recording that she said captured her husband’s final moments and contradicted official claims that he had died in a shootout.

In the recording, Haque can be heard speaking with his wife and children shortly before his death, while his young daughter asks: “Dad, why are you crying?”

Critics alleged at the time that authorities sought to suppress reporting on the

‘Bodies left rotting’ in UK scandal-hit funeral home

KINGSTON UPON HULL (United Kingdom): A British funeral director faced prison over a scandal that saw bodies left “stored on racks” and uncremated while relatives were handed other people’s ashes, sparking calls for better regulation of the industry.

An ex-employee described Robert Bush’s funeral parlour as a “horror scene”, prosecutor Chris Paxton said at the start of a five-day sentencing hearing.

Police who searched his premises after a tip-off found 31 bodies in a cold storage area that should have been cremated months earlier, including a stillborn baby that had been there for almost two years.

They also found more than 100 sets of ashes.

“There were bodies stored on the racks on both sides of the room,” the lawyer said at Hull Crown Court in northeast England.

“The vast majority were uncovered and in varying states of decomposition,” he added.

The 48-year-old undertaker previously pleaded guilty to 67 offences spanning 12 years and affecting hundreds of victims.

In his first police interview, Bush said he had developed a cash-flow problem because “people did not always pay,” and he had debts of about £90,000.

He said he struggled with maintaining the payments due for leases, and believed there were about 30 bodies at one site, with five to six of them “recent” and waiting to be cremated.

But the prosecutor dismissed financial problems as an explanation for what had gone on.

Over £3 million (\$3.9 million) was paid into the business between March 2017 and April 2024 with a single cremation costing £500 to carry out, Paxton said.

“Mr Bush chose not to deal with those bodies entrusted to him but to operate as he chose and spend the money on himself and others,” he said, adding that Bush had indulged in “profligate personal spending”.

Bush, who is on bail, arrived at court



Inset, the 48-year-old undertaker Bush pleaded guilty to 67 offences. Police found 31 bodies that should have been cremated months earlier, including a stillborn baby that had been there for almost two years.

with his face covered with a baseball cap and scarf.

Jasmine Beverley, whose son Sunny was stillborn in May 2022, said Bush appeared “lovely” and presented himself as “very respectful”.

“It was a shock to learn what had actually been going on behind the closed doors,” she told BBC radio, adding Sunny’s remains were found in a brown envelope on the floor even though she believed he had been cremated.

“I discovered that he was still in there almost two years after we’d had the funeral,” she said, describing the discovery as “distressing”.

Beverley, her husband and other families are campaigning for changes to funeral parlour regulations, backed by a number of lawmakers.

Undertakers in England and Wales can operate without a licence, with anybody free to set themselves up as a funeral director.

A statutory Funeral Director Code of Practice was introduced in Scotland in March last March.

Bush, who ran Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull, was trusted by

bereaved families but mistreated them on an “almost industrial scale”, Paxton said.

Police only began investigating in March 2024 after being contacted by someone over concerns for “the deceased” at the business.

The body of Muriel Winning, who died aged 61 in 2023, was found at the premises seven and a half months after her death.

Her son Byron Lill broke down several times as he read out a statement to the court about the impact it had had on him.

“I work close to the Legacy premises... and drive past it every day. Knowing now that mum was lying inside for almost eight months destroys me,” he said.

“Why? There will never be a good enough answer,” he added.

The sentencing hearing is to hear statements from over 100 victims.

Bush has admitted dozens of charges including preventing lawful and decent burial, theft, and fraud.

Four of the fraud charges involved falsely presenting ashes to women as the remains of their unborn children. – AFP

NZ intel doubts Russian spy accusation

WELLINGTON (New Zealand): New Zealand’s intelligence service cast doubt Tuesday on Russia’s claims that Wellington recruited a man to pass on sensitive information under Moscow’s nose.

The Russian Federal Security Service—commonly known as the FSB—said a man living in the southeastern city of Khabarovsk had been arrested after passing information to New Zealand spies.

The Russian citizen had proactively contacted the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, the FSB said in comments published by local media.

New Zealand then convinced him to pass on information that could damage the security of the Russian Federation, the FSB added.

New Zealand’s Security Intelligence

Service said it had a “longstanding practice of not commenting on what may or may not be operational matters”.

But it added: “It should also be noted that Russian state media are often not the most reliable source of accurate reporting.”

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said he would follow the convention against commenting on intelligence matters.

“I don’t comment on security intelligence issues,” he told reporters.

While New Zealand is not typically associated with sophisticated subterfuge, it is part of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance alongside the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

Foreign affairs expert Alexander Gille-

spie said Russia’s accusations should be taken with “a large bucket of salt”.

“New Zealand has some history of spies and espionage, but it is nearly always with us being spied on,” said Gillespie, a professor at New Zealand’s University of Waikato.

“The history is of Russia spying on us, not the other way around,” he told AFP.

Gillespie said the arrest could be turned into a high profile show-trial used to tarnish the New Zealand government.

“If this gets bad, expect relations between the two countries to sour even further.”

New Zealand is among a host of nations to have hit Russia with sanctions in retaliation for its invasion of Ukraine. – AFP

Tanker crew held hostage by Somalia pirates

MOGADISHU (Somalia): Somali pirates who seized the chemical tanker M/T Asana in the Gulf of Aden (pic) are holding the vessel and its crew hostage at anchorage in Somalia, security officials said.

The Tanzanian-flagged ship, hijacked on July 16, is located near the northeastern fishing town of Jifile, two local security officials from the semi-autonomous Puntland region told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Most of its 19-man crew are Indian, with the others being Syrian, Yemeni and Egyptian.

Another hijacked vessel, the Syrian-flagged M/V Sward that was seized on April 26, is already also anchored off Jifile,



they said.

They added that they believed the pirates intended to steer the M/V Asana further south, towards the Mudug region,

also in Puntland.

“All seven of them (the pirates) are from the areas around Garacad and it’s where they have the most support and sympathy. That’s why they’re continuing to go south and will likely go back to there clan stronghold,” said one of the officials.

Two oil tankers that were captured by Somali pirates in mid-April and in May, M/T Honour 25 and Eureka, were being held, with their crews, 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Jifile, they said.

After piracy reached a peak in 2011, interceptions of vessels off Somalia plummeted but Somali pirates have since April turned their attention to the Gulf of Aden, off Yemen. – AFP

Keiko Fujimori to take office as Peru president

LIMA (Peru): Peru’s right-wing president-elect Keiko Fujimori (pic) will take office on Tuesday, vowing to tackle the wave of crime sweeping the Andean nation.

Fujimori won the June 7 presidential runoff by fewer than 50,000 votes, after losing the past three runoffs.

The 51-year-old came head-to-head with leftist Roberto Sanchez, with her campaign shadowed by the divisive legacy of her father Alberto Fujimori, who ruled Peru in the 1990s.

Alberto Fujimori was jailed for corruption and crimes against humanity committed during what he considered a fight against terrorism.

“It is a party with deep popular roots that has had a dynamic presence in Peruvian politics, even when it was losing elections, because of its uninterrupted presence in Congress,” Jeffrey Radzinsky, director of the political consultancy GFP, said of Fujimori’s Fuerza Popular party.

Fujimori campaigned on a hardline security platform as Peru faces its worst security crisis in decades, fueled by the spread of both local and foreign criminal gangs that oversee contract killings and extortion.

She has proposed fighting crime by expelling undocumented people, setting up courts with anonymous judges and making prisoners work for their food.

The president-elect has also vowed to tackle the El Nino climate phenomenon, which meteorologists predict will be the most intense and devastating since 1998.

Fuerza Popular is the largest caucus in Congress, but right-wing groups still fall short of the majority required to push through Fujimori’s initiatives.

The inauguration ceremony will be attended by leaders including Argentina’s Javier Milei, Chile’s Jose Antonio Kast, Bolivia’s Rodrigo Paz, Ecuador’s Daniel Noboa and Uruguay’s Yamandu Orsi.

Fujimori will be the country’s ninth president in a decade, succeeding interim leader Jose Maria Balcazar. She will govern until 2031. – AFP



UK grants 6-mnth stay to HK figure

LONDON: The UK government has granted a former pro-democracy Hong Kong lawmaker a six-month stay after telling him he faced imminent removal, his lawyer and a rights group said.

Wu Chi-wai, 63, (pic) who holds a British National (Overseas) passport, was held shortly after landing at Heathrow airport last week and his lawyer told AFP that he was due to be removed on Wednesday.

Wu, a former lawmaker and leader of the now-disbanded Democratic Party, was released last month after serving four years and five months in prison for subversion convictions under a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing in 2020.

His lawyer Paul Harris told AFP on Monday that Wu was “now admitted as a visitor for six months” after the “Home Office informed him this afternoon”.

“This is what should have happened last Wednesday when he arrived,” the lawyer said.

The Home Office told AFP Monday it “remains steadfast in its support for members of the Hong Kong community in the UK” but does not “routinely comment on individual cases”.

Hong Kong Watch rights group confirmed Wu has been granted six months’ leave to remain and had the right to apply for a visa to stay longer.

Its policy director Megan Khoo said in a statement that Wu “should never have faced the prospect of removal back to the city that jailed him,” calling the decision “the right outcome”. – AFP



31 killed in DRC

BUNIA (DR Congo): At least 31 civilians have been killed in northeast Democratic Republic of Congo since the middle of last week in attacks attributed to ADF fighters, local and security sources said.

The attacks occurred between Wednesday and Monday this week, Jospin Paluku, head of the Mambasa civil society in the northeastern province of Ituri, told AFP.

Other local sources confirmed the death toll of 31, while a security source said around 50 people were killed.

The Islamic State-affiliated ADF—the Allied Democratic Forces, formed by Ugandan rebels—is notorious for extreme violence against civilians and has carried out repeated massacres in North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

Those northeast regions, rich in minerals, have been plagued by violence for more than 30 years from militias such as the ADF and other armed groups.

The local and security sources said the most recent attacks occurred in several areas of the Babilu Babombi area, located in Mambasa territory in Ituri. – AFP

US reviews Euro military presence

WASHINGTON: The United States began reviewing its military presence in Europe, officials said, after US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth (pic) told his NATO counterparts last month that Washington was planning such an analysis.



“As the Secretary (Hegseth) laid out then, this will be a real review, designed to ensure that NATO is moving fast and irreversibly toward Europe taking primary responsibility for its conventional defense,” US Defense Under Secretary Elbridge Colby wrote on X.

“The outcome of this Review will be an acceleration of NATO’s transition to a stronger, more equitable, and sustainable alliance,” Colby added.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly lashed out against European allies over their response to his war in Iran, including the refusal to allow US forces to use their bases during the start of the conflict.

Hegseth has also threatened to reduce Washington’s NATO spending unless allies reached defense spending targets.

Washington has been clear with Europe that it wants NATO allies on the continent to take over primary responsibility for their own conventional defense as US focus shifts towards China.

As part of that process the Pentagon has already told allies it is reducing the number of assets worldwide that it makes available for NATO operations. – AFP

Widow of slain Mayor arrested

MEXICO CITY (Mexico): Mexican authorities arrested the widow of a mayor in central Mexico who was shot and killed last week, on charges she was involved in an extortion case, according to prosecutors and local media.



Valentin Lavin (pic), the mayor of the town of Temoac and allied with President Claudia Sheinbaum’s leftist party, was shot and killed during a town hall on July 22.

The crime occurred in the state of Morelos, a region close to Mexico City where several drug cartels are active.

The state prosecutor’s office said Monday they arrested Marisol “N,” which the Mexican press identified as the mayor’s widow, as well as Geovany Emmanuel “N,” chief of the municipal police.

The office said both were detained as part of an anti-extortion operation, though it did not provide further details of the arrests or if it had any connection to Lavin’s death.

Almost 100 mayors have been murdered in Mexico since 2006, when drug-related violence surged, official figures show.

The country was particularly shocked by the fatal shooting of mayor Carlos Manzo in the state of Michoacan last November, during Day of the Dead celebrations. – AFP

RSF will unleash fighters: Leader

SUDAN: Sudan paramilitary leader Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (pic), whose Rapid Support Forces have been accused of genocide, told his fighters Monday to consider themselves “unleashed” in their war against the army.



A day after losing a key highway between the capital Khartoum and the Kordofan region’s largest city of El-Obeid, Daglo’s parallel administration published a video message where he “released the reins” of his “fighters on the frontlines”.

The UN has for weeks warned RSF fighters could commit mass atrocities in the Kordofan region, as they sought to encircle its largest city of El-Obeid ahead of an apparent large-scale assault.

Since April 2023, Daglo’s war with his former ally, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has killed upwards of 200,000 people, aid workers estimate, and created the world’s largest hunger and displacement crisis.

His forces have committed atrocities including ethnic cleansing, systematic sexual violence and summary executions, according to survivor testimony and UN reports.

“From today, I no longer hold the reins, I have released the reins to you,” Daglo said in the address to his fighters.

Following a days-long advance across North Kordofan state, the Sudanese army on Sunday managed to push the RSF west, off the 400-kilometre (250-mile) highway that connects Khartoum with El-Obeid, two army sources told AFP Monday on condition of anonymity. – AFP

Shots fired at US consulate in Toronto

MONTREAL (Canada): Shots were fired at the US consulate in Toronto but no one was injured, Canadian police said, the second shooting near the diplomatic compound in four months.

An officer guarding the consulate “heard the sound of a gunshot in the vicinity here where he was stationed” at about 4:45 am, the city’s deputy police chief Frank Barredo told reporters, adding that the consulate’s facade was struck by a bullet.

Toronto police said a white sedan with no license plates was seen fleeing the scene. Police gave chase but quickly discontinued because of the danger posed by the suspect vehicle’s high speed, Barredo said.

The area was cordoned off and shell casings were found. No one was injured and no suspects have been identified, said police, who confirmed the Toronto Police Service’s counterterrorism unit is involved in the investigation.

The US consulate thanked the police for “their response” to Monday’s shooting.

Police said Monday they were also investigating a pair of other shootings over the weekend which targeted two bakeries that are part of a chain owned by a member of the Jewish community.

“I’m totally disgusted by the shootings and vandalism that took place in Toronto over the last few days, including at two Jewish-owned businesses over the weekend and near the U.S. Consulate this morn-

ing,” Ontario Premier Doug Ford said in a post on X.

“In all cases, active police investigations are underway. I expect all those responsible to be found, prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

On March 10, two men fired multiple shots at the consulate in what police described as a “national security incident,” prompting beefed-up protection for US and Israeli diplomatic buildings in the Canadian city, as war gripped the Middle East.

Two men, aged 18 and 19, were arrested in June as part of the investigation into that shooting. Police said the men were recruited to carry out violent acts but did not provide further details. – AFP

Trump to top court: Allow postal voting restrictions

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has asked the Supreme Court to allow his administration to implement an executive order tightening postal voting rules and creating federal voter-eligibility lists just months before the midterm elections, reported German Press Agency (dpa).

The Justice Department on Monday filed an emergency application seeking to suspend a lower court ruling that blocked the administration from collecting voter data and implementing new rules for postal voting ahead of the November 3 elections.

A federal appeals court had upheld the ruling, which found that Trump had exceeded his authority.

Under the US Constitution and federal law, states are responsible for administering elections, the lower court said.

The president could not impose the changes by executive order without explicit authorisation from Congress.

Rather than defend the merits of its executive order, the Trump administration has instead argued that the Democratic states challenging it sued prematurely because much of Trump’s effort has yet to be implemented.

“The executive order is an intra-branch directive from the president to his subordinates — which, of its own force, does not change anything at all about elections in any state,” US Solicitor General D. John Sauer told the Supreme Court in the appeal. “It does not require the states to do (or refrain from doing) anything at all.”

The administration asked for an immediate “administrative” order to put the lower court decisions on hold.

The plaintiffs, mostly Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia, have until August 3 to respond to the application.

Trump’s executive order, signed in



A federal court found that Trump had exceeded his authority. The President could not impose the changes by executive order without explicit authorisation from Congress.

March, instructed US immigration and social security authorities to compile lists of adult US citizens living in each state.

It also sought to require the US Postal Service to send postal voting documents only to registered voters and called for stricter voter registration rules, including documentary proof of identity and citizenship.

Even before the March 2026 order, the Trump administration was ramping up efforts to use federal immigration data to hunt for non-citizens. However, the DHS citizenship data program that has been commonly used in that exercise is known to turn up false positives, prompting fears that eligible voters will be wrongly purged from the voter rolls.

Trump’s emergency appeal marks the first time the administration has raced up to the Supreme Court with a short-fuse request since March — only the third such

appeal this year. That is a marked departure from last year, when the administration filed nearly 30 emergency appeals on what critics have called the court’s “shadow docket.”

Voters in 36 of the 50 states are currently required to present some form of identification, according to the non-partisan National Conference of State Legislatures.

Trump says the changes would make elections fairer and prevent non-citizens from voting.

Critics say such cases are rare and warn the rules could disenfranchise eligible voters without ready access to documents such as passports or birth certificates.

According to the US State Department, only around half of US citizens hold a passport.

All House seats and around one-third of the Senate will be contested in November. – Bernama

Chad latest nation to withdraw from ICC

N'DJAMENA (Chad): Chad became the latest country to announce plans to withdraw from the International Criminal Court (ICC), complaining the tribunal’s effectiveness was “limited and uneven” and its activities were focused on Africa.

The move follows pressure from the United States, which earlier this month announced a campaign against the ICC, threatening more sanctions and accusing it of posing “an intolerable threat to US sovereignty”.

This month, Venezuela and the military juntas in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger also started the process of leaving the ICC, based in The Hague, which prosecutes individuals for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Burundi and the Philippines have already withdrawn.

Chad’s announcement follows “an in-depth review of the functioning of the International Criminal Court since it began operating in 2002, as well as its record, whose effectiveness remains limited and uneven”, the government said in a statement.

It accused the ICC of concentrating on African countries.

Out of the 13 investigations launched by the court since it came into force, nine concern African states and just four in other regions of the world, it said.

“The court has only seven people in



Chad’s in-depth review showed that the record and effectiveness of ICC remains ‘limited and uneven’.

custody, six of whom are being prosecuted in African situations,” it added.

The Chadian foreign minister’s official Facebook page posted a statement last week saying the US had pressed the government in Niamey to reconsider its ICC membership.

“The American side expressed its concerns about the functioning of this institution and called on Chad to review its accession to the Rome Statute,” it said of the phone call on Thursday between US deputy secretary of state for African affairs Frank Garcia and Chadian Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul.

On Friday, however, Sabre Fadoul told AFP “it was not at the Americans’ request that we decided to withdraw from the

ICC”.

Chad’s decision to leave the ICC after 20 years comes amid allegations by national and international organisations of Ndjamena’s suspected involvement in the war in neighbouring Sudan between the army and paramilitaries.

The Sudanese army and NGOs accuse Chad of facilitating the shipment of weapons from the United Arab Emirates to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

The ICC, which has 125 member states, seeks to prosecute individuals responsible for the world’s gravest crimes when countries are unwilling or unable to do so themselves.

But it has struggled against a lack of enforcement power and several nations—notably China, Israel, Russia and the United States—do not recognise its jurisdiction, hampering its ability to investigate their nationals.

A majority of ICC member states voted on Friday to dismiss prosecutor Karim Khan, following disputed allegations that he sexually assaulted a female member of staff.

Venezuela said on Friday it would leave, alleging the tribunal was biased.

Burkina, Mali and Niger did so earlier in July, leading the ICC’s executive body to voice concern that their departure undermined the global pursuit of justice. – AFP

Nicaragua postpones vote on excluding rival parties

SAN JOSÉ (Costa Rica): Nicaragua has postponed until September a vote on excluding opposition parties from elections, Nicaraguan co-leader Rosario Murillo said.

A vote in the legislature on those measures had been slated for August, after longtime President Daniel Ortega announced earlier this month that dissenting individuals and groups would not contest future elections.

Murillo, who is Ortega’s wife, said that a special commission responsible for drafting the changes “would present before a plenary session with the goal of approving the constitutional reform in the first days” of September.

Ortega and Murillo presented the initiative to foreign ambassadors in

Nicaragua on Monday, explaining that there would first be a consultation process including the military, police, business leaders, churches, and indigenous peoples.

Ortega, 80, and Murillo, 75, exert near total control over the Nicaraguan government.

In 2018, suppression of anti-government protests left over 300 dead, and human rights have surged since then, according to the UN.

Ortega and Murillo have described the protests as “an attempted coup” financed by the United States.

Numerous countries and international watchdogs have rejected Managua’s attempt to exclude opponents from elections.

The United States “will not stand by as the Murillo-Ortega dictatorship deepens repression at home and manufactures instability that threatens US national security,” Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote on X last week.

The European Union condemned “the systemic repression by Nicaraguan authorities,” while urging them to hold free elections.

“We call on the authorities to conduct elections and ensure that these take place as initially planned and are held in a transparent, inclusive, and credible manner,” the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Policy Kaja Kallas said in a statement.

The Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the EU statement “interventionist” and “imperialist.” – AFP

Colonel acquitted

CONAKRY (Guinea): A Guinean court acquitted a police colonel over a brutal crackdown on a political rally in 2009 where hundreds were killed, tortured or raped.

On September 28, 2009, at least 156 people were killed by gunfire, knives, machetes and bayonets at an opposition rally at a stadium in the suburbs of the capital, Conakry, according to an international commission of enquiry mandated by the United Nations. Hundreds more were wounded, detainees were tortured, at least 109 women were raped and abuses continued for several days against women who were held captive.

NGOs say the true number of victims is higher. On Monday, a court in Conakry ordered the immediate release of Colonel Bienvenu Lamah, a military police officer who has been in custody in the west African country since November 2022. – AFP

Xenophobic attacks

ABUJA (Nigeria): Nigerian and South African diplomats sat down as “brothers” to address a series of xenophobic attacks against foreigners, though tensions were evident despite the pleasantries exchanged in Abuja.

For months, South Africa has been the scene of protests—some of them violent—against African immigrants that demonstrators have blamed for crime, unemployment and a strain on public services.

As high-ranking officials from Abuja and Pretoria met at the Nigerian ministry of foreign affairs, both sides addressed each other as brothers and cited Nigeria’s support for the fight against apartheid.

But the delegations also staked out positions that seemed unlikely to be resolved, with the Nigerian side denouncing Pretoria’s “complicity” in the protests. – AFP

30 killed in village

KANO (Nigeria): Gunmen have killed at least 30 people, including children, in a farming village in Nigeria’s northern Kaduna state, residents and Amnesty International said.

Locals blamed the fresh bout of communal violence, which occurred overnight, on suspected cattle herders.

Kaduna state government did not provide a toll but “directed security agencies to intensify operations” to arrest the perpetrators.

Clashes in Nigeria’s northwest and northern states have their roots in tensions over land between nomadic herders and pastoral farmers.

In places, the attacks have taken on an ethnic and religious dimension in Africa’s most populous country. – AFP

Terrorism: 61 charged

DAR ES SALAAM (Tanzania): Sixty-one people arrested in early July in Tanzania for calling for or taking part in planned protests have been charged with “terrorism”, the opposition party Chadema said. Around 70 other people arrested during the same period are still in police custody and waiting to be charged, it said.

On July 9, two days after a foiled demonstration, the police said they had arrested 130 people suspected of planning criminal acts or inciting them by sharing messages related to the protest.

Chadema’s leader, Tundu Lissu, has been imprisoned since April 2025 on treason charges. The opposition had called for demonstrations on July 7.

That is a public holiday marking the anniversary of the founding on July 7, 1954, by Julius Nyerere, of the Tanganyika African National Union (Tanu), the party that would lead the mainland part of the country to independence. – AFP

Jail in absentia

CONAKRY (Guinea): Former Guinean minister Oye Guilavogui was sentenced in absentia to six years in jail for corruption and misuse of public funds.

He was detained on embezzlement charges in April 2022, alongside several other ministers from the government of ousted president Alpha Conde, including ex-prime minister Ibrahima Kassory Fofana.

The cases are part of a crackdown on alleged graft by the military junta of Mamady Doumbouya, which took power in a coup in 2021.

Guilavogui, who ran the telecoms and environment ministries in the West African country, was convicted of “misappropriating public funds, illicit enrichment, corruption and money laundering”.

He remained absent throughout his trial at the Court for the Suppression of Economic and Financial Offences (CRIEF), an anti-corruption court established by the junta. – AFP

Shootings: 11 killed

CAPE TOWN: At least 11 people were killed in separate shooting incidents in South Africa’s Western Cape province, police said.

The latest shooting occurred in Gugulethu, a township in Cape Town about 20 kilometres southeast of the city centre, leaving five people dead and another injured, the South African Police Service in Western Cape said in a statement.

In a separate shooting in Stellenbosch, a town roughly 50 km east of Cape Town, on Sunday evening, four people were killed and four others, including two police officers, were injured. – Bernama

Lee documentary faced pushback: Filmmaker

SAN DIEGO (United States): Comic book enthusiast Jon Bolerjack (pic) began filming with Stan Lee around 2014, intending to document how the legendary creator behind some of the world's most beloved superheroes was spending his gos.

But along with Lee's superstardom – fans clamoring for photos and autographs – the filmmaker documented worrying instances of alleged exploitation that he warns could happen to anyone.

"Stan Lee: The Final Years" hits streaming platforms on Tuesday, despite what Bolerjack described as opposition from some in the industry.

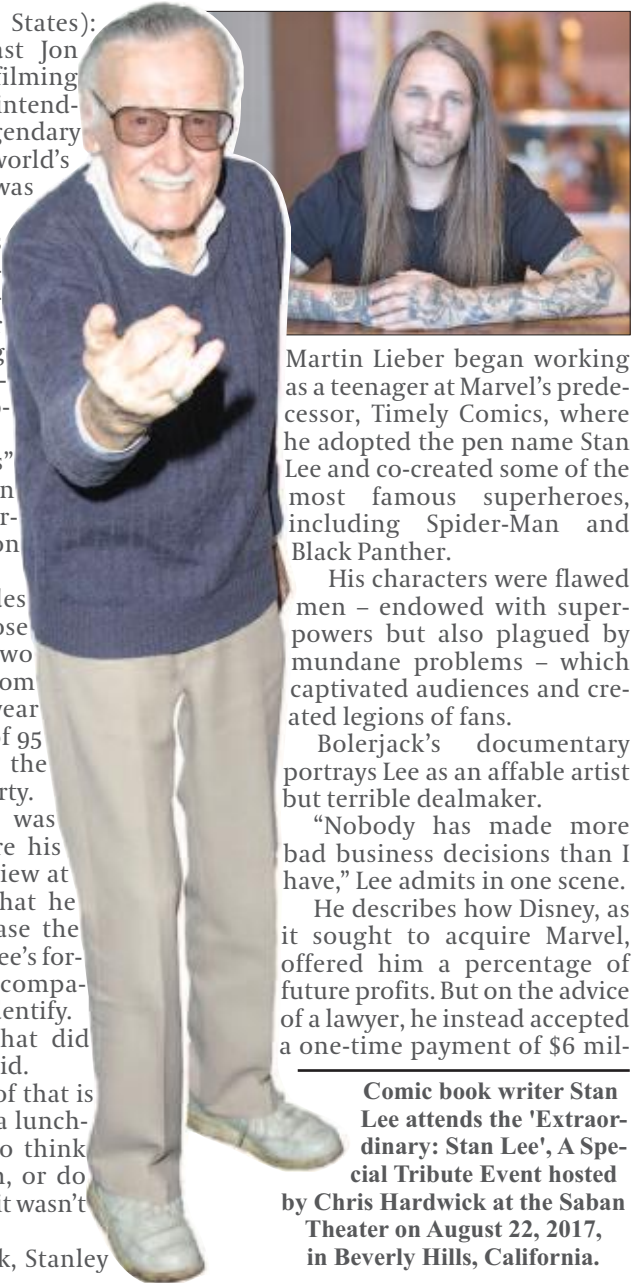
The documentary includes allegations from people close to Lee of exploitation by two former managers, one of whom was charged in 2019 -- a year after Lee's death at the age of 95 -- with fraud, theft, and the unlawful deprivation of liberty.

Bolerjack, who said he was with Lee in the days before his death, told AFP in an interview at Comic-Con in San Diego that he faced pressure not to release the film, including from one of Lee's former managers and several companies – which he would not identify.

"There are companies that did things that feel guilty," he said.

"But then the other side of that is – if you want Stan's face on a lunch-box, do you want people to think happy thoughts about Stan, or do you want them to know that it wasn't so happy?"

Born in 1922 in New York, Stanley



Martin Lieber began working as a teenager at Marvel's predecessor, Timely Comics, where he adopted the pen name Stan Lee and co-created some of the most famous superheroes, including Spider-Man and Black Panther.

His characters were flawed men – endowed with superpowers but also plagued by mundane problems – which captivated audiences and created legions of fans.

Bolerjack's documentary portrays Lee as an affable artist but terrible dealmaker.

"Nobody has made more bad business decisions than I have," Lee admits in one scene.

He describes how Disney, as it sought to acquire Marvel, offered him a percentage of future profits. But on the advice of a lawyer, he instead accepted a one-time payment of \$6 mil-

Comic book writer Stan Lee attends the 'Extraordinary: Stan Lee', A Special Tribute Event hosted by Chris Hardwick at the Saban Theater on August 22, 2017, in Beverly Hills, California.

lion, half of which his lawyer reportedly took.

Marvel films, including the highly successful "Avengers" movies, went on to become some of the highest grossing blockbusters of all time.

Bolerjack said that Lee "knew that he made a bad deal, and he never tried to blame Disney for that."

He also "didn't have any animosity towards Marvel."

"He loved being the mascot. He loved doing the cameos."

In his final days, Lee was actually visited by Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige, according to Bolerjack.

"Kevin was very gracious and very nice and took the time.

And Stan, I know appreciated it – made him feel, you know, special that he came all the way out like that."

Bolerjack insisted that the documentary is not about a famous person who was swindled, but rather about a situation that can happen to anyone.

"The story is that anything can happen to you. Anything can happen to your parents. You should pay attention."

He said that right down the hall at Comic-Con – where Lee was a frequent guest-of-honor – someone could be making a bad deal, if they didn't have the right people in their corner.

"If I took you right now... down to the floor and I pointed at someone, and I said, 'That guy is the next Stan Lee.' What would you do about it?" – AFP

Tokyo dating app achieves 265 marriages

TOKYO: A total of 265 couples have married after meeting on an AI-powered dating app launched by the Tokyo government in 2024 to lift Japan's low birth rate, according to official data.

TOKYO Enmusubi went live in September 2024 after a survey found that around 70 per cent of people interested in marriage were not actively engaging in matchmaking.

To overcome this reluctance and ensure that only people interested in tying the knot joined, those signing up had to prove that they were legally single and pass an online interview, among other conditions.

As of June 30 this year, the app had 16,000 registered members – whittled down from around 36,000 applicants – and 760 couples in "serious relationships", according to government data released this month.

A total of 265 couples had married.

The government quoted one woman with the pseudonym "Turtle" as saying she tried the app "as a last chance" as she approached her 40th birthday.

"After going on several blind dates, I met my current husband at the end of August, and we started a serious relationship in mid-September," she said.

"I accepted his proposal at the end of December."

The number of babies born in Japan to Japanese nationals hit a new record low of 671,236 in 2025, in the 10th consecutive annual decline, government data showed in June.

Deaths were more than double that at 1.6 million, while the fertility rate edged down 0.01 percentage points to 1.14 although marriages inched higher, the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry numbers showed.

"The AI showed your compatibility with the people it introduces to you in three stages, so even if you are unsure whether to meet someone, a high compatibility rating will give you the encouragement you need," said "Skytree".

"My girlfriend's AI compatibility rating was perfect," he added. – AFP



Near-extinct snails hatched at UK and French zoos have returned to the wild following major conservation breeding success. (Pic: Chester Zoo)

– but it was not plain sailing, according to the team behind the release.

Papp said: "It might be the trickiest reintroduction we've ever done.

"We had a short window due to rough weather, and there's no jetty on the island.

"We had to jump straight into the water, climb out, put helmets and harnesses on, and start scrambling up the cliff face."

"It took us two hours to navigate less than two 3.2 kilometres," he said, travelling in the dark to find snail-friendly crevices in the rocks, using red-spectrum torches to avoid disturbing the island's rare seabirds.

Now the snails – which measure no bigger than eight millimetres in size but are important as they eat vegetation and enrich the soil – are in place, they will be monitored as they settle back into the wild. – Bernama

Man arrested for years of guitar noise

TOKYO: An overly enthusiastic Japanese musician has been arrested after allegedly giving his elderly neighbours insomnia for more than seven years with his loud guitar playing, police said on Tuesday.

Kyoto resident Kazunori Yokoi, 61, has allegedly been rocking out on his dozens of guitars and playing his radio at loud volume day and night since 2019, a local police officer told AFP, declining to be named.

This caused three neighbours in their 60s to their 80s to suffer from sleep deprivation and depression, while a fourth developed a constant ringing in the ears known as tinnitus.

A string of official warnings failed to change his behaviour, but the four neighbours finally gave police sufficient grounds to arrest him on assault charges, the official said.

Police seized over 40 guitars – many electric – from Yokoi's residence, along with CD and radio cassette players and amplifiers.

Investigators measured noise levels of over 80 decibels in the neighbourhood, which the city says is roughly as loud as being inside a moving train.

"It was awful because all kinds of sounds were jumbled together all day," Kyodo News quoted one long-suffering neighbour in his 60s as saying. – AFP



The auditorium of the Amazonas Theater is seen in Manaus, Amazonas state, northern Brazil.

Amazonia theaters earn World Heritage status

BRASÍLIA: Unesco added Brazil's Theatro da Paz and Teatro Amazonas to its World Heritage list.

The two buildings, located in the cities of Belem and Manaus respectively, are a legacy of the Amazon region's "Golden Age," the United Nations agency said.

Both played a significant role in the Amazon's rubber boom in the late 19th and early 20th century, it added.

This period, running from 1879 to 1912, brought unprecedented economic wealth to the Amazon, the world's largest tropical rainforest.

But historians point out that the boom also brought forced labor to the region, which decimated the Amazon's Indige-

nous populations.

"These ensembles were designed as symbols of political and urban ambition," Unesco said when listing the French architecture-inspired buildings as world heritage.

Unesco recognition extends to the theatres' respective public squares, Praca da Republica and Largo de Sao Sebastiao.

"The Theatro da Paz and the Praca da Republica asserted the strategic role of the city of Belem as a port and State capital," it stated.

The Teatro Amazonas was meanwhile "part of the large-scale urban development of Manaus during the rubber boom." – AFP

Carly diagnosed with Parkinson's

NEW YORK (United States): American singer Carly Simon (pic), known for hits like "You're So Vain," revealed on Monday that she has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.



The 83-year-old confessional lyricist said in a statement that she had "been learning how to live with Parkinson's disease" and that she had also been treated for skin cancer.

Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the body's motor system, often causing shaking and other difficulties in movement.

Worldwide, about 10 million people have the illness, according to the Parkinson's Foundation.

"It has taken me some time to understand the diagnosis, to adjust to it, and to decide how much I wanted to say about it publicly," Simon wrote.

