

ON TUESDAY

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AL FRESCO IFTAR ...

Combining the joys of a sunset picnic with the breaking of fast, couples and small groups gather to have a meal at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, while observing social distancing requirements. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Housing helpline

KUALA LUMPUR: The Better Malaysia Foundation (BMF), formerly known as the Vincent Tan Foundation, announced yesterday the launch of a new social enterprise programme with one goal – to assist the government to address the home ownership aspirations of low-income Malaysians, namely the B40 households, through innovative and sustainable solutions.

Commenting on the reason behind the initiative, BMF founder Tan Sri Vincent Tan said: “Our government is a caring and benevolent government and is committed to providing affordable housing to the less privileged members of our community and the lower income groups (especially the B40 group) through its various low-cost and affordable housing schemes. However, BMF would like to offer some recommendations and suggestions that can help to improve on the provision of affordable housing which is consistent with the government’s affordable housing agenda.

“Owning your own home is a basic need of everyone. It is essential for a person’s sense of dignity, safety and inclusion in the community. Owning a house means having a stake in the country. It means that all Malaysians share in the responsibility of taking care of the less privileged members of our society and maintaining the nation’s harmony so that everyone can live happily,” he added.

“We believe this social enterprise will facilitate the construction of properties with a low monthly cost of ownership, carefully designed for families to grow and prosper. Affordability is a key issue as most, if not all, B40 households will not be able to purchase a home without some form of financial assistance. I understand that in the Klang

» Foundation offers recommendations to put affordable homes within reach of B40 families

Valley, for every 1,000 affordable houses launched, there are something like between 10,000 and 60,000 applicants vying to purchase them. There is a severe shortage of affordable homes to meet demand.”

BMF has in the last two years assembled a “brain trust” of like-minded professionals involved in this new social enterprise programme to help formulate innovative and sustainable solutions to address the affordability gap faced by the B40 households in our community. Recently, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin expressed concern that the B40 has now deteriorated to B50 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and this has spurred BMF to even greater efforts to address this issue.

Based on the median house price of RM295,000 in 2Q2020 published by the National Property Information Centre and median household income of RM5,873, the housing price range that is affordable to those with such income level will be RM211,000 and below. Thus, at this price range, most houses are deemed to be “unaffordable” to the average Malaysian buyer.

BMF believes that affordable housing can realistically be priced from RM120,000 to RM300,000 for an apartment, with sizes starting from 450sq ft, 600sq ft, 750sq ft and up to 900sq ft in the Klang Valley.

BMF believes this price range is

achievable with government support in terms of charging lower land premiums and nominal development charges for affordable housing projects. As key partners to this initiative, the federal and state governments’ contributions could include selling development land at low cost to developers to build affordable housing projects, especially in urban locations close to transportation hubs, which would translate to lower purchase prices for low-income house buyers.

Banks and financial institutions must also play their part by providing loans with 100% financing to B40 house buyers. According to research by BMF, several banks are already offering 100% financing loans to house buyers with minimum income between RM2,000 and RM3,000 per month, including RHB Bank, Maybank, CIMB, OCBC, MBSB Bank, Bank Rakyat, AmBank and Affin Bank. The government’s support for this initiative will give added confidence to the banking community to lend to the B40 category of house buyers.

As government support is key to any



strategic initiative aimed at providing more affordable housing for the B40 group, BMF has proposed the following two key recommendations for the government’s consideration, which is believed to be essential to facilitate the successful implementation of this strategic initiative.

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'Parliament to convene at apt time'

➤ Govt to seek advice of relevant agencies, especially Health Ministry, National Security Council: Takiyuddin

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has given an assurance that Parliament will be convened when the right time comes either before or after the Covid-19 Emergency ends, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said.

However, the government will first and

foremost seek the advice of relevant agencies, especially the Health Ministry and the National Security Council, he added.

"The government is aware of its constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the democratic process continues through Parliament sittings.

"... but the priority now is to curb the spread of Covid-19 and this includes protecting the health of all members of parliament, officials and everyone involved," he said in a statement yesterday.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan said on Sunday that the party's supreme council had proposed to the government that Parliament and state legislative assemblies reconvene during the Emergency.

Takiyuddin said during the Emergency, all quarters including the Opposition could give their opinions and suggestions to the

government through existing channels such as the Independent Committee under the Emergency Ordinance to advise the King on matters relating to the Emergency.

There shouldn't be concerns about alleged abuse of power during the Emergency as the government is indeed functioning as usual, he added.

"All quarters are encouraged to give their full cooperation to the government in its efforts to protect the lives and livelihoods of people, as well as their health, economic and social aspects." - Bernama

Raja Fadilah (second from right) supervising her workers as they make the popular snack. - **BERNAMAPIX**



Covid-19 no obstacle for couple selling 'rempeyek'

SEREMBAN: What started as a small business four years ago has turned into a profitable source of income for *rempeyek* (Malay crunchy snack) maker Raja Fadilah Raja Deraman and her husband Amir Ismail.

Starting off with a RM600 capital, the Rembau couple today earn net sales worth not less than RM5,000 a month from their Rempeyek Kak Cun business. Their products are sold in the Klang Valley, Seremban and Muar.

Raja Fadilah, 48, said during festive seasons, especially Hari Raya, she and her husband, a retired Malaysian Air Force warrant officer, are able to triple their income.

She said for the coming Aidilfitri celebration, they had to close orders as early as the first week of Ramadan for fear of not being able to fulfil customers' demand.

"Although our home-based business is slightly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, we still receive orders. In fact, we did not expect the surge in demand ahead of Hari Raya," she told Bernama.

Raja Fadilah said from just one assistant in the early days, she is now able to hire seven workers.

Rempeyek Kak Cun produces five types of rempeyek, such as with anchovies and groundnuts, dhal, anchovies, sunflower seeds

and green beans, priced between RM20 and RM25 depending on the quantity.

Raja Fadilah said currently they are producing about 17kg of *rempeyek* daily.

On future plans, the mother of two said they wished to expand the business and open a factory with modern equipment to boost production.

"However, we still have a lot to learn as we are new to this field. We have to be mentally and physically prepared before going further."

The *rempeyek* is also available at 60 Petronas Mesra convenience stores in the Klang Valley and Negri Sembilan, as well as 22 Elewsmart branches.

Tree felled for public safety, says City Hall

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur City Hall cut down a tree at the children's playground in Jalan Batu Laut 2, Taman Desa Seputeh to ensure public safety.

In a statement yesterday, City Hall said the mahogany (*Khaya Senegalensis*) tree was found to be dead and it was felled to prevent any untoward incidents.

It said the tree was chopped down on receiving a complaint from Tenaga Nasional

Bhd (TNB) about trees around Taman Seputeh and an investigation was carried out on April 8.

"Instructions were issued to the contractor involved to carry out pruning on three trees of the same type at the back of a TNB substation on April 10.

"On April 12, the contractor was present to continue the task of cutting down dead trees in the park area, but work was

stopped by residents who placed a barrier in front of the lorry involved in the felling work."

However, the work to cut down the tree was continued after City Hall officers gave an explanation.

One of the residents spread news of the incident on social media on April 13 and an online media reported the matter on April 20. - Bernama

Major role for Sabah, Sarawak in East Asean Growth Area

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah and Sarawak play a major role in revitalising the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs) Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said the BIMP-EAGA, which is Asia's largest regional

grouping, was conceived 27 years ago to accelerate economic development, improve export competitiveness and enhance the attractiveness of the EAGA to local and foreign investments.

"Therefore, we need to review the mission and vision of BIMP-EAGA to benefit Sabah and Sarawak economically," he said in a statement

yesterday, after receiving a courtesy call from BIMP-EAGA Sabah Council delegates led by its Special Envoy Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia.

Ongkili said the appointment of Pandikar as the special envoy is timely and fitting as he has good networking with neighbouring countries which are also partners in the BIMP-EAGA.

"I am confident that with his great ideas and vast experience, Tan Sri (Pandikar) will be able to enhance the role of Sabah and Sarawak in the regional grouping."

During the meeting, Ongkili was briefed on BIMP-EAGA Sabah's mission to be a catalyst for generating revenue for Sabah and Sarawak, and Malaysia as a whole. - Bernama

BRIEFS

POWER FAILURE IN SABAH, LABUAN

KOTA KINABALU: A total of 113,965 consumers in several locations in Sabah and Labuan experienced electricity supply disruption following a simultaneous power trip at several independent power producers in Sepanggar on Sunday. Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd senior general manager (Asset Management) Norhizami Abu Hasan said 18% of users of the company's electricity supply were affected by the power trip, which occurred at 5.59pm in Kota Kinabalu, Kota Belud, Kudat, Kota Marudu, Pitas, Tuaran, Pitas, Keningau, Semporna, Sandakan and Labuan. "A bigger disruption was averted thanks to the automatic grid protection system. Work to restore power supply was carried out in stages from 7.43pm and was fully restored at 9.39pm," he told Bernama. He said an investigation team had been set up to identify the main cause of the incident and mitigation methods to prevent a recurrence.