"Parkinson's is different for everyone, and it can be unpredictable. Some days I'm so tired I can't get the day moving at all. On others, it gives me a little more room to move, think, work, and feel like myself.

"The problems began with arthritis in both knees and one hip. I eventually had all three joints replaced, out with the old and in with delicate bouquets of metal

and plastic."

After three replacement surgeries, she said, "I assumed my difficulty walking was simply an unfortunate and rather ironic part of the recovery process."

The celebrated singer-songwriter said she had found sanctuary in music, and that during that period she even began recording a new album, "Comes in Waves," her first new collection of original tracks since 2008, to be released on August 14.

Simon said that at the same time as her Parkinson's diagnosis, she was treated for a facial basal cell carcinoma.

"The cancer was removed, but the surgery affected my appearance and made me more self-conscious about being seen in public," she said in a heartfelt statement.

"I have always been more critical of my appearance than anyone else could possibly imagine (check out the irony of having written 'You're So Vain'), and this gave my inner critic quite a lot of new material."

Simon began singing with her sister in the 1960s. She rose to global stardom with her 1972 album "No Secrets," which spawned the number one smash "You're So Vain."

In 1977 she sang "Nobody Does it Better," the popular James Bond theme song from "The Spy Who Loved Me." – AFP

SUDOKU

		1						
			9	1	2	4		
					6	8	7	
				4			8	
1		7		6				3
		9				1		
	3							
5			8					9
		6	1		7			

Test your logic skills with the Su Do Ku puzzle. The rules are simple: each of the smaller grids should contain the number 1 to 9, and in the large grid each row and column should contain the number 1 to 9. These puzzle vary in difficulty and this is an easy one.

(Solution below)

Solution

4	5	1	7	8	3	6	9	2
6	7	8	9	1	2	4	3	5
9	2	3	4	5	6	8	7	1
2	6	5	3	4	1	9	8	7
1	8	7	2	6	9	5	4	3
3	4	9	5	7	8	1	2	6
7	3	4	6	9	5	2	1	8
5	1	2	8	3	4	7	6	9
8	9	6	1	2	7	3	5	4

QUOTABLE QUOTES

‘Love is a given, hatred is acquired’

– Douglas Horton



A statue of the Virgin Mary during finishing works at the construction site in Konotopie village, next to Torun, central Poland.

Faith, hope at Europe’s tallest Virgin Mary statue

KONOTOPIE (Poland): A Polish billionaire is paying for a giant statue of the Virgin Mary that residents of the village of Konotopie hope will put them on the pilgrimage map.

At 55 metres (180 feet) high, the concrete and steel figure is the tallest Marian statue in Europe, and second in the world behind the 98.15 metre Mother of All Asia effigy in the Philippines.

Set to officially open after a blessing ceremony on Assumption Day on August 15 – the Catholic holiday devoted to the Virgin Mary – the Konotopie statue is not yet finished, with concrete blocks and debris scattered across a muddy parking lot.

But Poland is a Catholic stronghold and people are already flocking to the unfinished site – whether out of faith or sheer curiosity.

“There was scaffolding (and) you could not see anything, but there were coach buses coming,” Andrzej, a security guard at the statue, said of the fervour in Konotopie.

The Konotopie Virgin Mary cost an estimated 100 million zlotys (\$26 million), according to local media. That is being paid by billionaire Roman Karkosik, a 75-year-old who is regularly listed as one of Poland’s richest tycoons.

Many devotees are not concerned by the cost.

“People come here ... in search of faith,”

visitor Marek Gizinski told AFP, calling it “something monumental”.

“And just like with any miracle... you just can’t forget about it, because it’s simply impossible to forget,” he added, gazing up at the Virgin.

But some residents say the giant statue is not the best way to represent the Catholic faith, in a country already peppered with religious monuments, including numerous memorials to Polish pope John Paul II.

Poland’s most popular Marian devotion site is a painting known as the “Black Madonna”, in Czestochowa, southern Poland, that attracts between 3.5 and five million pilgrims every year.

Rather than the Virgin Mary, the money “should be invested in a hospital or orphanage,” one married couple from Sierpce, some 30 kilometres from the statue, told AFP.

Construction at Konotopie began in March 2025, reportedly as a religious gesture by Karkosik and his wife.

“Last Sunday he visited the construction site from the backseat of his Maybach”, the security guard at the premises told AFP.

Karkosik, founder and principal shareholder of industrial group Boryszew, lives nearby in the small town of Kikol, in a restored 18th-century palace across from the parish church.

Officials hope the project will boost economic development and bring financial benefits to the area.

“I have not heard any negative opinions ... everyone is rather satisfied,” Renata Golebiewska, mayor of Kikol, told AFP.

She hopes the investment will “be a chance for (the area) to grow, and create new jobs.”

In 2024, Kikol’s municipal tax revenue per capita amounted to only 1,117 zlotys (\$295), according to finance ministry data, making it one of the poorest municipalities in the region.

Along the outer wall of Kikol’s parish church stands a bronze figurine bearing a striking resemblance to the flashier counterpart just one kilometre (0.6 miles) away.

A scale model by sculptor Adam Matejowski was installed on the site in 2024 as a preview of the giant monument.

The Catholic church is deeply entrenched in Poland’s national identity and the Virgin Mary is considered the country’s patron and protector, even as it undergoes one of the fastest rates of secularisation worldwide.

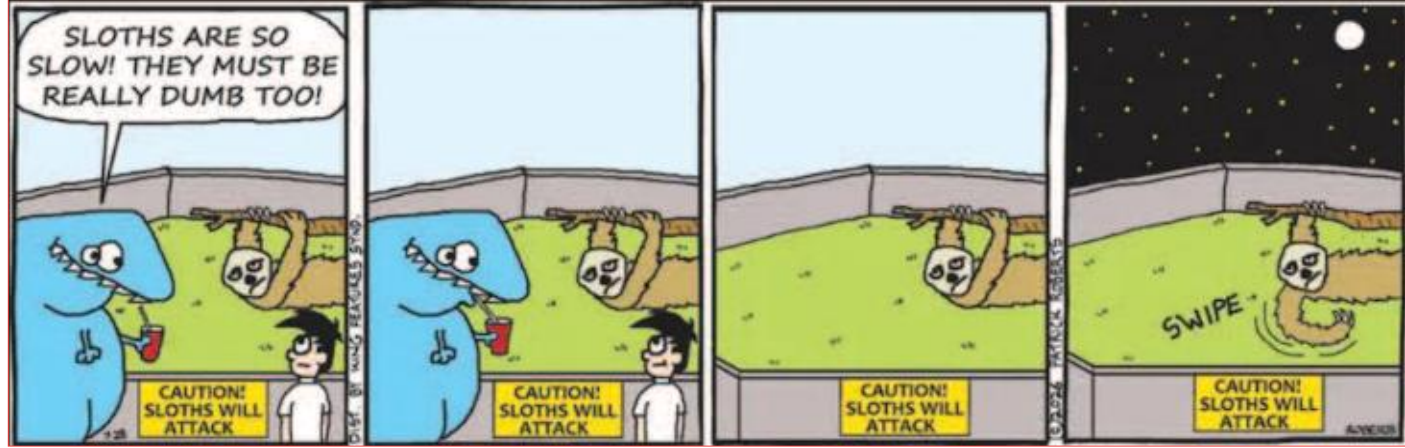
In Poland’s 2021 census, 71 per cent of the population identified as Roman Catholic, down from 88 per cent 10 years earlier.

“We hope this place will bear the fruits of a deeper return to faith, or at least help people deepen their faith,” said the parish priest Marek Mrowczynski.

Yet not everyone is convinced that monumental displays of faith can address what some see as a growing spiritual malaise.

“Right now, in 90 per cent of cases, everyone’s thinking about what they’re going to get out of it, how much they’ll get out of it, what they can claw out of it for themselves,” said Wanda, who came from the city of Plock with two friends to see the statue. – AFP

TODD THE DINOASAUR



POPEYE



BLONDIE



People relax on the beach in Lacanau, southwestern France, as clouds of smoke rise into the sky from a wildfire.

What are ‘fire clouds’, the ominous phenomenon seen in France?

PARIS: Firefighters battling devastating fires in France have had to contend with a new threat: immense fire clouds that create their own wind and even lightning that can spark fresh blazes.

Known as “fire clouds” or pyrocumulonimbus clouds, these ominous-looking thunderstorms are created by extreme wildfires and can exacerbate already extremely dangerous conditions.

This phenomenon, which is new to France, is yet another consequence of human-caused climate change, according to French researcher Jean-Baptiste Filippi, who studies wildfires.

As firefighters in southwest France struggle to bring a forest inferno under control before yet another heatwave descends on the country, Filippi told AFP about the phenomenon.

What is a fire cloud?

Filippi: It is a storm where a column of air forms above a fire.

It starts off as a cute little white cloud – a cumulus cloud, which is formed because

water vapour has turned into tiny droplets.

As the Sun heats the ground, the water vapour suddenly condenses. The cumulus becomes a much larger cloud, containing thousands of tonnes of suspended water.

Then, when the surrounding air has become heated enough, it forms a column with an anvil-shaped cloud – the cumulonimbus.

This condenses even more air and generates more energy, with updrafts of more than 150 kilometres (90 miles) an hour.

It then rains, but the rain evaporates before it reaches the ground.

But it still cools the atmosphere where it falls, creating strong downdrafts.

Are fire clouds rare?

It is a common phenomenon in Portugal, California and Australia, where fire-fighters are more used to them. In Portugal, they had been rare until the deadly 2017 fires in Pedrogao Grande changed things.

In France, pyrocumulonimbus clouds are quite new. There were some in Landiras south of Bordeaux in 2022, but not for long. Therefore, we need to learn how to manage fires that creates their own wind – this is something relatively new.

Is climate change to blame?

Yes, it is. A consequence of global warming is more frequent heatwaves. While thunderstorms are common in the region of this fire, thunderstorm conditions after three successive heatwaves is a new combination.

Are they predictable?

Weather services can predict thunderstorms. But because these storms are located directly above a fire, we would need to know the fire’s exact location in advance. That’s impossible.

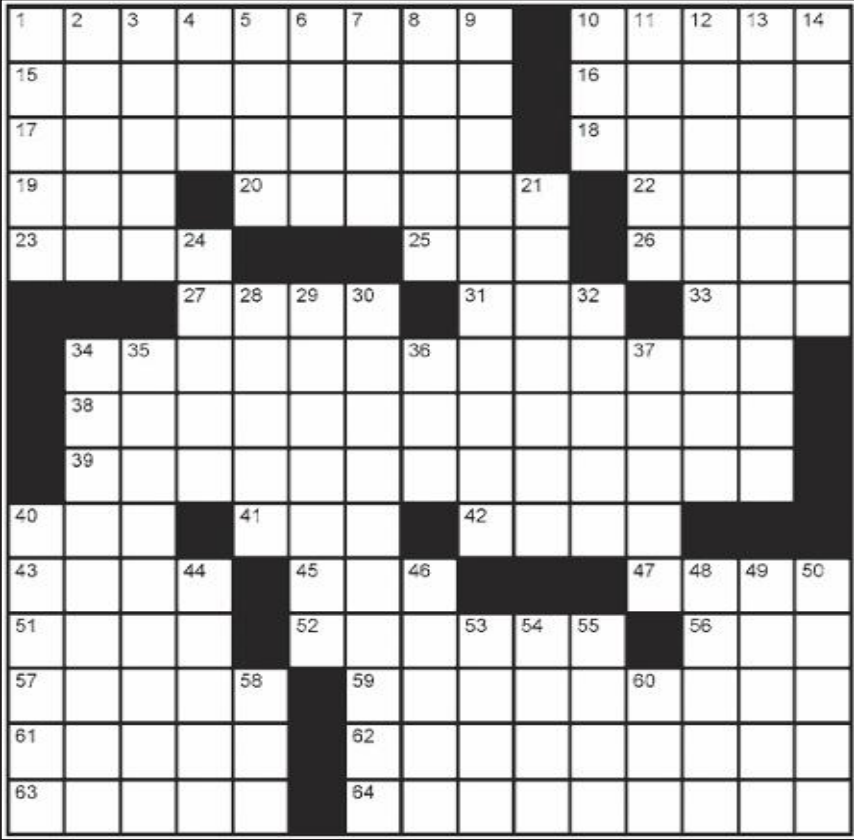
We can predict the conditions that will lead to these fires, but we won’t know exactly where they are.

The biggest challenge is how unpredictable they are. The fire in France’s southwest Gironde region started with northerly winds, then westerly, then southerly, then easterly, then back again to the south, then the west...

On top of that, there is this potential energy in the atmosphere which meant that, locally, the convection column sucked up the embers and carried the fire further afield.

The local conditions became catastrophic and the rate of the fire’s spread was staggering. – AFP

CROSSWORD



SUMMER 2026 THEMELESS WEEK, PUZZLE 2

ACROSS

- Ease into it
- Singer who dropped the \$ from her moniker in 2014
- Head honcho
- Marine apex predators
- Took a night course?
- Emanation from a bakery
- Japanese garden descriptor
- Prefix meaning “fake”
- Cupid’s Greek counterpart
- Stage name of “Clarity” DJ Anton Zaslavski

DOWN

- Flashiness
- Student receiving one-on-one instruction
- Formally revise
- Color that, ironically, bulls can’t see
- Voyage
- Ares and Apollo, to Zeus
- Debussy’s “Clair de ___”
- Do better than
- Puzzle made of letters in a grid (wait a minute ...)
- Hawaiian tree that’s an anagram of a tree with acorns
- Miscalculated
- Artistic portmanteau for unique NFL final tallies
- Brunch dish that Sam-I-Am would probably enjoy
- How cutlery is usually sold
- Symbol of watchfulness
- Dig deeply (into)
- Watchful

- Bygone Sony console, for short
- Ten-cent coin
- “Nice to ___ Other” (Olivia Dean song)
- Serpentine fish
- Understand
- Party item that’s subject to inflation?
- Cartoon about Finn and his magical dog Jake
- Way out if crisis strikes
- Poli-___
- No. in an email signature
- “Present!”

- Campbell’s soup containers
- Tax Day’s month: Abbr.
- Baseball card datum
- Spanish word hidden in “chariot race”
- Find on Google
- “Gross!”
- Uncivil uprisings
- Disclaimer before a mean remark?
- “Genuinely!”
- Person likely to sleep through break-fast
- Evil smile
- Glimpse of what’s to come

SOLUTION TO TODAY’S CROSSWORD





JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR, SABAH

KENYATAAN SEBUTHARGA BEKALAN/PERKHIDMATAN

Tawaran adalah dipelawa daripada kontraktor-kontraktor tempatan yang berdaftar dengan Pusat Pendaftaran Kontraktor Sabah (PUKONSA) seperti dibawah yang pendaftarannyamash berkuatkuasabagi menjalankan bekalan/perkhidmatan seperti berikut:

Butiran-Butiran Tawaran	Kelayakan	Lokasi & Tarikh Penjualan Dokumen	Harga Dokumen	Lawatan Tapak	Tempat Penghantaran, Tarikh & Waktu Tutup Tawaran
DVS-38/2026(2nd Recal) Kerja-Kerja Menaklartar Pendaftaran Elektrik Di DVS Kelayan.	Pukonsa Kelas F Di Dalam Kod Bidang Kepala Viri Sub Kepala bekalan & Perlu Ada Cidb (G1)	Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sabah Kota Kinabalu	RM20.00 Senaskah (Bayaran Boleh Dibuat Secara QR atau Online transfer.)	04/08/2026 Selasa Jam 9.30am DVS Kelayan	Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sabah Kota Kinabalu
DVS-52/2026 Kerja-Kerja Elektrik, Dan Sistem Pasp Bagi Pejabat Dan Kuarters Baharu DVS Kalabakan	Pukonsa Kelas F Di Dalam Kod Bidang Kepala & Viri Sub Kepala bekalan & Perlu Ada Cidb (G1)	Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sabah Kota Kinabalu	RM20.00 Senaskah (Bayaran Boleh Dibuat Secara QR atau Online transfer.)	29-31/07/2026 Rabu, Khamis, Jumaat Jam10.00am DVS Kalabakan	Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sabah Kota Kinabalu

Dokumen akan dipamerkan dan dijual pada masa seperti berikut:

HARI	MASA
Isnin hingga Khamis	8.00 pagi hingga 12.00 tengahari
Jumat -	8.00 pagi hingga 11.00 pagi

Dokumen Sebutharga hanya akan dikeluarkan kepada wakil-wakil persebutharga yang sah sahaja. Wakil-wakil pembekal wajib membawa Sijil Pendaftaran ASAL PUKONSA serta satu salinan hendaklah diserahkan kepada pegawai yang mengedahkan sebutharga ini untuk tujuan pembelian naskah dokumen.

Dokumen sebutharga yang telah dikongkalkan mestilah dimasukkan dalam sampul surat yang BERLAKRI (RED SEALING WAX), TULIS NO.SEBUTHARGA dan hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam Peti Tawaran seperti dalam alamat di dalam jadual sebelum atau pada 08 agos 2026 selewat-lewatnya jam 10.00 pagi. Dokumen yang diantar selepas masa yang ditetapkan tidak akan diijaz. Sampul surat dokumen sebutharga hendaklah dicat pada bahagian atas dengan Nombor Seri Sebutharga Dan dilambatkan atau dihangat ke alamat seperti di dalam jadual di atas.

Sesungguhnya surat-menyurat dan pertanyaan yang berkaitan dengan sebutharga ini hendaklah Dikemukakan kepada:

Pengarah
Ibu Pejabat
Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sabah,
Ara 3, Elok 8, Wisma Perlarian Sabah,
Jalan Tasik Luyang (OFF Jalan Mukah Gaya)
88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.





Document No LKM /T/1 TENDER NOTICE

Tawaran adalah dipelawa daripada kontraktor / syarikat yang berpengalaman serta berdaftar dengan Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia / Pejabat Kewangan Persekutuan (Sabah/Sarawak) dalam kelas ditetapkan dibawah dan masih dibenarkan membuat tawaran untuk tender berikut:

Bil. Tender	Jenis Bekalan/ Perkhidmatan	Kelas & Pecahan Kepala Pendaftaran	TARIKH DAN TEMPAT TAKLIMAT TENDER & LAWATAN TAPAK	Harga Dokumen (1 set)	Pusat Pembelian Dokumen
T/LKM/B/7/2026	MEMBEKAL, MENGHANTAR DAN MENGUJIGUNA SET LENGKAP MESIN PEMBUATAN COKLAT DI BAWAH PROJEK PEMBANGUNAN RANTAUAN KLUSTER KOKO KE KOMPLEKS KLUSTER KOKO, NAPONG, RANAU.	130102 (Mesin Dan Kelengkapan Khusus)	Tarikh: 03 Ogos 2026 (Isnin) Pendaftaran Masa: 10:00 Pagi – 11:30 Pagi Taklimat Masa: 11:30 Pagi Tempat Taklimat: LEMBAGA KOKO MALAYSIA Kompleks 'Kluster Koko' Ranau 89300 Napong, Ranau Tel. +608876297	RM 100.00 (Draf Bank / Wang Tunai)	LEMBAGA KOKO MALAYSIA Ibu Pejabat Tingkat 5, 6 & 7, Wisma SEDCO, 211, 88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Tel: +6088 206 400 Fax: +6088 239 575 (http://www.koko.gov.my)

- Bayaran bagi tujuan pembelian dokumen melalui draf bank / wang tunai hendaklah dibuat atas nama "LEMBAGA KOKO MALAYSIA" (Bayaran tunai boleh diterima hanya bagi pembelian dokumen tender melalui serahan tangan sahaja). Salinan siji pendaftaran Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia (MOF) (tidak dikembalikan) yang disyaratkan perlu dikemukakan semasa memohon dokumen tender berkenaan.
- Pendaftaran sesi taklimat dibuka pada jam 10.00 pagi hingga 11.30 pagi. Pendaftaran lewat tidak dibenarkan untuk menyertai tender. Pembekal yang hadir ke Taklimat Tender hendaklah membawa bersama Siji-siji ASAL dan SALINAN (tidak akan dikembalikan) seperti Siji Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia dan Cop Syarikat. Pengarah syarikat / Penama yang ada di dalam siji sahaja dibenarkan menghadiri taklimat tender dan lawatan tapak.
- Penjualan dokumen tender hanya akan dibuat kepada pembekal yang telah hadir ke sesi taklimat tender dengan menunjukkan siji-siji ASAL Siji Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia. Satu salinan bagi setiap siji ini perlu dikemukakan semasa membeli dokumen tawaran untuk simpanan. (Tidak dikembalikan)
- Naskah-naskah tawaran boleh diperolehi pada waktu pejabat (9:00 pagi hingga 4:30 petang) mulai 29 JULAI 2026 sehingga 17 OGOS 2026.
- Dokumen tender yang telah lengkap diisi hendaklah dimasukkan dalam sampul surat bertak dan dikembalikan tidak lewat daripada tarikh tutup tender yang ditetapkan iaitu pada 18 OGOS 2026 JAM 12.00 TENGAH HARI ke alamat: -

LEMBAGA KOKO MALAYSIA
Ibu Pejabat
Tingkat 5, 6 & 7, Wisma SEDCO,
Bag Berkunci 211,
88999 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
Tel: +6088 206 400
Fax: +6088 239 575
(<http://www.koko.gov.my>)

- Tawaran yang diterima lewat tidak akan diberi pertimbangan dan Lembaga ini juga tidak terikat untuk menerima tawaran yang terendah atau mana-mana tawaran yang dikemukakan.



Sabah Softwoods Berhad

Company No. 197301003426 (16887-D)

TENDER NOTICE

We invite experience contractors who are registered with *Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia* (CIDB) with following grade to tender for the construction of the following project: -

PKG NO.	TYPES OF BUILDING	ESTATE	CIDB	CATEGORY	DOCUMENT FEE (RM)
1	Proposed Supply, Install and Commission New Line of 30 M3/Hr Water Treatment Plant	Brumas	G3	CE 20, ME 19	400.00
2	Proposed Installation of Secondary Raw Water Intake Pond Pump System and Raw Water Treatment	Cenderamata	G3	CE 20, ME 19	400.00

Tender documents can be obtained from the Secretary of Tender Committee at Sabah Softwoods Berhad Head Office located at KM 44, Jalan Tawau-Kalabakan, Tawau, Sabah from 29th July – 3rd August 2026. All tenderers are required to present valid CIDB certificates upon purchase of document.

Completed tender documents shall be submitted in two sealed envelopes comprising:

- Technical Envelope** – including the Company Profile and a refundable tender deposit of RM1,000 per package (in the form of a bank draft payable to Sabah Softwoods Berhad); and
- Financial /Price Envelope** – Tender Document (BQ).

Document shall be deposited to the address given below:-

**The Chairman
Tender Committee
Sabah Softwoods Berhad
KM 44, Jalan Tawau - Kalabakan, P.O. Box 60966
91019 Tawau, Sabah**

All Tenderers are required to attend a compulsory site briefing on **4th August 2026** before submitting their tender documents. The closing date for the submission of tenders is not later than **12:00 noon on 17th August 2026**.

Sabah Softwoods Berhad is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender and is not obligated to provide reasons for the rejection of any tender.

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE SABAH (CAP. 109)

PUBLIC NOTICE
ESTATE OF:
LIM CHUEE HIOK
@ LIM CHOOI HIOK (f),
NRIC NO:
451123-08-5490/1690125
- DECEASED

All persons having claims against the estate of the above mentioned deceased who died testate at Taman Fortuna Luyang Kota Kinabalu Sabah on 17 February 2026 are required to submit their claims in writing to the under-signed not later than 29 October 2026 after which date the estate will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto subjects to claims received within the said period.

Date: 29 July 2026
Ref: KK20260030/mfs

[MOHD RAFI BIN AWANG SENIK]
Administrator-General, Sabah
Amanah Raya Berhad
Lot BG.01 & 02, Ground Floor
Block B,
EPF Building, No. 49
Jln. Karamunsing,
88598
KOTA KINABALU
SABAH

PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION ORDINANCE SABAH (CAP. 109)

PUBLIC NOTICE
ESTATE OF:
THIEN WUI HIN,
DECEASED
NRIC NO:
750720-12-5219 / H0891266

All persons having claims against the estate of the above mentioned deceased who died intestate at Intensive Care Unit 1, Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia on 15th day of March 2026 are required to submit their claims in writing to the undersigned not later than 28th day of October 2026 after which date the estate will be distributed among the persons entitled thereto subjects to claims received by that date.

Date: 29th July 2026
Ref: KK20260028/ann

MOHD RAFI BIN AWANG SENIK
Administrator General, Sabah
Amanah Raya Berhad
Kota Kinabalu Branch
Lot BG. 01 & 02, Ground Floor, Block B
KWSP Building, No. 49
Karamunsing Road
88598 KOTA KINABALU,
SABAH

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA
DALAM MAHKAMAH RENDAH SYARIAH DI PAPAR
PERMOHONAN NO: 2607-L112-311-0425
DALAM PERKARA HARTA PUSAKA SIMATI:
ISMAIL BIN MOHD ALI

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH

Kepada:
AHLI WARIS SIMATI DAN SESIAPA YANG BERKENAAN
AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa JAINUN BINTI JAID telah memohon kepada Mahkamah ini pada 23 haribulan SEPTEMBER tahun 2026 pukul 9.00 pagi untuk membahagi harta pusaka simati ISMAIL BIN MOHD ALI atas alasan dan cara pembahagian yang terkandung dalam Affidavit bagi permohonan membahagi harta pusaka oleh JAINUN BINTI JAID.
Harta Yang Dituntut:
1. SIMPANAN AGRO BANK, NO AKAUAN: 1007481000003996 BERJUMLAH RM53,287.09
2. SIMPANAN AGRO BANK, NO AKAUAN: 1007481000005949 BERJUMLAH RM760.85
3. KERETA TOYOTA HILUX, NO. PENDAFTARAN: SAA8681T
4. LORI TOYOTA, NO. PENDAFTARAN: SU8681
5. LORI ISUZU, NO. PENDAFTARAN: SMB8681
AMBIL PERHATIAN JUGA, jika kamu berhajat menentang permohonan ini atau jika kamu mempunyai kepentingan ke atas harta-harta simati, kamu atau peguam syarie kamu bolehlah membuat semakan di Mahkamah ini mengenai fakta-fakta permohonan yang tersebut dan bolehlah selepas itu memfailkan di Mahkamah ini dan menyampaikan satu salinan kepada pemohon Notis Bantahan dan Affidavit tidak lebih daripada tiga (3) hari selepas tarikh permohonan ini didengar.
Pada 28 haribulan JULAI tahun 2026

PERMOHONAN GANTI MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH
Difaikan oleh JAINUN BINTI JAID yang alamat KAMPUNG BAMBANGAN, PAPAR, SABAH

NEGERI SABAH
LAND ORDINANCE CAP. 68
LAND ENQUIRY NO. ACLR.04.0027/2025
BETWEEN
SABAH DEVELOPMENT BANK BERHAD
[COMPANY NO. 34638-W] - CHARGE
AND
GOH FAH SHUN [NRIC NO. 631116-12-5421]
- CHARGOR

PROCLAMATION OF SALE
PURSUANT to the Order for Re-Auction by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tuaran, Sabah (ACLR) made on the application of the Chargee dated 12th June 2026, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the under-mentioned land/sublease will be sold by Public Auction on 12th August 2026 at 10.30 a.m., at the Bilik Mesyuarat Pejabat Tanah Daerah Tuaran.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND / SUBLEASE REFERRED TO:-

Land Titles No.	Land Area/s
1. Native Title No. 043244748	0.902 hectares, more or less
2. Native Title No. 043243509	0.930 hectares, more or less
3. Native Title No. 043232328	0.930 hectares, more or less
4. Native Title No. 043220533	1.991 hectares, more or less
5. Native Title No. 043225172	1.822 hectares, more or less
6. Native Title No. 043228431	1.220 hectares, more or less
	7.795 hectares, more or less

Location: Kg. Timbok, Jalan Raganan-Timbok, 89200 Tuaran
Tenure: All the land titles are held in perpetuity terms
District: Tuaran, Sabah
The above-mentioned Land Titles shall first be called for sale enbloc subject to Reserve price of RM13,131,720.00 (Ringgit Malaysia: Thirteen Million One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Only).
If there shall be no bidders for sale enbloc, then bids shall be called for each of the said Land separately as below:-
Land Titles No.
1. Native Title No. 043244748 **Reserve Price(RM)** 1,519,560.00
2. Native Title No. 043243509 1,566,540.00
3. Native Title No. 043232328 1,566,540.00
4. Native Title No. 043220533 3,354,210.00
5. Native Title No. 043225172 3,069,900.00
6. Native Title No. 043228431 2,054,970.00
TOTAL 13,131,720.00
* Include the term in the event of auction of sub-lease
All interested bidders are required to register with the Auctioneer appointed by the ACLR and shall submit the following:-
(1) An amount equivalent to 25% of the Reserved Price.
(2) Board of directors' resolution and written authorisation where the bidder is a company bidding through an authorised person. In the auction of native title(s) this provision applies only to the auction of sub-lease(s) over native title(s).
(3) Written authorisation where the bidder is acting as a proxy provided that the proxy in the auction of native title(s) shall be another native.
A deposit of 25% of the Reserve Price to be paid by CASHIER'S ORDER or by BANK DRAFT to MESSRS CHIN LAU WONG & FOO as agent for ACLR, Tuaran, Sabah immediately after the fall of the hammer and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid WITHIN NINETY (90) days from the date of auction.
Failure to pay the balance as stipulated above will result in FORFEITURE of the deposit, time being of the essence.
The auction and all bidders shall be SUBJECT TO the Conditions of Sale, details of which may be obtained from:-
1. MESSRS. CHIN LAU WONG & FOO
Advocates & Solicitors
No. A818, 8th Floor,
Wisma Merdeka Jalan Tun Razak,
88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
Tel: 088-238111; Fax: 088-238222
(CLWF/C1707/CKF/LEP/CKC/bb-eg)
2. MAX AUCTIONEER
Block 9, No.6, Bangunan SEDCO,
Pekan Tombrong, Peti Surat 151,
89058 Kudat, Sabah.
Tel: 019-3221969; Email: romaxoj69@gmail.com
3. ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF LAND REVENUE
Lands and Survey Department
89208 Tuaran, Sabah
Tel: 088-788511/788397; Fax: 088-787041

[THIS Proclamation of Sale is APPROVED by the Assistant Collector of Land Revenue Tuaran, Sabah

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Daily Express
One of the nation's leading newspapers

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA
DALAM MAHKAMAH RENDAH SYARIAH DI PAPAR
PERMOHONAN NO: 2606-L112-311-0371
DALAM PERKARA HARTA PUSAKA SIMATI:
JOINUN LEMAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH
Kepada: AHLI WARIS SIMATI DAN SESIAPA YANG BERKENAAN
AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa MATSALIN @ MATSALIM BIN JAIDIN @ MALUSU telah memohon kepada Mahkamah ini pada 24 haribulan OGOS tahun 2026 pukul 9.00 pagi untuk membahagi harta pusaka simati JOINUN LEMAN atas alasan dan cara pembahagian yang terkandung dalam Affidavit bagi permohonan membahagi harta pusaka oleh MATSALIN @ MATSALIM BIN JAIDIN @ MALUSU.
Harta Yang Dituntut:
1. TANAH, NO. GERAN: NT 023021310 BERKELUASAN 0.125 EKAR
LOKASI DI PAIAK, PAPAR
2. TANAH, NO. GERAN: NT 023021301 BERKELUASAN 0.606 EKAS
LOKASI DI PAIAK, PAPAR
AMBIL PERHATIAN JUGA, jika kamu berhajat menentang permohonan ini atau jika kamu mempunyai kepentingan ke atas harta-harta simati, kamu atau peguam syarie kamu bolehlah membuat semakan di Mahkamah ini mengenai fakta-fakta permohonan yang tersebut dan bolehlah selepas itu memfailkan di Mahkamah ini dan menyampaikan satu salinan kepada pemohon Notis Bantahan dan Affidavit tidak lebih daripada tiga (3) hari selepas tarikh permohonan ini didengar.
Pada 08 haribulan JULAI tahun 2026

PERMOHONAN GANTI MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH
Difaikan oleh MATSALIN @ MATSALIM BIN JAIDIN @ MALUSU yang beralamat di KAMPUNG PANDAWAN, PAPAR, SABAH.

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA
DALAM MAHKAMAH RENDAH SYARIAH DI KOTA KINABALU
PERMOHONAN NO: 2607-L0112-311-0633
DALAM PERKARA: Harta Pusaka Simati:
ABDUL MALIK BIN ABBAS

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH
Kepada: AHLI WARIS SIMATI DAN SESIAPA YANG BERKENAAN
AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa SITI HUMAIRA BINTI ABDUL MALIK telah memohon kepada Mahkamah ini pada pukul 11.30 pagi, pada 8 haribulan OKTOBER tahun 2026 untuk membahagi harta pusaka Simati ABDUL MALIK BIN ABBAS atas alasan dan cara pembahagian yang terkandung dalam Affidavit bagi permohonan membahagi harta pusaka oleh SITI HUMAIRA BINTI ABDUL MALIK.
Harta Yang Dituntut:
1. KENDERAAN NISSAN NAVARA 2.5L A/T/ NO PENDAFTARAN: SAA5451X
AMBIL PERHATIAN JUGA, jika kamu berhajat menentang permohonan ini atau jika kamu mempunyai kepentingan ke atas harta-harta simati, kamu atau Peguam Syarie kamu bolehlah membuat semakan di Mahkamah ini mengenai fakta-fakta permohonan yang tersebut dan bolehlah selepas itu memfailkan di Mahkamah ini dan menyampaikan satu salinan kepada pemohon Notis Bantahan dan Affidavit tidak lebih daripada TIGA (3) hari selepas tarikh permohonan ini didengar.
Pada: 28th Julai 2026

Notis Pemohonan Membahagi Harta Pusaka ini difailkan oleh SITI HUMAIRA BINTI ABDUL MALIK yang alamat penyampaiannya ialah di KAMPUNG PASIR PUTIH PUTATAN, 88200 PENAMPANG, SABAH.



KENYATAAN SEBUT HARGA

1. Tawaran adalah dipelawa kepada kontraktor-kontraktor tempatan berpengalaman, memiliki lesen perniagaan yang sah, berdaftar dalam kod bidang ditetapkan dan masih dibenarkan membuat tawaran serta memenuhi syarat-syarat ditetapkan bagi setiap sebutharga bagi perolehan seperti berikut:-

KERJA-KERJA NAIKTARAF LALUAN JALAN DI PUSAT PEMBINIHAN IKAN MARIN SABAH TANJUNG BADAQ TUARAN
JPIN/BPAM/TGB:300-3/11/(F)2026(05)

KOD BIDANG	TARIKH & MASA LAWATAN TAPAK	TEMPOH EDARAN DOKUMEN	HARGA SENASKAH DOKUMEN	TARIKH & MASA TUTUP
GRED G1 PENGKHUSUSAN CE21	31/07/2026 (Jumaat) 9.00 Pagi Berkumpul di Pusat Pembinaan Ikan Marin Sabah Tanjung Badaq Tuaran (8.30 pagi- 4.00 petang)	29/07/2026 sehingga 06/08/2026 Di Pusat Pembinaan Ikan Marin Sabah Tanjung Badaq Tuaran (8.30 pagi- 4.00 petang)	Percuma	06/08/2026 (Khamis) (12.00 Tengahari)

1. Kontraktor hendaklah mengemukakan siji-siji berikut yang masih sah tempohnya untuk semakan sebelum dibenarkan mengambil dokumen (mengikut kod bidang ditetapkan bagi setiap sebutharga) :-

(i) Sijil Perolehan Kerja Kerajaan (SPKK) oleh CIDB
(ii) Sijil Taraf Bumiputera (STB-PKK)

2. Satu salinan siji di atas (tidak dikembalikan) hendaklah dikemukakan untuk simpanan JABATAN PERIKANAN semasa mengambil dokumen. JABATAN PERIKANAN berhak menolak permohonan yang pada tanggapan JABATAN PERIKANAN tidak layak.

3. Semua kos yang berkaitan dengan tawaran di atas adalah menjadi tanggungjawab Kontraktor..

4. JABATAN PERIKANAN tidak tertakluk untuk menerima mana-mana tawaran terendah atau sebarang tawaran.

5. Dokumen sebut harga yang telah lengkap hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam sampul surat yang bermeterai/ berlakri dan bertanda dengan No. Sebut Harga dan Tajuk Kerja di sebelah kiri atas sampul surat dan hendaklah dialamatkan kepada PENGARAH PERIKANAN SABAH dan dimasukkan ke dalam Peti Tawaran Sebut Harga seperti alamat di bawah:-

PUSAT PENGEMBANGAN AKUAKULTUR MARIN, JALAN SEPANGAR, 88450 MENGATALL, KOTA KINABALU. (Tel:088-473837/836)

Pada atau sebelum tarikh tutup seperti yang dinyatakan.

6. Dokumen sebut harga yang dikemukakan selepas tarikh dan masa tutup tidak akan diterima.

PENGARAH PERIKANAN SABAH



KENYATAAN SEBUT HARGA

1. Tawaran adalah dipelawa kepada kontraktor-kontraktor tempatan berpengalaman, memiliki lesen perniagaan yang sah, berdaftar dalam kod bidang ditetapkan dan masih dibenarkan membuat tawaran serta memenuhi syarat-syarat ditetapkan bagi setiap sebutharga bagi perolehan seperti berikut:-

KERJA-KERJA PEMBINAAN BANGUNAN BERATAP TANPA DINDING (BANGUNAN HATCERI KRUSTASTIA) DI PUSAT PEMBINIHAN IKAN MARIN SABAH TANJUNG BADAQ TUARAN
JPIN/BPAM/TGB:300-3/14 (S)2026 (06)

KOD BIDANG	TARIKH & MASA LAWATAN TAPAK	TEMPOH EDARAN DOKUMEN	HARGA SENASKAH DOKUMEN	TARIKH & MASA TUTUP
CIDB GRED G1 Pengkhususan CE21 dan PUKONSA KELAS F Kepala 1, Sub Kepala 1	31/07/2026, Jumaat 9.00 Pagi Berkumpul di Pusat Pembinaan Ikan Marin Sabah Tanjung Badaq Tuaran (8.30 pagi- 4.00 petang)	29/07/2026 sehingga 06/08/2026 Di Pusat Pembinaan Ikan Marin Sabah Tanjung Badaq Tuaran (8.30 pagi- 4.00 petang)	Percuma	06/08/2026 (Khamis) (Jam 12.00 Tengahari)

1. Kontraktor hendaklah mengemukakan siji-siji berikut yang masih sah tempohnya untuk semakan sebelum dibenarkan mengambil dokumen (mengikut kod bidang ditetapkan bagi setiap sebutharga) :-

(i) Sijil pendaftaran PUKONSA
(ii) Sijil Perakuan Pendaftaran Kontraktor (PPK) oleh CIDB
(iii) Sijil Perniagaan Anak Negeri Sabah

2. Satu salinan siji di atas (tidak dikembalikan) hendaklah dikemukakan untuk simpanan JABATAN PERIKANAN semasa mengambil dokumen. JABATAN PERIKANAN berhak menolak permohonan yang pada tanggapan JABATAN PERIKANAN tidak layak.

3. Semua kos yang berkaitan dengan tawaran di atas adalah menjadi tanggungjawab Kontraktor..

4. JABATAN PERIKANAN tidak tertakluk untuk menerima mana-mana tawaran terendah atau sebarang tawaran.

5. Dokumen sebut harga yang telah lengkap hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam sampul surat yang bermeterai/ berlakri dan bertanda dengan No. Sebut Harga dan Tajuk Kerja di sebelah kiri atas sampul surat dan hendaklah dialamatkan kepada PENGARAH PERIKANAN SABAH dan dimasukkan ke dalam Peti Tawaran Sebut Harga seperti alamat di bawah:-

PUSAT PENGEMBANGAN AKUAKULTUR MARIN, JALAN SEPANGAR, 88450 MENGATALL, KOTA KINABALU. (Tel:088-473837/836)

Pada atau sebelum tarikh tutup seperti yang dinyatakan.

6. Dokumen sebut harga yang dikemukakan selepas tarikh dan masa tutup tidak akan diterima.

PENGARAH PERIKANAN SABAH

Djokovic, Sabalenka team up for US Open

PARIS (France): Serbian tennis legend Novak Djokovic and women's number one Aryna Sabalenka top the list of pairings entered for the US Open mixed doubles.

However, both men's world number one Jannik Sinner and second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz have not entered the competition which was heavily revamped last year.

Reforms featured a shorter scoring format in the earlier rounds and a new scheduling slot — played over two days —

before the singles draws in an attempt to encourage the top players to enter.

Italian doubles specialists Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori, who criticised the changes, will defend the title they won last year, which came with a \$1 million winners' cheque.

Djokovic, 39, and 28-year-old Sabalenka are certain to feature among the initial six pairings selected according to world rankings when the deadline for entries closes on August 17.

"Anytime you can bring women and



Djokovic (left) and Sabalenka.

men together on the same team, you showcase tennis at its best," said US Ten-

nis Association CEO Craig Tiley.

"This is exactly what the mixed doubles championship does.

"We are proud to again bring the world's top players together in a format that will provide exciting entertainment for our fans."

Wimbledon champion Sinner — who did not enter last year's mixed doubles — is "prioritising" his health ahead of the final Grand Slam of the year and is also bypassing the Canadian Open, which runs from August 2-13.

Alcaraz, who did play last year with Emma Raducanu, is recovering from a wrist injury that ruled him out of both the French Open and Wimbledon.

Eight teams will be determined via wild card and announced on a date to follow. Two teams will earn a main draw spot by advancing through the eight-team qualifying draw played on August 24.

The two-day tournament gets underway on August 25, five days before the men's and women's singles competitions begin. — AFP

West Indies lead Pakistan by 155

TAROUBA (Trinidad And Tobago): A day of fluctuating fortunes, in which 14 wickets fell, ended with the West Indies hanging on grimly at 126 for seven Monday in their second innings for a lead of 155 over Pakistan in Trinidad.

As much as the tourists were buoyed by

the effort of their bowlers in the second half of another sun-scorched day, spearheaded by the metronomic Mohammad Abbas, that only partially compensated for an abrupt batting collapse which handed the home side a 29-run first innings advantage. Pakistan capitulated from the dominant

position of 244 for three in mid-morning on the third day to the despair of 282 all out just after lunch.

The collapse was engineered by West Indies seamer Justin Greaves, whose controlled bowling earned him career-best Test figures of five for 27. — AFP

Fritz takes 250th hardcourt win

WASHINGTON: World number 10 Taylor Fritz captured his 250th hardcourt victory on Monday by defeating Belgium's Zizou Bergs in the first round of the ATP and WTA Washington Open.

The American third seed, seeking his 11th ATP tour title and first Eastbourne last year, needed only 79 minutes to complete a 6-3, 6-4 triumph.

Wimbledon quarter-finalist Fritz will next face either countryman Tommy Paul or Poland's Kamil Majchrzak.

"He had a few break chances, but when I served out the first and went up a break in the second, I felt like the momentum was on my side," Fritz said.



"It's really good to get out of those games and to finish the match unbroken."

Britain's Jack Draper withdrew from the event with a left arm injury after also missing Wimbledon.

"These last months have felt like nothing but adversity and setbacks," the former world number four Draper wrote on Instagram.

"Most days I've spent in doubt, yet hopeful that I can keep taking positive steps forward and finding ways to progress."

American lucky loser Mackenzie McDonald replaced Draper.

Japan's Kei Nishikori, the 2015 Washington champion who will retire at the end of season, beat China's Shang Juncheng 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-4 in two hours and 31 minutes in his first ATP tour match this year. — AFP



KENYATAAN TAWARAN

SEBUTHARGA UNTUK PEROLEHAN KERJA

1. Tawaran adalah dipelawa kepada kontraktor tempatan yang memenuhi syarat dan kelayakan seperti yang dinyatakan di bawah bagi melaksanakan kerja-kerja berikut:-

NO. SEBUT HARGA	TAJUK	SYARAT PENDAFTARAN PUKONSA & CIDB	TEMPOH PENJUALAN DOKUMEN	HARGA SENAKAH DOKUMEN	TARIKH TUTUP
JPIN/BSKP (26)/300-3(S)05	KERJA PENYEDIAAN TAPAK PEMBINAAN DAN JALAN MENJUJU KE GALERI IKAN AIR TAWAR MAHUA DAN MENAIKUTARAF HATCERI BERUKURAN (60' X 20') DI PUSAT BIODIVERSITI DAN PENYELIDIKAN PERIKANAN AIR TAWAR MAHUA	Kelas F, Tajuk I, Sub Kepala 1 Grid G1, Pengkhususan CE/CE21	29/07/2026 Sehingga 04/08/2026	RM 30.00 10.00 pag	04/08/2026 10.00 pag 31/07/2026 10.00 pag

Kontraktor hendaklah mengemukakan siji-sijil asal berikut yang masih sah tempohnya untuk semakan sebelum dibenarkan membeli dokumen atau menghadiri pemeriksaan/tawaran tapak:-

- (i) Sijil Pendaftaran PUKONSA
- (ii) Sijil Status Pemilikan Anak Negeri Sabah
- (iii) Sijil Pendaftaran Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB)

2. Satu salinan bagi setiap sijil di atas (tidak diembalikkan) hendaklah diemukkan untuk simpanan Jabatan Perikanan Sabah semasa membeli dokumen. Surat wakil syarikat perlu dibawa sekiranya bukan pemilik syarikat yang hadir taklimat/membeli dokumen sebutbarga.

3. Sia rujuk dan dapatkan borang tawaran tapak daripada Pusat Biodiversiti dan Penyelidikan Perikanan Air Tawar Mahua, Tambunan.

4. Dokumen sebut harga boleh diproses pada waktu pejabat (Isnin hingga Khamis 9.30 pagi – 12.00 tengahari dan Jumaat : 9.30 pagi – 11.30 pagi) di Bahagian Sumber, Konservasi dan Penyelidikan setelah Pembayaran telah dibuat di Cawangan Akau, Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Perikanan Sabah, Aras 4, Wisma Pertanian Sabah.

5. Jabatan Perikanan Sabah tidak bertaklik untuk menerima mana-mana tawaran terendah atau sebarang tawaran.

6. Dokumen sebutbarga yang telah lengkap hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam sampul surat yang bermeterai bertaklik, bertanda dengan No. Sebutbarga dan Tajuk Kerja di sebelah kiri atas sampul surat dan hendaklah diletakkan kepada Pengerah Perikanan Sabah sebelum dimasukkan ke dalam Peti Tawaran Sebutbarga seperti alamat di bawah pada atau sebelum tarikh tutup seperti yang dinyatakan.

PENGARAH PERIKANAN SABAH,
JABATAN PERIKANAN SABAH,
IBU PEJABAT PERIKANAN,
ARAS 4, BLOK B, WISMA PERTANIAN SABAH,
JALAN TASIK LUYANG (OFF JALAN MAKTAB GAYA),
88624 KOTA KINABALU
(U.P. : BAHAGIAN SUMBER, KONSERVASI DAN PENYELIDIKAN)

7. Dokumen sebutbarga yang diemukkan selepas tarikh dan masa tutup tidak akan diterima.

PENGARAH PERIKANAN SABAH



088-319 699

24HRS HOTLINE

LIONS AMBULANCE SERVICE SOCIETY (LASS)

SUPPORTED BY **Daily Express**

NOTICE

ELDRIDGE LAURENCE TIMIS

regarding very urgent matters

Please Contact: Ms. Jennefer

013 850 0867

NOTIS

ELDRIDGE LAURENCE TIMIS

atas urusan sangat penting.

Sila Hubungi: Ms. Jennefer

013 850 0867

NEGERI SABAH, MALAYSIA

DALAM MAHKAMAH RENDAH SYARIAH PANTAI BARAT DI KOTA KINABALU

PERMOHONAN NO: 2607-L0212-122-0724

JUBAIRA AKKANG WADDIN

NO. PASPORT: P3590513C

- PEMOHON

PENYAMPAIAN GANTI MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH

Kepada: AYYUB AKKANG WADDIN (ABANG KANDUNG)

No Dokumen: MAKLUMAT TIDAK DIPEROLEHI

Alamat Terakhir:-

LAWN SIKUBUNG SAPA-SAPA TAWI-TAWI FILIPINA

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah ini oleh Pemohon yang mana menurut:-

01. WALI HAKIM

Dan bahawa telah diperintahkan penyampaian Saman / Notis kepada kamu dilaksanakan melalui Iklan Akhbar Tempatan.

Jika kamu ingin membela tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah hadir sendiri atau diwakili oleh Peguam Syari'e di Mahkamah ini pada 3 haribulan OGOS tahun 2026 jam 09:00 pagi. Jika kamu engkar hadir sedemikian, penghakiman boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Pada 28 haribulan JULAI tahun 2026

PENGISRAH PENCATATAN

MAHKAMAH RENDAH SYARIAH PANTAI BARAT KOTA KINABALU

Difaikan oleh **JUBAIRA AKKANG WADDIN** yang alamat penyampaian baginya adalah di LOT 29 SUTERA HARBOUR RESIDENCY 88100 KOTA KINABALU, SABAH.

Property

LAND FOR SALE

NT 1.31 acres at Kg Anak, Papar.

Urgent sale for RM588K.

JEGAN'S REALTY

E (3) 0632 0198102826

(MR JEGAN)

FOR SALE

Detached Cluster House fully furnished.

Main House 6 rooms, Annex is 3 rooms.

Located at KM16, Jalan Tungku in Lahad Datu.

20 km from town. Land area is 8 acres planted with durians and mix fruits. Price RM3.5 million.

JEGAN'S REALTY E (3) 0632

Tel: 088-215215 / 223319

HP: 019-810 2826

(MR JEGAN)

BUNGALOW FOR SALE

Custom Designed Single Storey 4 Bedrooms Bungalow with separate self-contained 2 bedrooms Guest House.

CL 23,958 sq.ft. with swimming pool. Private Residence At Sabindo, Lok Kawi. Fully furnished. Price RM3.5 million.

JEGAN'S REALTY E (3) 0632

0198102826 (MR JEGAN)

LAND WANTED

Wanted to buy any size NT / CL On Kokol Hill with sea view.

Owner, please contact:-

JEGAN'S REALTY E (3) 0632

Tel: 088-215215 / 223319

HP: 019-810 2826

(MR JEGAN)

Vehicles

Proton Saga 1.3 Automatic Model 2009 A/C, tape, sport rims RM7800

Proton Saga 1.5i (A) Model 2001 a/cron, tape RM3800

Viva 850 EX Manual Model 2009 power steering, acon, tape RM6800

Proton Iswara LMST Model 2008 power steering, acon, tape RM4800

Mr Chong

016-9442328

We Enjoy Better Reach.



PEJABAT DAERAH SOOK

NOTIS TENDER

Tender asah dipelawa kepada petender yang layak untuk membuat tawaran bagi kerja berikut:-

No. Tender	Tajuk Projek	Kod Bidang	Harga Dokumen Tender (RM)	Lawatan Tapak	Taraf Tender
PDSOOK(N) T012026	NAIKTARAF JALAN GRAVEL KE JALAN KONKRIT KG KAPAKAN, SOOK	Berdasar dengan PUKONSA: Kelas : D Kepala: 1 Sub Kepala: 1	RM 50.00	Tarikh: 04/08/2026 Masa 10.00 Pagi	TERBUKA
PDSOOK(N) T022026	NAIKTARAF JALAN GRAVEL KE JALAN KONKRIT KG ANSIP TENGAH, SOOK	DAN Memegang Perakuan Pendaftaran CIDB.		Tempat Berkumpul Pejabat Daerah Sook	

Tarikh dan Masa Pengambilan Dokumen Tender : 29/07/2026 sehingga 19/08/2026

	Isnin – Khamis	Jumaat
	8.30 Pagi – 12.00 Tengahari 2.00 Petang – 4.00 Petang	8.30 Pagi – 11.00 Pagi 2.00 Petang – 4.00 Petang

Tarikh Tutup Tender : 19/08/2026 (Rabu – Jam 10.00 Pagi)

1.0 Dokumen Tender hanya akan dikeluarkan kepada:

1.1

Opsyen 1	ATAU	Opsyen 2
Pemilik yang sah sahaja (Pegawai – Pegawai syarikat yang dinyatakan dalam lesen PUKONSA dan CIDB).		Wakil-wakil yang ditauliahkan sahaja oleh (Pegawai – Pegawai syarikat yang dinyatakan dalam lesen PUKONSA dan CIDB).

2.0 Dokumen-dokumen berikut, yang masih SAH dalam tempoh pendaftaran pada tarikh tutup Tender, adalah WAJIB diemukkan semasa mengambil Dokumen Tender:

2.1

PUKONSA: Kelas : D Kepala: 1 Sub Kepala: 1	DAN	CIDB Memegang Perakuan Pendaftaran CIDB.

2.2 Salinan dokumen siji-sijil ASAL seperti di perenggan 2.1 yang belum disahkan.

3.0 Pemilik siji PUKONSA yang telah mendapat Surat Kelulusan Pendaftaran Baru / Pembaharuan daripada PUKONSA hendaklah mengemukakan dokumen-dokumen sokongan seperti berikut:

3.1 Nama Pemilik Syarikat yang telah **DISAHKAN** oleh pihak PUKONSA, dan

3.2 Resit ASAL, Penjelasan Pembayaran Kelulusan

4.0 Dokumen Meja Tender boleh disemak dan Dokumen Tender boleh diperolehi semasa waktu pejabat, di:

Pejabat Daerah Sook,
Bahagian Pembangunan,
Bangunan Urusetia Sook,
Peti Surat No. 1455,
89000 SOOK,
SABAH MALAYSIA

5.0 Semua Dokumen Tender hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam sampul surat yang dimeterikan serta bertanda nombor rujukan Tender dan di alamatkan kepada:

Peti Tender,
Blok A, Aras Bawah,
Kementerian Pembangunan Luar Bandar Sabah,
Jalan SANZAC Sembulan,
88837 KOTA KINABALU, SABAH.

Tarikh : 29/07/2026

HASIM BIN KINSIM
Pegawai Daerah Sook



PERBADANAN PEMBANGUNAN EKONOMI SABAH (SEDCO)

KENYATAAN TAWARAN TENDER

Tender adalah dipelawa daripada syarikat-syarikat tempatan yang berdaftar dengan PUKONSA Kod Bidang 160103 (Kereta) atau PMS Kod Bidang 110103 (Kereta) / 110106 (Kenderaan Kegunaan Khusus) untuk membuat tawaran bagi pembekalan seperti berikut:

No. Tender	Jenis Tender	Tajuk
PPES 100-26/17 (32)	Terbuka	Pembekalan Satu (1) Unit Kenderaan Jenis MPV Toyota Alphard (Recond)

Tarikh & Masa Dokumen Tender Dijual: 29 Julai 2026 hingga 19 Ogos 2026, 9.30 pagi - 12.30 tengah hari & 2.30 petang - 4.30 petang

Harga Dokumen Tender & Cara Bayaran: RM50.00 (Ringgit Malaysia: Lima Puluh sahaja) Pembayaran secara dalam talian ke akaun bank bernombor 101-9600-100-57167 (Alliance Bank Malaysia Berhad) di atas nama Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sabah (SEDCO)

Tarikh & Waktu Tutup Tawaran: 19 Ogos 2026, 12.00 tengah hari

Dokumen tender boleh diperolehi di Kaunter Pejabat SEDCO, Tingkat 10, Wisma SEDCO, Lorong Plaza Wawasan, 88823 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah dengan menunjukkan SIJIL ASAL PENDAFTARAN PUKONSA/PMS dalam kod bidang seperti di atas dan SIJIL TARAF BUMIPUTERA (jika bertaraf Bumiputera) dan menyerahkan satu salinan (fotostat) siji-sijil berkenaan semasa membeli dokumen tender.

Tawaran hendaklah dimasukkan ke dalam sampul surat berlakri dengan mencatatkan Tajuk dan No. Tender di sebelah kiri sudut bawah sampul surat dan dimasukkan ke dalam Peti Tender yang ditempatkan di:

Perbadanan Pembangunan Ekonomi Sabah (SEDCO)
Tingkat 10, Wisma SEDCO
Lorong Wawasan Plaza, Off Coastal Highway
88823 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Sebarang pertanyaan, sila hubungi Unit Perolehan SEDCO di talian 088-266777.

NOTICE OF WINDING-UP ORDER (Rule 34)

In the matter Winding-Up Order: HOYU TAYAR SDN. BHD.

Made: 23rd July 2026

Name and address Of Receiver:

Ketua Pengerah Insolvensi

Jabatan Insolvensi Malaysia

Cawangan Kota Kinabalu

Tingkat 5, Block A, Komplek Pentadbiran Persekutuan Sabah,

Jalan Sulaman Likas, P O Box 10824

88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Dated the 23rd day of July 2026



Messrs Wong & Shim
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

This NOTICE OF WINDING-UP ORDER is prepared by Messrs Wong & Shim, Advocates & Solicitors for the Petitioner whose address is at 12th Floor, Wisma Merdeka Phase 1, Jalan Tun Razak, 88000 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

[WS/RW/LA-42(140)].

IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF SABAH AND SARAWAK

AT TAWAU, SABAH

SUIT NO.: TWU-A7INCvC-13-3/2026 (MC1)

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA - PLAINTIFF

AND

AHMAD SUFFIAN BIN HASSAN (NRIC NO: 831210-12-6339) - DEFENDANT

To: **AHMAD SUFFIAN BIN HASSAN (NRIC NO: 831210-12-6339)**

TB 4236 TAMAN RIA 3, JALAN UTARA, 91000 TAWAU, SABAH.

Take notice that an action has been commenced against you in the Magistrate's Court, Tawau, Sabah in the Suit No. TWU-A7INCvC-13-3/2026 (MC1) by the Government of Malaysia at the address of Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia, Legal Section (Civil), Unit E004 & E005, 1st Floor, Podium Level, Financial Park Complex, Jalan Merdeka, 87000 Labuan Federal Territory, which the Plaintiff claims:-

(1) Income Tax and penalty amounting to **RM15,790.72**;

(2) Interest at the rate of 5% per annum from the date of judgment until the date of realization;

(3) Costs;

(4) Such other relief as the Court thinks fit.

And that an order has been made that service of the summons on you in this action shall be effected by way of this advertisement. If you desire to defend the said action, we command you that within **fourteen (14) days** after the service of this writ on you, excluding the day of service, you shall cause an appearance to be entered for you in the said action under the representation of the Government of Malaysia and take notice that if you fail to do so, the Plaintiff may proceed to obtain judgment and execution.

Dated on 29th day of July, 2026.

Director General of Inland Revenue, Sabah

Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia,

Legal Section (Civil), Unit E004 & E005, 1st Floor, Podium Level, 87000 Labuan Federal Territory.

(For and on behalf of the Plaintiff)

Ref. No.: X/IG23991720000 (ABL/SUU/LL)



NEW YORK (United States): LeBron James (pic) has signed a contract to play for the Philadelphia 76ers, the team announced Monday, with managing owner Josh Harris "thrilled" about chances for their first NBA title since 1983.

James announced on Friday he would play for the Sixers on a two-year deal worth \$8 million, ending a weeks-long mystery over the 41-year-old superstar's future, but the

76ers had no comment throughout the weekend.

"I am thrilled to welcome LeBron James to the Philadelphia 76ers," ownership managing partner Harris said in a statement. "One of the greatest players in NBA history and one of the best athletes ever, his accomplishments are iconic."

James, the NBA's all-time scoring leader set to begin his record 24th campaign in October, is a four-time NBA champion and four-time NBA Most Valuable Player.

After winning two titles with Miami, another with hometown club Cleveland and his most recent with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2020, James could become the first NBA player to win crowns with four different teams.

James, a three-time Olympic champion and 22-time NBA All-Star, joins a Sixers roster filled with NBA stars in hopes of bringing Philadelphia an NBA title for the first time since Julius Erving led the club to the crown 43 years ago.

"I cannot wait to see LeBron alongside Jaylen Brown, VJ Edgecombe, Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey, and our talented roster as we work to deliver a championship for Philly," Harris said.

"To LeBron and his family: we are grateful you chose the 76ers, and look forward to this next chapter of your legendary career. Welcome to the 76ers!"

James has career averages of 26.8 points, 7.5 rebounds, 7.4 assists and 1.5 steals over 1,622 games.

Philadelphia 76ers president of basketball operations Mike Gansey, an Ohio high school rival of James on the court, expects the legend will boost the club and the community. — AFP

Oct SIC event may pave way for F1 return to Malaysia: Experts

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia should fully capitalise on the opportunity to host a Formula One (F1) race this October as the first step towards bringing the prestigious championship back to the Sepang International Circuit (SIC) on a permanent basis in the future, according to industry observers.

Former Mercedes-AMG Petronas development driver Jazeman Firhan Jaafar said that although the coming race is a one-off event, it presents a major opportunity that should not be wasted, given F1's resurgence in popularity under Liberty Media's management.

"This is a huge opportunity for Malaysia.

If we do not make the most of it, it will be another missed opportunity.

"F1 has returned to its golden era. Its popularity is far greater than before, and Malaysia must seize this opportunity to prove that we are still capable of hosting a world-class race," he told Bernama Tuesday.

He said F1's return is not merely about staging a three-day race but could generate a spillover effect across various sectors, including job creation, technology transfer, infrastructure development, tourism and international media exposure.

"F1 is the pinnacle of world motorsport. Everyone should recognise the true value of

this race, not merely in terms of ticket sales and promotion, but also its impact on the economy and national development."

He also believes that F1's surge in popularity among younger audiences, driven by the Drive to Survive documentary series and Liberty Media's social media strategy, has made the event's impact far greater today than when Malaysia last hosted a race in 2017.

"Times have changed, technology has evolved, and F1's message is now much stronger. That is why I believe this event has tremendous impact, but we must truly make the most of it," he said.

However, Jazeman acknowledged that Malaysia's path to becoming a permanent host again will not be easy, as the F1 calendar has become increasingly crowded and every bid must undergo evaluation by Formula One Management (FOM) and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

He said hosting a one-off race could be the ideal starting point if Malaysia succeeds in demonstrating its ability to stage the event to the highest standards.

"We need to give 120 per cent in every aspect of the event, from organisation, traffic management and security to media facili-

ties, spectator experience and overall operations, because all of these will be key evaluation criteria," he said.

Meanwhile, former sports journalist and sports observer Asan Ahmad said Malaysia should not be content with hosting just one race, but instead use the opportunity as a springboard to regain a permanent place on the F1 calendar.

Having covered several editions of F1 previously, he said that if the government is truly committed to bringing F1 back to SIC, a long-term contract would provide better value than staging a one-off event.

"The cost of upgrading the circuit, pad-dock and media centre to FIA Grade 1 standards is substantial. If it is only for a single race, it becomes a sunk cost for just a three-day event.

"But if the contract runs for five to 10 years, the investment can be amortised, making annual operating costs much more efficient," he said.

According to Asan, a long-term contract would also give confidence to tourism industry players, airlines, hotels and corporate sponsors to plan investments and promotional activities well in advance.

He said hosting F1 on a permanent basis would also strengthen Petronas' position as a global energy brand through a home race, while enhancing Malaysia's international marketing value.

However, he stressed that the government should not adopt the previous approach of bearing the full cost of hosting the event.

Instead, he said a public-private partnership model involving the government, government-linked companies, corporate sponsors and tourism industry players should be considered to ensure hosting F1 becomes a sustainable investment.

"The government should not return to F1 merely to continue serving as an ad hoc host, as that does not provide certainty for the country's economic planning.

"If Malaysia truly wants F1 to return, the objective must be to regain a permanent place on the race calendar through a more sustainable business model," he said.

He said F1's return should not be viewed merely as the hosting of a sporting event, but should instead be leveraged to strengthen the country's motorsport industry, produce more local engineers and technical specialists, and create opportunities for young Malaysian talent to break into the international arena.

On Sunday, it was announced that Malaysia is set to welcome F1 racing back to the SIC after a nine-year absence by hosting the Bahrain Grand Prix from Oct 2 to 4. – Bernama

M'sia well-prepared to host F1

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is not facing a shortage of manpower or experienced marshals to handle Formula One (F1) races, as the accreditation process for sports officials in the country is renewed every year.



Motorsports Association of Malaysia (MAM) President Tan Sri Mokhzani Mahathir (pic) said that although the last time Sepang hosted F1 was in 2017, the availability of technical personnel has always been at the best level.

"There are many experienced people in

Malaysia. We will authorise who can be a marshal but if there is a shortage, we will bring in lecturers or experienced people to give a refresher course to all SIC officials," he said when contacted by Bernama.

He said MAM's role at present is to coordinate the implementation of all regulations and standards set by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) including ensuring that safety aspects, circuit readiness, participants and spectators are complied with before an F1 race can be organised.

"Actually, this SIC is well-maintained even though there is no F1. So all the events other than F1, MotoGP and so on ensure that the Sepang Circuit is at a good

level. Maintenance is very good. So using it for F1 is not difficult and there is time," he said.

Mokhzani also described the re-organisation of F1 this time as an "extraordinary opportunity" for Malaysia because the main cost of organising is borne by Bahrain.

"The current opportunity is an extraordinary opportunity. Because a large part of the costs needed for F1 is paid by the other party, we are just the hosts.

"The cost is indeed high for them (Bahrain) but we will just host the event. This opportunity came suddenly. We must ensure that SIC is ready to be a very good host for Bahrain because they have shown their trust in us," he said.

Thousands give British Open champ Fox a hero's welcome

AUCKLAND (New Zealand): Ryan Fox received a hero's welcome in Auckland on Tuesday as thousands flocked to see the new British Open champion and the famous Claret Jug after "a whirlwind few days" since the New Zealander won his maiden major.

Fox triumphed at the 154th Open at Royal Birkdale in England just over a week ago, holding his nerve over a knee-knocking 12-foot putt on the final green to finish 10-under par and win by one stroke.

The only other New Zealander to lift the Claret Jug was Bob Charles in 1963, at Lytham and St Annes just along the English north-west coast from Birkdale. Only two other New Zealanders have ever won golf majors.

Michael Campbell triumphed at the

2005 US Open at Pinehurst and Lydia Ko won three women's majors, including the 2024 British Women's Open at St Andrews.

"It's been a whirlwind few days since winning the Open," Fox told the crowds who turned out to see him and the famous Claret Jug winner's trophy, which dates back to 1872.

"To be fair, my head is still spinning as I take in what I've achieved and what's to come.

"One of the first things I wanted to do was come home and share this incredibly special time with my family, friends and all the Kiwis who have supported me throughout my career."

People spilled onto a nearby street as they tried to catch a glimpse of the 39-year-old, who received boisterous cheers



Fox speaks during a press conference on Tuesday.

when he hoisted the trophy for his fans.

Fox, renowned for taking little time over his shots, raised another ovation when he spoke of becoming the "face of the pace of play movement" in golf.

Sabah Clubs and Non-Governmental Organisations

Regular Events

Sabah Tai-Chi Association classes. Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 7pm to 8pm. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday: 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Details: Lee at 0168044512.

Sabah AZ (Sabah Alzheimer's Disease Support Association: Alzheimer's Disease (AD)) is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. Sabah AZ conducts Talks & Seminars, support, comfort families/caregivers/AD sufferers. Bi-Monthly Memory Café sharing-session by caregivers/carers. Details: enquiry@sabahaz.org, www.sabahaz.org, FB:@Sabahalzheimer. Kent 019-8811030 (10am-6pm).

Sabah State Administrative Centre Galleria Artisan PPNS is open to public from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. Our gallery boasts an array of local handicrafts from all over Sabah as well as locally made Sabah Batik. All local entrepreneurs are welcome to promote their products through this avenue. Come visit us: PPNS , Menara Tun Mustapha and Sabah Handicraft Centre, Keningau. Details: Facebook https://www.facebook.com/galleria.artisan/ or Afansyah Agimin at 088-332186 ext: 1501.

Parkinson Association of West Coast Sabah (PAWS) Conducts monthly outdoor activities, hold regular fellowship and meetings for people with Parkinson's disease (PWP). Carers and volunteers are welcomed to participate. The fellowship provides opportunity for PWP to network, share experiences / info and also enjoys the various complementary therapies such as body balancing, dancing, voice and music therapy, physiotherapy. Details: PAWS: 01110706633.

Sabah Law Society a weekly Free legal consultation and advice session for the public on Saturdays from 9am to 12.30pm (except the first Saturday of the month). Members of the public who are interested are advised to contact the SLS Secretariat at 088-251008 for an appointment or by email ybgk@sabahlawociety.org.

Blood Bank Unit of Sabah Women and Children's Hospital, Likas (HWKKS) Blood Donation Drive "Bah, Mari Menderma" 1 pint of blood can save 3 lives. Urging army, RELA, police, fire brigades, uniform bodies, government agencies, healthy public people, churches, mosques, corporate private companies with huge human resources to donate generously to our SWACH. Details: 522600 Ext: 2314.

Heritage Toastmasters Club Learn to speak better and improve leadership skills in a fun and supporting environment. Meetings are held every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. Time: 7.30pm. Venue: 6th Floor, Wisma Bandaraya. All are welcome. Details: President Sabrina 016-8287675 or VPPR Ooi 012-4150046.

Sabah Chartered Volunteer Society invites affiliates to join as volunteers for its community development projects for the benefits of the local communities. Youths and college graduates are encouraged to apply for Free Entrepreneurship and financial planning programs in order to be offered career prospects as marketing executives or, financial advisors with a well-established financial institution through Sabah Chartered Volunteer Society. Details: Prof. Dr. Benjamin 010-8887850.

Sabah Society For The Blind has moved to the 1st floor, Lot 3, Sri Damai building, Jalan Kolam, Lorong Nibung, KK on Sept 1. Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Saturday 9am to 12.30pm. Details: 250388, 218130 or Fax: 316588. Email: sabahblindociety@yahoo.com. Website: http://www.sabah.org.my/shsb.

Sheltered Workshop. Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm. Tel/ Fax: 788543. Address: Jalan Stesen Pertanian, ARC, 89207, Tuaran, Sabah.