PERIOD SPOT CHECKS, TELL ME AT WHICH SCHOOL: RADZI

PUTRAJAYA: "If it happens, tell me at which school, so action can be taken," said Senior Education Minister Datuk Radzi Jidin when asked to comment on the practice of conducting physical checks on female students to prove that they are menstruating and use it as an excuse to escape fasting and prayers. Radzi said the Education Ministry is investigating if such incidents are taking place at boarding schools under the ministry, but so far there has been no indication they exist. He stressed the ministry would take further action if there are complete details on such claims. Citing a recent case involving Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Dato' Bentara Luar in Batu Pahat in Johor that was found to segregate co-curricular activities based on race and gender of its students, Radzi said the ministry had conducted an investigation on the matter and found that it did happen following which a statement had been issued to address the matter. - Bernama

TWO-DAY CLOSURE FOR 20 PENANG SCHOOLS

GEORGE TOWN: Twenty primary and secondary schools in Penang have been ordered to close for two days due to Covid-19 infection cases, Penang Education director Abdul Rashid Abdul Samad said. "The closure is to enable sanitisation work to be carried out and for school managements to reassess risks before any decision (on whether to extend the closure) can be made." Without giving any details on the schools involved, Abdul Rashid said during the closure, the affected students will continue their studies through home-based teaching and learning. - Bernama

RM5b from KWAN to **buy** vaccines

➤ Amount from investment returns only and not Petronas contributions, says finance minister

PUTRAJAYA: A total of RM5 billion from the National Trust Fund (KWAN) will be used to expedite the purchase of Covid-19 vaccines, said Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

He said the trust fund had RM19.5 billion as of Dec 31, 2020, comprising contributions worth RM10.4 billion from Petronas and RM9.1 billion from

investment returns.

Section 6 of the National Trust Fund Act 1988 (Act 339) allows KWAN to be used after 10 years for development expenditure and to finance soft loans to the federal and state governments, he said.

“The trust fund’s use is only for procuring vaccines, and not for other purposes that are not stated under the law.

“The estimated RM5 billion for vaccine procurement is only from the investment returns (RM9.1 billion), but the RM10.4 billion contribution will not be used,” he told a media conference yesterday.

The government passed an amendment to Act 339 on April 21 enabling the fund to be used for procuring vaccines and other related expenses through the Emergency (National Trust Fund) Ordinance (Amendment) 2021, Bernama reported.

Tengku Zafrul said it is aimed at expediting the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme to

achieve herd immunity by the end of this year instead of February 2022.

He said this was not the first time that the government had tapped into the trust fund, as RM42 million had been used previously from it for the Paya Indah Wetlands project.

The government announced during the tabling of Budget 2021 that it would provide a RM3 billion allocation for buying vaccines and the immunisation programme, but the cost was not included in the budget’s total allocation of RM322.5 billion, he added.

However, he said under the Strategic Programme to Empower

the People and the Economy, the government announced an increase in the allocation for the immunisation programme to RM5 billion from RM3 billion to speed up the achievement of herd immunity.

He said the government has to use the trust fund and not take a loan because the country had inherited more than RM1 trillion in government loans and liabilities, including guaranteeing loans without repayment sources such as in the case of 1Malaysia Development Bhd and Private Finance Initiative debts for off-balance sheet expenses.

Govt guarantee for loans would enhance success of initiative

FINANCING

Loan applications of 60% of buyers of affordable homes are rejected by banks and financial institutions due to age or poor credit scores. Many first-time buyers from the B40 group are not able to pay the usual down-payment on a home purchase. As such, 100% financing by lenders would resolve this issue. Housing loans should also be “two-generation” loans, with terms of between 40 and 60 years, where loan repayments can be extended over two generations to ensure that monthly repayment instalments are affordable and manageable and there is still sufficient disposable income left to provide the household with a decent standard of living.

By way of illustration and for a better understanding of the quantum of monthly instalment payments for loans of differing amounts and tenures, BMF presented a monthly mortgage repayment schedule showing the amounts of monthly repayments based on different amounts of housing loans taken out over a term ranging between 20 years to 60 years at an interest rate of 3% per annum with 100% financing.

From the figures, the monthly repayment for a 100% financed, 60-year RM300,000 loan to purchase a 900sq ft unit costing RM300,000 is only RM899, which is relatively manageable for a B40 house buyer.

BMF also conducted a survey of 1,700 employees of a private business organisation who fall within the income range of the B40 group, i.e. those having a combined household income of less than RM5,000 per month. The survey focus was on the amount of rental such B40 employees were paying for the rental of a room or a house.

From the survey, it was ascertained that the B40 employees were paying an average rental of RM900 per month for housing in the Klang Valley. From the example above, it is evident that the RM900 rental paid each month covers the monthly loan repayments of RM899 had the employee been able to obtain a 100% financed, 60-year loan of RM300,000. The key takeaway from this is that the monthly rentals can be “converted” into monthly loan repayments and a B40 person can then buy his own home. It is imperative that housing loans for the B40 group must therefore be 100% financed for a term of 40 to 60 years so that monthly repayments are affordable, and the two-generation feature adopted so that age and duration of the



The show unit at Berjaya Times Square in Kuala Lumpur. – **NORMAN HIU/THESUN**

borrower’s earning capacity will not be an impediment to loan approval.

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE

BMF called on the government to guarantee the repayment of housing loans applied for by borrowers from the B40 group for the purchase of affordable homes, as this will ensure financial institutions extend housing loans to them without fear of assuming the credit risk and taking on bad debts. The government will not be financially exposed by providing its guarantee as it will have the security and right of foreclosure over the property should the guarantee be enforced.

Many developers are also reluctant to build affordable homes because many lower income buyers are unable to obtain home loans and as such, developers will end up with cash flow problems when a significant proportion of the properties remain unsold as development costs still need to be paid regardless of the level of sales being made. If the government were to provide such guarantees, the supply of affordable housing could be increased exponentially as developers would be keen to build more affordable homes to meet the demand since there would be a large market of B40 buyers with the available financing to purchase

their properties.

The affordable housing shortage for the B40 group must be addressed urgently. Those who are now able to rent a property may not be able to keep up with their rental payments when they retire or are no longer gainfully employed for whatever reason. In such a situation, many B40 households may become homeless and this will lead to social problems and even an increase in crime rate. This situation must be avoided and the private sector must work together with the government to ensure the success of the initiative.

BMF, working together with Berjaya Land Berhad, an established property developer, has designed a 900sq ft 5-bedroom 4-bathroom show apartment specifically for this initiative. Having more bedrooms in a single housing unit will comfortably accommodate B40 families with more family members, providing enough space for their individual needs. There is also a show unit of 900sq ft with dual keys so that spare rooms may be rented out to generate additional income for the household. The show unit may be viewed by appointment at Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur.

For those who are keen to support or be a part of BMF’s initiative in bringing about much needed innovative changes to resolve the issue of affordable housing, please contact Felix Miller (felix.miller@berjaya.com.my) or Yap Far Loon (farloon.yap@aleevar.com).

For media queries, contact Felix Miller (017-2387 900) or Datin Seri Sunita Rajakumar (012-2860 877 or via sunita_rajakumar@yahoo.com).

MONTHLY MORTGAGE REPAYMENT SCHEDULE

Interest rate : 3% per annum
Financing margin: 100%

Unit Size (sf)	Property Price (MYR)	Loan Amount (MYR)	Down Payment (MYR)	Repayment Period (Years)						
				20	25	30	35	40	50	60
450	120,000	120,000	0	666	569	506	462	430	386	360
600	160,000	160,000	0	887	759	675	616	573	515	479
750	200,000	200,000	0	1,109	948	843	770	716	644	599
900	240,000	240,000	0	1,331	1,138	1,012	924	859	773	719
900 (KL)	300,000	300,000	0	1,664	1,423	1,265	1,155	1,074	966	899

Songkok maker faces bleak Raya due to lack of orders

IPOH: Songkok maker Hamzah Irzal is finding it hard to eke out a living during the Covid-19 pandemic. He has only received about 200 orders for his traditional headwear so far, and Hari Raya Aidilfitri is just weeks away.

Prior to the pandemic, Hamzah, 52, used to receive orders in the thousands.

Hamzah, who has been supplying and selling songkok to wholesalers and individual customers since 2008, said at present, wholesalers, especially those trading at Ramadan bazaar sites, are reluctant to order in large quantities due to the possibility of the movement control order (MCO) being implemented again.

"The orders I have received this time around are mostly online, such as Facebook and Instagram, as well as Shopee.

"The wholesalers are worried that if the MCO is implemented again, they will incur losses if they are not allowed to operate their

business," he said when met at his premises at the Urban Transformation Centre.

However, Hamzah said he was grateful that his move to market his products abroad had shown some positive results as he had received orders from customers in Brunei and Indonesia. He also found out that imitations of his products were being produced and sold in these two countries, especially his exclusive songkok design, *kopiah hafiz* or *kopiah imam*.

"The material used for *kopiah imam* is similar to that used for turban. The *kopiah*, priced at RM80 each, usually comes in maroon, complete with strings. I also make it for children at tahfiz schools."

He is also concerned that the art of making songkok is slowly dying in the country as many young people are not interested in the craft.

He said he noticed this during classes he conducted at the Seri Iskandar National Youth Skills Institute, Perak Tengah. – Bernama

45 restaurant customers fined for violating SOP

KUANTAN: Forty-five customers of a popular restaurant in Jalan Teluk Sisek here were slapped with compound fines for failing to adhere to recovery movement control order standard operating procedures (SOP).

Kuantan district police chief ACP Mohamad Noor Yusof Ali said compounds of between RM1,500 and RM2,000 were issued to each of them, including seven women, after it was found that they failed to practise physical distancing at the restaurant.