Sabah Family Planning Association provides services & treatments relating to sexual reproductive health, family planning and general health screening. Details: KK Branch 016-8899865 (Clinic Helpline), 088-222703; Tawau Branch 089-771172, Lahad Datu Branch 016-8309868; Kudat Branch 088-611088. **Harrington Family Clinic** 8am-5pm (Mon-Sat) **Facebook:** Sabah Family Planning Association. **Instagram:** sabahpa. Email: hqslpa@gmail.com

Gerak Kasih Recycling Collection waste paper – newspapers, cardboard, boxes, magazines, books, paper bags, soft toys,

SABAH WEEK

Listing for this column is free to all voluntary organisations (NGOs) in Sabah. Due to production deadline, only requests submitted before 3pm will get priority for publication the following day.

Entries should be in writing to:
The Editor (Oliver Voon)
Daily Express,
Sabah Publishing House Sdn Bhd,
3B Jalan Mangga, Sodeco Likas Industrial Estate
Jalan Kolombong, 88450 Inanam
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
Tel: 088-430 727 Fax: 088-424 600

Daily Express

Please note that due to space constraints, Sabah Week will only feature the immediate events due to take place for the next three days. The usual brief on the NGOs, voluntary organisations and their activities will appear on Sunday.

clothing, plastic bottles, aluminium tins. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Time: 10am to 3pm. Venue: Rumah Titián Kashi, Lot 168, Lot 17, Lorong Kerapu, Rumah Murah Kg Likas Phase 3, 89400 Likas. Details: Nooraisah 014-8586350 or Salina 012-8449139.

Sabah Natives Land Owners Association (SANLODA) is dedicated to promoting optimum utilisation and preservation of native lands in Sabah. **Membership Drive:** Information for membership from various districts can be obtained from Datuk Stephen 0138658333, Datuk George 013-851500, Petrus 0198529299 or Datuk Yusof 012-8331950.

Malaysia Blood Donors Society Daily Blood Donation Drive. Inviting all NGO to collaborate and also calling members of the public to join its membership. Details: 012-822779, 016-3551987 or 014-7342886.

Sabah Cheshire Home & Asian Tourism International College Basic Pastry Skill Lesson for the physically disabled individuals aged between 17 – 28. Details: 438202. Fax: 434570.

Taska Mesra Cheshire Early Education for children with physical disabilities aged below four-years-old. Open Mon to Fri. Details: Sabah Cheshire Home 438202.

School of Psychology and Social Work, UMS is offering Counselling Service, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, Sensory Integration Therapy and Applied Behaviour Analysis Session. The services are on appointment basis. Time: 9am to 5pm. Details: Nurul Fatiha 019-8114573, 320000 Ext: 8833 or nurulfatihafirdaus@ums.edu.my

EXTOL is a non-profit youth club focusing on developing youths in stewardship and leadership. Calling on all non-Muslim parents to encourage their children between the ages of 13 to pre-university / college to attend our meetings held every Friday. Time: 7.45pm to 9.30pm. Venue: Agape Methodist Church, Agape Hill, Jalan Shantung Baru, Penampang. Details: Patrick 0109371718.

Pusat Jagaan Seri Marul provides counselling and support services for women / girl in situation of crisis such as unplanned pregnancies and sexual gender based violence. Details: Counselling or interview 019-5349044.

The Committee of Communication For Behavioural Impact (COMBI) Lok Kawi Town, Papar invites the residents of Taman Pantai Lok Kawi to be a promoter / volunteer of COMBI committee. All are welcome. Details: Zainal 016-8450717, Hj Mataris 010-9488846.

HANDPRINTS – Toy Library & Resource Centre is to educate, enable and empower parents, so that they are able to help and guide their children with special needs. Thematic monthly play day on 2nd Saturday of each month. Operating hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2pm to 5pm. Wednesday: 7pm to 9pm. Saturday: 9.30am to 2pm. Venue: Lorong Pokok Saka, Dah Yeh Villa, Off Mile 2 3/4, Jalan Damai, Luyang. Tel: 016-417298. Facebook: www.facebook.com/handprintslibrary/. Email: handprintslib@gmail.com.

Kota Kinabalu Lions Ambulance Service Society (LASS) Provides 24 Hour FREE Ambulance Service. Also providing First-Aid Training to the public and Mobile Health Service to the rural areas. Call: 088-319699.

Malaysian Red Crescent Kota Kinabalu City Chapter is providing Ambulance Services from 8pm to 6am (weekdays only), providing Patient Transfer Services (daily), providing Basic First Aid and CPR Courses (Certificate Courses) – every 2nd week of the month and also providing Emergency First Aid Standby Services (any events). Details: 232718 (O), 232718 (Fax) or email: mrckcc@gmail.com or bsmkcc@gmail.com **Kinabalu Breast Cancer Support Association (Kinabalu Pink Ribbon)** Offering emotional, social & material support to women with breast cancer (before/during/after treatment) and their families. Careline: 016-8038553. Office: 216237 or Fax: 253679. FB: www.facebook.com/kinabalupinkribbon. Email: kinabalupinkribbon@gmail.com.

Sabah Mental Health Association PKJS Day Care Centre is open to suitable candidate and it carries out several activities on weekdays. Details: 248197. **Alamesra Youth-PRÉP Centre** Provides a place for youths to seek assistance and support on issues such as education, relationships, work, family and financial stability. Legal aid and counselling services are free and are on appointment basis. Venue: Ground Floor, Lot 25, Block E, Phase 2, Alamesra, Jalan Sulaman. Opening Hours: Weekdays 9am to 5pm. Tel: 395632 or fax: 485372. Email: youthprepcentre@gmail.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/youthPREPCentreAlamesra. **The Sabah Australian Alumni Association (SAAA)** invites graduates from any Australian Institutions of higher learning to join as members of SAAA (2022). Detail: EDD 0116137889 or sabahausalumni2022@gmail.com

The Kota Kinabalu AIDS Support Services Association (KASIH) help line & free voluntary HIV screening tests, except sun & public holidays. Office hours. Time: 9am to 5pm. Fri: 6pm to 9pm. Sat: 4pm to 7pm. provide confidential / free voluntary HIV screening test (rapid test) during office hours, Mon to Fri. result available 10 to 15 minutes. Details: 712914 or email: kasihssabah@yahoo.com

National Stroke Association of Malaysia Sabah Club Wisma Pandu Puteri, Kompleks Badan-Badan Sukarela, km 4, Jalan Tuaran, KK. Centre's opening Hours: 9am to 5pm. Mon to Fri, closed on Sat, Sun & Public holidays. Details: 261568.

Federation of Private Medical Practitioners Association of Malaysia (FPMPAM) the public can obtain medical opinions, referrals or treatment for crisis intervention, detoxification, prevention & counselling for drug abuse via www.no2drugs.org.

Special Olympics Sabah Weekly jogging exercise (so west coast). Details: 016-8807703 or 232221.

Kota Kinabalu Falun Gong Exercise sessions every Saturday & Sunday. Free of charge. All are welcome. Details: Kota Kinabalu 013-870-6558, Sandakan 089-229626, 089-229023 and Tawau 019-8536333. **SNEQA Toastmasters Club** Regular Training Meeting to enhance your public speaking, communication and leadership skills. Time: 7.30pm (1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month). Venue: Swepa Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Wisma Wanita, Jalan Tuaran, KK. Details: President Dora 016-8300755 or VPPR 013-8603871.

The Cancer Society Of Sabah Provide services on hospice, cancer awareness / education, rural health project. Hotline / counselling pertaining to cancer & clinic by a lady consultant gynaecologist. Details: 210377 or 223215.

The Befrienders Kota Kinabalu offers confidential emotional support to those feeling depressed and in despair which may lead to loss of life. Call us if you need to talk. We are here if you feel confused or upset and need someone to talk to. We care, we listen. Call: 088-255788, 088-335793 or 0168036945 every night, 7pm to 10pm. www.facebook.com/befrienderskk.

Sabah Society For The Deaf Registration for pre-school deaf children ages 2 – 6 & hearing sibling ages 2 – 4. Language Development & Vocational Programme for deaf children & adults ages 8 and above. Venue: SSD premise, Jalan Khidmat, Bukit Padang, KK. Details: KK – Wong 230894, Sandakan – Wong 089-219160, Keningau – Mahinah 087-339716, Kudat – Chin 622697, Lahad Datu – Asmah 089-887895.

Sabah Society for the Deaf Registration for Sign Language Class. Details: KK – Wong 230894, Sandakan – Wong 089-219160, Keningau – Mahinah 087-339716, Kudat – Chin 622697, Lahad Datu – Asmah 089-887895. **Sabah Women Action-Resource Group (SAWO)** provides Helpline services to support women and girls who face domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment and other gender-

based violence. Call: 088-280200. Mon-Fri, time: 9am-5pm **D-Dash Compact Car Club** Welcomes all Perodua and compact car owners to join in the club membership. For more info on club weekly gathering and events contact martin 019-8036019 or d-dashclub.fotopages.com.

Sabah Government Pensioners' Association Membership recruitment exercise & pensioners' problem 9.30am to 1pm (Mon – Fri, except public holidays) at Maksak Complex, Likas. Details: 211282 Lucy.

Agriculture Institute of Sabah Alumni Association Membership drive. Information to obtain membership forms from various district near you, contact Maidah 019-8414088 or Leong 019-8515893 or email expistm@yahoo.com.my. **Kent Teachers College Alumni Association** Membership drive. Membership forms are available at all district education offices in Sabah. Details: Tajuddin 787561, 019-537-1178 or Eddy 016-8223757.

Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary Resources Library is free for public to use. Details: 246955 or fax: 247955.

Sandakan Toastmasters Club Platform to improve effective communication and leadership skills on every 2nd & 4th Thursdays of every month. Venue: Incorporated Society of Planters office, Taman Utama, Zone 3, Jalan Utara. Details: Alex 013-8803622 or Jerry 012-8616743.

Kota Kinabalu Advanced Toastmasters Club – Communication and leadership training meeting. Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Venue: Meeting Room 1, 1st Floor, Wisma Wanita, Jalan Tuaran. Those interested are welcome to attend. Details: Irene 019-8211985 or Jess 0168302717.

Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation KK Centre Open to all, accept children with Downs Syndrome below the age of 7. Details: Raneh 219809, Fax: 219808.

Consultancy Services & Training Centre For Consumerism, Environmental & Human Rights Seminar / talks consumer issues-your rights as consumer, how to complain and get effective results, know about consumer laws, tribunal for consumer claims, environmental, human rights & civil society. Except Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday. Tel/fax: 234616 Datuk Patrick Sindu (JP) 019-811-7369, 016-8007369 or datukpatrickssindu@yahoo.com.

United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) Offer opportunities to the public to voice their complaints on various issues and offer advice to the complainants on how to go about their grouses. Monday to Friday. Call: 721722 & 721723 or homepage:www.upko.org.my

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Help available for those with alcohol related problems. *Anonymity assured.* Meetings in English every Tuesday at 8pm. Bahasa Malaysia every Thursday at 7pm. Details: 012-8039883 (ENG) or 016-8386386 (BM).

Malaysian Ex-Police Association (Penampang Branch) Membership recruitment exercise and other related matters. Time: 2pm to 5pm (Wednesday, Thursdays & Friday), except public holidays. Venue: PME, 1st floor, Lot 3, Block 15, Penampang Baru. (Profem office). Details: Joseph 016-8213013, 710557 (o) or 714557 (fax).

Palliative Care Association of Kota Kinabalu (Sabah) Day Care Centre Every Thursday from 9am to 1pm at PWD 7396 & 7397, Taman Rose, Off Jalan Penampang for mobile patients who are registered under our Home Care Programme. We help you to care for your loved ones. Free Home Care Support service for your family members, relatives or friends who are diagnosed with advanced cancers. Referrals may be from private / government hospital or self-referred. Details: Grace 231505 or 257507.

KK Mandarin Toastmasters Club Regular Training Meeting. Time: 7.30pm. (2nd & 4th Thursday of each month). Venue: 3rd Floor, Lot 14, Block B, Lintas Square, KK. Details: Yan 012-8023264, Chia 016-8100282 or Lim 016-8302552. **Fama Pasar Tani Asia** City variety of vegetables, fishes, sugar cane juice, soya bean milk, pastries and many other food items will be on sale. Every Wednesday & Saturday. Time: 6am to 5pm. all are welcome. Details: Wasri 013-5555451.

Happy Family Homes Malaysia KK we welcome volunteers to join us in our house builds on Saturdays. Those with masonry & carpentry skills are most welcome. Details: 088-395989.

Bukit Harapan 424567. **Sabata** 255916.

Tun Haji Mohd Fuad Stephens Borneo Research Library Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5pm. Saturday / Sunday & Public Holiday : Closed. Venue: Menara Tun Mustapha, Likas Bay. Details: 326300 Ext: 1152 or 1154. Fax: 326490. Email: ppbtf@gmail.com or website: www.ysnet.org.my Open to public.

Erry finally achieves Commonwealth glory

GLASGOW: “This is for my father.”

Those were the heartfelt words of national weightlifter Muhammad Erry Hidayat after ending his long wait for Commonwealth Games glory by capturing the men's 79kg gold medal at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games here.

The 26-year-old delivered a commanding performance at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Armadillo on Monday, lifting a total of 331kg - 147kg in the snatch and 184kg in the clean and jerk - to secure the title.

His 184kg clean and jerk and overall total of 331kg both established new Commonwealth Games records.

“Alhamdulillah, after competing in three Commonwealth Games, I have finally won the gold medal. This gold medal is for my father. He called me before the competition and asked me to bring home another gold medal for him, so I did it for him,” he told Bernama.



The victory, however, was far from straightforward. Muhammad Erry endured a tense moment in the snatch after his first two attempts at 147kg were ruled invalid. Needing to succeed on his final attempt to stay in contention, he held his nerve to complete the lift and advance to the clean and jerk.

“Today's success is incredibly sweet, and the battle was truly extraordinary. Had I failed on that third snatch attempt, I might not have been able to compete in the clean and jerk. So,



Erry celebrates on the podium. I gave everything I had in the clean and jerk to secure the overall total,” he said.

Reflecting on his comeback, Muhammad Erry said he relied on his training and experience after struggling in the opening discipline.

“I just reminded myself of how I trained. My personal best in the snatch is 153kg, so I kept asking myself why I was missing 147kg. I also didn't expect my final clean and jerk to feel that difficult. Although my personal best is 187kg, lifting 184kg felt heavy. Perhaps I wasn't used to the cold weather,” he said.

India's Valluri Ajaya Babu settled for silver with a total lift of 330kg, comprising 149kg in the snatch and 181kg in the clean and jerk,

while England's Chris Murray claimed bronze with a total of 325kg after lifting 148kg and 177kg respectively.

The triumph carries special significance for Muhammad Erry, who followed in the footsteps of his father, Hidayat Hamidon, the gold medallist at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games.

His achievement also marks a remarkable turnaround after finishing without a medal on his Commonwealth Games debut at Gold Coast 2018 before winning silver in the men's 73kg category at Birmingham 2022. – Bernama

Sabahan finishes sixth

GLASGOW: National para swimmer Abdul Halim Mohammad finished sixth in the men's 100-metre (m) breaststroke SB9 final at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games here.

The Sabahan, who won five gold medals at the 2025 Asean Para Games, clocked one minute 16.41 seconds (s) in the final at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre.

Australia's Beau Matthews claimed the gold medal in 1:09.41s, while New Zealand's Joshua Willmer took silver with a time of 1:11.44s.

Australia's Timothy Hodge clocked 1:12.74s to secure bronze.

The swimming and para swimming competitions at Glasgow 2026, held over

six days, will conclude on Wednesday (July 29). – Bernama

Rachel misses bronze by 0.133 points

GLASGOW: National artistic gymnast Rachel Yeoh fell just 0.133 points short of winning the bronze medal in the women's uneven bars event at the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games here.

Rachel produced a clean routine to score 13.533 points at the Glasgow International Arena, but had to settle for fourth place, much to her disappointment.

The bronze medal went to Wales' Emily Roper, who scored 13.666 points, as Australia's Kate McDonald clinched gold with 14.333 points and Canada's Elisabeth Black took silver with 13.900 points.

Rachel, who had finished third in the qualifying round with 13.800 points, struggled to hide her disappointment after narrowly missing out on a podium finish by such a slim margin

“For me, it's a pity as I fell just short... by only 0.133. And just like that, the (bronze) medal slipped away, but I gave it my best today. Just not my day, I guess,” the heartbroken Rachel told Bernama.

Asked what was going through her mind during the routine, the 27-year-old said she was focused only on giving every-



Rachel in action in the women's uneven bars event. thing she had for Malaysia and for herself. “For me, at that time, I was just thinking of completing my routine. For Malaysia, and for myself. I was all prepared for it and just went for it. But, it's sad that it didn't

work out,” she said.

Being the fighter that she is, Rachel's not about to let that disappointment define who she is.

Instead, it has only fuelled her determination to increase the difficulty level of her routine ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in September.

“When I get home, no matter what, I want to increase my difficulty level. A 6.3 difficulty score is something I absolutely have to achieve. For the Asiad, my next outing... I have to redeem myself,” she said.

The result also meant Rachel missed the opportunity to make history as the first Malaysian woman to win an artistic gymnastics medal at the Commonwealth Games.

The last time Malaysia won a medal in artistic gymnastics at the Commonwealth Games was at the 2006 Melbourne Games, when Ng Shu Wai bagged the silver medal in the men's floor exercise.

Shu Wai, who is now the national coach, also won a silver in the same event at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. – Bernama

Australia reign supreme in the pool

GLASGOW: Adam Ramsay-Peaty fell short of gold at a fourth Commonwealth Games as he was beaten into bronze once more in the 50m breaststroke on another dominant night for Australia in the Glasgow pool.

Three-time Olympic champion Ramsay-Peaty was reduced to tears after finishing third in the 100m breaststroke on Saturday and could not hide his disappointment, even if this time he kept his emotions in check.

Australia's Sam Williamson completed a double of 50 and 100m breaststroke gold, shocking pre-race favourite Michael Houlie of South Africa, who had to settle for silver.

Williamson's was one of six Australian golds from seven finals on the night, with only New Zealand's Lewis Clareburt in the 200m butterfly preventing a clean sweep at the top of the podium.

All of England's four golds in the pool so far have come in the para-swimming events, with Ramsay-Peaty failing to add another Commonwealth title.

The 31-year-old hinted he will keep



Australia's swimmers celebrate gold during the Women's 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay Medal Ceremony at the swimming event.

going to try and compete at a fourth Olympic Games in Los Angeles in two years' time but struggled to pinpoint the reasons for a disappointing meet.

“I am working way too hard. If those results were how much I am working then they would be a lot better,” said Ramsay-Peaty.

“I need to look at that and adjust course

because we are sailing in some rough seas right now and it is not sustainable.”

Williamson's double gold is all the more remarkable after he suffered a ruptured patella in April 2025 which put his career at risk.

“Just having the opportunity to put the green and gold on again was something I didn't think I'd ever have the opportunity to do,” said Williamson.

“To come home with two of these little medals in my back pocket, it just makes it even more special.”

Jenna Forrester won her second gold of the meet in the 400m Individual Medley to back up her 200m backstroke victory.

Meg Harris led home an Aussie 1-2-3 in the women's 100m freestyle, while Alex Perkins took gold in the women's 100m butterfly.

Olympic 800m champion Daniel Wifin missed out on the podium as the Northern Irishman finished fourth to another Australia clean sweep of the medals.

Sam Short added the 800m crown to his 400m gold ahead of Benjamin Goede-mans and Matthew Galea.

Only a strong finish by Clareburt prevented an Australia taking every gold of the night as he pipped Aussie duo Harrison Turner and Matthew Temple to the wall.

After four days of competition, Australia dominate the medals table with 26 golds to 38 between the other 73 nations combined.

There was more Australian joy on the first night of athletics action as Rose Davies won the 10,000 metres in the absence of injured home favourite Eilish McColgan.

Jamaica's Demario Prince won the 110m hurdles.

Romaine Beckford added a second Jamaican gold in the high jump on fewer failed attempts after both he and India's Sarvesh Anil Kushare cleared 2.25m.

Canada's Ethan Katzberg set a new Games record to win the Hammer.

Edmund Serem claimed Kenya's first gold of the Games in the men's 3,000m steeplechase.

Olympic gymnastics champion Rhys McClenaghan dismissed the Commonwealth Games as a “training day” after he finished a shock sixth in the men's pommel final as Canada's Jordan Carroll secured gold. – AFP

WINNING NUMBERS					
DRAW DATE: 28-07-2026 DRAW NO: 6110/26 VENUE: Perak					
3D	1st	181			
	2nd	540			
	3rd	474			
1+3D	1st	5181			
	2nd	4540			
	3rd	0474			
STARTERS					
1528	0348	3257	2149	2905	
4741	0127	1450	2887	6526	
CONSOLATION					
9515	9761	0785	4254	3313	
9274	7649	3136	7700	4351	

MAGNUM 4D			
Draw No: 400/26 Date: 28-07-2026			
1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE	
3062	7318	9203	
SPECIAL			
7902	7893	8601	2776
8194	4560	8979	
4426	2377	3727	
CONSOLATION			
1060	4088	4876	8224
3797	2877	3801	
5008	0868	1890	



DIRIWAN RESULT

PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

Draw: 4229/26 Date: 28-07-2026

SABAH 4D

1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE
8586	9823	1988
LUCKY		CONSOLATION
0925	5073	0776 7006
1278	6361	1269 7365
2860	6623	5951 7608
3453	7192	6321 7809
4027	7743	6846 8533

SABAH 4D JACKPOT

JACKPOT 1 RM 7,720,662.11			
8586 + 9823	9823 + 8586		
8586 + 1988	1988 + 8586		
9823 + 1988	1988 + 9823		
JACKPOT 2 RM 119,665.85			
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Lucky Prizes			

SABAH 3D

1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE
370	214	129

SABAH LOTTO 6/45

04	17	26	30	31	40	+	15
JACKPOT 1 RM 862,190.18							
JACKPOT 2 RM 6,086.06							

SABAH LOTTO 6		JACKPOT 1	
Group 1	9 1 6 4 0 + 20	RM 173,564.17	
Group 2	5 0 3 2 3 + 23	RM 8,726.81	
Group 3	7 6 8 0 9 + 03	RM 8,811.76	
Group 4	8 9 3 4 9 + 23	RM 12,596.99	
Group 5	5 6 6 9 5 + 09	RM 7,386.56	
SABAH LOTTO 5		JACKPOT 1	
Group 1	5 1 6 4 + 01	RM 30,042.04	
Group 2	7 5 1 1 + 16	RM 2,081.25	
Group 3	9 3 0 9 + 24	RM 1,379.14	
Group 4	3 9 1 8 + 04	RM 3,026.44	
Group 5	9 8 9 4 + 10	RM 5,199.32	
Group 6	4 4 6 3 + 03	RM 2,067.67	
Group 7	4 5 8 3 + 26	RM 760.42	
Group 8	8 3 7 5 + 01	RM 518.53	

CASH SWEEP 1+3D 砂撈越大万			
2026-07-28 (Tue)			
1ST	2ND	3RD	
6925	2252	5479	
SPECIAL			
9144	1669	6180	6744 2266
0443	4124	5246	2691 9204
CONSOLATION			
7275	3523	1665	8710 4130
1718	7160	8176	8479 7751

4D JACKPOT					
PRIZE PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL					
Draw No.: 094/26 Date: 28-07-2026					
1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE			
9264	9376	5857			
SPECIAL					
7090	0854	5920	2521	5183	
7401	1971	5802	6558	3108	
CONSOLATION					
3649	2346	9833	9101	5006	
1970	6962	3999	4874	6494	

4D JACKPOT	
JACKPOT 1	RM 2,804,272.07
9264 + 9376	9376 + 9264
9264 + 5857	5857 + 9264
9376 + 5857	5857 + 9376
JACKPOT 2	RM 105,359.42
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 and any 1 of special prizes.	
EVERISE VENTURES SDN. BHD.	
Visit www.stc4d.com for Live Draw & Free Web Services	

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS	
DRAW NO: 6163/26 DATE: 28-07-2026	
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.	
196901000090 [8420.0]	
TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL	
1st Prize	1131
2nd Prize	3649
3rd Prize	5515
Special	5798 9895 2861 6504 1423 9716 5207 0641 1402 8969
Consolation	9866 9344 6489 9785 0658 8962 3566 0693 7005 9343
4D JACKPOT	
Jackpot 1	RM 11,781,447.33
1131 3649 3649 1131 1131 5515 5515 1131 3649 5515	
Jackpot 2	RM 167,483.14
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.	
4D Zodiac	
1st Prize	1131 +
2nd Prize	3649 +
3rd Prize	5515 +
4th Prize	Special Prize +
5th Prize	Consolation Prize +
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number
TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL	
1ST	00662
2ND	49594
3RD	22311
4TH	0662
5TH	662
6TH	62
6D	
1ST	461971
2ND	46197 or 61971
3RD	4619 or 1971
4TH	461 or 971
5TH	46 or 71
TOTO GAMES GIVES YOU MORE WINNING CHANCES!	
SUPREME 7/49 10 12 35 41 48 56	
Jackpot	RM 18,087,464.59
POWER 7/49 13 25 34 35 42 51	
Jackpot	RM 12,548,996.58
STAR 7/49 7 20 31 32 36 43 + 21	
Jackpot 1	RM 1,261,656.52
Jackpot 2	RM 100,000.00
Visit www.sportstoto.com.my for e-Results and more info.	

McClenaghan uses Games for Training

GLASGOW: Olympic gymnastics champion Rhys McClenaghan dismissed the Commonwealth Games as a “training day” after he failed to win a medal in the men's pommel final on Monday.

The Northern Irishman starred in Paris two years ago to claim Olympic gold, but was only sixth in Glasgow after a new mount at the start of his routine backfired.

McClenaghan failed to earn a medal at the Games for the first time after claiming gold in the Gold Coast in 2018 and silver in



Birmingham four years ago.

But the 27-year-old shrugged off the disappointment as he looked ahead to the upcoming European and world championships.

“This is a training day for me, so we go back to the gym as soon as I can, and we tackle it just like we tackle any training day,” said McClenaghan, who also won the world championships in 2022 and 2023.

“Even if I had won gold here it still would have been treated as a stepping-stone. We go back to the gym as soon as we can, and we tackle it just like we tackle any training day. We've got our eye on the prize for the Europeans.” – AFP

PSM: Syahir key to team's confidence

KUALA LUMPUR: The presence of top tekong (server) Mohammad Syahir Mohd Rosdi has been described as Malaysia's most potent “psychological weapon” to intimidate opponents, especially traditional rivals Thailand, at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in September.

Sepak Takraw Association of Malaysia (PSM) President Datuk Mohd Sumali Reduan (pic) said Mohammad Syahir possesses exceptional qualities that could make a major impact on the team, with his ability on the court earning great respect from other squads.



He said that although the player is currently struggling with an injury, PSM remains hopeful that Mohammad Syahir can regain optimal fitness within the remaining less than two months before the tournament begins.

“Mohammad Syahir has his own strengths that Thailand genuinely fears. That is why we want him in the squad, because his presence alone already creates a positive impact and serves as a psychological advantage against our opponents,” he told reporters after chair-

ing the PSM Supreme Committee meeting here last night.

However, Mohd Sumali stressed that PSM is not relying solely on one player and already has a backup plan should Mohammad Syahir's recovery process not proceed as planned.

He said the country's other tekongs are now showing very encouraging improvements in performance and are ready to shoulder responsibilities at the international level.

“We are prepared should Mohammad Syahir be unable to play due to the injury. We have other tekongs who, I believe, have shown significant improvement and are capable of competing against their opponents,” he said.

Mohammad Syahir was forced to take a break after suffering an injury while competing at the 2026 Sepak Takraw World Cup in May.

At the Asian Games, Malaysia's men's squad will compete in two events — the men's team regu and men's regu.

In the men's team regu event, Malaysia were drawn in Group B alongside India, the Philippines and Japan, while in the men's regu event, Malaysia were drawn in Group B together with Vietnam and Myanmar. – Bernama



**Thousands
give British
Open champ
Fox a hero's
welcome**



**Rachel
misses
bronze**

24

Fourth gold for Malaysia

GLASGOW: National weightlifter Muhammad Hafizuddin Roslin delivered Malaysia's fourth gold medal at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games after emerging champion in the men's 88 kilogrammes (kg) category at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Armadillo here, Tuesday.

The victory marked a memorable Commonwealth Games debut for the 22-year-old Perlis-born athlete who secured the title with a total lift of 345kg, comprising 162kg in the snatch and 183kg in the clean and jerk, with the latter two marks setting new Games records.

The 2024 Malaysia Games (Sukma) men's 81kg champion finished ahead of silver medallist Cameron David McTaggart of New Zealand who registered a total lift of 338kg while Angus Doig of Scotland claimed bronze with 309kg.

Weightlifting has now delivered all four of Malaysia's gold medals in Glasgow along with a bronze through Irene Jane Henry in the women's 48kg category.

Earlier, Mohamad Aniq Kasdan captured the men's 60kg title, followed by Muhamad Aznil Bidin (men's 65kg) and Muhammad Erry Hidayat in the men's 79kg category.

Muhammad Hafizuddin's triumph further strengthened Malaysia's medal haul as the contingent continues its campaign with several medal prospects still in action.

Muhammad Erry's victory earned him his first Commonwealth Games gold medal, improving on the silver he won in the men's 73kg category at Birmingham 2022.

The 26-year-old secured the title with a total lift of 331kg, comprising 147kg in the snatch and 184kg in the clean and jerk. His clean and jerk and overall total also set new Games records.

India's Valluri Ajaya Babu took the silver medal with a total lift of 330kg (149kg in snatch; 181kg in clean and jerk), while England's Chris Murray claimed bronze with a total lift of 325kg (148kg in snatch; 177kg in clean and jerk).

The triumph was made even more meaningful as Muhammad Erry followed in the footsteps of his father, Hidayat Hamidon, who won gold at the Kuala Lumpur 1998 Commonwealth Games.

Muhammad Erry's victory also handed Malaysia their third gold medal of the Games after fellow lifters Mohamad Aniq Kasdan and Muhamad Aznil Bidin had earlier emerged victorious in the men's 60kg and 65kg categories respectively.

National lawn bowler Izzat Shameer Dzulkuple made history by becoming the first Malaysian athlete to win a medal in



Muhammad Roslin (pictured left) and Muhammad Erry in action in their men's 88kg and 79kg events at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games.



Izzat in action against Tolchard.

the men's singles event at the Commonwealth Games after clinching silver at the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

In the gold medal match at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) here, Izzat Shameer lost 0-2 to England's top player Sam Tolchard, but his qualification for the final was enough to create a new milestone for the country.

Izzat Shameer surpassed Malaysia's previous best achievement in the event, recorded by Fairul Izwan Abdul Muin, who finished fourth at the Birmingham 2022 edition.

Fairul Izwan is now the head coach of the national lawn bowls squad.

Earlier, Malaysia secured a women's pairs silver through Aleena Ahmad Nawawi and Syafiqha Haidar Afif Abdul Rahman, who were defeated by England's Amy Pharaoh and Sian Honnor.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's men's 3x3 basketball team created history by advancing to the quarter-finals in their Commonwealth Games debut after finishing runners-up in Group B.

Malaysia, represented by Chang Zi



Aleena-Syafiqha Haidar defeated England's Pharaoh and Honnor.

Fueng, Chong Zhen Yang, Ting Chun Hong and Ooi Xian Fu, wrapped up the group stage with a commanding 21-15 victory over Jamaica, having earlier defeated Fiji, Kenya and Singapore before suffering a narrow 19-21 defeat to defending champions England.

Malaysia will next face hosts Scotland in the quarter-finals today (Wednesday), with the winners progressing to a semi-final meeting with Australia.

At the pool, national para swimmer Abdul Halim Mohammad finished sixth in the men's 100m breaststroke SB9 final after clocking one minute and 16.41 seconds (s).

All eyes will now be on Malaysia's cam-



MEDAL TALLY

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1 Australia	26	13	20
2 England	8	13	11
3 Canada	7	8	6
4 Nigeria	6	4	0
5 Scotland	5	4	2
6 MALAYSIA	4	2	2
7 South Africa	3	3	5
8 India	2	5	3
9 Jamaica	2	0	0
10 New Zealand	1	4	3

paign today (Wednesday), with para long jump ace Datuk Abdul Latif Romly set to compete in the men's T20 long jump, in addition to Izzat Shameer and the women's pairs team bidding to ensure Malaysia can achieve its five-gold target.

Malaysia currently sits sixth in the medal standings with four gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Defending champions Australia continue to dominate the medal standings with 26 gold, 13 silver and 20 bronze medals, followed by England (8-13-11) and Canada (7-8-6). – Bernama

898 Sabahans fired up for Sukma, Para Sukma

GL OH

KOTA KINABALU: State athletes are all fired up for the upcoming Sukma and Para Sukma Games to be held in Selangor starting next month, with Sukma running from August 15 to 24 and Para Sukma following from September 5 to 11.

Youth Development, Sports Advancement and Creative Economy Minister Datuk Nizam Abu Bakar Titingan announced on Tuesday that Sabah will contest 36 of the 37 sports at Sukma and all 10 events at Para Sukma.

He also named Datuk Mansur Haji Asun, the Ministry's permanent secretary, as the chef de mission for both games.

"Except for Kabaddi which is an optional sport, for which we still do not have a development program, the sports that we will be participated are aquatics, weightlifting, badminton, cycling, netball, basketball, football, volleyball, lawn bowl, gymnastics, golf,

hockey, judo, karate-do, fencing, archery, shooting, athletics, sailing, pencak silat, ping pong, rugby, sepak takraw, squash, softball, taekwondo, tennis, tenpin bowling, boxing and wushu, while the optional sports are chess, E-sports, cricket, pétanque, silamban and muaythai.

"We will be represented by a total of 744 athletes, consisting of 385 male athletes and 359 female athletes in addition to 51 team managers and 148 coaches," he stated.

In Para Sukma, he said the para events to be contested by the 154 athletes accompanied by 117 officials are badminton, boccia, bowling, chess, archery, athletics, table tennis, powerlifting, swimming and tenpin bowling.

Nizam also remained confident that the contingent can achieve the 40-gold medal target in Sukma as set by his late brother and former Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Haji Tawfiq back in 2018.

Minister Datuk Nizam Abu Bakar Titingan.

"Therefore, we hope everyone will go all out to earn the RM10,000 incentive from the Sabah government by winning gold for the state contingent.

"I have high expectations for all officials and athletes to deliver their best performance, show high discipline and patriotic



Nizam (Centre) with (from left) Valerie, Asneh, Syed Ahmad, Michelle and Adanan.

"Sabah's best record was during the 19th Sukma Perak in 2018 where we successfully brought home 33 gold medals, 27 silver medals and 46 bronze medals.

"As for Para Sukma, we are targeting 66 gold medals, a target that I feel is realistic in our efforts to emerge as the overall champion again.

"Our best record was during Para Sukma Sarawak 2024 by winning 62 gold medals, 42 silver medals and 32 bronze medals to finish

spirit, and uphold Sabah's good name," he told reporters after chairing the state contingent's final preparation meeting for Sukma and Para Sukma here today.

Sabah are aiming for 40 gold medals at the biennial Games from Aug 15 to 24. They hope to better their record haul of 33 golds set in Perak in 2018. – GL OH

behind Sarawak in the overall standings."

The Minister also thanked the State Government for their support.

"On behalf of the Ministry, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Sabah Government under the leadership of Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Haji Noor, who is our number one fan, for approving this major participation and providing the greatest opportunity to all athletes who are eligible to compete in Selangor."

Also present during the announcement were Assistant Minister of Youth Development, Sports Advancement and Creative Economy Dato Sri Anil Sandhu, Sabah Sports Board Chairman Syed Ahmad Syed Abas, the Ministry's deputy permanent secretary Adanan Atin, Sabah Sports Council (MSN) director Asneh Mohd Noor, who is also the deputy chef de mission I, MSN deputy director Valerie Wong and deputy chef de mission II Datuk Michelle Koh.



Sabah FC ready for new season with fresh faces

THE floodlights are set to shine again for the new football season, and after a two-month break, it feels great to be back sharing my views on the local football scene.

The new Super League season is just around the corner, with Sabah FC set to face Star City FC at home on August 23.

As the opening match approaches, Sabah FC appears busy rebuilding its squad after several players from last season departed.

I believe 14 players are no longer with the team, including local imports Khairul Fahmi, Gary Steven Robbat, S. Kumaahran, Jafri Chew and Fergus Tierney. The foreign players who have left are Gabriel Peres, Dean Pelekanos, Chris Marlon Ondong Mba, Ernesto Phumipha and Kervens Belfort, while local players Amir Jef, Richie Svenson, Sharol Nizam and Maxsius Musa have also moved on.

The decision to release four local players has raised questions over the criteria used for their inclusion previously, especially as they played limited roles in last season's matches.

I am sure fans will certainly hope the management focuses on selecting players who can make meaningful contributions to the team's success rather than simply filling up the squad.

For the new campaign, several key players led by captain Dominic Tan will remain with the team, alongside Damien Lim, Darren Lok, Rawilson Batuil, Dinesh Rajasingam, Farhan Roslan, Rusdi Roslan, Rozacklye Yanam, Harith Naem, Ramzi Mustakim, Dane Ingham and Miguel Cifuentes.

I was also surprised to see Cifuentes retained, considering he made limited appearances last season due to injuries.

Unless he has fully recovered, it may have been wiser to consider a younger and fitter replacement, especially given he is already 35 years old.

Meanwhile, Sabah FC's new foreign signings include Spanish defender Kike Lopez, Korean midfielder Park Jungbin, Filipino midfielder Oskari Kekkonen, Argentine forward Gonzalo Ignacio Di Renzo and Argentine goalkeeper Juan Flere Pizzuti.

The new local additions are midfielders Abdul Halim Saari and Fadzlul Danel Mohd Nizam, winger Fayadh Zulkifli, as well as the return of local defender Abdul Hanafie Tokyo Abdul Hasim.

Hopefully, these new recruits can make a significant impact and, under head coach Juan Torres Garrido, help address the weaknesses exposed by the team last season.

With a revamped squad and renewed expectations, Sabah FC will be hoping for a stronger showing in the new Super League campaign.

Bahrain to bear rights fees for Oct F1 race at SIC

SEPANG: Bahrain will fully bear the Formula One (F1) rights fees of USD70 million (RM298 million) to USD80 million for the Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia, according to SIC.

SIC Chief Executive Officer Azhan Shafrihan Hanif said this arrangement was agreed through cooperation between SIC and the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

"I can confirm that they will be paid by Bahrain," he said at a press conference at SIC here Tuesday.

However, Azhan Shafrihan said Malaysia still needs to share the cost of local preparations of around RM40 million to ensure the circuit meets Formula One specifications.

He said SIC is currently in discussions with BIC on various operational aspects, including circuit preparations, technical requirements and the allocation of hosting costs. – Bernama

Infantino slams World Cup critics for 'spreading hate'

PARIS (France): FIFA President Gianni Infantino has hit back at World Cup critics, claiming they were "spreading hate and false rumours" and arguing the tournament delivered "only joy and happiness".

In a long open letter published on Monday, Infantino urged detractors to "take a moment to reflect, meditate, pray" after a tournament marked by controversies ranging from ticket pricing to visa issues.

"Sorry that you were so consumed by hate and criticism that you missed it all," Infantino wrote in a post shared on his Instagram account and FIFA's official channels.

"To those behind their pens and papers, behind their screens, spreading hate and false rumours, I want to say that while you are sitting behind, we at FIFA are on the front lines organising, working hard, and delivering the best show in the world.

"We experienced no violence, no incidents, 100% safety and security, only joy and happiness!

The build-up to the World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States was dominated by fears over sky-high prices, geopolitical tension, the shadow of conflict and the threat of brutal summer heat across the three host nations.

Iran's participation against the backdrop

of war with the United States, along with concerns over Haiti's domestic crisis and the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, brought renewed scrutiny to visa and travel restrictions.

Somali referee Omar Artan became arguably the highest-profile casualty of President Donald Trump's hardline immigration crackdown, when he was denied entry to the United States. – AFP



43 sambungan paip air haram dipotong di S'kan > 2



Teknologi digital mesti hasilkan nilai nyata: Masidi > 3



Petani ditemui maut dalam perut ular sawa gergasi > 5



Pertumbuhan mampan Andrew jadi lonjakan besar buat Sabah > 7

WAKTU SOLAT						
	Subuh	Zohor	Asar	Maghrib	Isyak	
KK/Pantai Barat	4.58	12.24	3.46	6.35	7.48	
Sandakan Timur	4.51	12.17	3.38	6.27	7.40	
Sandakan Barat	4.56	12.21	3.42	6.30	7.44	
Tawau Timur	4.50	12.15	3.36	6.24	7.38	
Tawau Barat	4.54	12.18	3.40	6.27	7.40	
Kudat	4.53	12.21	3.41	6.33	7.46	
Pedalaman Atas	4.58	12.23	3.45	6.33	7.47	
Pedalaman Bawah	5.01	12.26	3.47	6.35	7.49	

Bakal menangani kesesakan lalu lintas di Jalan Lok Kawi – Kinarut

Projek naik taraf RM70j bermula

Iskandar Dzulkifli

PAPAR: Projek menaik taraf Jalan Lok Kawi dari Bulatan Sabindo ke Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Kinarut bernilai RM70.6 juta dijangka mampu mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas serta meningkatkan tahap keselamatan pengguna jalan raya di koridor Lok Kawi-Pengalat-Papar yang pesat membangun. Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor berkata, projek yang dilaksanakan Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) itu membuktikan komitmen berterusan Kerajaan Persekutuan dalam memperkukuh infrastruktur jalan raya di Sabah bagi memenuhi keperluan mobiliti rakyat.

Katanya, koridor berkenaan kini mengalami pertumbuhan pesat susulan pertambahan kawasan perumahan, premis kerajaan, institusi pendidikan dan produk pelancongan, sekali gus meningkatkan jumlah trafik, terutama pada waktu puncak.

“Sebagai kerajaan, kita sentiasa berusaha merancang dan melaksanakan pembangunan yang memberi manfaat serta meningkatkan kesejahteraan rakyat,” katanya ketika berucap pada Majlis Pecah Tanah Projek Naik Taraf Jalan Lok Kawi dari Bulatan Sabindo ke SMK Kinarut di WSG Kinarut Show Gallery, Selasa.

Hadir sama Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi; Menteri Kerja Raya (Sabah), Datuk Seri Dr Joachim Gunsalam dan Ahli Parlimen Papar, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali serta barisan wakil rakyat setempat.

Hajiji berkata projek sepanjang 1.3 kilometer itu melibatkan pelebaran jalan daripada dua lorong kepada empat lorong dua hala bagi memperbaiki aliran trafik di laluan utama yang menghubungkan Kota Kinabalu dengan Papar.

“Selain pelebaran jalan, projek itu

turut merangkumi pembinaan jejantas pejalan kaki, laluan berbumbung ke sekolah, hentian bas dan perlindungan motosikal bagi meningkatkan keselamatan murid, pejalan kaki serta pengguna jalan raya,” katanya.

Sementara itu, Hajiji berkata kerajaan negeri akan memberikan kerjasama penuh dalam urusan pengambilan tanah dan pengalihan utiliti bagi memastikan projek dapat dilaksanakan mengikut jadual.

Beliau turut mengingatkan semua jabatan dan agensi utiliti berkaitan supaya bertindak segera menyelesaikan sebarang isu teknikal agar pelaksanaan projek tidak terganggu oleh kerenah birokrasi.

Katanya, pembangunan infrastruktur jalan raya yang cekap dan selamat bukan sahaja meningkatkan kesalinghubungan, malah menjadi pemangkin kepada pertumbuhan sosioekonomi, pelaburan dan sektor pelancongan.

Beliau yakin projek itu akan mengurangkan masa perjalanan serta merancakkan aktiviti ekonomi di Papar sejajar dengan aspirasi Hala Tuju Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ).

Menurutnya, Papar kini berkembang pesat hasil pelaksanaan pelbagai projek infrastruktur dan komersial, selain berpotensi menjadi lokasi persinggahan utama pelawat dari Brunei dan Sarawak apabila Lebuhraya Pan Borneo siap sepenuhnya.

Pada majlis sama, Hajiji turut mengumumkan kelulusan Projek Jambatan Papar Kedua serta Projek Kerja Keceemasan Penambakan Batu dan Tanah di sepanjang Tebing Sungai Intake Kogopon, termasuk kerja-kerja perlindungan tebing sungai yang dipohon Ahli Parlimen Papar, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, bagi meningkatkan kemudahan dan kesejahteraan rakyat di daerah itu.



HAJJI (empat dari kiri) bersama Alexander (tiga dari kiri), Armizan (dua dari kanan) serta kenamaan lain melakukan simbolik pecah tanah di majlis itu.

Sinergi erat Persekutuan, Sabah pastikan kelancaran projek

MENTERI Kerja Raya Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi menegaskan sinergi erat antara kerajaan Persekutuan dan Kerajaan Negeri Sabah penting bagi memastikan kelancaran serta kejayaan pelaksanaan projek infrastruktur terutamanya penghuraian trafik di daerah ini.

Katanya, penglibatan secara bersepadu pelbagai agensi dapat memastikan setiap perancangan berjalan mengikut garis masa yang ditetapkan demi kesejahteraan rakyat.

Menurut beliau, projek sepanjang kira-kira 1.5 kilometer itu dijadualkan siap dalam tempoh 24 bulan dengan kos RM70 juta yang daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak RM48 juta diperuntukkan bagi kerja pembinaan, RM17 juta untuk pengambilan tanah serta pampasan kepada pemilik premis yang terjejas, manakala RM9.6 juta lagi bagi kerja pengalihan utiliti.

“Ramai melihat jaraknya hanya 1.5 kilometer, tetapi kos keseluruhannya merangkumi pembinaan, pengambilan tanah dan pengalihan utiliti. Pampasan juga diberikan sewajarnya kepada pihak yang terjejas, manakala, pelaksanaan projek ini melibatkan kerja-kerja menaik taraf jalan tunggal dua lorong kepada jalan berkembar empat, dengan lorong dua hala.

“Skop kerja turut merangkumi pembinaan satu buah jejantas pejalan kaki, pemasangan lampu jalan dan lampu isyarat serta menaik taraf tiga buah persimpangan sedia ada daripada persimpangan bulatan kepada persimpangan berlampu isyarat, termasuk pembinaan tiga buah hentian bas, dua buah perlindungan motosikal, laluan berbumbung ke sekolah dan sistem perparitan.

“Projek ini akan dipantau secara rapi oleh Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) Sabah dengan sokongan Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) memandangkan ia dibiayai Kerajaan Persekutuan,” katanya di ketika ditemui di Majlis Pecah Tanah projek itu yang dirasmikan Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, di sini, Selasa.

Hadir sama Ahli Parlimen Papar, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, Adun Kawang, Datuk Ghulam Haider Khan Bahadar; Adun Pantai Manis, Datuk Pengiran Saifuddin Pengiran Tahir Petra dan Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan WSG, Datuk Susan Wong serta barisan tetamu kehormat lainnya.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Alexander berkata, pelaksanaan komponen kedua melibatkan projek Jalan Bypass Kampung Pengalat-Pekan Papar sejauh 13 kilometer, kini dalam proses reka bentuk dan *value engineering* yang akan dimuktamadkan sebelum tender dijangka dibuka pada hujung tahun ini.

Pada masa sama, katanya, pihaknya turut berharap Surat Setuju Terima (SST) untuk projek bernilai RM538 juta disalurkan kerajaan Persekutuan itu akan diserahkan pada awal Januari 2027.

“Kerja-kerja reka bentuk dan *value engineering* telah dibuat oleh JKR Malaysia, termasuk *value assessment* oleh Kementerian Ekonomi, seterusnya kita harap tender dibuat pada hujung tahun ini manakala, penyerahan SST pada awal tahun depan selepas semua proses perolehan selesai mengikut jadual,” katanya.

Sementara itu, Armizan yang juga Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri Dan Sara Hidup (KPDN) menyambut baik usaha semua pihak yang terlibat hingga projek naiktaraf laluan dari Bulatan

Sabindo ke SMK Kinarut dapat direalisasikan bagi mengurangkan masalah trafik yang semakin kritikal di laluan itu hingga mencecah 27,000 kenderaan sehari.

Katanya, perjalanan yang sepatutnya mengambil masa kira-kira 45 minit boleh mencecah hampir tiga jam ketika waktu puncak kerana laluan itu merupakan penghubung utama masyarakat dan pengguna jalan raya yang ditambah lagi dengan pembangunan semakin banyak di kawasan tersebut.

“Pada peringkat awal, pertimbangan hanya diberikan kepada jajaran baharu kerana kosnya lebih rendah, namun saya merayu supaya komponen laluan sedia ada ini turut dilaksanakan memandangkan ia menjadi titik kesesakan utama di Papar. Alhamdulillah, kerajaan meluluskan projek ini yang hari ini, kerja pelaksanaannya dimulakan,” katanya.

Beliau turut menyambut baik pelaksanaan projek Bypass Pengalat-Pekan Papar yang merangkumi pembinaan sebuah jambatan baharu merentasi Kampung Sungai Padang ke Pekan Papar di bawah peruntukan Kerajaan Persekutuan.

Pada masa sama, katanya, Kerajaan Negeri juga meluluskan pembinaan sebuah lagi jambatan baharu menghubungkan Kampung Buang Sayang ke Pekan Papar bersebelahan jambatan sedia ada.

“Dengan siapnya kedua-dua projek itu, Papar akan mempunyai tiga jambatan iaitu jambatan sedia ada serta dua jambatan baharu daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan dan Kerajaan Negeri yang dijangka dapat mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas di daerah ini,” katanya. – Iskandar Dzulkifli



HAJJI, Armizan dan rombongan mendengar taklimat daripada Chee (kanan).

Infra baharu air di Papar selesai isu bekalan menjelang akhir tahun

KERAJAAN Sabah menjangkakan Loji Rawatan Air (LRA) Kogopon dan loji air mentah Kabang dapat menyelesaikan masalah bekalan di Papar, Putatan dan Kimanis menjelang akhir tahun ini.

Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor berkata LRA Kogopon yang berkapasiti 80 juta liter sehari (JLH), serta loji baharu Kabang masing-masing dijangka mula beroperasi pada November dan Ogos.

Beliau telah mengarahkan Jabatan Air Negeri supaya memantau kedua-dua projek infrastruktur itu bagi memastikan ia siap sepenuhnya tanpa mengalami sebarang kelewatan lagi.

“Perlu lebih proaktif dalam menangani isu kekurangan air dengan menghantar lori tangki air ke kawasan terjejas bukan sahaja di sini tetapi di semua kawasan di negeri ini,” katanya dalam kenyataan selepas menghadiri taklimat mengenai kedua-dua projek berkenaan di Papar, Selasa.

Terdahulu, dalam satu taklimat Pen-

garah Jabatan Air Negeri Sabah Chee Chun Chieh memaklumkan bahawa LRA Kogopon yang bernilai RM365.9 juta itu akan mula menyalurkan bekalan air menjelang akhir November, dan dijangka siap sepenuhnya pada 2028.

Hajiji berkata walaupun masalah bekalan air negeri itu dianggap sebagai isu lama, sebagai sebuah kerajaan yang bertanggungjawab, pentadbiran semasa komited sepenuhnya untuk menanganinya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata loji pengambilan air Kabang bernilai RM39.73 juta kini telah mencapai 90 peratus siap dan dijadualkan mula beroperasi secara rasmi pada September tahun ini.

Dibina lebih jauh ke hulu Sungai Papar, loji pengambilan air baharu itu akan meningkatkan kapasiti daripada sembilan JLH kepada 30 JLH, serta mengelakkan masalah kemasinan yang sering menjejaskan loji sedia ada di Limbahau. – Bernama

127 pelajar cemerlang terima biasiswa negeri

KOTA KINABALU: Sebanyak 127 pelajar akan menerima biasiswa negeri Sabah dengan majlis penyampaian pada Khamis ini dijadualkan akan disempurnakan Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor.

Kumpulan Yayasan Sabah (KYS) dalam kenyataan hari ini memaklumkan penerima biasiswa itu terdiri daripada pelajar yang mencapai kecemerlangan akademik dalam pelbagai aliran pendidikan.

“50 penerima Anugerah Biasiswa Cemerlang Negeri Sabah (ABCNS) adalah pelajar cemerlang Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) yang akan menerima tajaan Yayasan Sabah.

“60 pelajar cemerlang Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) dan Matrikulasi akan menerima Biasiswa Kerajaan Negeri Sabah (BKNS) yang ditaja oleh Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam Negeri Sabah (JPANS).

“17 pelajar cemerlang Sijil Tinggi Agama Malaysia (STAM) akan menerima anugerah daripada Majlis Ugama Islam Sabah (MUIS) atas pencapaian akademik mereka yang luar biasa,” menurut kenyataan itu.

Majlis Penyampaian Anugerah Biasiswa Negeri Sabah siri ke-37 itu dianjurkan melalui usaha kolaboratif antara KYS, JPANS dan MUIS.

Pengarah KYS Datuk Seri Dr Gulamhaider @ Yusof Khan Bahadar dalam kenyataan sama berkata ABCNS ialah pengiktirafan terhadap kecemerlangan akademik pelajar serta menjadi pemangkin melahirkan generasi muda yang berdaya saing.

“Kami percaya generasi muda aset paling berharga negara. Masa depan Sabah bergantung kepada kemampuan kita untuk melahirkan golongan muda yang

berpengetahuan, berdaya tahan dan mempunyai integriti yang tinggi,” katanya.

Majlis penyampaian biasiswa itu dijangka dihadiri kira-kira 1,000 pelajar dari seluruh Kota Kinabalu sebagai platform inspirasi dan motivasi bagi memupuk budaya cemerlang dalam kalangan pelajar.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata 30 generasi muda Sabah akan menyertai program pembangunan bakat dalam sektor penjagaan kesihatan termasuk Diploma Sains Perubatan dan Kesihatan, Diploma Fisioterapi, Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains Teknologi Kardiovaskular.

Beliau berkata program itu sebahagian daripada kerjasama strategik melalui Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) antara Yayasan Sabah, Institut Jantung Negara (IJN) dan Kolej Universiti IJN pada 7 April.

Rakyat Sabah, Sarawak perlu hayati tiga tarikh penting

Gerry Lewis

BAU (Sarawak): Rakyat Sabah dan Sarawak perlu terus menghayati sejarah sebenar pembentukan Malaysia serta memperkukuh perpaduan berasaskan tiga tarikh penting yang menjadi asas kepada pembentukan negara ini, kata Presiden Forum Dayak Borneo (BDF) Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan (**gambar**).

Beliau berkata tiga tarikh berkenaan ialah 22 Julai 1963 (Hari Sarawak), 31 Ogos 1963 (Hari Sabah) dan 16 September 1963 (Hari Malaysia).

Berucap ketika merasmikan Sambutan Hari Sarawak 722 dan Perarakan Kebudayaan Tasik Biru 2026 di sini pada 22 Julai, Ahli Parlimen Keningau dan Adun Tambunan itu berkata konsep asal pembentukan Malaysia adalah untuk memberikan kemerdekaan atau pemerintahan sendiri kepada Sarawak dan Sabah terlebih dahulu sebelum keduanya bergabung dengan Tanah Melayu bagi membentuk sebuah persekutuan baharu, iaitu Malaysia.

“Perjuangan pemimpin terdahulu berasaskan prinsip ‘Merdeka Dahulu,



Kemudian Bentuk Malaysia’. Namun, proses itu berubah apabila Perjanjian Malaysia 1963 (MA63) ditandatangani pada 9 Julai 1963, sedangkan rundingan mengenai penubuhan Malaysia masih belum dimuktamadkan.

“Sarawak mencapai pemerintahan sendiri pada 22 Julai 1963, manakala Sabah pada 31 Ogos 1963 sebelum keduanya bergabung dengan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu dan Singapura untuk membentuk Malaysia pada 16 September 1963,” katanya.

Jeffrey berkata dalam Deklarasi Malaysia bertarikh 16 September 1963, Sabah dan Sarawak dirujuk sebagai entiti yang telah mempunyai kerajaan sendiri sebelum bergabung dengan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu bagi membentuk Malaysia.

Beliau berkata kedudukan itu bagaimanapun berubah susulan pindaan Perlembagaan Persekutuan pada 1976 yang meletakkan taraf Sabah dan Sarawak setara dengan negeri-negeri lain di Tanah Melayu.

Menurutnya, pindaan Perkara 1(2) Perlembagaan Persekutuan yang berkuat kuasa pada 2021 merupakan langkah penting ke arah memulihkan kedudukan Sabah dan Sarawak sebagai wilayah pengasas atau rakan pengasas yang setara

dengan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu dalam pembentukan Malaysia.

Jeffrey turut mengimbau penglibatan awalnya memperjuangkan pengiktirafan Hari Sarawak sekitar 2010 apabila beliau bersama beberapa aktivis menyertai perarakan mengibarkan bendera Sarawak di Padang Merdeka, Kuching ketika sambutan itu belum diiktiraf secara rasmi.

Menurutnya, walaupun berdepan pelbagai cabaran pada peringkat awal, usaha berterusan akhirnya membuahkan hasil apabila kerajaan Sarawak mengisytiharkan 22 Julai sebagai Hari Sarawak dan menjadikannya cuti umum bermula 2016.

Beliau berkata kejayaan itu turut menjadi inspirasi kepada Sabah untuk terus memperjuangkan pengiktirafan Hari Sabah, yang akhirnya diwartakan secara rasmi pada 5 Jun 2024 selepas beliau mengemukakan cadangan itu kepada Kabinet Negeri ketika menjadi sebahagian daripada kerajaan negeri.

“Sabah dan Sarawak perlu terus berg-erak sebagai satu pasukan kerana kedua-dua wilayah berkongsi sejarah, hak dan kepentingan yang sama. Perpaduan adalah kunci utama untuk memastikan hak Sabah dan Sarawak terus dipertahankan demi generasi akan datang,” katanya.



ANGGOTA operasi memotong sambungan haram yang dikesan.

43 sambungan paip air haram dipotong di S’kan

Mardinah Jikur

SANDAKAN: Jabatan Air Sabah mengesan dan memotong 43 sambungan paip air haram menerusi operasi bersepadu berskala besar yang dilaksanakan di dua kawasan setinggan dekat Batu 3, di sini, pada Selasa.

Dua unit pam air turut disita dan satu tangkapan dibuat dalam operasi sama dimana kesalahan tersebut akan disiasat dibawah Seksyen 49(b), Enakmen Bekalan Air Sabah 2003. Pesalah yang disabit kesalahan boleh didenda sebanyak RM 100,000 dan penjara tidak melebihi tempoh satu tahun, atau kedua-duanya sekali.

Operasi mega berkenaan, yang diketuai Ketua Penolong Pengarah, Cawangan Pengutkuasaan dan Keselamatan Jabatan Air Sabah, ASP/PB Azmie Sabli itu melibatkan 89 anggota daripada 18 agensi pengutkuasaan kerajaan persekutuan dan negeri, berserta petugas media.

Jabatan menegakan operasi itu antara lain bertujuan untuk membanteras sambungan paip yang menyalahi undang-

undang serta mengekang krisis kehilangan air yang tidak berhasil (NRW) yang kritikal di Sandakan.

Operasi itu turut memfokuskan kepada pengesanan, pemotongan dan pengutkuasaan undang-undang terhadap manipulasi sistem bekalan air.

Operasi sama turut mengesan kawasan sumber air itu yang telah ditutup dengan semak samun dan tertutup, selain terdapat sambungan wayar elektrik haram.

Serentak itu, pihak Sabah Electricity turut mengesan dan memotong 40 sambungan haram wayar elektrik seberat 82 kilogram dalam operasi berkenaan.

Manakala pihak Majlis Perbandaran Sandakan mengeluarkan tiga kompaun kesalahan dan merampas 11 pek rokok dipercayai tidak bercukai semasa pemeriksaan dalam operasi sama di kampung setinggan itu.

Jabatan Air Sabah menegakkan operasi pemantauan ini akan diteruskan di kawasan hotspot lain bagi memastikan bekalan air bersih tidak terjejas untuk pengguna yang sah di sekitar daerah ini.

Tingkatan Enam kekal di bawah pengurusan KPM

PUTRAJAYA: Sistem pengurusan prauniversiti Tingkatan Enam dikekalkan di bawah Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) buat masa ini bagi memastikan kelancaran pelaksanaan sistem sedia ada, kata Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Beliau berkata keputusan itu dibuat dengan mengambil kira beberapa aspek melibatkan pengurusan pelajar Tingkatan Enam selain skim berkaitan perkhidmatan guru.

“Buat masa sekarang, saya putuskan supaya prauniversiti Tingkatan Enam masih di bawah KPM,” katanya ketika berucap pada perjumpaan Perdana Menteri bersama warga KPM di sini, Selasa.

Turut hadir Menteri Pendidikan Fadhlina Sidek, Ketua Setiausaha Negara Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar dan Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

Sebelum ini, Anwar dilaporkan berkata Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi (KPT) akan mengambil alih sepenuhnya sistem pendidikan prauniversiti membabitkan Tingkatan 6 dan Matrikulasi bermula tahun depan.

Mengulas lanjut, Perdana Menteri berkata walaupun Tingkatan Enam kekal di bawah KPM, pelajarinya perlu mempunyai identiti tersendiri sebagai pelajar pasca sekolah dan prauniversiti.

“Kalau pun dalam satu sekolah, Tingkatan Enam itu harus ada blok berasingan dan kemudian minta pengetua urus ini sebagai satu projek yang berasingan.

“Jangan dimasukkan kalau umpamanya



(pelajar Tingkatan Enam) dalam perhimpunan, biar perhimpunan itu untuk Tingkatan Lima ke bawah,” katanya.

Beliau berkata pendekatan itu penting bagi mewujudkan suasana pembelajaran yang mencerminkan kedudukan sebenar pelajar Tingkatan Enam sebagai laluan ke pendidikan tinggi.

Pada masa sama, Anwar berkata kerajaan tidak menolak kemungkinan untuk mengkaji semula cadangan meletakkan Tingkatan Enam di bawah KPT pada masa hadapan apabila sistem dan pelaksanaannya lebih bersedia.

“Kita boleh kaji semula setelah pelaksanaan ini untuk beberapa tahun akan datang kalau dirasakan perlu, dalam keadaan pelajar boleh pergi ke kolej-kolej khas Tingkatan Enam di tempat lain,” katanya.

Sementara itu, Anwar berkata Bantuan Am Persekolahan (BAmP) di bawah Kumpulan Wang Amanah Pelajar Miskin (KWAPM) diperluaskan kepada pelajar Tingkatan Enam tahun ini, melibatkan peruntukan berjumlah RM4.96 juta.

Beliau berkata perluasan BAmP itu memberi manfaat kepada lebih 31,000 pelajar daripada keluarga miskin tegar.

“Saya sudah bincang dengan KSP (Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan). Jadi, untuk pelajar Tahun Satu hingga Tingkatan Lima itu diteruskan bantuan kerajaan (di bawah BAmP).

“Untuk Tingkatan Enam yang memanfaatkan lebih 30,000 pelajar sekarang ini, kita akan berikan bantuan (BAmP) yang sama,” katanya.

Bantuan KWAPM terdiri daripada dua jenis iaitu BAmP sebanyak RM150 untuk sekolah menengah dan RM100 bagi sekolah rendah manakala Bantuan Kecemasan (BK) berjumlah RM300. – Bernama

Pelajar hilang ditemukan selamat

Sisca Humphrey

KOTA KINABALU: Seorang remaja perempuan berusia 13 tahun yang dilaporkan hilang selepas gagal pulang ke rumah, ditemukan selamat.

Pemangku Ketua Polis Daerah Kota Kinabalu Supt Syed Lot Syed Ab Rahman berkata Gwynne Mia Erbin ditemukan kira-kira 3 petang Selasa di hadapan rumah rakannya di Lorong Seri Pelangi, Inanam.

“Remaja itu ditemui bersendirian dalam keadaan sihat serta tidak mengalami sebarang kecederaan,” katanya dalam kenyataan.

Beliau berkata siasatan awal mendapati remaja itu tinggal di rumah rakannya

sejak sehari sebelumnya.

Menurutnya, ibu mangsa kemudian membawanya ke Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Kota Kinabalu untuk membuat laporan susulan.

Katanya, siasatan lanjut berhubung kes itu masih diteruskan.

Beliau turut menasihati orang ramai supaya tidak membuat sebarang spekulasi atau menyebarkan maklumat yang belum disahkan kerana boleh menjejaskan siasatan.

Syed Lot turut merakamkan penghargaan kepada orang ramai atas kerjasama menyalurkan maklumat serta membantu menyebarkan hebahan mengenai kehilangan remaja itu.

Mayat bayi baru lahir ditemui

PENAMPANG: Polis sedang menyiasat penemuan mayat seorang bayi perempuan yang baru dilahirkan di Kampung Goliga Kolopsis di sini, kira-kira 11.52 pagi Selasa.

Ketua Polis Daerah Penampang Supt Sammy Newton berkata sepasukan polis bergegas ke lokasi kejadian sejurus menerima maklumat mengenai penemuan mayat bayi itu.

Beliau berkata siasatan awal mendapati bayi perempuan berkenaan, yang dipercayai dilahirkan tidak cukup bulan, ditemukan berhampiran rumah pengadu.

“Pasukan Forensik dari Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Kontinjen Sabah serta Unit K-9 turut dikerahkan ke lokasi bagi membantu siasatan,” katanya dalam kenyataan.

Beliau berkata mayat bayi itu dihantar ke Jabatan Forensik Hospital Queen Elizabeth, Kota Kinabalu untuk bedah siasat

dan tindakan lanjut.

Menurutnya, polis sedang berusaha mengesan individu yang bertanggungjawab serta menjalankan siasatan menyeluruh bagi mengenal pasti punca kejadian dan membawa mereka yang terbabit ke muka pengadilan.

Orang ramai yang mempunyai maklumat berkaitan kes itu diminta tampil membantu siasatan dengan menghubungi pegawai penyiasat Insp Mohamad Anis Abdullah di talian 013-6365734 atau membuat laporan di balai polis berhampiran.

Beliau turut menasihatkan orang ramai supaya tidak membuat sebarang spekulasi atau menyebarkan maklumat yang belum disahkan di media sosial kerana boleh menjejaskan siasatan yang sedang dijalankan.

Jangan lindungi kes buli demi jaga imej, prestasi sekolah: PM

PUTRAJAYA: Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sekali lagi menegaskan bahawa pihak pengurusan sekolah supaya tidak melindungi kes buli atau penderaan semata-mata untuk menjaga imej dan prestasi institusi pendidikan masing-masing.

Beliau berkata tindakan menyembunyikan kes sedemikian hanya akan memburukkan keadaan kerana masalah yang pada awalnya kecil boleh menyebabkan menjadi kezaliman lebih serius jika tidak ditangani segera.

“Kezaliman itu bermula di situ (buli dan keganasan). Tindakan ganas, gopoh dan zalim bermula di situ. Sebab itu di peringkat awal, perkara itu mesti dibetulkan walau sebesar atau sekecil mana sekalipun,” katanya ketika berucap pada perjumpaan Perdana Menteri bersama warga Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) di sini, Selasa.

Anwar turut menegaskan bahawa pengetua dan guru besar perlu bersikap terbuka dalam menangani isu buli serta tidak menganggap pendedahan sesuatu kes sebagai perkara yang mencemarkan reputasi sekolah.

Beliau berkata kejadian buli yang berlaku di sesebuah sekolah tidak bermakna institusi pendidikan itu gagal secara keseluruhan, sebaliknya insiden berkenaan perlu dilihat sebagai isu yang memerlukan tindakan segera.

“Saya di ruang ini mengingatkan pengetua dan guru besar supaya menjadikan perkara ini sebagai satu sikap yang amat penting. Tidak bermakna apabila berlaku satu kes yang heboh satu negara, bermakna sekolah itu gagal.

“Saya tidak mewakili pandangan itu. Kalau guru besar memilih untuk mendedahkan, saya hormat dia kerana dia tidak cuba melindungi imej sekolah, jaga prestasi sekolah,” katanya.

Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan turut mengingatkan bahawa keselamatan dan kesejahteraan murid perlu sentiasa menjadi keutamaan kerana ibu bapa menghantar anak masing-masing ke sekolah dengan harapan mereka berada dalam persekitaran yang selamat.

Sementara itu, Perdana Menteri berkata maklum balas diterima secara langsung daripada murid ketika turun ke lapangan sering memberikan gambaran lebih jelas mengenai keadaan sebenar di sekolah.

Beliau berkata maklumat yang dikongsi murid adakalanya berbeza daripada laporan rasmi kerana pihak pengurusan perlu mengambil kira pelbagai faktor sebelum memberikan penjelasan.

“Anak-anak ini saya senang sebab saya anggap macam cucu-cucu saya yang dia cerita lurus.

“Kalau tanya KP (Ketua Pengarah), (jawapan) dia dah lapik-lapik sikit sebab dia nak pertahan. Pergi ke sekolah tanya pengetua, pergi ke pengarah pendidikan, mereka juga terpaksa (menjelaskan) semuanya okay,” katanya.

Turut hadir pada majlis perjumpaan itu ialah Menteri Pendidikan Fadhlina Sidek, Ketua Setiausaha Negara Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar dan Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz. – Bernama

K’jaan lulus RM1.7b ganti 1,800km paip kritikal di bawah RMK13

KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan Persekutuan meluluskan peruntukan sebanyak RM1.7 bilion di bawah Rancangan Malaysia Ke-13 (RMK13), bagi membiayai program penggantian kira-kira 1,800 kilometer (km) paip air kritikal di seluruh negara, sepanjang tempoh 2026 hingga 2030.

Timbalan Menteri Peralihan Tenaga dan Transformasi Air Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad berkata program itu, memberi keutamaan kepada penggantian paip jenis asbestos cement (AC) dan paip kritikal lain yang telah melepasi jangka hayat reka bentuk, seterusnya mengurangkan kadar Air Tidak Terhasil (NRW).