"Two of the customers were also fined for not registering their entry using the MySejahtera app, with one of them showing us

a backdated registration which was on April 21.

"During the inspection, we found they were crowding at tables although there were many empty ones available. Their excuse was they were not aware of the one-metre rule."

Mohamad Noor said a RM10,000 compound fine was issued to the restaurant management for failing to ensure their customers complied with the SOP.

"The management told us they had advised the customers but they refused to listen. The restaurant should have called the police or the city council enforcement division," he said. – Bernama



Senior citizens waiting for their turn to receive the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine at the Pandamaran sports complex in Port Klang yesterday. – **ASYRAF RASID/THESUN**

'AstraZeneca jabs safe and effective'

➤ Senior citizens most suitable group to receive the vaccine during phase two of immunisation programme: Minister

PUTRAJAYA: The AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and will be administered to senior citizens, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba.

"I wish to confirm that the AstraZeneca vaccine is safe for use and it is effective. We will give it to those aged 60 and above, the most suitable group," he told a weekly press conference on Covid-19 here yesterday.

He said the vaccine would be used in phase two of the National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme, which began on April 19, covering senior citizens, persons with disabilities and those with comorbidities, Bernama reported.

Last Saturday, Adham said Malaysia received its first batch of 268,800 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine through the global Covax facility.

Also present at the press conference were Health Deputy Director-General (Research and Technical Support) Datuk Dr Hishamshah Mohd Ibrahim, Health Deputy Director-General (Public Health) Datuk Dr Chong Chee Kheong and Clinical Research Institute, National Institute of Health director Dr Kalairasu M. Peariasamy.

Kalairasu, who is Health Ministry Covid-19 Vaccine Candidate Selection Sub-Committee chairman, said from pre-clinical aspects, the AstraZeneca vaccine using the viral vector

platform is good for prevention of Covid-19.

He said the Covid-19 Vaccine Supply Access Guarantee special committee, jointly chaired by Adham and National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme Coordinating Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, had sought the opinion of a panel led by Hishamshah on the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The panel, comprising 22 experts from various disciplines, was guided by three conditions to determine the use of the vaccine – whether it can reduce hospital admissions, admissions to the intensive care unit and risks of Covid-19 deaths.

Kalairasu said after studying various types of data, the panel concluded that the AstraZeneca vaccine was beneficial to use and that cases of blood clots linked to it were rare.

"Comparing the risks and benefits of the vaccine, it is suitable to be used for those aged 60 and above," he said.

He added the vaccine had been approved by the National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency on March 2. The panel would study data from other countries regarding the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for other age groups.

"The recommendation on use of the AstraZeneca vaccine will be adjusted accordingly after we have studied the available data," he said.

Temporary ban on flights to and from India

KUALA LUMPUR: The government yesterday agreed to impose a temporary ban on flights to and from India beginning tomorrow to prevent the spread of a new variant of the Covid-19 virus in the country.

Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said travellers who embarked on a journey from any destination in India, either via direct flight or transit to Malaysia, were prohibited from entering the country.

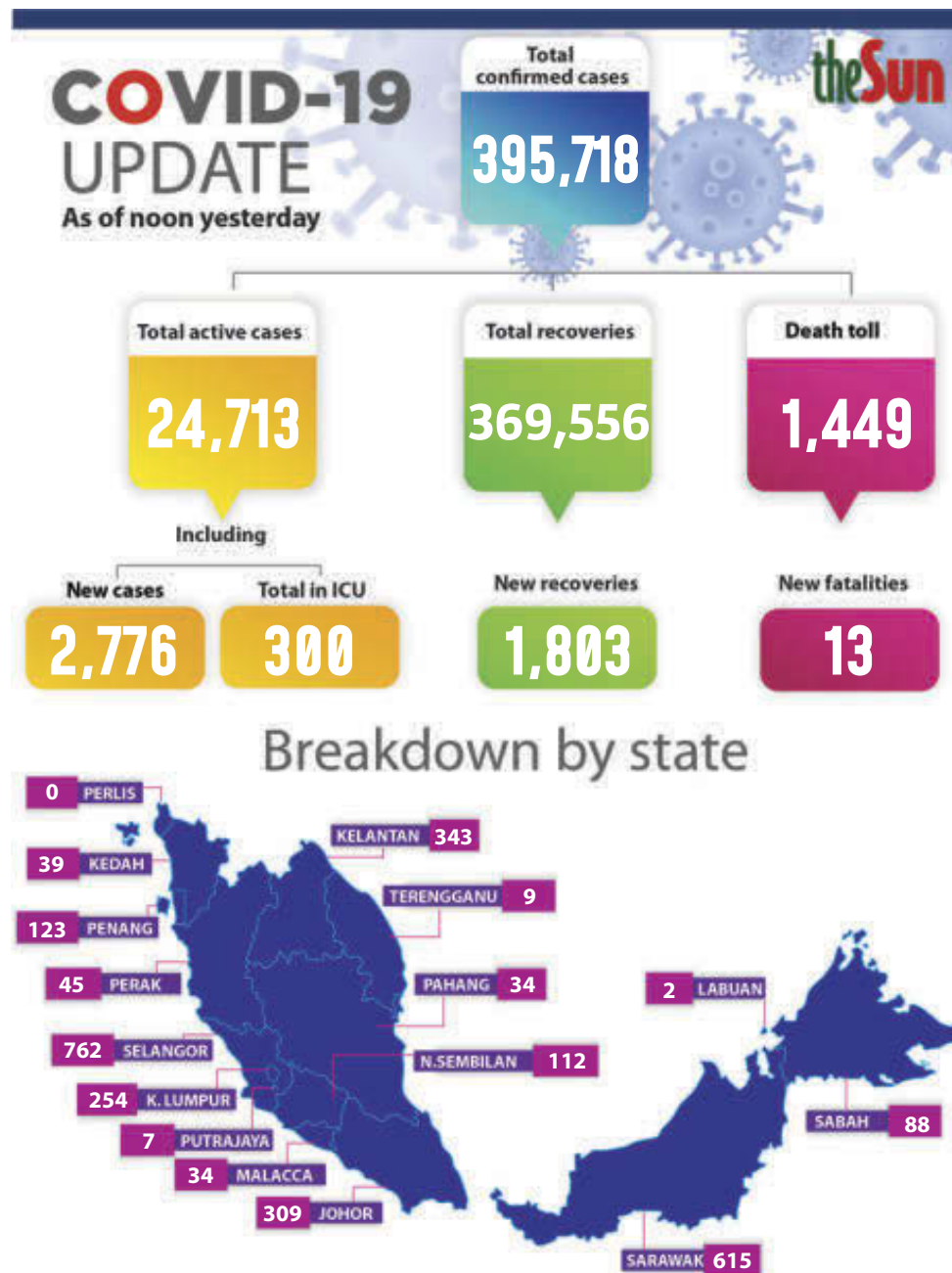
"This ban also applies to passengers who transit in Malaysia en route to another country. However, an exemption will be given to Malaysian citizens.

"Ships with a history of travel from India in

the last 14 days are not allowed the sign-off procedure in Malaysia, except for Malaysian crew, who will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine," he said in a statement.

The temporary ban was also imposed on Indian citizens who held valid temporary employment visit passes for Malaysia, as well as students and business travellers.

Ismail Sabri said Malaysians, including students, employees, spouses and children of Malaysians living in India, as well as members of religious groups who were in the country, were allowed to enter Malaysia with a mandatory 14-day quarantine procedure at gazetted quarantine stations. – Bernama



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Ex-DAP member fails in bid to challenge book ban

KUALA LUMPUR: The ban on controversial comic book *Belt and Road Initiative for Win-Winism* authored by former DAP member Hew Kuan Yau will remain in force.

This follows High Court Judge Datuk Noorin Badaruddin's dismissal of Hew's application for a judicial review to challenge the ban.

Justice Noorin ruled that the home minister's decision to ban the book was legal, reasonable and ought not to be disturbed by the court.

"The contents of the book are likely to be prejudicial to public order. The book has raised anger in this country and must be forfeit to avoid unwanted incidents from happening.

The home minister is also aware that the contents of the book fail to take into account the sensitivity of the multi-racial and multi-religious society and that it might divide unity.

"Thus, (there is) nothing illegal about the decision of the minister in issuing the order. The government has the right to preserve public peace and order."

Justice Noorin added that the minister's decision was also made after considering social media comments and police reports lodged by the public over the book.

"This court finds no merit in the judicial review application and dismisses it with RM5,000 in costs," she said, adding that Section 7 of the Printing Presses and

Publications Act was constitutional and valid.

On Jan 6 last year, the High Court granted leave to Hew to proceed with the judicial review against the book ban.

The judicial review application seeks to quash the home minister's ban order and the Attorney-General's Chambers' (AGC) gazette of the ban order dated Oct 23, 2019.

According to the judicial review application filed on Nov 26, 2019, the home minister (who is not named), Home Ministry, AGC and the Government of Malaysia were named as respondents.

Hew, who is known by his moniker "Superman Hew", is the co-author of the comic book published by the Asia Comic Cultural

Museum in three languages – Malay, English and Chinese.

The prohibition order applies to all three languages it was published in.

He had also sought a declaration that the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 is unconstitutional and should be declared null and void.

Speaking to reporters outside the court, Hew's counsel Datuk J. Shamesh said he would wait for further instructions from his client on whether to proceed to appeal against the decision.

Senior federal counsel Ahmad Hanir Hambaly appeared for the respondents. – Bernama

Malaysia's very own magnificent seven

► Honoured among 300 individuals across Asia who have made their mark in the latest Forbes 30 Under 30's

■ BY SHIVANI SUPRAMANI AND ELWIN DAVA
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Young Malaysians are making a mark everywhere – from politics to social issues and from information technology to creativity.

They have overcome what seemed like insurmountable odds to make a difference, not only for themselves but for others as well.

Blazing a trail for their peers are seven individuals who have made it to the latest Forbes 30 Under 30 list. They are among 300 individuals across Asia who have made it to the 2021 roll of honour.

In separate interviews with *theSun*, the seven talked about issues that have driven them and what it took to get to where they are despite the many challenges, chief of which is the Covid-19 pandemic and the havoc it has wreaked.

The first two on the list, Tharma Pillai, 28, and Qyira Yusri, 26, were not even political rookies when they took on the fight to give young people a say in the nation's future.

In 2016, they launched Undi18, a campaign to get the government to lower the voting age from 21 to 18.

They were inspired by how the younger generation made a difference in the 2016 US presidential elections and Brexit.

They argued that an 18-year-old was officially considered an adult, with the right to marry, build a family, own property and even be legally responsible for crimes.

"Yet, they are deemed not matured enough to vote, which was ironic," Qyira and Tharma said. What followed, of course, is history.

Ong Yong Xun, 21, was preparing for his SPM examinations when he hit upon an idea of creating a platform to help students find short and simple study notes.

But there was a snag. He did not have any knowledge of coding, so he spent six months learning the technique on Google and YouTube.

While that earned him the nickname "Zero", it also led to the launch of JomStudy, an app to help Form 4 and Form 5 students do their revisions anywhere without having to refer to their textbooks.

Annice Lyn, 29, made news with her photograph that appeared on the cover of the April 15 issue of *TIME* magazine.

It was a picture of the world map constructed painstakingly out of 50,000

green-tipped matchsticks by artist Red Hong Yi to illustrate the damage caused by climate change.

Lyn, who captured the essence of the message in the photograph, said that fellow photographers and Aisha Nazar, her co-founder of Women Photographers Malaysia, equally deserved the recognition.

Jaz Lee, 25, has shown that dropping out of school early does not necessarily make one a failure.

Inspired by the TV show *Man Men*, he pursued a career in advertising despite not having studied creative arts.

His fortunes changed when at the age of 19, he wrote to Leo Burnett, one of the world's top advertising agencies, expounding on "what advertising is today and what it should be".

Leo Burnett's former executive creative director Eric Cruz was so impressed with Lee that he was made the youngest creative director ever. Today, he works for Ogilvy, another international advertising agency.

Tan Guan Sheng could very well be the man who lays the path for online influencers.

The graduate of banking and finance began life as an influencer himself, uploading skits and comedy on YouTube besides interning at *JinnyBoyTV*, but later

found his niche in digital marketing.

At the age of 23, he set up Ittify, a platform to open new opportunities for upcoming influencers.

Ittify now has more than 6,000 influencers on its list and has recently expanded its database by holding contests to find the most creative content creator each week.

The influencer with the most creative post of the week wins RM50.

Then, there is Kevin Wu, 27, a lawyer with an appetite for offbeat cuisine.

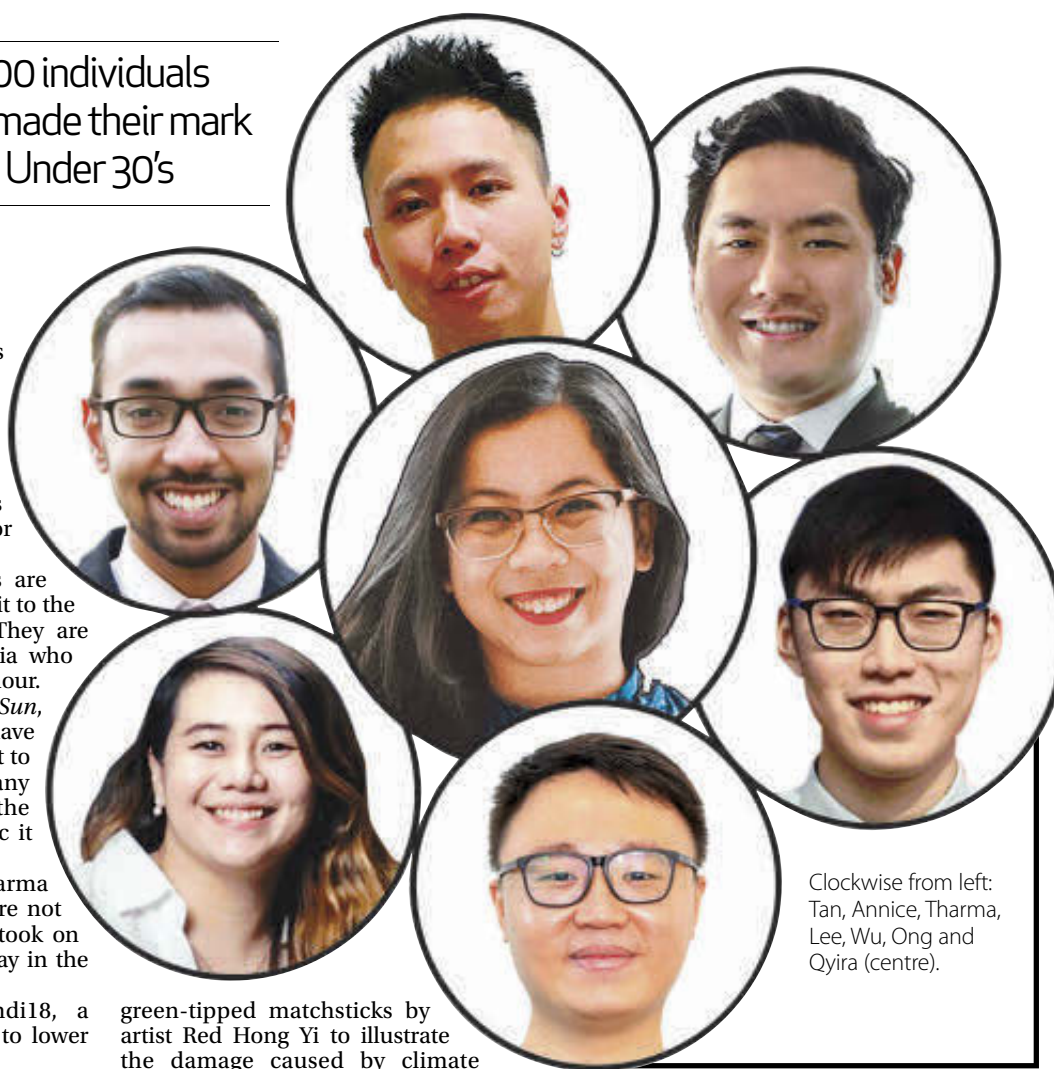
After sampling cricket tacos while on a trip to Mexico in 2018, Wu set up Ento, a food company that focuses on insects as a source of protein.

Wu said the hot and humid climate in Malaysia is ideal for breeding crickets.

The insect has nine essential amino acids and three times the protein found in beef.

The bigger plan for Ento is to mitigate the pressure on food production by introducing crickets to the palate.

Understandably, the stereotype of crickets being pests has been a major hump on the road, but Wu has found success through hard work and perseverance.



Clockwise from left: Tan, Annice, Tharma, Lee, Wu, Ong and Qyira (centre).

Fined, jailed for FB post against Agong

TEMERLOH: A labourer was sentenced to a day's jail and fined RM8,000 after pleading guilty to uploading an obscene message against the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah on Facebook (FB) last year.

Sessions court judge Manira Mohd Nor ordered Yusaini Razab@Che Soh, 42, from Kuala Krai, Kelantan to serve three months' jail if he failed to pay the fine.

In her judgment, Manira said the sentence took into account an appeal by the accused, adding that the offence was serious as it involved contempt against the royal institution.

"You should be more careful after this when uploading content on social media. Contempt against the royal institution should be curbed and the court needs to teach a lesson," she said, adding that she expected the punishment would serve as a deterrent not only to the accused but to society in general.

Yusaini was accused of making and initiating communication that was obscene in nature against Al-Sultan Abdullah, who is also the Sultan of Pahang, with the intention to annoy others on the platform under the profile name "Al Naml", at 9pm on March 7, 2020 at a house in Taman Permatang Shahbandar in Maran.