“Melalui pelaksanaan program ini, kerajaan komited untuk memperkukuh daya tahan sistem bekalan air negara melalui pembaharuan aset secara berperingkat, mengurangkan kadar NRW, serta memastikan setiap kerja penggantian dilaksanakan dengan mematuhi standard keselamatan yang tinggi, demi kesejahteraan rakyat,” katanya pada sesi soal jawab di Dewan Negara, Selasa.

Beliau menjawab soalan Senator Datuk Wu Him Ven mengenai pelan tindakan kerajaan dalam pelaksanaan penggantian paip air jenis AC.

Mengenai statistik kadar NRW bagi tahun 2025 hingga 2026, Abdul Rahman berkata kadar NRW bagi Semenanjung



Malaysia dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan mencatatkan 34.4 peratus, manakala kadar bagi tahun 2026 hanya dapat dimuktamadkan selepas tamat tahun pelaporan.

Mengenai aspek keselamatan pekerjaan berhubung pelepasan habuk asbestos, beliau berkata semua kerja-kerja penggantian paip wajib mengikut peraturan yang ditetapkan Jabatan Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (DOSH).

Menjawab soalan tambahan Senator Phooong Jin Zhe berhubung inisiatif penggantian paip air kritikal di Sabah, Abdul Rahman berkata negeri itu mencatatkan sepanjang 110.4km paip yang memerlukan pembaikan segera dengan anggaran kos RM99.35 juta.

Beliau berkata selain penggantian paip berkenaan, kerja-kerja menangani kadar NRW di Sabah turut melibatkan peruntukan sebanyak RM558,000. – Bernama

Matta Fair kembali 4 – 6 Sept

KUALA LUMPUR: Persatuan Ejen Pelancongan dan Pengembaraan Malaysia (Matta) akan menganjurkan Matta Fair ke-59 di Pusat Pameran dan Perdagangan Antarabangsa Malaysia (Mitec) di sini dari 4 hingga 6 Sept ini, yang menghimpunkan pemain industri pelancongan menerusi platform sehati untuk pengguna.

Diadakan bersempena dengan Kempen Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026 sebagai Rakan Strategik, acara selama tiga hari itu dijangka meliputi lebih 40,820 meter persegi merentasi 10 dewan pameran, menghimpunkan agensi pelancongan berlesen, organisasi pelancongan kebangsaan, syarikat penerbangan, hotel, pusat perangi-nan, taman tema serta penyedia perkhidmatan pelancongan lain di bawah satu bumbung.

Pameran itu akan menampilkan lebih 2,026 reruai daripada 285 syarikat yang mengambil bahagian, dengan penyertaan pemamer dijangka terus meningkat dalam tempoh beberapa minggu menjelang acara berkenaan.

Presiden Matta Nigel Wong berkata pameran itu terus memberi inspirasi kepada generasi rakyat Malaysia untuk meneroka destinasi antarabangsa di samping mengenali semula produk pelancongan negara. “Selama beberapa dekad, Matta Fair telah

memberi inspirasi kepada beberapa generasi rakyat Malaysia untuk meneroka dunia dan mengenali semula keindahan negara kita sendiri. Dengan Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026 sebagai Rakan Strategik, kami kekal komited menghubungkan orang ramai dengan anggota Matta yang dipercayai.

“Bersama-sama rakan strategik, kami menantikan kehadiran lebih ramai pelancong dan menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan sektor pelancongan Malaysia,” katanya menerusi kenyataan Selasa.

Edisi pada September itu juga akan menyaksikan kesinambungan kerjasama dengan RHB Bank Berhad sebagai Rakan Bank Rasmi serta Malaysia Aviation Group sebagai Rakan Syarikat Penerbangan Rasmi dan Penaja Premier, dengan pengumuman lanjut akan dibuat menjelang penganjuran acara itu.

Sementara itu, Peraduan Pembeli Matta Fair yang popular akan diadakan semula, membolehkan pengunjung berpeluang memenangi pelbagai hadiah, dengan setiap perbelanjaan RM100 pada pameran itu melayakkan mereka menerima satu penyertaan dalam peraduan berkenaan.

Kemasukan ke pameran itu adalah percuma dan ia akan dibuka setiap hari dari 10 pagi hingga 9 malam sepanjang penganjuran acara selama tiga hari itu. – Bernama

Teknologi digital mesti hasilkan nilai nyata: Masidi

Wu Vui Tek
KOTA KINABALU: Kecerdasan buatan (AI) dan transformasi digital mesti menghasilkan penambahbaikan yang boleh diukur kepada perniagaan, bukannya diterima pakai semata-mata kerana teknologi itu sendiri, kata Timbalan Ketua Menteri II Datuk Seri Masidi Manjun.

Menteri Kewangan Sabah itu berkata teknologi digital seharusnya menyelesaikan masalah operasi, meningkatkan produktiviti dan mewujudkan nilai nyata sekali gus membolehkan perniagaan bersaing dengan lebih berkesan dalam ekonomi yang semakin saling berhubung.

Masidi berkata demikian ketika menyaksikan majlis menandatangani Memorandum Perjanjian (MoA) antara Pengarah Sri Komputer Hiew Chee Fah dan Pengarah Infor (Malaysia dan Indonesia) Khoo Chee Wei di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Sabah (SICC).

Beliau berkata kerjasama antara syarikat teknologi tempatan dan penyedia teknologi antarabangsa mampu memperkukuh daya saing, inovasi dan produktiviti Sabah sekiranya ia menghasilkan manfaat praktikal kepada perniagaan dan industri.

“Transformasi digital bukan lagi sekadar soal menerima pakai teknologi. Ia mesti menyelesaikan masalah sebenar, memperbaiki cara organisasi beroperasi dan mewujudkan nilai yang nyata,” katanya.

Masidi berkata teknologi seperti kecerdasan buatan, pengkomputeran awan, analitik data dan automasi pintar kini mengubah cara syarikat merancang operasi, mengurus sumber, memberi perkhidmatan kepada pelanggan serta bersaing di pasaran serantau dan global.

Katanya, perniagaan di Sabah perlu memanfaatkan teknologi ini bagi meningkatkan kecekapan, mengurangkan kos operasi, mengukuhkan rantaian bekalan dan membuat keputusan yang lebih tepat berdasarkan maklumat.

Tambah beliau, keupayaan itu juga amat penting kepada perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) yang ingin berkembang, menyertai rantaian nilai yang lebih besar serta menembusi pasaran di luar Sabah.

Begaimanapun, Masidi menegaskan teknologi semata-mata tidak menjamin kemajuan.

Beliau berkata kejayaan transformasi digital bergantung kepada keupayaan men-



MASIDI (tengah) menyaksikan pertukaran MoA antara Hiew (kiri) dan Khoo (dua dari kanan).

genal pasti keperluan operasi, melaksanakan sistem yang sesuai, membangunkan tenaga kerja yang berkemahiran serta memastikan pelaksanaan yang berdisiplin.

Masidi berkata kerjasama antara syarikat teknologi antarabangsa dan rakan tempatan akan membantu memastikan penyelesaian digital yang dibangunkan benar-benar relevan dengan persekitaran perniagaan di Sabah serta dapat dilaksanakan secara berkesan.

Beliau berkata Kerajaan Negeri mengalukan inisiatif sektor swasta yang menyumbang kepada pemodenan ekonomi Sabah menerusi pengukuhan keupayaan tempatan, peluang pekerjaan bernilai tinggi, peningkatan kecekapan serta pelaburan yang bertanggungjawab.

Pada masa sama, katanya, organisasi perlu memastikan kecerdasan buatan digunakan secara bertanggungjawab dengan memberi perhatian sewajarnya kepada aspek keselamatan siber, perlindungan data, ketelusan, akauntabiliti dan pemantauan oleh manusia.

“Teknologi seharusnya memperkukuh pertimbangan yang baik, bukannya mengantikannya,” katanya.

Masidi turut menekankan kepentingan membangunkan tenaga kerja digital Sabah sendiri.

Katanya, ekonomi digital yang mampan tidak boleh bergantung sepenuhnya kepada kepakaran luar, sebaliknya memerlukan pelaburan lebih besar dalam latihan,

pemindahan pengetahuan dan pembangunan profesional secara berterusan.

Beliau berharap perjanjian itu akan membuka peluang kepada rakyat Sabah memperoleh kemahiran dalam teknologi perusahan di samping membolehkan syarikat tempatan membina kepakaran dalam integrasi sistem, pelaksanaan serta sokongan teknikal.

Katanya, penyertaan syarikat tempatan perlu berkembang secara berperingkat ke arah peranan teknikal, pengurusan dan inovasi yang bernilai tinggi.

Masidi berkata kejayaan perjanjian itu akhirnya akan diukur berdasarkan pelaksanaan, termasuk peningkatan produktiviti, pengukuhan bakat tempatan serta manfaat ekonomi yang berkekalan kepada Sabah.

Beliau menggesa Sri Komputer dan Infor meneruskan kerjasama itu dengan komitmen terhadap profesionalisme, penyampaian perkhidmatan berkualiti, pemindahan pengetahuan dan pembangunan keupayaan jangka panjang.

Beliau turut menggalakkan syarikat-syarikat menilai teknologi baharu berdasarkan nilai praktikal serta keupayaannya untuk meningkatkan operasi.

“Kemajuan digital Sabah tidak akan dicapai melalui slogan atau teknologi semata-mata. Ia hanya akan dicapai menerusi matlamat yang jelas, pelaburan yang bijak-sana, tenaga kerja yang berkeupayaan serta kerjasama yang benar-benar memberikan hasil.”

Kebanyakan pengguna ‘Beli Sekarang, Bayar Kemudian’ bawah 30 tahun

JUMLAH pemegang akaun Beli Sekarang, Bayar Kemudian (BNPL) mencecah lapan juta pada suku pertama tahun 2026.

Seramai lapan juta rakyat Malaysia mempunyai akaun aktif dan 40 peratus daripada pengguna berusia 30 tahun ke bawah. Ini merupakan kumpulan yang mudah terdedah. Fikirkan sejenak.

Bilakah kali terakhir kita benar-benar merasakan nilai pembelian sebanyak RM40? Jika menggunakan wang tunai, kita menghulurkan wang kertas.

Namun dengan BNPL, ia hanya sekadar angka di skrin, satu janji bahawa “diri kita pada masa depan” akan menyelesaikannya.

Inilah perangkap “sekadar satu lagi sentuhan”.

Pembelian kecil seperti ini ibarat titisan air. Secara individu, ia kelihatan tidak berbahaya tetapi apabila terkumpul, ia mampu menenggelamkan kita.

Ahli ekonomi tingkah laku mempunyai istilah untuk fenomena ini iaitu “kesakitan ketika membayar secara tunai” namun BNPL menghapuskan rasa itu sepenuhnya.

Apabila berbelanja tidak lagi terasa



membebankan, kita akan berbelanja lebih banyak dan akhirnya tanpa sedar terjatuh dalam hutang.

Inilah kos tersembunyi yang jarang diperkatakan. Jadi, apakah yang sebenarnya sedang kita lakukan untuk menanganinya?

Penubuhan Suruhanjaya Kredit Pengguna oleh kerajaan merupakan satu langkah ke arah yang betul.

Mewajibkan penyedia perkhidmatan mendapatkan lesen serta menyemak sama ada pengguna benar-benar mampu membeli sesuatu barangan adalah langkah yang baik. Ketelusan mengenai fi dan pengiklanan yang bertanggungjawab juga amat diperlukan.

Buat masa ini, jumlah hutang sebanyak RM5.3 bilion belum lagi menjadi satu krisis. Belum, tetapi ia merupakan satu amaran.

Prihatin

Suami isteri ditahan di Tawau disyaki dera bayi dua bulan

Amir Anuar

TAWAU: Sepasang suami isteri warga asing yang mendakwa kecederaan dialami bayi perempuan mereka yang berusia dua bulan berpunca daripada terjatuh dikhuatiri berbohong selepas doktor mendapati kecederaan bayi itu tidak sepadan dengan penjelasan mereka.

Pemangku Ketua Polis Daerah Tawau Supt Wilynton Enchana Watt berkata kenyataan awal pasangan itu didapati mencurigakan selepas doktor yang merawat mangsa menemui kesan lebam di dahi kiri, kesan gigitan pada pipi kanan serta bengkok di bahagian belakang kepala bayi terabiti.

“Laporan polis dibuat selepas nenek mangsa memaklumkan kepada doktor bertugas di Hospital Tawau bahawa kecederaan cucunya berkemungkinan besar berpunca daripada penderaan yang dilakukan oleh kedua-dua suspek,” katanya pada Selasa.

Susulan itu, polis menahan pasangan berkenaan iaitu seorang lelaki berusia 30an dan seorang wanita berusia 18 tahun bagi membantu siasatan.

Beliau berkata bayi itu pada mulanya dibawa ke Jabatan Kecemasan Hospital Tawau oleh ibu bapa dan neneknya untuk mendapatkan rawatan sebelum pemeriksaan mendapati kecederaan yang dialami tidak mungkin berpunca daripada terjatuh seperti didakwa kedua-dua suspek.

“Kedua-dua suspek dipercayai melakukan perbuatan itu di Batu 8, Jalan Apas pada Isnin yang kemudiannya membawa kepada penahanan mereka pada jam 11.45 malam oleh sepasukan anggota dari Bahagian Siasatan Jenayah Daerah di pekarangan Hospital Tawau,” katanya.

Menurutnya, kertas siasatan dibuka mengikut Seksyen 31(1)(a) Akta Kanak-Kanak 2001 membabitkan penganiayaan dan penderaan terhadap kanak-kanak selain Seksyen 6(1)(c) Akta Imigresen 1959/63 kerana kedua-dua suspek tidak memiliki dokumen pengenalan diri yang sah.

Wilynton turut memuji Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), khususnya pegawai perubatan Hospital Tawau atas tindakan pantas mengesan kecederaan mangsa dan memaklumkan kepada polis sehingga membolehkan tindakan susulan diambil segera.

“Kami memandang serius sebarang bentuk kes penderaan kanak-kanak dan tidak akan berkompromi dalam mengesan serta mengambil tindakan terhadap mereka yang bertanggungjawab mendera atau menganiaya kanak-kanak,” katanya.

Tambahnya, orang ramai yang mempunyai maklumat mengenai kes penderaan atau pengabaian kanak-kanak diminta segera membuat laporan kepada polis supaya tindakan pantas dapat diambil bagi melindungi keselamatan dan kebajikan mangsa yang terlibat.

Gesaan percepat langkah atasi masalah di HQE

KOTA KINABALU: Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (Adun) Likas Tham Yun Fook



(gambar) menggesa Kerajaan Negeri mempercepatkan pelaksanaan langkah-langkah bagi menangani kekurangan ruang parkir dan kesesakan lalu lintas di Hospital Queen Elizabeth (HQE), Hospital Queen Elizabeth 2 (HQE2) dan Klinik Kesihatan Luyang.

Dalam satu kenyataan, Tham mengalu-alukan maklum balas Kementerian Wanita, Kesihatan dan Kesejahteraan Rakyat terhadap soalan yang dikemukakankannya di Dewan Undangan Negeri (Dun) Sabah.

“Kementerian mengakui isu ini memberi kesan kepada pesakit, pelawat dan petugas kesihatan serta memerlukan penyelesaian jangka pendek dan jangka panjang,” katanya.

Beliau berkata antara langkah yang diumumkan kementerian ialah pembinaan bangunan parkir bertingkat di HQE di bawah projek naik taraf Hospital Queen Elizabeth dalam Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK-12).

Inisiatif lain termasuk pengasingan laluan khas untuk ambulans dan kenderaan kecemasan bagi mengurangkan kesesakan dalam kawasan hospital, perbincangan dengan

Khazanah Sabah Berhad mengenai penyediaan kawasan parkir sementara berhampiran HQE2 serta penambahan 419 petak parkir di bawah projek Pusat Jantung Sabah.

Kementerian juga sedang menilai cadangan pembinaan sebuah lagi kemudahan penjagaan kesihatan di sepanjang sempadan Kota Kinabalu-Penampang bagi memenuhi permintaan yang semakin meningkat terhadap perkhidmatan kesihatan.

Tham berkata beliau berharap langkah-langkah yang dirancang itu dapat diterjemahkan kepada tindakan nyata dalam tempoh yang munasabah.

“Penduduk Likas, Luyang dan kawasan sekitarnya sekian lama berdepan kesesakan

lalu lintas yang bukan sahaja menjejaskan keselesaan malah boleh menghalang akses kepada perkhidmatan kesihatan khususnya ketika kecemasan,” katanya.

Beliau turut menggesa kerajaan supaya mempercepatkan pelaksanaan langkah jangka pendek termasuk menyediakan kawasan parkir sementara, menambah baik aliran trafik dan mempertingkatkan perkhidmatan pengangkutan awam ke kemudahan kesihatan sementara projek-projek berskala besar sedang dilaksanakan.

Tham berkata beliau akan terus memantau pelaksanaan langkah-langkah yang diumumkan bagi memastikan kepentingan rakyat sentiasa menjadi keutamaan.

Usia terus perkukuh jaringan strategik dengan institusi Islam antarabangsa: Sapawi

Iskandar Dzulkifli



KUALA LUMPUR: Pertubuhan Islam Seluruh Sabah (Usia) terus memperkukuh jaringan strategik bersama tokoh dan institusi Islam di peringkat nasional sebagai usaha memperkasakan agenda dakwah, pembangunan ummah serta pengurusan wakaf yang lebih berkesan dan mampan.

Yang Dipertuanya Datuk Sapawi Ahmad (gambar) berkata komitmen itu diteruskan menerusi pertemuan dengan Pengerusi Majlis Hukama Muslimin Malaysia, Datuk Mohd Nakhaie Ahmad, sempena Majlis Malam Mufti Bermuzakarah yang diadakan bersempena Pra-Konvensyen Wakaf Dakwah Antarabangsa 2026.

Katanya, pertemuan berkenaan menjadi platform penting bagi bertukar pandangan mengenai pelbagai cabaran semasa yang dihadapi umat Islam, selain membincangkan pendekatan lebih berkesan dalam memperkukuh pelaksanaan dakwah, memperkasa institusi wakaf dan memperluaskan kerjasama antara organisasi Islam.

“Usia sentiasa terbuka untuk menjalin kerjasama strategik dengan pelbagai institusi, pertubuhan dan tokoh ilmuwan bagi memastikan agenda dakwah terus diperkasakan selaras dengan keperluan masyarakat semasa.

“Pada masa sama, jaringan seumpama ini penting bagi memperkukuhkan syiar Islam serta meningkatkan keberkesanan program pembangunan ummah di Sabah dan negara secara keseluruhannya,” katanya pada Pra-Konvensyen Wakaf Dak-

Keharmonian pelbagai etnik Sabah perkukuh perpaduan

KOTA KINABALU: Di sebalik kepelbagaian kaum, budaya dan kepercayaan, rakyat Sabah berkongsi satu nilai yang sama, iaitu semangat perpaduan.

Keharmonian antara pelbagai etnik merupakan aset penting dalam memastikan kestabilan sesebuah negara dan Sabah membuktikan kepelbagaian lebih daripada 30 etnik yang dipupuk melalui toleransi mampu melahirkan masyarakat yang bersatu padu.

Pensyarah Kanan Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Profesor Madya Dr Romzi Ationg berkata ikatan sosial yang kukuh antara kaum seperti Kadazan Dusun, Bajau, Murut, Cina dan Melayu menjadi tunjang kestabilan negeri.

“Apabila hubungan antara etnik dipelihara menerusi sikap toleransi dan saling menghormati, risiko konflik dapat diminimumkan.

“Keadaan ini sekali gus mewujudkan persekitaran sosial yang selamat serta kondusif untuk pembangunan mampan,” katanya kepada Bernama bersempena dengan sambutan Hari Kebangsaan dan Hari Malaysia 2026 bertemakan ‘Malaysia Madani: Kesejahteraan Dinikmati’. - Bernama

Bantuan kacamata untuk pelajar Matunggong

Noor Zafira Zayn

MATUNGGONG: Kerajaan Negeri terus komited memperkasakan pembangunan modal insan menerusi pelaksanaan program kesihatan komuniti dalam memelihara kebajikan serta pasca-pembelajaran generasi muda di luar bandar.

Pengerusi Majlis Penasihat Wanita Sabah (MPWS) Datuk Dr. Rosmawati Lasuki berkata golongan ini merupakan aset bernilai yang bakal memacu kemajuan masa hadapan dan pelaburan terhadap aspek kebajikan dan kesihatan mereka perlu sentiasa diberi keutamaan.

“Aspek kesihatan tidak hanya merangkumi pemakanan dan fizikal semata-mata malah penglihatan yang baik menjadi asas utama kelancaran proses pembelajaran di dalam bilik darjah.

“Sekiranya seseorang pelajar mengalami masalah rabun tetapi tidak disedari atau dirawat, mereka mungkin menghadapi kesukaran membaca di

papan putih,” katanya pada Program Pemeriksaan Mata dan Penyampaian Sumbangan Kacamata kepada Pelajar Sekolah Daerah Matunggong.

Rosmawati mewakili Menteri Wanita, Kesihatan dan Kesejahteraan Rakyat Sabah, Datuk Julita Majungki dalam program itu yang berlangsung selama tiga hari bermula Isnin lalu.

Tambahnya, kegagalan menangani isu penglihatan ini akhirnya akan memberi kesan langsung kepada pencapaian akademik dan prestasi keseluruhan pelajar sepanjang sesi persekolahan.

Beliau turut menasihati ibu bapa agar lebih peka terhadap perubahan anak-anak dan tidak terburu-buru membuat tanggapan negatif mengenai sikap mereka.

“Terdapat kecenderungan ibu bapa menganggap anak-anak mereka malas belajar sedangkan hakikatnya mereka sedang mengalami masalah penglihatan

yang kabur, justeru pengesanan awal amat penting,” katanya.

Program itu bertujuan memastikan tiada golongan yang tercicir daripada menerima bantuan kesihatan optik kanak-kanak sekolah.

Ia mencerminkan pendekatan holistik kerajaan negeri di bawah aspirasi Sabah Maju Jaya melalui jalinan kerjasama strategik bersama pelbagai agensi tempatan dan rakan korporat.

Antara yang terlibat termasuk Pejabat Daerah Kecil Matunggong, Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah Kudat, Unit Pemimpin Pembangunan Masyarakat (UPPM), serta sumbangan kepakaran daripada Speck-truck Sdn Bhd.

Setiap pasang kacamata yang disumbangkan bukan sekadar alat bantuan visual malah menjadi simbol harapan serta keyakinan baharu untuk pelajar melangkah lebih jauh dalam menuntut ilmu.

DENGAN INI DI MAKLUMKAN BAHAWA RITA TATI ONDU KP 781130 12 5616 YANG BERNIAGA DENGAN KOISAN CAFE HONGKOD KOISAN PPG/2020/15239 BERALAMAT DI KM 8, JALAN PENAMPANG, P.O. BOX 907 89507 PENAMPANG TELAH MEMOHON KEPADA MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PENAMPANG BAGI MENDAPATKAN LESEN UNTUK MENJUAL MINUMAN KERAS DI PREMIS TERSEBUT.

SEBARANG BANTAHAN BERHUBUNG PERMOHONAN INI HENDAKLAH DI KEMUKAKAN SECARA BERTULIS KEPADA MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PENAMPANG DALAM TEMPOH 14 HARI DARI TARIKH NOTIS INI DI SIARKAN.

Tarikh Iklan:

29/7/2026 dan 30/7/2026

Lelaki warga Filipina cabul remaja perempuan dipenjara

Cynthia D Baga

KOTA KINABALU: Seorang lelaki warga Filipina yang berada di negeri ini secara tidak sah dan mendakwa berada di bawah pengaruh alkohol ketika melakukan gangguan seksual fizikal terhadap seorang remaja tempatan dihukum penjara tujuh tahun serta satu sebatan. Hakim Mahkamah Sesyen Herman Hussain menjatuhkan hukuman itu ke atas Jesbir Rasmin selepas tertuduh mengaku bersalah atas pertuduhan terhadapnya pada Selasa. Jesbir, 28, melakukan kesalahan itu terhadap gadis berusia 17 tahun 11 bulan dengan memegang kemaluannya bagi tujuan seksual pada jam 12.57 tengah hari, 17 Julai lalu di sebuah tokong Buddha. Kesalahan di bawah Seksyen 14(a) Akta Kesalahan-Kesalahan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-Kanak 2017 itu memperuntukkan hukuman penjara sehingga 20 tahun dan sebat jika sabit kesalahan. Mahkamah memerintahkan Jesbir menjalani hukuman penjara berkenaan bermula dari tarikh tangkapannya.

Peniaga didakwa tipu RM40,000 berkaitan projek pembinaan masjid

KOTA KINABALU: Seorang peniaga berusia 35 tahun didakwa di Mahkamah Sesyen pada Selasa atas pertuduhan menipu seorang lelaki sebanyak RM40,000 berkaitan projek pembinaan sebuah masjid. Adb Rudi Jenain mengaku tidak bersalah di hadapan Hakim Mahkamah Sesyen Hurman Hussain terhadap pertuduhan yang dihadapinya pada Selasa. Rudi didakwa memperdayakan lelaki berusia 44 tahun itu dengan meyakinkannya bahawa dia telah menawarkan projek pembinaan sebuah masjid di Pitas sehingga mendorong mangsa menyerahkan wang RM40,000 kepadanya. Kesalahan itu didakwa dilakukan pada



Semasa merayu hukuman (mitigasi) Jesbir yang tidak diwakili peguam memohon hukuman ringan dengan menyatakan bahawa dirinya sudah berkahwin dan mempunyai seorang anak. Dia memberitahu mahkamah bahawa dia menyedari perbuatannya itu salah dan mendakwa tidak akan melakukan kesalahan tersebut sekiranya tidak mabuk pada waktu kejadian. Jesbir memohon maaf atas kesilapannya dan berjanji tidak akan mengulangi kesalahan berkenaan. Apabila ditanya oleh mahkamah siapa yang menyuruhnya minum arak sehingga mabuk, Jesbir menjawab bahawa dia meminumnya atas kehendak sendiri. Ekoran itu Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Bryan Francis menggesa mahkamah menjatuhkan hukuman berat atas alasan kesalahan tersebut adalah serius dan

dilakukan di siang hari. Jesbir turut dijatuhi hukuman penjara empat bulan kerana memasuki negeri ini secara haram. Selepas selesai menjalani hukuman penjara, mahkamah memerintahkan supaya Jesbir dirujuk kepada Jabatan Imigresen untuk tindakan lanjut. Mahkamah diberitahu bahawa kejadian berlaku semasa mangsa sedang bekerja di tokong berkenaan apabila seorang lelaki yang kemudiannya dikenal pasti sebagai Jesbir masuk ke tempat kerja mangsa. Mangsa menyuruh Jesbir tidak memasuki tempat kerja itu namun dia tidak menghiraukannya. Semasa di dalam, Jesbir menghampiri mangsa lalu memegang kemaluan mangsa. Mangsa menepis tangan Jesbir dan menangis teresak-esak kerana ketakutan dengan tindakan lelaki tersebut. Jesbir melarikan diri dari tempat kejadian tetapi berjaya ditangkap pada 20 Julai berikutan laporan polis yang dibuat oleh mangsa.

Bekas perunding tipu pelaburan dipenjara, denda RM2 juta

KUALA LUMPUR: Seorang bekas perunding unit amanah dipenjara 18 bulan dan didenda RM2 juta oleh dua Mahkamah Sesyen pada Selasa selepas mengaku bersalah menipu dua lelaki berkaitan pelaburan bagi pembelian sekuriti. Hakim Azrul Darus menjatuhkan hukuman penjara 18 bulan dan denda RM1 juta atau enam bulan penjara terhadap Amran Mohd Amin, 59, bagi satu pertuduhan manakala Hakim Ilmami Ahmad turut menjatuhkan hukuman yang sama terhadap lelaki itu bagi satu lagi pertuduhan. – Bernama

Pembantu dapur didenda RM5,000 simpan komputer riba curi

Jo Ann Mool

KOTA KINABALU: Seorang pembantu dapur didenda RM5,000 atau sembilan bulan penjara oleh Mahkamah Majistret pada Selasa kerana memiliki sebuah komputer riba yang dicuri. Calvin On mengaku bersalah di hadapan Majistret Marilyn Kelvin atas pertuduhan dengan sengaja menyimpan komputer riba curi itu secara tidak jujur pada jam 3.30 petang, 5 Januari lalu di sebuah bilik sewa di 88 Commercial Centre. Kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 411 Kanun Keseksaan itu memperuntukkan hukuman penjara sehingga lima tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya sekali jika sabit kesalahan. Mahkamah diberitahu pihak pendakwaan bahawa pengadu singgah di rumah rakannya di Austral Park sebelum pulang ke rumah pada jam 1 pagi, 3 Oktober 2025. Bagaimanapun pengadu kemudian mendapati komputer riba yang ditinggalkan di dalam keretanya telah hilang sebelum membuat laporan polis. Susulan laporan itu seorang lelaki yang kemudian dikenal pasti sebagai Calvin ditahan dan polis berjaya menemui semula komputer riba yang dicuri tersebut daripadanya. Melalui peguam bela Calvin memohon agar dikenakan hukuman denda dengan

alasan antaranya dia telah mengambil minuman beralkohol ketika kejadian sehingga menjejaskan pertimbangannya. Dalam kes berasingan seorang lelaki berusia 35 tahun mengaku tidak bersalah atas pertuduhan menyimpan sebuah motosikal curi. Airul Nur Ali didakwa menyimpan sebuah motosikal Honda milik Zakinah Yunus yang dicuri pada kira-kira jam 7.35 malam, 22 Julai lalu berhampiran sebuah restoran di Jalan Putatan. Pertuduhan mengikut Seksyen 411 Kanun Keseksaan itu memperuntukkan hukuman penjara antara enam bulan hingga lima tahun serta boleh dikenakan denda jika sabit kesalahan. Pihak pendakwaan memohon tarikh pengurusan kes praperbicaraan dan menawarkan jaminan RM5,000 dengan dua penjamin. Peguam Lim Ming Zoong yang mewakili tertuduh memohon jumlah jaminan dikurangkan dengan alasan anak guamnya telah berkahwin dan mempunyai dua orang anak. Mahkamah menetapkan 15 September untuk pengurusan kes praperbicaraan dan membenarkan Airul diikat jamin RM1,600 dengan dua penjamin. Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Ronnie Anthony dan Inspektor Yusdi Basri mengendalikan pendakwaan.

Enam beradik didakwa edar 118.87 gram heroin

IPOH: Enam beradik pada Selasa didakwa di Mahkamah Majistret atas pertuduhan mengedar dadah jenis heroin seberat 118.87 gram minggu lepas. Muhammad Affandi Zulkafli, 41, Muhammad Khairul Azmil Zulkafli, 40, Shahrul Azwan Zulkafli, 38, Mohamad Shah Herman Zulkafli, 35, Muhamad Amirul Zulkafli, 29, dan Mohamad Hafizi Zulkafli, 27, yang kesemuanya penganggur hanya menganggu faham selepas pertuduhan dibacakan di hadapan Majistret Norizan Riduan. Bagaimanapun tiada pengakuan direkodkan kerana kes itu di bawah bidang kuasa Mahkamah Tinggi.

Mengikut pertuduhan mereka bersama-sama melakukan perbuatan itu di sebuah pondok tidak bernombor bersebelahan sebuah rumah di Laluan Usaha, Kampung Che Zainal Tambahan 1, Chemor pada 9.20 malam, 21 Julai lepas. Pertuduhan dikemukakan mengikut Seksyen 39 B (1) (a) Akta Dadah Berbahaya 1952 dan boleh dihukum di bawah Seksyen 39 B (2) akta sama serta dibaca dengan Seksyen 34 Kanun Keseksaan yang memperuntukkan hukuman mati atau pemenjaraan seumur hidup dan hendaklah jika tidak dihukum mati, dihukum sebat minimum 12 sebatan jika sabit kesalahan. – Bernama



JURUTEKNIK TM membetulkan semula kabel yang melendut dan tiang condong di Lorong Bernam ke kedudukan asal.



DBKK telah mengambil tindakan terhadap kemudahan lampu jalan yang condong di Jalan Lintas.

TM, DBKK ambil tindakan atasi isu kabel dan tiang condong

TELEKOM Malaysia (TM) Bhd akan mempergiat usaha menangani sebarang kerosakan atau keadaan tidak teratur membabitkan asetnya di sebuah kawasan perumahan di Luyang manakala Dewan Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu (DBKK) turut berjanji mengambil tindakan sama terhadap kemudahan lampu jalan awam di Jalan Lintas. Tindakan itu susulan maklum balas mengenai kekurangan penyelenggaraan terhadap kabel dan tiang di lokasi terbabit dengan sebahagian kemudahan berkenaan dilihat melendut atau berada dalam keadaan seolah-olah boleh tumbang pada bila-bila masa. Seorang pelanggan TM di Taman Soon Kiong menyuarakan kebimbangan mengenai kemungkinan gangguan perkhidmatan telekomunikasi sekiranya kabel yang tergantung rendah di sebahagian kawasan perumahan itu tersangkut pada bahagian atas kenderaan besar dan terputus. Sementara itu seorang pekerja pejabat dari Kolombong pula bimbang mengenai bahaya kepada pengguna jalan raya akibat sebuah tiang di jalan

utama yang dilihat condong. Individu terbabit memberikan lokasi bagi kedua-dua masalah berasingan itu kepada Hotline sebelum maklumat berkenaan disalurkan kepada pihak berkaitan. Jurucakap TM berkata kakitangannya mengesahkan salah satu kabel milik syarikat itu di Lorong Bernam dibebani dahan pokok yang patah ketika melakukan pemeriksaan di Taman Soon Kiong. “Bahagian berkaitan telah dimaklumkan mengenai hasil pemeriksaan tersebut,” katanya. Menurut satu pasukan kedua kemudiannya membawa peralatan yang diperlukan untuk mengalihkan dahan berkenaan daripada kabel udara itu. “Empat juruteknik kami kemudiannya melaraskan semula kabel dan tiang yang menyokong aset tersebut ke kedudukan asal,” ujarnya. Apabila ditanya mengenai kekerapan kerja penyelenggaraan dilakukan terhadap kemudahan TM di sekitar Luyang, jurucakap itu berkata tiada jadual tetap bagi kerja berkenaan.

“Penyelenggaraan terhadap aset ini dilakukan mengikut keperluan dari semasa ke semasa. “Bagaimanapun kami telah meminta kontraktor supaya lebih peka dan teliti dalam memantau keadaan kemudahan kami,” jelasnya. Juruteknik DBKK turut diminta melakukan perkara sama membabitkan lampu jalan di kawasan di bawah bidang kuasa pihak berkuasa tempatan itu. Berhubung Jalan Lintas, jurucakap Jabatan Kejuruteraan DBKK berkata pemeriksaan terhadap kemudahan berkaitan berhampiran pusat komersial Metrotown telah dilakukan beberapa hari selepas DBKK dihubungi pihak media. “Pemeriksaan mendapati sebuah tiang yang menyokong kabel udara bagi lampu jalan di bahagian Jalan Lintas itu telah rosak. “Berkemungkinan seorang pemandu yang tidak bertanggungjawab telah melanggar struktur tersebut sehingga menyebabkannya bengkok pada sudut yang tidak normal,” katanya.