The charge was framed under Section 233(1)(a) of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1988, which is punishable under section 233(3) of the same Act, that carries a maximum fine of RM50,000 or imprisonment of up to one year or both, with a further fine of RM1,000 for every day during which the offence continues after conviction. – Bernama

GLC DIRECTOR RELEASED ON MACC BAIL

IPOH: A director of a government-linked company (GLC), who was remanded since April 21 to assist in an investigation of abuse of power, was released on a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) bail yesterday. Ipoh sessions and magistrate's courts assistant registrar Noor Azna Tajul Anuar allowed the 50-year-old man to be released on bail of RM20,000 in one surety. The man was later released at about 11am at the magistrate's court after posting bail. He is alleged to have appointed a company in which he had an interest, to carry out work at the GLC amounting to RM95,000. The GLC director was remanded for six days from April 21 to assist in the investigation under Section 23 of the MACC Act 2009. – Bernama

RM23,000 WORTH OF FIRECRACKERS SEIZED

KOTA BARU: The 7th Battalion of the General Operations Force seized various types of smuggled sparklers and firecrackers estimated to be worth RM23,595 near Jeram Perdah in Pasir Mas on Sunday. Its commanding officer Supt Azhari Nusi said a four-member team was patrolling on motorcycles in the area at about 5.30pm when they saw two men suspiciously trying to load sacks and boxes into a vehicle at a rubber plantation near the Salleh Berek post. Realising the presence of the law enforcers, he said the two men dropped everything and fled. He added that the modus operandi of the smugglers was to use luxury cars to elude the authorities. – Bernama

Philippines' Covid cases top one million

➤ Health official warns against easing restrictions

MANILA: The number of coronavirus cases logged in the Philippines since the start of the pandemic topped one million yesterday, as a health official warned against easing restrictions, to give hospitals some "breathing room". Nearly 9,000 new infections in the past 24 hours took the country's caseload to 1,006,428 – the second highest in Southeast Asia –

with 16,853 fatalities, government figures show.

Limited testing means the actual number of cases is probably much higher.

A lockdown imposed on the national capital region and four surrounding provinces at the end of last month to slow a record surge in infections appears to be working.

New cases in the capital – the epicentre of the outbreak – fell 20% to an average of 3,841 per day last week, data released by independent research group OCTA show.

The occupancy rate of hospital beds allocated for Covid-19 patients has also eased after capacity was

boosted and isolation facilities for mild cases expanded.

But Health Undersecretary Rosario Vergeire said infections would go back up if restrictions were relaxed now.

"As a health agency, we in the DOH (Department of Health) see the importance of continuing these kinds of restrictions so there is breathing room and space for decongestion of our healthcare system," Vergeire said ahead of a government task force meeting to decide on the issue.

"This is primarily our major concern."

The government has been redeploying healthcare workers from

low-transmission regions to Manila to support struggling hospitals.

Under current virus rules, indoor dining is banned, non-essential travel curbed, public transport capacity limited and businesses such as gyms and beauty salons closed.

Wearing a mask and face shield in public has long been mandatory.

There are growing concerns about the impact of the measures on the already devastated economy.

President Rodrigo Duterte's economic advisers estimate that the first two weeks of lockdown cost about 252,000 jobs and slashed household income by nearly 30 billion pesos (RM2.5 billion). – AFP

BRIEFS

THAI PM FINED FOR NOT WEARING MASK

BANGKOK: Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha was fined 6,000 baht (RM779) yesterday for breaching rules aimed at containing the coronavirus by not wearing a face mask, Bangkok Governor Aswin Kwanmuang said. "I informed the prime minister this was a violation of rules," the governor wrote on his official Facebook page. The move came after a photograph of Prayuth appeared on his Facebook page showing him not wearing a mask in a meeting. The photograph was later removed. The premier made an inquiry to city hall about the restrictions, which specify that masks should be worn at all times outside residences, prompting his fine, Aswin said. – Reuters

FACEBOOK BANS MP FOR MISINFORMATION

CANBERRA: Facebook removed Australian member of parliament Craig Kelly's page for repeatedly peddling pandemic misinformation, the social media giant said yesterday. Kelly previously had posts blocked on the platform and was forced to quit the governing Liberal Party, amid controversial statements on vaccine safety, lockdowns and unproven Covid treatments. Facebook said it removed his popular page permanently after "repeated violations" of its policies. "We don't allow anyone, including elected officials, to share misinformation about Covid-19 that could lead to imminent physical harm," a spokesman said in a statement. – AFP

STOP CRUELTY ...

People taking part in a protest demanding justice against animal abuse in the Mexican city of Monterrey on Sunday. – REUTERSPIX



India removes tweets critical of virus response

NEW DELHI: The removal of dozens of tweets seen to be critical of the Indian government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic is putting people's health at risk and quashing dissent, lawmakers and human rights activists said yesterday.

Twitter withheld some tweets after a legal request by the Indian government, a company spokesman told Reuters last week.

These included tweets from a lawmaker, a minister in the state of West Bengal, and a filmmaker.

"Suppression of information and criticism of government is not only dangerous for India but it is putting people around the world at risk," said Mirza Saib Beg, a lawyer whose tweets were among those withheld.

"Questioning the government of India's decision to allow mass gatherings ... where people from all across the country gathered and violated Covid safety protocols ... cannot be called to be violating any laws of the country," said Pawan Khera, a spokesman for the opposition Congress party, whose tweets were also withheld.

The law cited in the government's Twitter request is the Information Technology Act, 2000, which allows authorities to order blocking of public access to information to protect "sovereignty and integrity of India" and maintain public order.

There is a "lack of transparency" in the government's order, said the Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights group in Delhi.

Twitter has about 17.5 million users in India. – Reuters

Johnson under fire over 'let bodies pile high' comment

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced a call to resign yesterday after claims he dismissed the prospect of thousands dying from Covid-19, as a row over government "sleaze" escalated.

In a front-page headline, the *Daily Mail* newspaper reported Johnson had said he would rather see "bodies pile high in their thousands" than impose a third lockdown.

Ultimately, Johnson did order a new round of restrictions in January.

But he is now locked in a

damaging war of words with his former top aide Dominic Cummings over his coronavirus policies last year and financial dealings.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said the report, based on unnamed sources, was "not true" and had been "categorically denied by practically everyone".

"None of this is serious. The prime minister has been utterly focused on delivering, alongside Cabinet colleagues, the response to Covid."

The main opposition Labour party

wants an urgent inquiry into Cummings' claims made in an explosive blog post.

"We cannot go on like this day after day with the drip, drip, drip of allegations," Labour leader Keir Starmer said.

"We need to get to the bottom of it because I think for a lot of people, this is beginning to feel very strongly like one rule for them and another rule for everybody else," he said.

"These comments are utterly abhorrent. If they are true,

@BorisJohnson has a duty to resign," Ian Blackford, the Scottish National Party's leader in the UK parliament, tweeted.

Cummings wrote on his blog last week that Johnson had sought to use potentially illegal donations to renovate his publicly funded Downing Street accommodation.

He also wrote that Johnson had raised the prospect of blocking an internal inquiry into leaks because they could implicate a close friend of his fiancée Carrie Symonds. – AFP

Hong Kong-Singapore travel bubble to start next month

HONG KONG: Singapore and Hong Kong yesterday announced plans to resurrect their scrapped coronavirus travel bubble with dedicated flights between the two cities starting on May 26.

The two business hubs had to abandon a highly anticipated quarantine-free travel corridor late last year after Hong Kong was hit with a fourth wave of infections.

From May 26, one flight per day carrying up to 200 passengers will shuttle between the two cities.

Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines will share the route with two daily flights planned from June 10 onwards.

Hong Kongers heading to Singapore will have to have received two doses of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Sinovac vaccines – an attempt to encourage inoculation in a city where take-up so far has remained a tepid 11% despite ample supplies.

Travellers from Singapore – where the vaccination rate is around 20% –

will not be required to have been inoculated but must test negative before departure and on arrival.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore maintain strict quarantine rules for all arrivals, a measure that has kept infections comparatively low.

But the restrictions have battered tourism and the wider economy.

While countries are desperate to restart global travel, quarantine-free bubbles have had limited successes.

Taiwan and Palau set up a dedicated travel bubble last month

followed by Australia and New Zealand.

On Friday, New Zealand paused arrivals from Western Australia after an outbreak there.

Hong Kong and Singapore's bubble is dependent on both sides remaining relatively coronavirus-free in the coming months.

Both sides have agreed the bubble will be suspended for two weeks if the daily average of untraceable infections in one week reaches more than five in either city. – AFP

PAPUA SPY CHIEF KILLED IN AMBUSH

JAKARTA: An Indonesian regional intelligence chief was killed in an ambush by rebels in restive Papua region, the military confirmed yesterday. General I Gusti Putu Danny Karya Nugraha, who headed Papua's intelligence agency, was shot dead after rebels opened fire at a patrolling security forces unit in the Papuan highlands on Sunday. "He was in the area as part of the operation to restore security and to boost the morale of locals," National Intelligence Agency spokesman Wawan Purwanto said. – AFP

LEBANON BATTLES SWARMS OF LOCUSTS

BEIRUT: Army helicopters are spraying agricultural land in northeast Lebanon to help farmers battle swarms of locusts, the government said yesterday. There have been no big farming losses so far but there are concerns that more swarms could be blown to southern Lebanon. The northeast has mostly livestock farming with a few cherry plantations affected so far whereas the south has more agricultural land. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation said a change in wind direction had blown the locusts in from Saudi Arabia. – Reuters

HK ACTIVISTS FEAR BILL WILL LEAD TO 'EXIT BANS'

HONG KONG: An immigration bill on the legislative agenda tomorrow would give authorities here virtually unlimited powers to prevent residents and others entering or leaving the city, lawyers, diplomats and rights groups say. The government says the bill merely aims to screen illegal immigrants at source amid a backlog of asylum applications, and does not affect movement rights. But lawyers and rights groups say the bill gives authorities unbridled powers to impose "exit bans" such as those used by China. – Reuters

TIGER ATTACKS FARM WORKER, BATTERS CAR

BEIJING: Villagers in China's far northeast were left terrified when a Siberian tiger pounced on a field worker and attacked a car near the remote border with Russia. The male juvenile tiger was spotted on Friday roaming close to Linhu village in Heilongjiang province. Wang Xue, who had driven to the village to pick up a relative, said: "It ran over and pounced on my car, clawing at it with its paws." The car's exterior was heavily scratched and the back passenger window shattered. The tiger also pounced on a villager working in a field, before running off. The worker suffered minor injuries. – AFP

SUSPEND ACTIVITIES, NAVALNY GROUP TOLD

MOSCOW: Russian prosecutors yesterday ordered jailed opposition figure Alexei Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and its regional network to suspend all their activities. A Moscow court had begun a preliminary hearing yesterday into designating FBK and its regional offices as "extremist" after prosecutors requested they be added to a list of "terrorist and extremist" organisations run by Russia's Anti-Terrorism Committee. "The activities of Navalny's offices and FBK were immediately suspended," FBK's director Ivan Zhdanov said. – AFP

Grieving relatives pay respects to lost sailors

➤ Indonesian govt pledges to fund education of their children

JAKARTA: The Indonesian navy was yesterday trying to work out how it could salvage the remains of a submarine from the bottom of the Bali Sea and retrieve the bodies of the 53 sailors who died onboard.