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2. Sertakan maklumat penuh peribadi anda (nama, nombor, telefon, alamat dan nombor MyKad) untuk rekod kami.
3. Hotline berhak untuk menyiaran semua aduan dan gambar.
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Wartawan:
SIDNEY SKINNER dan OLIVER VOON

Beliau berkatamenyatakan kontraktor yang dipertanggungjawabkan menyelenggara lampu jalan di kawasan berkenaan kembali ke lokasi pada malam sama untuk membetulkan semula kedudukan tiang itu. “Tindakan turut diambil bagi menangani masalah sama yang membabitkan lampu jalan tiga lengan di kawasan berhampiran,” ujarnya. (SS)

‘Guide’ rumah hantu dipenjara, lakukan amang seksual terhadap pelanggan

KUALA LUMPUR: Seorang ‘guide’ rumah hantu di sebuah taman tema dipenjara tiga tahun oleh Mahkamah Sesyen pada Selasa selepas mengaku bersalah melakukan amang seksual fizikal terhadap seorang pelanggannya yang merupakan remaja perempuan, Februari lepas. Hakim Datin Surita Budin menjatuhkan hukuman itu terhadap warga Bangladesh Md Israful Alam, 30, dan memerintahkan lelaki itu menjalani hukuman penjara bermula dari tarikh dia ditangkap pada 7 Februari lepas. Mahkamah turut memerintahkan tertuduh menjalani sesi kaunseling dalam tempoh pemenjaraan. Md Israful didakwa melakukan perbuatan itu terhadap remaja berumur 13 tahun di rumah hantu taman tema di sebuah pusat beli-belah di ibu kota, pada 12.30 tengah hari, 7 Februari lepas mengikut Seksyen 14(a) Akta Kesalahan-kesalahan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-kanak 2017 yang memperuntukkan hukuman penjara maksimum 20 tahun dan sebat jika sabit kesalahan. Berdasarkan fakta kes mangsa memberitahu ibunya bahawa tertuduh melakukan perbuatan tersebut ketika remaja itu berjalan dalam keadaan beratut di dalam rumah hantu pada 7 Februari lepas dan mangsa berasa terkejut dengan perbuatan tertuduh. Ibu mangsa kemudian membuat laporan polis pada hari sama (7 Februari) dan rakaman kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) di lokasi kejadian juga menunjukkan tertuduh melakukan kesalahan berkenaan ketika berada di belakang mangsa. Terdahulu Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Nur Shakila Mohd Shariff memohon mahkamah menjatuhkan hukuman setimpal, bersifat pencegahan serta memberi mesej jelas bahawa sebarang kesalahan seksual terhadap kanak-kanak tidak akan dipandang ringan serta demi kepentingan awam dan perlindungan golongan kanak-kanak. “Akibat perbuatan tertuduh mangsa mengalami trauma berpanjangan dan masih terkesan dengan kejadian tersebut. Mangsa juga kini berasa takut dan trauma terhadap individu warga asing. “Mangsa seorang yang ceria dan sering melakukan aktiviti riadah luar bersama keluarga, namun akibat perbuatan tertuduh di rumah hantu yakni tempat riadah, mangsa menjadi takut ingin keluar lagi dan trauma untuk beriadah seperti dahulu,” katanya. Peguam Kelvin Sidhu mewakili Md Israful memohon hukuman ringan kerana anak guamnya menanggung isteri dan anak berumur tujuh tahun selain mahkamah perlu mengambil kira pengakuan di peringkat awal sebagai faktor pengurangan hukuman. –Bernama

Tembakan dilepas di luar konsulat AS di Toronto, kes kedua dalam 4 bulan

TORONTO: Sekurang-kurangnya satu das tembakan dilepaskan di luar bangunan Konsulat Jeneral Amerika Syarikat (AS) di Toronto, Kanada dalam kes kedua seumpamanya yang berlaku dalam tempoh empat bulan.

Polis Toronto memaklumkan tiada kecederaan dilaporkan dalam kejadian yang berlaku awal pagi Ahad itu namun selongsong peluru ditembak di lokasi kejadian dan bahagian luar bangunan mengalami kerosakan.

Timbalan Ketua Polis Toronto Frank Barredo berkata seorang pegawai yang ditugaskan mengawal keselamatan Konsulat AS terdengar bunyi tembakan kira-kira jam 4.46 pagi waktu EDT (0046 GMT). Polis kemudian menemukan satu kelongsong peluru serta mengesan kerosakan pada bahagian hadapan bangunan itu.

Menurut pihak berkuasa, sebuah kereta sedan berwarna putih dilihat meninggalkan kawasan berkenaan sekitar jam 5 pagi waktu tempatan.

Polis sempat mengejar kenderaan itu dalam tempoh singkat sebelum menghentikan usaha itu atas faktor keselamatan selepas kereta berkenaan dipandu pada kelajuan yang sangat tinggi.

Setakat ini, tiada tangkapan dibuat dan siasatan masih dijalankan bagi mengenal pasti suspek serta motif kejadian.

Polis pada Isnin turut memaklumkan mereka sedang menyiasat dua lagi kes tembakan yang berlaku pada hujung minggu menyasarkan dua kedai roti milik rangkaian perniagaan yang dimiliki seorang anggota komuniti Yahudi.

Jurucakap Jabatan Negara AS berkata Washington sedang bekerjasama rapat dengan pihak berkuasa Kanada bagi menyiasat kes berkenaan. – AFP

Serangan Narathiwat, Thailand tangguh rundingan damai

BANGKOK: Thailand menangguhkan rundingan damai dengan kumpulan pemberontak selatan yang pada mulanya dijadualkan berlangsung di Malaysia pada September selepas serangan maut di Narathiwat minggu lepas yang mengorbankan lima anggota renjer.

Pengarah Agensi Perisikan Kebangsaan



Gabenor Jakarta gesa penduduk bertenang

JAKARTA: Gabenor Jakarta Pramono Anung pada Selasa menggesa penduduk supaya tidak terpengaruh dengan isu perkauman susulan insiden pertempuran maut di Jakarta Pusat sambil menegaskan bahawa ibu negara Indonesia itu kekal sebagai sebuah bandar yang terbuka dan pelbagai.

“Jakarta ialah sebuah bandar yang sangat terbuka. Kepelbagaian yang ada selama ini telah dipelihara dengan baik, dan saya tidak mahu melihat isu berkaitan etnik timbul di Jakarta,” katanya kepada pemberita di Dewan Bandaraya seperti mana dilaporkan portal *Jakarta Globe*.

Beliau berkata demikian susulan satu rusuhan pada Ahad di kawasan Jalan Tambak, Menteng, Jakarta Pusat, yang mengorbankan seorang individu, seorang lagi cedera parah serta mengakibatkan kerosakan kepada beberapa harta benda. Pramono menggesa semua pihak supaya bertenang dan menyelesaikan sebarang pertikaian secara aman.

Menurut pihak berkuasa tempatan, keganasan itu memusnahkan sebuah bangunan separa kekal dan empat buah motosikal.

Susulan kejadian itu, pemimpin masyarakat serta wakil keluarga mangsa bersetuju untuk membantu mengekalkan ketenteraman awam dan menyerahkan sepenuhnya proses perundangan kepada pihak polis.

Polis Jakarta telah menamakan tujuh suspek berhubung insiden rusuhan terbabit dengan siasatan dibahagikan kepada dua kes jenayah tetap diteruskan.

Empat suspek berdepan pertuduhan berkaitan perbuatan merosakkan gerai penjaja makanan manakala tiga lagi didakwa atas serangan maut yang mengakibatkan seorang terbunuh.

Jurucakap Polis Jakarta Budi Hermanto berkata kedua-dua kumpulan yang bertelagah telah mencapai persetujuan damai namun siasatan jenayah tetap diteruskan.

“Kedua-dua pihak telah berdamai tetapi proses perundangan akan diteruskan oleh Polis Metropolitan Jakarta. Mereka telah menyerahkan sepenuhnya proses undang-undang kepada kami,” katanya pada Isnin malam.

Beliau berkata, tiada lagi insiden keganasan dilaporkan selepas perjanjian damai itu dimeterai, yang turut disaksikan oleh ahli keluarga, ketua-ketua kejiranan serta peguam yang mewakili keluarga mangsa. – Agensi

Trump dakwa AS-Iran adakan ‘rundingan yang baik’

DUBAI: Presiden Amerika Syarikat (AS) Donald Trump mendakwa AS sedang mengadakan ‘rundingan yang baik’ dengan Iran dan masih terdapat peluang untuk mencapai persetujuan berhubung konflik antara kedua-dua negara.

Bagaimanapun, beliau memberi amaran serangan tentera AS akan disambung semula sekiranya rundingan itu gagal membuah hasil namun Iran pula menegaskan tidak akan minta sambung rundingan damai.

Di sebalik keyakinan Trump, Tehran dilihat segera menguji tempoh jeda kempen ketenteraan AS apabila Arab Saudi, Jordan dan Iraq melaporkan serangan dron pada Isnin.

AS secara mengejut menggantung kempen serangan udara selama dua minggu terhadap Iran pada Sabtu lalu dalam perubahan strategi terbaharu Trump selepas konflik yang berlarutan selama lima bulan.

“Kami sedang mengadakan ‘rundingan yang baik’. Saya fikir ada peluang yang baik untuk sesuatu dicapai. Jika berjaya, itu sesuatu yang baik. Jika tidak, kami akan kembali melakukan apa yang kami lakukan dua hari lalu,” katanya.

Pada satu perhimpunan kempen di Michigan lewat Isnin, Trump berkata mengenai Iran: “Anda tidak boleh merasuah mereka. Anda perlu menewaskan mereka dan kami akan mengalahkan mereka habis-habisan.

“Namun, kita akan lihat bagaimana kesudahannya. Buat masa ini, rundingan yang sangat mesra sedang berlangsung,” katanya.

Jurucakap Kementerian Luar Iran Esmail Baghaei berkata mesej masih disampaikan antara kedua-dua pihak menerusi orang tengah dan Iran tidak pernah meninggalkan saluran diplomasi.

Bagaimanapun, beliau menegaskan laporan yang mendakwa Tehran meminta rundingan disambung semula adalah ‘rekaan semata-mata’.

Thanat Suwannanont berkata proses dialog itu pada mulanya berjalan lancar sebelum serangan tersebut mendorong pihak berkuasa untuk menilai semula keadaan.

“Tiada rundingan akan diadakan pada September. Kita telah mengatur pertemuan itu lebih awal, namun insiden tersebut berlaku. Keganasan itu terlalu ekstrem untuk



SEBUAH peluru berpandu dilancarkan ketika Centcom melaksanakan pusingan ketiga serangan terhadap Iran minggu ini berdasarkan rakaman skrin daripada video yang diedarkan. – Foto Reuters

“Perkara itu bukan budaya kami,” katanya.

Seorang pegawai kanan Iran memberitahu *Reuters* pada Ahad bahawa Tehran tidak akan menghentikan serangannya selagi gencatan serangan yang diumumkan sendiri oleh Trump terus berkuat kuasa.

Sementara itu, pemerintah tertinggi tentera Iran pada Isnin menuduh AS mengancam kapal dan kapal tangki minyak di perairan wilayahnya serta cuba melaksanakan sekatan maritim menyalahi undang-undang yang menurutnya meningkatkan lagi konflik di rantau itu.

Arab Saudi pula memaklumkan pihaknya berjaya memintas beberapa dron yang menyasarkan kemudahan petroleum termasuk di Riyadh.

Riyadh mendakwa dron itu dilancarkan dari Iraq oleh kumpulan bersenjata yang disokong Iran dan menegaskan ia berhak mengambil tindakan balas.

Tehran turut menegaskan ia masih menguasai Selat Hormuz yang menjadi pertikaian iaitu laluan perkapalan utama bagi bekalan tenaga dunia yang menurut Trump

kita terima. Kita dalam proses rundingan apabila perkara ini berlaku.

“Walaupun kumpulan pejuang itu mungkin bertindak mengikut naluri mereka, kita sebenarnya telah memulakan proses dialog tersebut. Apabila keganasan berlaku, kita terpaksa bermula semula dari awal,” katanya kepada pemberita pada Selasa. – Bernama

perlu dibuka kepada pelayaran bebas semua kapal.

Bagaimanapun, kedua-dua pihak masih berbeza tafsiran terhadap kandungan memorandum berkaitan selat itu.

Washington menegaskan memorandum berkenaan menghendaki Tehran membenarkan kebebasan pelayaran, manakala Iran berpendapat ia memberikan kuasa kepadanya untuk menyelia transit di laluan strategik berkenaan. – Reuters

Gempa magnitud 7.1 gegar Jepun

TOKYO: Gempa bumi berukuran magnitud awal 7.1 melanda wilayah Kumamoto di pulau Kyushu, selatan Jepun, pada Selasa.

Kerajaan turut mengeluarkan amaran kecemasan gempa bumi kepada penduduk di tujuh wilayah di pulau Kyushu, iaitu Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Kagoshima, Fukuoka, Saga, Oita dan Miyazaki.

Pada awalnya Agensi Meteorologi Jepun (JMA) mengeluarkan amaran tsunami susulan gempa itu dengan jangkaan ombak setinggi satu meter sebelum menarik balik amaran itu.

Terdahulu, Jepun mengeluarkan amaran tsunami selepas gempa berkenaan menyebabkan bekalan elektrik terputus kepada ribuan isi rumah.

JMA memaklumkan gegaran berlaku pada jam 4.27 petang (7.27 pagi GMT) di pulau Kyushu dan mencatatkan tahap tujuh iaitu tahap tertinggi dalam skala Shindo yang digunakan Jepun untuk mengukur kekuatan gegaran di sesuatu lokasi.

Makan tidak bayar punca rusuhan di Jakarta Pusat



ANGGOTA polis berpakaian awam menahan sekumpulan lelaki berkaitan pertempuran di Matraman Dalam. – Agensi

dan didakwa merosakkan gerai penjual nasi uduk.

“Mereka datang bersama rakan-rakan mereka, merosakkan gerai penjual nasi uduk,” tambah Roby.

Akibat tindakan suspek, penduduk marah dan berlaku pertempuran di Jalan Tambak, Menteng. Penduduk membalas tindakan dengan menyerang ibu pejabat kumpulan pemuda itu.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, sekumpulan lelaki ditahan polis kerana didapati membawa senjata tajam berupa parang dan panah di sekitar kawasan Jalan Tambak, Menteng, Jakarta Pusat pada Isnin pagi.

Kumpulan samseng itu didakwa mahu membalas dendam terhadap penempatan penduduk di kawasan Matraman Dalam, Menteng berikutan kematian rakan mereka yang dibelasah oleh orang ramai

selepas mencetuskan masalah.

Mujur serangan balas itu berjaya digagalkan oleh gabungan pasukan polis yang bertugas di kawasan Jalan Tambak.

“Pada masa ini, terdapat satu kompeni daripada unit polis, polis pencegah rusuhan dan Tentera Nasional Indonesia (TNI) yang kami tempatkan di sekitar Jalan Matraman Dalam,” kata Ketua Polis Jakarta Pusat Reynold Elisa Partomuan Hutagalung dalam kenyataannya.

Terdahulu, menjelang subuh, pertempuran antara kelompok massa dan kumpulan pemuda itu meletus lagi di kawasan percetakan Pramuka, bertentangan dengan Balai Polis Matraman.

Perkembangan terbaru pula menyaksikan polis menyoal siasat tiga individu berinisial S, T, dan U berhubung pertempuran tersebut selepas menahan 15 orang untuk pemeriksaan lanjut. – Agensi

Gempa bumi landa Filipina, Tonga & Vanuatu

BEIJING: Beberapa gempa bumi melanda Filipina, Tonga dan Vanuatu, lapor Xinhua.

Di Mindanao, Filipina, gempa bumi berukuran 5.3 magnitud menggempakan kawasan itu pada 11.06 malam GMT Isnin, menurut Pusat Penyelidikan Geosains Jerman (GFZ).

Pusat gempa pada kedalaman 10 kilometer (km) itu pada awalnya dikenali pasti terletak pada 7.70 darjah utara dan 126.74 darjah timur.

Di Tonga, gempa bumi berukuran 5.1 magnitud melanda selatan negara itu pada 11.12 malam GMT Isnin, menurut Kajian Geologi Amerika Syarikat (USGS).

USGS gempa pada kedalaman 10 km itu dikenali pasti terletak pada 24.78 darjah selatan dan 175.26 darjah barat.

Sementara itu di Vanuatu, gempa bumi berukuran 5.0 magnitud menggempakan negara kepulauan itu pada 8.10 malam GMT Isnin, menurut GFZ.

Pusat gempa pada kedalaman 10 km itu pada awalnya dikenali pasti terletak pada 14.52 darjah selatan dan 168.07 darjah timur. – Bernama-Xinhua

Tsunami yang terhasil berpotensi mencapai ketinggian sehingga satu meter (3 kaki) manakala penyiar NHK melaporkan ombak pada paras itu mungkin sudah direkodkan.

Pihak Berkuasa Kawal Selia Nuklear Jepun pula memaklumkan tiada ketidnormalan dikesan di loji kuasa nuklear susulan kejadian itu.

Syarikat utiliti tempatan Kyushu Electric Power berkata kira-kira 45,000 isi rumah dan kemudahan di wilayah Kumamoto mengalami gangguan bekalan elektrik.

Bagaimanapun, tiga reaktor nuklear yang sedang beroperasi di wilayah berkenaan ketika gempa berlaku terus berfungsi seperti biasa.

Kira-kira 30 minit selepas gempa, kakitangan NHK tempatan yang membuat laporan secara langsung dengan memakai topi keledar memaklumkan gegaran masih berterusan. – Agensi

833 dapur MBG ditutup secara kekal

JAKARTA: Ketua baharu Badan Gizi Nasional (BGN), Sudaryono menutup secara kekal 833 dapur yang membekalkan makanan di bawah program Makanan Berkhasiat Percuma (MBG) kerajaan selepas didapati gagal memenuhi piawaian operasi dan kebersihan, menurut laporan portal *Jakarta Globe*.

Penutupan itu diarahkan kurang seminggu selepas Sudaryono memegang jawatan itu susulan pemeriksaan yang mendapati pengusaha gagal memperbaiki kelemahan yang dikenal pasti walaupun telah diberi tempoh untuk melakukan penambahbaikan.

Daripada jumlah dapur yang ditutup secara kekal, 98 berada di Sumatera, 311 di Jawa dan Madura, manakala 424 lagi di seluruh Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, Bali, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Nusa Tenggara Timur dan Papua, kata Sudaryono kepada pemberita pada Isnin.

“Dapur-dapur ini ditutup secara kekal. Berbeza dengan sebelum ini, ada dapur yang hanya digantung operasi tetapi masih menerima pembiayaan. Kini, mana-mana dapur yang ditutup tidak lagi akan menerima bayaran,” katanya.

Sudaryono berkata kebanyakan dapur ditutup kerana gagal mematuhi piawaian kebersihan dan sanitasi sekali gus berpotensi menjejaskan kesihatan pelajar yang menerima makanan menerusi program berskala nasional itu.

Kemudahan lain pula didapati gagal memenuhi syarat berkaitan sistem rawatan air sisa serta piawaian teknikal lain yang ditetapkan oleh agensi berkenaan.

Beliau berkata penguatkuasaan tegas perlu dilaksanakan kerana tahap kebersihan yang lemah dalam penyediaan makanan boleh membahayakan nyawa. – Agensi



TANGKAPAN skrin menunjukkan penduduk kampung mengeluarkan mayat Hasim selepas dia maut dibaham seekor ular sawa pada Isnin. – Agensi

Petani ditemui maut dalam perut ular sawa gergasi

JAKARTA: Seorang petani berusia 40 tahun ditemui maut di dalam perut seekor ular sawa gergasi selepas dilaporkan hilang ketika dalam perjalanan pulang ke rumah di wilayah Maluku Utara, menurut polis pada Selasa.

Portal berita *Jakarta Globe* melaporkan mangsa yang dikenali sebagai Hasim Lembesi merupakan penduduk Kampung Waisakai di daerah Mangoli Utara Timur, Kabupaten Kepulauan Sula.

Menurut polis tempatan, Hasim meninggalkan sebuah kampung berhampiran pada petang Isnin namun tidak pulang ke rumah dan menyebabkan ahli keluarga dan penduduk kampung melancarkan operasi pencarian.

Pasukan pencari menemui barangan milik mangsa serta kesan darah di tepi jalan yang dipercayai dilaluinya sebelum menemui seekor ular sawa bersaiz besar berhampiran dengan

keadaan badannya yang kelihatan membengkak luar biasa.

Penduduk kampung dengan bantuan anggota polis kemudian membunuh ular terbabit sebelum membelah perutnya. Di dalam perut ular itu, mereka menemui mayat Hasim. Mangsa disahkan meninggal dunia di lokasi kejadian.

Jurucakap Polis Kepulauan Sula Jaya Afandi M. Soamole mengesahkan kejadian itu.



Kalau semua harapkan AI, kita akan lebih malas: Siti Nurhaliza

“TEKNOLOGI seperti kecerdasan buatan (AI) memang perlu diraikan tetapi bukan sepenuhnya,” Demikian respon Biduanita Negara Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza (**gambar**) mengenai penggunaan berleluasa AI termasuk dalam penghasilan karya muzik.

Kata Siti, 47, AI boleh digunakan oleh mana-mana pihak namun perlulah

berpada-pada sehingga boleh menegenipkan kreativiti manusia.

“Sebenarnya AI ini hanya sebagai ‘alat’ sahaja. Kita jangan sampai menolak sebab ini adalah kemajuan teknologi.

“Kita sepatutnya menggunakannya pada waktu dan cara yang bersesuaian. “Selebihnya perlu guna kreativiti dan

berinovatif sendiri. Barulah minda kita berkembang,” katanya.

Jelasnya penggunaan AI secara berlebihan-lebihan akan membuatkan manusia menjadi lebih kurang aktif dalam menghasilkan sesuatu mengikut kreativiti sendiri.

“Kalau kita mengharapkan semua pada AI akan jadi lebih malas.

“Sebab itu saya cakap AI hanya sebagai alat sahaja. Selebihnya kita kena ker-jalah dengan kehebatan dan kreativiti kita. Itu jawapan saya,” katanya lagi.

Terdahulu isu penggunaan AI dalam penghasilan karya kreatif seperti lagu menjadi perdebatan hangat dalam kalangan penggiat muzik tanah air. – Kosmo! Online

‘Kena propa kalau mahu cepat diminati’

TERPINGGIR dan kurang dikenali meskipun hampir tiga dekad mewar-nai industri seni penyanyi Atilia Haron (**gambar**) mengakui keadaan itu berlaku kerana dia memilih untuk kekal menjadi diri sendiri daripada berpura-pura demi mengejar populariti.

Ujar Atilia atau nama sebenarnya Raja Putri Atilia Raja Haron, 52, tidak dinafikan terdapat segelintir anak seni sanggup membina imej palsu atau ‘propa’ demi mempercepatkan per-jalanan kerjaya mereka.



“Memang betul. Kadang-kadang kalau mahu cepat diminati dan diterima, kita perlu ‘propa’ serta berlakon menjadi seseorang yang bukan diri sendiri.

“Maaf cakap tetapi masyarakat hari ini mudah menilai berdasarkan apa mereka lihat. Apa dipaparkan, itulah gambaran diri kita pada mata mereka. Hakikatnya mereka langsung tidak tahu siapa kita di sebalik kehidupan sebenar.

“Mereka tidak tahu bagaimana kehidupan kita di rumah. Walaupun kita menjaga solat lima waktu, semua itu tidak akan diketahui orang,” katanya kepada Kosmo! Online.

Pelantun lagu *Sangkar* itu bagaimanapun memahami mengapa ada artis memilih jalan tersebut namun menasihati mereka supaya tidak mengorbankan jati diri semata-mata mahu meraih perhatian.

“Sesetengah artis mungkin merasakan itu jalan paling cepat untuk berjaya. Namun nasihat saya jangan. Jadilah diri sendiri. Insya-Allah orang akan mener-ima kita seadanya.

“Kalau mahu lakukan sesuatu, pastikan perkara itu membawa nilai positif.

“Kita perlu mendidik netizen, pendengar dan penonton bahawa perkara positif juga mampu menjadi contoh malah boleh melonjakkan nama seseorang. Sekarang ramai sudah penat melihat perkara negatif,” ujarnya pada sidang media Atilia Haron In Concert.

Dalam perkembangan lain Atilia bakal menghiburkan peminat menerusi Atilia Haron In Concert pada 19 Septem-ber 2026, jam 8 malam di Robert’s The-atre, The Campus Ampang.

Konsert berskala besar pertama dalam fasa baharu kerjayanya itu menjanjikan pengalaman intim dan penuh emosi menerusi susunan lagu diberi nafas segar sekali gus mencerminkan evolusi seni serta kematangan Atilia sebagai penghibur. – Kosmo! Online

FFM35 perkenal sistem penjurian baharu

FESTIVAL Filem Malaysia (FFM) Ke-35 tampil dengan pembaharuan dalam sistem penjurian apabila pemenang kali ini bakal dipilih menerusi gabungan penilaian juri profesional dan bekas pemenang anugerah itu.

Pengerusi Perbadanan Kemajuan Filem Nasional Malaysia (Finas) Datuk Hans Isaac berkata sistem baharu itu dilaksanakan menerusi dua fasa bagi meningkatkanketelusan serta integriti proses pemilihan.

Katanya fasa pertama melibatkan panel juriyang dipilih secara sulit oleh jawatankuasa khas.

“Malah ada kalanya ahli perbadanan sendiri tidak mengetahui identiti barisan juri bagimemastikan proses penilaian berlangsung secara telus dan berin-tegriti.

“Fasa kedua pula menggunakan sis-tem pautan(link system) apabila seramai 100 hingga 150 pemenang FFM terdahulu akan diberikan helaian pemarkahan (score sheet) bagi menilai filem, pelakon dan calon terbaik,” katanya.

Hans berkata demikian ketika ditemui padasidang media pelancaran FFM Ke-35 di Aurum Theatre, The Exchange TRX.

Mengulas lanjut Hans berkata sistem pemarkahan baharu memberi lebih banyak kuasa kepada pemain industri dalam menentukan pemenang.

“Kita menetapkan 70 peratus markah datang daripada undian pemenang-pemenang FFM terdahulu bagi kategori lima terbaik manakala baki 30 peratus adalah daripada panel juri profesional.

“Kita mahu industri sendiri menen-tukan siapayang terbaik dalam kalangan mereka,” katanya. –UM Online

PELAKON dan pengacara Awal Ashaari (**gambar**) mengakui ramai yang tersalah anggap terhadap dirinya dan isteri Scha Alyahya apabila menyangka mereka hanya menguta-makan atau menggagalkan barangan berjenama mewah semata-mata.

Menurut Awal persepsi tersebut timbul kerana apa yang dipaparkan di media sosial lebih banyak berkaitan tun-tutan kerja, sedangkan kehidupan sebe-nar mereka tidak jauh berbeza dengan masyarakat biasa.

Akui Awal, dia dan Scha juga mem-beli-belah di pasar raya serta kedai barangan mampu milik seperti peng-guna lain, selain hanya memilih produk yang benar-benar berkualiti sebelum bersetuju mempromosikannya.

“Dia macam ini bila orang tengok selebriti, mereka akan fikir apa sahaja yang selebriti pakai mesti bagus. Jadi kita tak nak mempersia-siakan kepercayaan itu. Sebab itu kalau ada dua tiga produk yang dihantar ke rumah dan saya rasa macam tak sesuai saya tak akan promosi.

“Saya dengan Scha pun orang biasa juga. Bila balik rumah, kita sama sahaja macam orang di luar sana. Kita kena masak, kena jaga anak, kena kemas rumah. Jadi pengalaman kita menggu-nakan sesuatu produk itu sama sahaja macam pengalaman ibu bapa lain. Kalau sesuatu produk itu sesuai dengan saya dan Scha, saya yakin ia juga sesuai untuk orang di luar sana,” katanya.

Mengulas lanjut Awal berkata kelebihan sebagai selebriti bukan bermaksud mereka hanya menggunakan produk mahal sebaliknya mereka sering diberi peluang mencuba sesuatu produk lebih awal sebelum dipasarkan.



Siri Keluang Man tonjol lapisan emosi Borhan: Nas-T

PELAKON Nas-T (**gambar**) mendedahkan drama bersiri *Keluang Man (Keluang Man The Series)* bakal tampil dengan pendekatan lebih gelap selain mengetengahkan sisi emosi yang lebih mendalam menerusi watak utama Borhan.

Nas-T atau Nas Muammar Zar Nasrud-din, 42, berkata siri yang mengandungi tujuh episod itu akan memperkenalkan lebih dalam kisah adiwiira tempatan dengan identiti tersendiri, berbeza daripada mana-mana naskhah yang pernah dihasilkan sebelum ini.

Menurutnya jalan cerita siri tersebut merupakan sekuel kepada filem *Keluang Man* yang berlaku dua tahun selepas peri-stwa dalam filem berkenaan.

“Borhan merasakan dirinya membawa sumpahan. Sesiapa yang dia sayang atau ambil berat akhirnya menemui ajal.

“Disebabkan itu dia menyalahkan diri sendiri, mengasingkan diri daripada masyarakat dan menghukum dirinya. Dalam masa sama dia perlu belajar mengatasi trauma itu sambil berdepan kuasa hitam yang mengancamnya.

“Untuk siri kali ini kami tidak menampilkan elemen komedi. Nadanya lebih gelap dan berpijak di bumi nyata. Kami juga tidak merujuk kepada mana-mana karya lain kerana mahu meng-hasilkan sesuatu yang asli serta benar-benar bercirikan Malaysia.

“Dulu mungkin kita memasak mengikut selera penonton tetapi kali ini kita menjadi cef. Kita masak dan penon-ton menikmati hasilnya. Saya percaya mereka akan lebih tertarik dengan versi yang lebih gelap ini,” katanya.

Nas-T berkata demikian ketika dite-mui pada sesi bersama media di lokasi penggambaran *Keluang Man The Series* baru-baru ini.

Bagi menghayati watak Borhan yang

“Bukan nak kata artis pakai semua benda bagus sebab kita artis. Cuma kita diberi satu kelebihan apabila sering dijem-put ke majlis pelancaran atau jenama besar memberikan produk kepada kita lebih awal untuk dicuba. Jadi kita dapat merasai sendiri pengalaman menggu-nakan produk itu sebelum orang lain.

“Apabila sesuatu jenama belum melancarkan produknya di pasaran, mereka akan beri kepada selebriti dahulu untuk create the scarcity ataupun momentum. Jadi bila kita dah cuba dan kita rasa produk itu bagus, barulah kita boleh berkongsi pengalaman kepada orang ramai dan menggalakkan mereka mencubanya,” ujarnya.

Pada masa sama Awal menegaskan dia bukan individu yang hanya mengun-jungi premis mewah kerana turut mem-beli keperluan harian di pasar raya dan kedai serbaneka yang menawarkan harga berpatutan.

“Saya pun pergi kedai serbaneka seperti Speedmart, Eco-Shop tapi orang tak tahu. NSK pun saya pergi. Kedai RM2 pun saya pergi. Cuma benda yang kita paparkan di media sosial ini lebih kepada urusan kerja. Saya makan jajan RM2 pun orang tak tahu sebab tak ada sebab untuk saya kongsikan di media sosial semua itu.

“Saya pengguna macam orang biasa juga. Asalkan sesuatu produk itu berkualiti dan berbaloi untuk wang saya akan beli. Orang mungkin nampak apa yang kita pakai ketika bekerja tetapi kehidupan harian kita tak jauh beza den-gan masyarakat lain,” katanya.

Dalam pada itu Awal berkata dia dan Scha amat berhati-hati dalam memilih produk untuk dipromosikan kerana



tidak mahu menggadaikan kepercayaan yang diberikan peminat.

“Kalau sesuatu produk itu tak menepati piawaian kualiti saya, memang saya takkan ambil. Contohnya kalau saya rasa produk makanan itu lebih kepada gula semata-mata, saya tak boleh terima. Sebab nanti macam mana kita nak influ-ence orang kalau akhirnya memu-daratkan kesihatan mereka?

“Nanti semua orang kena kencing manis, siapa yang salah? Saya juga yang kena. Sebab itu saya dan Scha pegang satu tanggungjawab sosial yang sangat tinggi. Walau sebanyak mana pun bayaran ditawarkan, kalau produk itu memudahkan orang, kita takkan buat. Bagi saya dan Scha ia bukan soal duit tetapi soal prinsip,” katanya.

Berkongsi mengenai pendekatan ketika melakukan jualan secara langsung di platform JAM, Awal berkata populariti

Björn Again janji malam penuh kejutan

KUMPULAN tribute ABBA, Björn Again (**gambar**) bakal memberikan pengalaman berbeza kepada peminat yang hadir pada malam konsert The ABBA Forever Tour ke Kuala Lumpur pada 12 Ogos ini.

Setelah lebih sedekad tidak menghiburkan peminat di Malaysia, Agnetha Falstart memaklumkan pelbagai elemen kejutan yang menjadikan konsert mereka lebih daripada sekadar persembahan muzik.

“Kami sentiasa melakukan pemba-haruan. Namun kami tidak boleh mendedahkan terlalu banyak kerana tidak mahu merosakkan elemen kejutan. Dalam beberapa lagu mungkin ada seseorang yang tiba-tiba menyampaikan bahagian rap.

“Selain itu terdapat juga sesi menari dan menyanyi bersama penonton. Saya tidak boleh berkongsi terlalu banyak mak-lumat tetapi sememangnya terdapat pel-bagai kejutan dalam persembahan kami.

“Ramai datang ke persembahan kami dengan jangkaan untuk mendengar muzik semata-mata. Ada yang menyangka persembahan kami hanya mempunyai satu dimensi, sedangkan sebenarnya ia merupakan sebuah persembahan yang pelbagai dan penuh dengan lapisan berbeza,” katanya.

Dalam pada itu Benny Anderwear turut menjamin malam konsert itu nanti bukan sekadar mempersembahkan lagu-lagu malar segar semata sebaliknya peluang untuk mereka berinteraksi dengan pemi-nat secara lebih dekat.

“Ramai penonton terkejut apabila menyedari betapa banyaknya mereka ketawa sepanjang persembahan kami. Ter-dapat banyak unsur humor dan jenaka. Jadi, elemen itu mungkin menjadi satu kejutan yang menyenangkan buat mereka,” jelasnya.

Dua anggota band ikonik itu berkata demikian pada sidang media bersama

kumpulan tribute ABBA, Björn Again secara virtual.

Dalam pada itu kumpulan yang menghidupkan semula lagu *Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!* turut menggalakkan pem-inat memeriahkan suasana malam konsert dengan mengenakan busana bertemakan era kegemilangan ABBA sekitar tahun 1970-an.

Menurut Agnetha pemakaian kostum bukan sahaja menceriaikan suasana malah menjadikan pengalaman menonton kons-ert lebih bermakna.

“Bagi kami temanya tentang mengek-spresikan diri dan berseronok dengan gaya era 1970-an. Penonton boleh memakai pakaian berkilauan yang dihiasi labuci atau kostum seperti yang pernah dipakai oleh ABBA.