The German-built *KRI Nanggala-402* was discovered lying on the seabed on Sunday broken into at least three parts, four days after it lost contact while preparing to conduct a torpedo drill.

Grieving relatives gathered on the seashore in Bali yesterday to pay their respects to the sailors who perished, and urged the authorities

to bring up their bodies from the depths.

Experts say it will be a daunting task to lift the submarine to the surface from the deep water, requiring specialised salvage equipment.

A navy spokesman said a retrieval operation was still being discussed with experts and international bodies.

"We will analyse the under water pictures and video, the current etc to decide the technology that will be used," First Admiral Julius Widjojono said.

A sonar scan detected at least three parts of the submarine at a depth of 850m, far beyond *Nanggala's* diving range.

Relatives of crew member I Gede Kartika congregated at Celukan Bawang on Bali's north coast yesterday.

Some carried incense and flowers as they clutched framed photographs of him in his naval uniform.

Others rowed out to sea to ceremoniously scatter petals in the water.

"We have already given our son to the government. Now that he has fallen in this operation, we hope the government will return his remains to us after all the official ceremonies," said Wayan Darmanta, the uncle of the submariner.

Family members of another lost crew member also gathered at the port town of Banyuwangi, which is home to the naval base on Java island where the *Nanggala* was stationed, to pay their respects.

President Joko Widodo offered his condolences to the relatives and pledged the state would fund the education of the dead sailors' children.

An international search and rescue effort involving aircraft and specialised naval vessels had raced against the clock to find the submarine in case it was still intact and before oxygen ran out.

But on Sunday, Indonesia's military chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto confirmed the *Nanggala* had sunk and all of its crew had died. – Reuters



Naval officers throwing a flower garland into the sea at the port of Semarang yesterday as a sign of respect for the lost submariners. – AFPPIX

Junta postpones Suu Kyi court date again

YANGON: Myanmar's junta again postponed court proceedings against Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday, her lawyers said as they fight for permission to visit her 12 weeks after she was detained.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted the Nobel laureate in a Feb 1 coup, shunting the country back into junta rule after a brief experiment with democracy.

Large swathes of the population have taken to the streets in protest, with security forces unleashing a brutal campaign to quell the massive uprising.

Meanwhile Suu Kyi has been under house arrest, with the junta charging her under six cases – including for sedition and having unlicensed walkie-talkies.

But movement on her case was once again delayed until May 10, her lawyer Min Min Soe said yesterday after a hearing.

Twelve weeks since Suu Kyi was detained, Min Min Soe said the

lawyers still have not received permission to meet their client face-to-face – one of many hurdles the team has faced.

"When the judge asked (police) which stage they have reached, they replied they couldn't tell specifically," she said, adding Suu Kyi was frustrated by the slow pace.

"I think she is not getting access to watch news and TV.

"I do not think she knows the current situation happening in the country."

Besides not being able to meet with Suu Kyi, junta-imposed mobile data shutdowns have also prevented video-conferencing in previous hearings.

The most serious charge Suu Kyi faces falls under Myanmar's official secrets law, with a hearing due in Yangon on May 6.

Nationwide protests continued yesterday, with demonstrators holding signs that said "Free our leaders" and waving red flags emblazoned with a golden

peacock – the symbol of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) Party.

The junta has justified its power grab by claiming it is protecting democracy, alleging electoral fraud in November elections which the NLD won in a landslide.

A civil disobedience campaign of strikes has crippled the economy and raised the prospect of hunger, international aid agencies have warned.

Pro-democracy activists have called for an intensification of their effort by refusing to pay electricity bills and agricultural loans, and for children to stop going to school.

"All of us, people in townships, wards and then regions and states must work together to make a successful boycott against the military junta," activist Khant Wai Phyo said in a speech at a protest in the central town of Monywa.

"We don't participate in their systems, we don't cooperate with them." – Agencies

Japan govt advisers say birth rate falling at rapid pace

TOKYO: Private sector advisers to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga warned yesterday that Japan's birth rate is declining at a faster pace amid the Covid crisis, saying society should have a "sense of crisis" about it.

The four advisers in the 11-member Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy (CEFP), Japan's top economic advisory panel, cited the possibility that the country may see fewer than 800,000 births this year, 10 years ahead of a projection by a government research institute.

They called on the government to strengthen support for children and child-rearing households, such as for securing sufficient revenues for raising support to levels comparable to that of other countries.

Proposals by the advisers tend to provide the foundation for the government's mid- to long-term policy roadmap. – Reuters

LYFE

LIFESTYLE • YOUTH • FASHION • ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY | APRIL 27, 2021

Walking her path

Shan Shan Lim talks
about her journey as a
multidisciplinary artist
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Sea is a Malaysian
pole dancer and
trainer

>>> Page 3



Chloe Zhao makes
history with double
win

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(Left) Dust: hand-dyed ikat made of silk and bamboo wool.



(Right) Hand-dyed yarns strung and cut, commissioned by Kloe Hotel.

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR

Walking her path

» Shan Shan Lim talks about her journey as a multidisciplinary artist

At the age of 14, weaver, textile and surface designer Shan Shan Lim had the acuity to know things in school were not going in a direction that would be beneficial for her, particularly down the line.

“From standard one to standard six, I was doing really well. When I went into secondary school, I realised that my performance wasn’t the best and that my heart wasn’t into studying anymore,” Lim told *theSun*.

“I remember sitting down with my mom and telling her, ‘If I don’t make this change, the future of my life would look very different.’”

There is no way to affirm whether her intuition was true, but what is certain is that leaving Malaysia gave her the room to pursue her personal spiritual growth, which was the driving goal that led her from Petaling Jaya to a school in the Himalayas for five years.

Spiritual voyage
In the remote village in the Himalayas, Lim spent her days immersing herself in nature, along with watching

the native weavers and farmers toiling their at their craft.

“India is such a colourful, beautiful country. I studied Indian history and I read about Gandhi reuniting the whole of India against British colonisation through textile and the khadi fabric. That was one of my biggest inspirations,” she said.

“I feel like fabric and

textile play an important role in history, by telling the stories of different cultures and tribes, even the story of human evolution.”

Learning Hindi, and then completing the O-levels and A-levels, Lim would leave India to pursue specialisation in weaving in London.

“It was a crossroad between choosing fine art or textile,” she noted.

After spending her early adult life in London for almost five years, Lim then moved to Italy for three months, seizing her calling as an artist further by taking part in Green Fashion Week.

Back home

Returning to Malaysia, Lim founded Shan Shan Lim Studios in 2017.

“I hadn’t seen my family in a really long time and I’ve been away for almost ten years. One thing I missed the most is Malaysian food, which is like, one of the best in the world,” she said with a laugh.

Upon returning, Lim realised there was not much textile design in Malaysia, as people were not designing their textiles from scratch.

“They were either buying from China or India. I decided where there was a gap, there was an opportunity.”

Lim admitted that the reason it took her a while to start the studio was due to not having friends in Malaysia.

“I did not have a network because I just came back. I had to restart everything. I remember the first month or so of just settling in, and

Swayambhu: dyed yarns wrapped around foraged rocks.



Silk fibres dyed using ikat technique.

In Silence We Create: fibres woven into bamboo husk.



then the following month, I literally emailed like 10 companies asking if they were interested in collaborating,” she explained.

Present and future

One can not be faulted if they said art runs in Lim’s veins, as her father is an architect and her late mother was a graphic designer.

“I remember being really young, and my mum would give me unwanted papers that she was about to chuck. I would draw on them. That’s my earliest memory of doing art, and my parents were very encouraging with my art career,” Lim said.

As art is a constant in her life, the multidisciplinary artist recalled the moment leading up to the initial pandemic panic early last year.

“I was in India learning about Indian miniature painting, and that’s when the pandemic broke out. It came out in the news in Jaipur that the virus has spread there,” she explained.

“I was freaking out and I told my husband that we had to book the next flight home, because I had a feeling they were going to close the borders.

After we arrived back in Malaysia, the next day was when the MCO lockdown announcement went out.”

Though work has been relatively strained since then, Lim counts her blessings that there were pending jobs she could fall back on, along with the graphic design jobs she is temporarily taking up.