“Kami menggalakkan orang ramai untuk bergaya kerana ia membuatkan mereka berasa lebih terhubung dengan pengalaman konsert. Mereka juga boleh berseronok dengan mengambil gambar dan video.

“Kita bukannya boleh memakai paka-ian seperti itu setiap hari. Sebenarnya boleh sahaja sekiranya mahu. Kami sendiri memakainya. Jadi mengapa tidak men-jadikan konsert itu sebagai satu pengala-man penuh dan mencipta malam yang paling menyeronokkan?” kata Agnetha.

Konsert The ABBA Forever Tour ke Kuala Lumpur bakal diadakan di Zepp Kuala Lumpur, pada 12 Ogos ini.

Band tribute kumpulan legenda itu bakal menyajikan sekitar 20 buah lagu malar segar ABBA termasuk *Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia, Fernando* dan banyak lagi selama dua jam 30 minit.

Utuk info Björn Again ditubuhkan di Melbourne dan telah membuat persemba-han di lebih 120 negara serta kekal sebagai satu-satunya penghormatan ABBA yang disahkan secara rasmi oleh ahli ABBA. – UM Online



SATU pilihan yang sangat baik oleh Hajiji untuk melantik Andrew Sheng sebagai penasihat khas Ketua Menteri. Tiada rakyat Malaysia atau warganegara Asean lain pernah dijemput untuk memberi nasihat kepada China di peringkat tertinggi. Sila lihat butiran [4] dalam CV beliau di bawah.

- [1] Ahli Lembaga Pengarah, Khazanah Nasional Berhad
- [2] Penasihat, Program Alam Sekitar PBB [Unep]
- [3] Ahli, Majlis Penasihat Ketua Eksekutif [SAR Hong Kong].
- [4] Ahli Majlis Penasihat Antarabangsa: China Investment Corporation [CIC], China Development Bank, China Securities Regulatory Commission [CSRC], Securities and Exchange Board of India [Sebi].
- [6] Profesor Adjung / Khas: Universiti Tsinghua [Beijing], Universiti Malaya, dan Chinese University of Hong Kong [Shenzhen].
- [7] Pro-Canselor, Universiti Bristol, UK.
- [8] Canselor Universiti Wawasan.
- [9] Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Securities and Futures Commission [SFC] Hong Kong.

2. Usaha pemuliharaan Sabah pada masa lalu memberikan pulangan yang tidak seberapa.

Ini merupakan satu hakikat yang telah berlarutan selama beberapa dekad. Sabah memiliki kepelbagaian semula jadi yang paling kaya/luas namun merupakan negeri paling miskin di Malaysia.

Sabah telah diperdaya oleh banyak pihak yang menggelarkan diri mereka sebagai NGO pemuliharaan antarabangsa. Pemimpin terdahulu kita telah dipengaruhi oleh NGO Barat; mereka memuji usaha pemuliharaan Sabah sedangkan negara mereka sendiri—terutamanya AS—merupakan pencemar terbesar. Mereka tidak membayar ganti rugi mahupun dikenakan penalti kerana mencemarkan dunia. Sabah kekal miskin akibat usaha menyelamatkan dunia.

3. Pendekatan Andrew yang menggabungkan pertumbuhan mampan dan pasaran modal merupakan satu lonjakan besar bagi Sabah.

Akhirnya, terdapat potensi manfaat sebenar yang boleh diperoleh daripada usaha pemuliharaan Sabah.

Inisiatif Andrew untuk menggabungkan usaha pemuliharaan hutan dan kawasan bakau Sabah dengan pasaran modal akan meletakkan Sabah pada kedudukan sebagai hab global bagi pertumbuhan mampan yang turut menjana manfaat kewangan.

4. Pelan Hala Tuju Andrew untuk Pertumbuhan Mampan dan Kemakmuran Sabah. Antara pencapaian penting dalam

Pertumbuhan mampan Andrew jadi lonjakan besar buat Sabah



ANDREW menyampaikan cenderahati Omar semasa Sidang Kemuncak Pelaburan Impak Asia-Pasifik untuk Pembangunan Mampan Sabah 2026.

modal semula jadi—seperti terumbu karang, hutan hujan purba, dan kawasan bakau yang bertindak sebagai penyerap karbon. Langkah ini mewujudkan sumber pendapatan dan peluang pekerjaan baharu yang mampan untuk penduduk tempatan, sambil memelihara ekosistem.

[1] Sabah sebagai pemain utama di peringkat global.

“Makmal Hidup”

Dunia kini gagal mencapai Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan [SDG] PBB menjelang tahun 2030. Sabah mempunyai kelebihan unik kerana negeri ini memiliki biodiversiti yang luas, warisan budaya yang kaya, serta hampir 30 peratus daripada keluasan tanahnya diwartakan sebagai Kawasan Terlindung Sepenuhnya. Beliau melihat Sabah sebagai “makmal hidup” yang sempurna. Ia merupakan lokasi ujian yang ideal untuk melaksanakan projek perintis, bereksperimen dan memperluas skala projek hijau serta inklusif yang praktikal untuk diguna pakai oleh seluruh dunia.

Sabah berpotensi menjadi peneraju dalam model pertumbuhan mampan global.

[2] Menjana nilai ekonomi daripada modal semula jadi.

Sabah memiliki modal semula jadi yang boleh dijana nilai ekonominya.

Hajiji telah menegaskan semula komitmen beliau untuk memelihara aset semula jadi Sabah.

Daripada bergantung pada industri ekstraktif seperti pembalakan, negeri ini perlu memanfaatkan pelaburan impak untuk menjana nilai ekonomi daripada



SABAH wajar memanfaatkan pelaburan impak untuk menjana nilai ekonomi daripada modal semula jadinya, seperti terumbu marin

ucapan khas mengenai pasaran modal, kewangan sosial Islam, dan rangka kerja kemampanan]. Ucapan beliau amat signifikan. Sebagai pengawal selia pasaran modal tertinggi di Malaysia, beliau telah menunjukkan bahawa pasaran modal dan aset semula jadi Sabah boleh digabungkan!

[2] Shri Amarjeet Singh. Ahli Sepenuh Masa [WTM], Lembaga Sekuriti dan Bursa India [Sebi] menyampaikan ucapan secara maya mengenai modal dan peraturan rentas sempadan.

[3] Ma Jun. Pengasas dan Presiden Institut Kewangan dan Kelestarian [IFS], serta Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kewangan Hijau bagi Persatuan Kewangan dan Perbankan China.

[4] Dato’ Omar Siddiq. Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif dan Pengarah Eksekutif HSBC Bank Malaysia.

HSBC, sebuah bank antarabangsa utama, berhasrat untuk menggalakkan pembiayaan bagi pertumbuhan mampan.

[5] Prof. John W. Crawford.

Ahli akademik yang diiktiraf di peringkat antarabangsa dengan kepakaran dalam bidang kemampanan, sains tanah, dan sistem penyesuaian kompleks.

Adakah Sabah bersedia untuk pertumbuhan mampan? Sejauh



John Lo adalah bekas pengurus bank yang prihatin

manakah pentingnya inisiatif Andrew?

Sabah memiliki aset semula jadi yang lebih daripada mencukupi. Pihak pengawal selia bersedia dengan pasaran modal. Pihak bank sedang mencari projek pertumbuhan mampan untuk dibiayai. Apa yang diperlukan hanyalah langkah Sabah untuk tampil ke hadapan dan melaksanakan Inisiatif Andrew.

Ia mampu melonjakkan Sabah daripada keadaan yang hampir tidak menjana sebarang hasil kewangan kepada penjanaan berbilion ringgit hasil daripada aset semula jadi Sabah yang luas. Ia boleh memberi manfaat kepada rakyat Sabah, khususnya generasi muda. Ia akan mengubah Sabah menjadi hab global bagi pertumbuhan mampan. Ia bermakna Sabah tidak perlu lagi menerima industri yang mencemarkan alam sekitar. Ia akan memberikan kehidupan yang lebih bermakna dan sihat kepada seluruh rakyat Sabah.

Pelaksanaan Inisiatif Andrew yang berkualiti adalah penting bagi pertumbuhan mampan dan kemakmuran Sabah.

Kejayaan bagi semua inisiatif dan dasar akan bergantung pada kualiti pihak yang melaksanakannya. Inisiatif ini juga tidak terkecuali.

Pihak pelaksana harus dipilih dengan teliti, serta memiliki kelayakan dan pengalaman yang bersesuaian. Sebagai contoh, pelaksanaan inisiatif ini memerlukan pakar dalam bidang pembiayaan gabungan (blended finance), dan bukannya pegawai bank komersial.

Sukan

PABM buktikan angkat berat mampu jadi ‘lubuk’ emas

KUALA LUMPUR: Persekutuan Angkat Berat Malaysia (PABM) berjaya mencapai sasaran tiga pingat emas di Sukan Komanwel Glasgow 2026 selepas Muhammad Erry Hidayat meraih pingat emas menerusi kategori 79 kilogram (kg) awal pagi Selasa.

Presiden PABM Datuk Ayub Rahmat berkata kejayaan itu satu pencapaian yang amat membanggakan buat sukan angkat berat negara, sekali gus membuktikan atlet Malaysia mempunyai kemampuan bersaing serta muncul juara pada pentas antarabangsa apabila diberikan peluang, persediaan dan sokongan sewajarnya.

“Walaupun sasaran tiga pingat emas telah berjaya dicapai, perjuangan kontinjen negara belum berakhir. Lima lagi atlet Malaysia akan turun beraksi dalam baki acara, sekali gus membuka peluang untuk menambah kutipan pingat negara di Glasgow.

“PABM yakin semua atlet yang masih belum bertanding akan terus memberikan aksi terbaik dengan semangat juang yang tinggi demi Jalur Gemilang serta meneruskan momentum kecemerlangan

yang telah ditunjukkan oleh rakan sepasukan mereka,” katanya menerusi kenyataan hari ini.

Terdahulu, Malaysia berjaya meraih pingat emas menerusi Mohamad Aniq Kasdan dalam kategori 60 kg dan Muhammad Aznil Bidin (85 kg).

Ayub menyifatkan kejayaan itu turut membuktikan bahawa sukan angkat berat mempunyai potensi besar untuk menjadi antara penyumbang utama pingat di temasya sukan utama seperti Sukan SEA, Sukan Komanwel, Sukan Asia dan seterusnya Sukan Olimpik.

PABM berharap kejayaan bersejarah ini akan menjadi pemangkin kepada pembangunan sukan angkat berat serta membuka mata semua pihak bahawa sukan ini mempunyai potensi besar untuk menjadi antara penyumbang utama pingat pada kejohanan antarabangsa.

“Dengan sokongan, perancangan dan pelaburan yang berterusan, PABM yakin lebih banyak kejayaan mampu dilakar pada masa hadapan,” katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Ayub

memaklumkan pihaknya turut terkilan terhadap beberapa tindakan yang diambil oleh Institut Sukan Negara (ISN) pada saat-saat akhir menjelang temasya ini, yang dilihat telah memberikan tekanan kepada atlet, dan sedikit sebanyak menjejaskan fokus serta semangat mereka ketika berada pada fasa paling kritikal menjelang pertandingan.

PABM berpandangan bahawa setiap keputusan yang melibatkan kebajikan atlet, khususnya berkaitan makanan tambahan, prestasi dan sokongan sains sukan, perlu dibuat secara lebih terancang, teliti dan berdasarkan bukti saintifik serta melalui perbincangan bersama persatuan sukan kebangsaan dan pasukan kejurulatihan.

Jelas beliau sebarang tindakan yang dibuat pada saat akhir berpotensi mengganggu persediaan atlet yang telah menjalani latihan intensif selama bertahun-tahun demi membawa cabaran negara.

“Sehubungan dengan itu, PABM berharap ISN dapat mengkaji semula dan memperhalusi Prosedur Operasi Standard

(SOP) berkaitan pengurusan makanan tambahan, prestasi, pemulihan atlet dan sokongan sains sukan.

“Sokongan ini amat penting, khususnya kepada atlet angkat berat yang memerlukan pemantauan rapi dari segi pemakanan, suplemen, pemulihan dan prestasi bagi memastikan mereka mampu bersaing pada peringkat tertinggi dunia,” katanya.

Ayub berkata PABM percaya bahawa atlet bertaraf dunia tidak hanya dibentuk melalui latihan semata-mata, tetapi juga melalui sistem sokongan sains sukan yang menyeluruh dan konsisten.

“Atlet yang berkualiti memerlukan kecukupan makanan tambahan yang selamat, sokongan sains sukan yang komprehensif serta keyakinan bahawa setiap keputusan yang dibuat adalah demi meningkatkan prestasi mereka.

“Pelaburan dalam aspek ini bukanlah satu pilihan, tetapi satu keperluan sekiranya Malaysia mahu terus melahirkan juara pada pentas antarabangsa,” katanya. – Bernama

Emas Erry, dua final boling padang ceriakan kem negara

GLASGOW: Kejayaan atlet angkat berat Muhammad Erry Hidayat menghadiahkan emas ketiga negara serta kemaraan dua wakil boling padang ke final menyirikan kempen kontinjen Malaysia pada hari keempat Sukan Komanwel Glasgow 2026 pada Isnin.

Muhammad Erry mencuri tumpuan apabila menjuarai kategori 79 kilogram (kg) lelaki dengan jumlah angkatan 331kg, sekali gus meraih emas sulungnya di pentas Sukan Komanwel selepas membawa pulang perak dalam kategori 73kg di Birmingham 2022.

Atlet berusia 26 tahun itu melakukan angkatan 147kg dalam *snatch* dan 184kg (*clean and jerk*), dengan catatan *clean and jerk* serta jumlah keseluruhannya memperbaharu rekod temasya pada aksi di Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Armadillo.

Kejayaan berkenaan turut menyaksikan Muhammad Erry mengikut jejak bapanya, Hidayat Hamidon, yang pernah memenangi emas angkat berat pada Sukan Komanwel Kuala Lumpur 1998.

Emas Muhammad Erry merupakan yang ketiga buat kontinjen negara selepas Mohamad Aniq Kasdan dan Muhammad Aznil Bidin masing-masing mengungguli kategori 60kg dan 65kg lelaki pada Ahad.

Di SEC, kem boling padang pula menghadiahkan khabar gembira apabila pemain *singles* lelaki Izzat Shameer Dzulkuple dan *pairs* wanita Aleena Ahmad Nawawi-Syafiqha Haidar Afif Abdul Rahman masing-masing mengesahkan tempat di final.

Izzat Shameer akan bertemu wakil England Sam Tolchard sementara Aleena-Syafiqha juga akan berdepan wakil England Amy Pharaoh-Sian Honnor dalam final.

Sementara itu dalam acara bola keranjang 3x3 lelaki, skuad negara mencipta sejarah mara ke suku akhir pada penampilan sulung mereka di temasya Sukan Komanwel selepas menamatkan saingan Kumpulan B di tempat kedua.

Malaysia yang dibarisi Chang Zi Fueng, Chong Zhen Yang, Ting Chun Hong dan Ooi Xian Fu menewaskan Jamaica 21-15 dalam aksi terakhir kumpulan selepas mencatat kemenangan ke atas Fiji, Kenya dan Singapura, selain tewas tipis 19-21 kepada juara bertahan England.

Skuad negara akan bertemu tuan rumah Scotland pada suku akhir esok, dengan pemenang diadjudal berdepan Australia di separuh akhir. – Bernama



ALEENA dan Syafiqha mengesahkan tempat di final. – foto BERNAMA

Sukan Asia: PSM anggap Syahir ‘senjata psikologi’

KUALA LUMPUR: Kehadiran tekong utama negara Mohammad Syahir Mohd Rosdi, disifatkan sebagai “senjata psikologi” paling ampuh untuk menggerunkan pihak lawan terutamanya musuh tradisi Thailand, pada temasya Sukan Asia Aichi-Nagoya 2026 yang akan berlangsung September depan.

Presiden Persekutuan Sepaktakraw Malaysia (PSM) Datuk Mohd Sumali Reduan berkata Mohammad Syahir, memiliki kelebihan luar biasa yang mampu memberi impak besar kepada pasukan, malah kemampuannya di gelanggang amat dihormati skuad lain.

Beliau berkata meskipun pemain berkeanaan sedang bergelut dengan kecederaan, PSM menaruh harapan tinggi agar Syahir dapat mencapai tahap kecergasan optimum dalam tempoh beraki kurang dua bulan, sebelum kejohanan bermula.

“Mohammad Syahir mempunyai kelebihan tersendiri yang memang ditakuti oleh Thailand, sebab itu kita mahu dia berada dalam skuad,” katanya kepada pemberita selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Tertinggi PSM di sini, malam Isnin.

Bagaimanapun, Mohd Sumali menegaskan bahawa PSM mempunyai pelan sandaran, sekiranya proses pemulihan Mohammad Syahir tidak berjalan seperti yang dirancang.

Beliau berkata barisan tekong negara yang lain, kini menunjukkan peningkatan prestasi memberangsangkan dan sudah bersedia memikul tanggungjawab pada peringkat antarabangsa.

“Kita memang sentiasa bersedia jika ditakdirkan Mohammad Syahir tidak dapat bermain akibat kecederaan tersebut. Kita mempunyai barisan tekong lain, yang saya kira sudah menunjukkan banyak peningkatan dan mampu bersaing dengan pemain lawan.

“Namun secara gambaran umumnya, impak positif daripada Syahir amat diperlukan. Jika berlaku penurunan prestasi semasa perlawanan berlangsung, di situlah nanti barisan jurulatih akan menilai untuk melakukan perubahan drastik berdasarkan kebijaksanaan mereka,” katanya.

Sebelum ini, Mohammad Syahir terpaksa berehat selepas mengalami kecederaan ketika beraksi pada Piala Dunia Sepak Takraw 2026, pada Mei.

Bagi Sukan Asia, skuad lelaki Malaysia akan beraksi dalam dua acara iaitu regu berpasukan lelaki dan regu lelaki. – Bernama



Emas Erry, dua final boling padang ceriakan kem negara

Manfaat peluang kembalikan F1

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia perlu memantapkan sepenuhnya peluang mengemukakan Formula Satu (F1) pada Oktober depan sebagai langkah pertama ke arah mengembalikan semula perlumbaan berprestij itu ke Litar Antarabangsa Sepang (SIC) secara tetap pada masa akan datang.



Bekas pemandu pembangunan Mercedes-AMG Petronas, Jazeman Jaarfar (**gambar**) berkata meskipun penganjuran kali ini hanya melibatkan satu perlumbaan, namun ia peluang besar yang tidak boleh dilepaskan begitu sahaja memandangkan populariti F1 kini kembali melonjak di bawah pengurusan Liberty Media.

“Ini peluang yang sangat besar untuk Malaysia. Kalau kita tidak memanfaatkannya sebaik mungkin akan menjadi satu lagi peluang yang terlepas.

“F1 sekarang sudah kembali kepada zaman kegemilangannya. Sambutannya jauh lebih besar berbanding dahulu dan Malaysia perlu menggunakan peluang ini untuk membuktikan kita masih mampu mengemukakan perlumbaan bertaraf dunia,” katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama hari ini.

Beliau berkata kepulungan F1 bukan sekadar mengenai perlumbaan selama tiga hari, sebaliknya mampu mencekutkan *spillover effect* kepada pelbagai sektor termasuk peluang pekerjaan, pemindahan teknologi, pembangunan infrastruktur, pelancongan dan liputan media antarabangsa.

“F1 ialah kemuncak sukan permotoran dunia. Semua pihak perlu melihat nilai sebenar perlumbaan ini, bukan hanya daripada jualan tiket dan promosi, tetapi impaknya kepada ekonomi dan pembangunan negara.

Beliau turut berpandangan bahawa ledakan populariti F1 dalam kalangan generasi muda menerusi siri dokumentari *Drive to Survive* serta strategi media sosial Liberty Media menjadikan impak penganjurannya hari ini jauh lebih besar berbanding ketika Malaysia kali terakhir menjadi tuan rumah pada 2017.

“Masa sudah berubah, teknologi sudah berubah dan mesej F1 kini jauh lebih kuat. Sebab itu saya melihat acara ini sangat memberikan impak, tetapi kita perlu benar-benar memanfaatkannya,” katanya.

Bagaimanapun, Jazeman mengakui laluan untuk Malaysia kembali sebagai tuan rumah tetap bukan sesuatu yang mudah memandangkan kalender F1 kini semakin padat dan setiap permohonan perlu melalui proses penilaian *Formula One Management (FOM)* serta Persekutuan Automobil Antarabangsa (FIA).

Penganjuran secara *one-off* boleh menjadi permulaan terbaik sekiranya Malaysia berjaya membuktikan keupayaan mengemukakan perlumbaan mengikut piawai tertinggi.

“Kita perlu memberikan 120 peratus daripada aspek penganjuran, pengurusan trafik, keselamatan, kemudahan media, pengalaman penonton dan operasi keseluruhannya kerana semua itu akan menjadi penilaian penting,” katanya.

Sementara itu, bekas wartawan sukan dan pemerhati sukan, Asan Ahmad berpandangan Malaysia tidak seharusnya sekadar berpuas hati menjadi tuan rumah bagi satu perlumbaan, sebaliknya perlu menjadikan peluang berkenaan sebagai batu loncatan untuk mendapatkan semula tempat tetap dalam kalender F1.

Beliau yang pernah membuat liputan beberapa edisi F1 sebelum ini berkata sekiranya kerajaan benar-benar mahu membawa semula F1 ke SIC, kontrak jangka panjang merupakan pilihan yang lebih berbaloi berbanding penganjuran sekali sahaja.

“Kos menaik taraf litar, paddock dan pusat media mengikut piawai FIA Gred 1 menelan belanja yang besar. Jika hanya untuk satu perlumbaan, ia menjadi kos hangus bagi acara tiga hari sahaja.

“Tetapi jika kontrak berlangsung antara lima hingga 10 tahun, pelaburan itu dapat disusutnilaikan dan menjadikan kos operasi tahunan jauh lebih cekap,” katanya.

Asan berkata kontrak jangka panjang turut memberikan keyakinan kepada pemain industri pelancongan, syarikat penerbangan, hotel dan penaja korporat untuk merancang pelaburan serta promosi lebih awal.

Beliau berkata penganjuran secara tetap juga akan mengukuhkan kedudukan Petronas sebagai jenama tenaga global menerusi perlumbaan di laman sendiri, selain meningkatkan nilai pemasaran Malaysia pada mata dunia.

Namun, beliau menegaskan kerajaan tidak seharusnya mengulangi pendekatan terdahulu dengan menanggung sepenuhnya kos penganjuran.

Sebaliknya, model perkongsian awam-swasta (PPP) melibatkan kerajaan, syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC), penaja korporat dan pemain industri pelancongan perlu dipertimbangkan bagi memastikan penganjuran F1 menjadi pelaburan yang mampan. – Bernama



NIZAM (tengah) bersama (dari kiri) Valerie, Asneh, Syed Ahmad, Michelle dan Adanan menunjukkan isyarat 40 untuk sasaran kutipan emas tahun ini.

Sukma, Para Sukma 2026

Atlet Sabah bersemangat

GL Oh

KOTA KINABALU: Atlet negeri bersemangat tinggi menghadapi temasya Sukma dan Para Sukma yang akan berlangsung di Selangor bermula bulan depan, dengan Sukma dijadualkan dari 15 hingga 24 Ogos manakala Para Sukma pula dari 5 hingga 11 September.

Menteri Pembangunan Belia, Kemajuan Sukan dan Ekonomi Kreatif, Datuk Nizam Abu Bakar Titingan, mengumumkan pada Selasa bahawa Sabah akan menyertai 36 daripada 37 jenis sukan di Sukma serta kesemua 10 acara di Para Sukma.

Beliau turut mengumumkan pelantikan Setiausaha Tetap Kementerian itu, Datuk Mansur Haji Asun, sebagai ketua kontinjen bagi kedua-dua temasya tersebut.

Selain Kabaddi yang merupakan sukan pilihan dan belum mempunyai program pembangunan, sukan yang akan disertai

ialah akuatik, angkat berat, badminton, berbasikal, bola jaring, bola keranjang, bola sepak, bola tampar, boling padang, gimnastik, golf, hoki, judo, karate-do, lawan pedang, memanah, menembak, olahraga, pelayaran, pencak silat, ping pong, ragbi, sepak takraw, skuasy, sofbol, taekwondo, tenis, boling tenpin, tinju dan wushu; manakala sukan pilihan pula ialah catur, e-sukan, kriket, pétanque, silambam dan muay thai.

“Kita akan diwakili oleh sejumlah 744 atlet, yang terdiri daripada 385 atlet lelaki dan 359 wanita, serta 51 pengurus pasukan dan 148 jurulatih,” katanya.

Bagi Para Sukma pula, beliau menyatakan bahawa acara yang akan disertai oleh 154 atlet dengan iringan 117 pegawai ialah badminton, boccia, boling, catur, memanah, olahraga, ping pong, angkat berat (powerlifting), renang dan boling tenpin.

Nizam turut yakin bahawa kontinjen

tersebut mampu mencapai sasaran 40 pingat emas dalam Sukma, seperti yang ditetapkan oleh mendiang abangnya yang juga bekas Menteri Belia dan Sukan, Datuk Haji Tawfiq, pada tahun 2018.

“Rekod terbaik Sabah dicatatkan semasa Sukma Perak ke-19 pada tahun 2018, apabila kami berjaya membawa pulang 33 pingat emas, 27 pingat perak dan 46 pingat gangsa.

“Bagi Para Sukma, kita menyasarkan 66 pingat emas; satu sasaran yang saya rasakan realistik dalam usaha untuk muncul sebagai juara keseluruhan sekali lagi.

“Rekod terbaik kita adalah semasa Para Sukma Sarawak 2024 dengan memenangi 62 emas, 42 pingat perak dan 32 pingat gangsa, sekali gus menduduki tempat kedua di belakang Sarawak dalam kedudukan keseluruhan.”

Menteri itu juga merakamkan penghargaan kepada Kerajaan Negeri atas

sokongan mereka.

“Bagi pihak Kementerian, saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada Kerajaan Sabah di bawah pimpinan Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji Haji Noor—yang merupakan penyokong nombor satu kami—kerana meluluskan penyertaan besar ini dan memberikan peluang terbaik kepada semua atlet yang layak untuk bertanding di Selangor.”

Turut hadir semasa pengumuman itu ialah Pembantu Menteri Pembangunan Belia, Kemajuan Sukan dan Ekonomi Kreatif Dato Sri Anil Sandhu; Pengerusi Lembaga Sukan Sabah Syed Ahmad Syed Abas; Timbalan Setiausaha Tetap Kementerian Adanan Atin; Pengarah Majlis Sukan Sabah (MSN) Asneh Mohd Noor (yang juga Timbalan Ketua Kontinjen I); Timbalan Pengarah MSN Valerie Wong; serta Timbalan Ketua Kontinjen II Datuk Michelle Koh.

Bahrain tetap harga tiket

SEPANG: Harga tiket Formula 1 (F1) Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix yang dijadual berlangsung di Litar Antarabangsa Sepang (SIC) dari 2 hingga 4 Okt ini, akan diputuskan oleh Bahrain, kata Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif SIC Azhan Shafriman Hanif.

Beliau berkata Bahrain menanggung yuran hak penganjuran Formula 1 bagi perlumbaan berkenaan dan berdasarkan rundingan awal, semua hasil jualan tiket akan disalurkan kepada negara itu, sekali gus menjadikan keputusan mengenai harga tiket tertakluk kepada Bahrain.

Bagaimanapun Azhan Shafriman berkata perkara itu masih dalam rundingan bersama Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) dan segala perubahan akan dimaklumkan dari semasa ke semasa.

“Apa yang saya faham daripada perbincangan awal, semua hasil jualan tiket akan dikembalikan kepada Bahrain. Jadi kita tidak mempunyai kuasa mutlak. Saya tahu ramai netizen mahukan tiket murah atau ‘Tiket Rahmah/Madani’.

“Saya akan cuba yang terbaik untuk dapatkan harga istimewa, mungkin harga khas MyKad, tetapi keputusan akhir adalah di tangan Bahrain,” katanya kepada pemberita pada sidang media bersama SIC di sini pada Selasa.

Azhan Shafriman berkata setakat ini, rundingan masih tertumpu kepada aspek operasi dan belum memasuki fasa komersial yang melibatkan penjualan tiket, pakej hospitaliti dan jualan.

Beliau berkata pasukan Bahrain dijangka tiba di Malaysia minggu depan bagi mengadakan rundingan secara bersemuka, yang dijangka memberi gambaran lebih jelas mengenai urusan tiket, hospitaliti dan perkara komersial lain.

“Pasukan mereka akan datang ke sini minggu hadapan secara fizikal, jadi kita akan ada lebih kejelasan. Minggu ini kita masih ada mesyuarat dalam talian,” katanya.

Azhan Shafriman berkata jualan tiket dijangka akan dijual pada minggu pertama Ogos atau lebih awal daripada tarikh itu.

“Saya berharap saya boleh berikan lebih banyak maklumat dalam beberapa hari ini dan berharap kita boleh umumkan jualan tiket secepat mungkin,” katanya.

Ahad lepas, Formula 1 mengesahkan Malaysia sebagai tuan rumah Grand Prix Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain susulan perjanjian yang dimeterai antara Formula 1, FIA serta kerajaan Malaysia dan Bahrain.

Acara yang dijadual berlangsung di SIC itu, akan mengekalkan nama asalnya Grand Prix Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain di Malaysia, tertakluk kepada perjanjian yang dimuktamadkan dan kelulusan rasmi, termasuk daripada Majlis Sukan Permotoran Dunia. – Bernama

Insentif wang tunai kekal untuk pemenang pingat

KOTA KINABALU: Kerajaan Negeri Sabah menyediakan insentif tunai RM10,000 kepada setiap atlet negeri yang memenangi pingat emas pada Sukan Malaysia (Sukma) ke-22 di Selangor bulan hadapan.

Menteri Pembangunan Belia, Kemajuan Sukan dan Ekonomi Kreatif Sabah Datuk Nizam Abu Bakar Titingan berkata pemenang pingat perak dan gangsa pula masing-masing akan menerima insentif RM3,000 dan RM2,000.

“Jadi kita berharap semua akan berebut-rebut mendapat insentif RM10,000 daripada kerajaan negeri dengan mendapatkan emas bagi kontinjen Sabah.

“Harapan saya amat tinggi agar semua pegawai dan atlet dapat menunjukkan prestasi terbaik, berdisiplin, memiliki semangat patriotik yang tinggi serta men-

jaga nama baik Sabah,” katanya kepada pemberita selepas mempengerusikan mesyuarat persiapan kontinjen Sabah ke Sukma dan Para Sukma, di sini pada Selasa.

Beliau berkata kontinjen Sabah menyasarkan 40 pingat emas pada temasya Sukma yang akan berlangsung dari 15 hingga 24 Ogos, melebihi rekod terbaik negeri sebanyak 33 emas pada edisi 2018 di Perak.

Nizam berkata persiapan atlet bermula selepas penganjuran Sukan Sabah (Saga) pada Oktober tahun lepas dengan Majlis Sukan Negeri Sabah mengenal pasti dan menyenaraikan atlet berpotensi untuk menjalani latihan serta menyertai kejohanan di dalam dan luar negara.

“Pada Julai ini kita telah menyenarai pendek, kita percaya setelah kita mem-

Kejayaan ini untuk ayah – Muhammad Erry

GLASGOW: “Ini untuk ayah saya.”

Itulah luahan penuh emosi atlet angkat berat negara Muhammad Erry Hidayat selepas penantiannya untuk bergelar juara Sukan Komanwel akhirnya berakhir apabila beliau merangkul pingat emas kategori 79 kilogram (kg) lelaki pada Sukan Komanwel Glasgow 2026, di sini.

Atlet berusia 26 tahun itu mengungguli saingan di Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Armadillo pada Isnin, dengan jumlah angkatan 331 kg, hasil 147 kg dalam acara *snatch* dan 184 kg dalam acara *clean and jerk*.

Catatan *clean and jerk* serta jumlah keseluruhan 331 kg turut memperbaharui rekod temasya.

“Alhamdulillah penantian tiga kali Sukan Komanwel, (akhirnya) saya dapat pingat emas. Ini (pingat emas) untuk ayah saya lah. Sebelum ini dia *call* saya, cakap tolong bawa balik pingat emas lagi sekali untuk ayah, saya buat untuk dia,” katanya kepada Bernama, di sini.

Kejayaan itu bagaimanapun hadir selepas Muhammad Erry melalui detik mencemaskan dalam *snatch* apabila dua angkatannya pada bebanan 147 kg



Muhammad Erry menunjukkan pingat emas yang dimenanginya. – foto BERNAMA

dibatalkan juri, sebelum berjaya menyempurnakan percubaan ketiga untuk meneruskan cabaran dalam acara *clean and jerk*.

“Kejayaan hari ini amat manis dan perjuangan saya luar biasa hari ini ... kalau jika tak dapat angkatan ketiga mungkin saya tak boleh main untuk *clean and jerk*. Jadi untuk angkatan keseluruhan saya berjuang habis-habisan dalam *clean and jerk*,” katanya.

Muhammad Erry berkata dia cuba

mengingati kembali teknik dan prestasi ketika latihan bagi bangkit selepas berdepan kesukaran dalam acara *snatch*.

“Saya cuma ingat macam mana saya berlatih sebab *snatch* saya buat 153 kg (rekod terbaik), tapi 147 kg kenapa jatuh...dalam *clean and jerk* pun saya tak sangka dengan angkatan terakhir. Walaupun rekod saya 187 kg, saya buat 184 kg terasa berat, mungkin saya tak biasa cuaca sejuk,” katanya. – Bernama

M’sia ramai tenaga berpengalaman kendali F1: MAM

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia tidak berdepan masalah kekurangan tenaga kerja mahupun *marshal* berpengalaman untuk mengendalikan perlumbaan Formula Satu (F1), memandangkan proses akreditasi pegawai sukan berkenaan di negara ini diperbaharui pada setiap tahun.

Presiden Persatuan Sukan Bermotor Malaysia (MAM) Tan Sri Mokhzani Mahathir berkata meskipun kali terakhir Sepang menjadi hos F1 adalah pada 2017, namun ketersediaan

petugas teknikal sentiasa berada pada tahap terbaik.

“Orang berpengalaman di Malaysia ini ramai. Kita akan *authorize* siapa yang boleh jadi *marshal* tapi kalau ada kekurangan kita akan bawa tenaga pengajar atau orang yang berpengalaman untuk bagi kursus kepada semua pegawai-pegawai SIC,” katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama.

Katanya peranan MAM ketika ini ialah menyelaras pelaksanaan semua peraturan dan piawaian yang ditetapkan oleh

Persekutuan Automobil Antarabangsa (FIA), termasuk memastikan aspek keselamatan, kesiapsiagaan litar, peserta serta penonton dipatuhi sebelum perlumbaan F1 boleh dijalankan.

“Sebenarnya SIC ini dijaga dengan baik walaupun tiada F1. Jadi semua acara selain F1, MotoGP dan sebagainya memastikan Litar Sepang pada tahap yang baik. Penyelenggaraan sangat baik. Jadi nak guna untuk F1 tidak susah. (Masih) sempat dan ada masa,” katanya. – Bernama