Towards the end of May, Lim will be launching the first collection from Haus of Rami, a new menswear brand that she co-founded with a good friend.

“I’m interested how in olden days, each clothing meant something and had a story. Ideally, I would like the collections I’m making through this brand to be passed on from generation to generation. I want it to be sustainable and ethically made. The clothing will be made in Malaysia,” she said.

Prior to finding her calling in India, Lim felt that she did not see herself growing in Malaysia. –

PICTURES COURTESY OF SHAN SHAN LIM

Free to dance

► Pole dancer Sea shares her experience training and performing this once taboo art form

■ BY ANANSA JACOB

POLE dancing has undergone an evolution in recent years. From being seen as something sleazy, it is currently recognised as a legitimate recreational and competitive sport.

Malaysian pole dancer and trainer Sea, 29, picked up the skill five years ago, and now teaches others how to dance at her very own studio

located in Petaling Jaya, Pole Dance Movement (PDM). The studio has also held

various events to help raise funds for charity.

"PDM is my baby," she told *theSun*.

"It is a home to many and a place to feel safe, to grow, to learn, to explore, to release, to have fun, to be inspired. It is where many have learnt, or are learning, to embrace their body and be amazed by what it can learn to do."

Sea has also represented the nation at international pole dance competitions, and named champion at both the Pole Theatre Sydney (as overall pro) and Pole Theatre Hong Kong (pro art) events in 2019.

How and when did you first get into pole dancing?

"[I started in] January 2016. I had been teaching myself the aerial silks for about a year [using] a PDF document, when my sister bought me a pole class package as a Christmas gift.

"I have been active in a variety of dance and sports since young, but was never particularly acrobatic. [At the time] my arms had no muscles and I didn't understand how to engage my core."

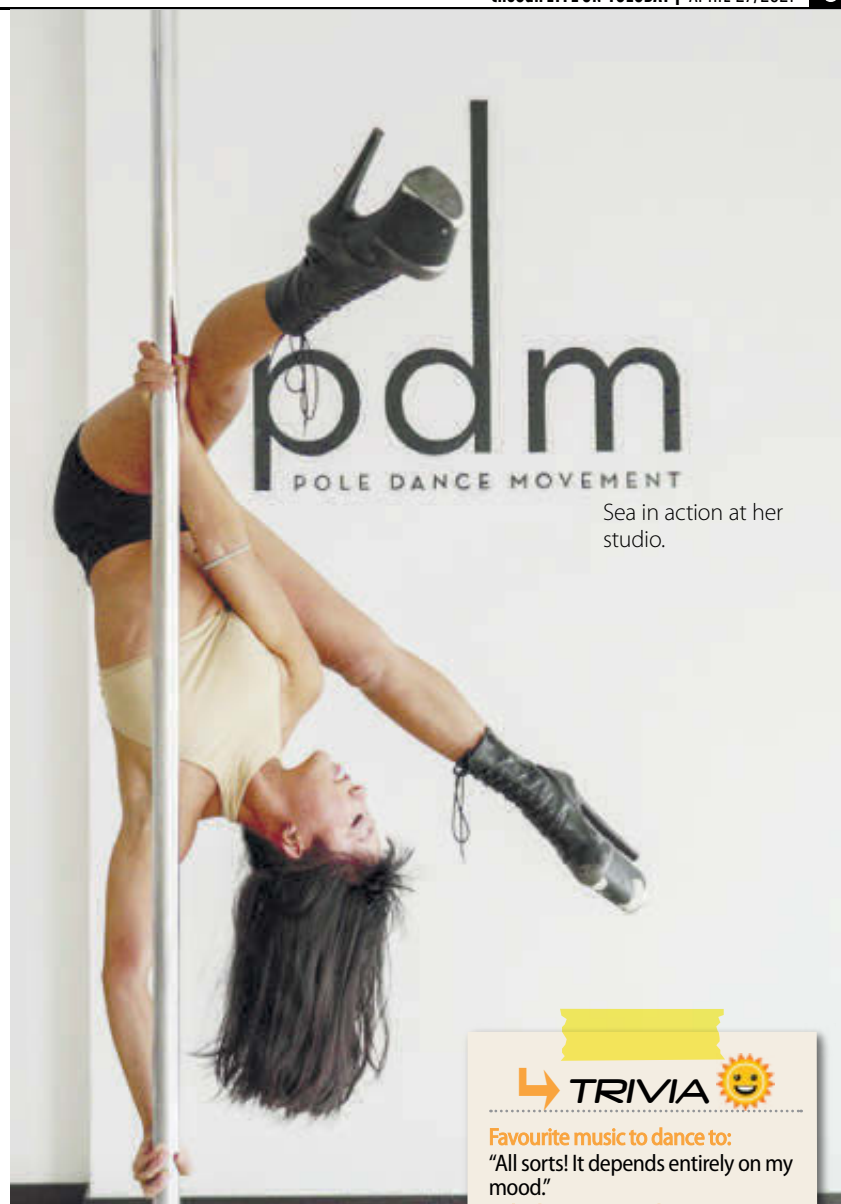
What are the different skill/training levels in pole dancing?

"I think like any creative pursuit there are endless rabbit holes to explore. There is no linear progression and there is no 'final level' that you can reach. The pole is a blank canvas which you can explore in any style - lyrical, sensual, fierce, acrobatic.

"You can 'level up' in terms of strength, flexibility, vocabulary, cleanliness, musicality, fluidity, creativity, sensuality ... though, having said that, at PDM we have formed a syllabus starting from Pole Basic through to Pole 3."

What is your regular training schedule like?

"I train for at least four days a week, including teaching, training, and class prep. I try and set an intention and eat and sleep enough the day before, but when it comes to training time, I find going with what my body feels like doing works best. This can look like strength repetitions, conditioning, learning new tricks or transitions, playing, creating, stretching or rolling around on the ground."



Sea in action at her studio.

TRIVIA

Favourite music to dance to:

"All sorts! It depends entirely on my mood."

Pole dancers you admire:

"Anela Kuzmina, Olga Trifonova, Carly Jane, Tania Rem, Allebazi, Vera Verse, Marion Crampe ... the list goes on."

Other hobbies:

"Being in nature and watching documentaries."

Tell us about your experience in pole dancing competitions.

"I signed up for the competitions by video entry, actually [I] was encouraged by some of my friends in the pole scene in Hong Kong and Sydney - Daphne and Yungie - to participate and visit them along the way.

"I fell asleep on the sofa while waiting for show time in Sydney, and woke up surrounded by this bunch of pole stars, feeling slightly sheepish."

How did it feel to win in Sydney and Hong Kong in 2019?

"Shocking. They were the first and only competitions I have attended. Also, extremely heartwarming to receive all the love and support I did from my community here in Malaysia."

Tell us about your fundraising activities.

"The most recent one was for this amazing initiative Move for Hope, to get the refugee kids of Hope Learning Centre access to internet to continue their

education online. My studio has also raised funds for Women's Aid Organisation and Mercy Malaysia."

What do you wish people understood about pole dancing?

"When I ask friends or relatives to give it a go, they all say they will break the pole. Actually, I don't think that is possible. Second answer is they will break themselves.

"I guess I want to say that anyone can pole [dance], if you want to. You start with the basics and will inadvertently build up strength, flexibility, stamina and coordination from there. It is the best, most versatile, most fun, wholesome, rewarding, full-body workout, in my opinion."

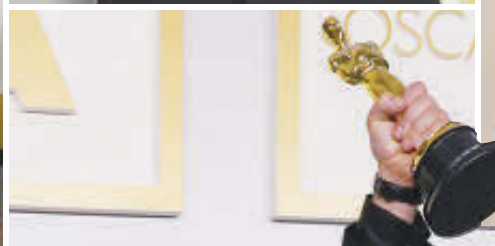
Sea has spent five years performing and training others to pole dance.
- AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN



Frances McDormand is best actress for "Nomadland".



Daniel Kaluuya is best supporting actor for "Judas and the Black Messiah". – **AFPPIX**



Florian Zeller wins the best adapted screenplay for the "The Father". – **AFPPIX**



Danish director Thomas Vinterberg wins best international feature film for "Another Round".

Directors Pippa Ehrlich (left) and James Reed win the best Documentary Feature for "My Octopus Teacher". – **AFPPIX**



Chloe Zhao wins best picture and best director for "Nomadland". – **AFPPIX**



Dana Murray (left) and Pete Docter are winners of the award for animated feature film for "Soul". – **AFPPIX**



Youn Yuh-Jung is best supporting actress for "Minari". – AFPPIX



Emerald Fennell wins the best original screenplay for "Promising Young Woman". – AFPPIX



(from left) Producers Peter Spears, Frances McDormand, Chloe Zhao, Mollye Asher and Dan Janvey are winners of the award for best picture for "Nomadland". – AFPPIX

US road movie "Nomadland" emerged as the big winner at the Oscars on Sunday with three major prizes, including a history-making award for director Chloe Zhao, as Hollywood celebrated its most glamorous night with a unique pandemic-era gala.

Zhao's drama about marginalised Americans roaming the West in vans was honoured for best picture, director and actress for Frances McDormand, who now is in elite company with her third Academy Award.

No-show Anthony Hopkins pulled a surprise upset to win best actor in the final award of the night, besting sentimental favourite Chadwick Boseman, who died of cancer last year.

The unorthodox Oscars ceremony was moved from a Hollywood theatre to a glammed-up downtown train station to abide by strict Covid-19 protocols, and reunited Tinseltown A-listers for the first time in more than a year.

Zhao, who is the first woman of colour ever honoured as best director, thanked "all the people we met on the road ... for teaching us the power of resilience and hope, and for reminding us what true kindness looks like."

With movie theatres closed all year, and blockbuster content delayed, Beijing-born Zhao's film captured the pandemic zeitgeist with its stunning portrait of the isolated margins of society.

"Please watch our movie on the largest screen possible. And one day very, very soon, take everyone you know into a theatre, shoulder to shoulder in that dark space, and watch every film that is represented here tonight," said McDormand.

Zhao is only the second woman to win best director after Kathryn Bigelow, who broke the glass ceiling in 2010 when she won the prize for "The Hurt Locker".

"What a crazy, once-in-a-lifetime journey we went on together," said Zhao to her crew and cast including the real-life "nomads" who

Chloe Zhao makes history

► 'Nomadland' wins best picture at pandemic Oscars

played fictionalised versions of themselves in the movie, and were in attendance in Los Angeles.

Zhao, who has drawn controversy in China after years-old interviews resurfaced in which she appeared to criticise her country of birth, also quoted classic Chinese poetry in her acceptance speech.

Hopkins' win at 83 for his shattering portrayal of a dementia sufferer in "The Father" makes him the oldest actor to win a competitive Oscar in history. He did not travel to Los Angeles or a London venue to accept the prize.

The film, adapted by French playwright Florian Zeller from his own stage production, also won best adapted screenplay in a category that also included "Nomadland". Zeller accepted his award from Paris.

'Marching boots'

Best supporting actress went to Youn Yuh-jung for Korean immigrant drama "Minari".

"How can I win over Glenn Close?" she said, acknowledging her fellow nominee, who has a joint-record eight acting nominations but no wins in her career.

Close made light of her latest loss for "Hillbilly Elegy" by sportingly joining in an unusual dance and music trivia segment late in a show that consistently tried to upend Oscar norms.

Supporting actor went to Daniel Kaluuya for his portrayal of slain 1960s Black Panthers leader Fred Hampton in "Judas and the Black Messiah", which also won best song for multiple Grammy winner H.E.R.

References to racism and police violence were threaded throughout the show's speeches, starting with actor-director Regina King's opening monologue, in which she mentioned the conviction of a former police officer for the murder of African American man George Floyd.

"If things had gone differently this past week in

Minneapolis, I may have traded in my heels for marching boots," she said.

"Promising Young Woman" won best original screenplay, the night's first award. Emerald Fennell, who was seven months pregnant when she shot the #MeToo revenge thriller, thanked her son who "did not arrive until a couple of weeks after shooting, thank God, because I was crossing my legs."

Netflix's "Mank" began the night with the most nominations – 10 – but ended for dual wins in technical categories, as did Amazon's "Sound of Metal" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom".

"Soul" became Pixar's latest Oscar winner for best animated feature, also picking up best score, while South African aquatic wildlife feature "My Octopus Teacher" won best documentary.

'In the flesh'

The 93rd Oscars began with a movie-style opening credits sequence, as Regina King strode into the venue clutching a gold statuette.

"Live TV, here we go. Welcome to the 93rd Oscars!" said King.

"And, yes, we are doing it maskless ... people have been vaxxed, tested, re-tested, socially distanced," she added, comparing the show to a movie set.

This year's Oscars arrived at their Union Station venue two months late due to the pandemic – organisers have said it would

Oscar winners in main categories

HERE are the winners in key categories at the 93rd Academy Awards, which were handed out in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Road movie "Nomadland" was the big winner of the night, with prizes for best picture, best director and best actress. – ETX Studio

Best picture: "Nomadland"

Best director: Chloe Zhao, "Nomadland"

Best actress: Frances McDormand, "Nomadland"

Best actor: Anthony Hopkins, "The Father"

Best supporting actress: Youn Yuh-Jung, "Minari"

Best supporting actor: Daniel Kaluuya, "Judas and the Black Messiah"

Best international feature film: "Another Round" (Denmark)

Best animated feature: "Soul"

Best documentary feature: "My Octopus Teacher"

Best original screenplay: "Promising Young Woman" – Emerald Fennell

Best adapted screenplay: "The Father" – Christopher Hampton, Florian Zeller

have been "impossible" without the delay.

Before the show, stars paused briefly for pictures and socially distanced interviews on what organisers called a "teeny-tiny red carpet", where actresses Carey Mulligan and Andra Day dazzled fashion fans in Oscars gold.

An honorary award for the Motion Picture and Television Fund, which has supported struggling actors and crew particularly during the pandemic, was awarded at the Oscars' traditional Hollywood theatre base. Black entertainment mogul Tyler Perry was also honoured.

But the bulk of the awards were handed out at the 1930s-built Union Station, chosen for its grand scale and outdoor courtyards, where white tents sheltering everything from Covid testing booths to catering were installed.

"We're here, isn't it crazy?" said best actor nominee and "Sound of Metal" star Riz Ahmed. "Human beings in the flesh!" – ETX Studio



Anthony Hopkins is best actor for "The Father".

SCIENTIFIC research for industrial application is at the core of Tunku Abdul Rahman University College's (TAR UC) applied science programmes. As such, applied science students are encouraged to conduct research projects that have potential for practical use in industries.

An example of such would be the research projects by Faculty of Applied Sciences (FOAS) students, that were sent for the Final Year Project and Postgraduate Poster Competition organised on a virtual platform by MNNF Network on June 30 last year. It was an international event open to students from both private and public universities from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Poland, Jordan and India.

Out of the seven undergraduate students who took part in the Poster Presentation based on their final year project findings, two were selected for Gold Awards, and the other five won Silver awards among the 41 posters presented by various universities.

The competition aimed to provide a platform for students to present and share their final year projects and hone their presentation skills. The criteria of the competition were based on poster appearance and organisation, content, video presentation and if applicable, commercialisation potential.

One of the Gold Award winners, Eng Yi Lin, a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Food Science student, explained that her research project was on the effects of cinnamon bark and cinnamon twig aqueous extract on the chemical, physicochemical and bioactive properties of cheese.

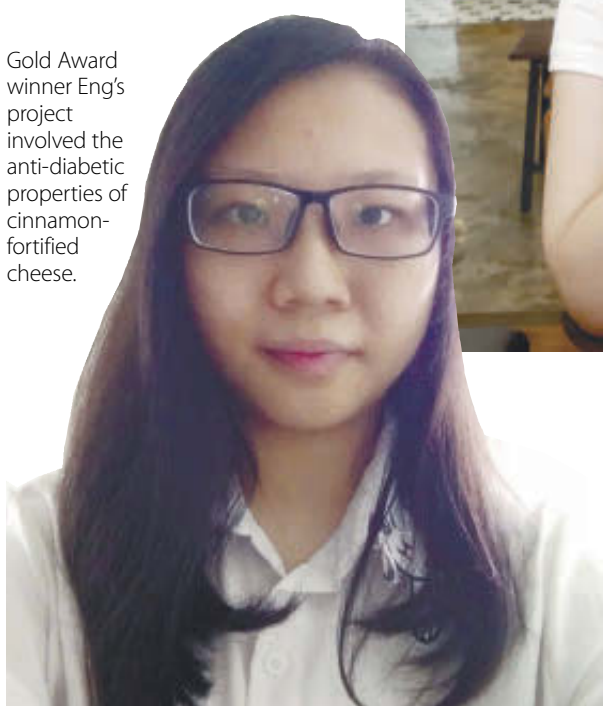
"The main focus of this topic is on the limitation of the treatment of Type-2 diabetes mellitus. Most diabetic people rely on insulin injections and hypoglycemic drugs to maintain their glucose

For a better future

➤ TAR UC students win Gold Awards for industry-applicable scientific research

homeostasis. The study was conducted to determine the chemical and bioactivity changes of cheese with the incorporation of cinnamon bark and twig aqueous extract, and the effects of *Lactobacillus plantarum* TAR4 on the physical, chemical and bioactive properties of cinnamon-fortified cheese. The project provides insight on the use of cinnamon bark and cinnamon twig extract to improve post-digestion antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-diabetic properties of cheese," she said.

Gold Award winner Eng's project involved the anti-diabetic properties of cinnamon-fortified cheese.



(above) The project by Hew on a host-originated probiotic to improve growth efficacy of red tilapia fish also won a Gold Award.

"The research I did can be used in the industry that manufactures functional dairy products such as Kraft and Cheddar. My research provides supportive information on the functional benefits of the addition of cinnamon bark and cinnamon twig extract in cheese. Fortification of functional ingredients in functional food is the current trend now."

The second Gold Award winner,

Hew Shu Ying, who is a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Bioscience with Chemistry student, conducted a research project on finding a potential host-originated probiotic to be used as feed additive for the local red tilapia fish in freshwater aquaculture, by isolating lactic acid bacteria from its gastrointestinal tract.

"There are lots of commercial probiotic products available but they do not achieve the expected growth efficacy since the strains are not locally isolated and targeted specifically for local red tilapia. With a potential host-originated probiotic, it is expected to exert beneficial effects in targeted livestock more efficiently and in a more environmentally friendly method as compared to the use of antibiotics or chemicals, indirectly helping fish farmers in achieving economic sustainability through improvement in growth efficacy and food conversion ratio," she said.

"The outcome of the project is that a potential strain is successfully isolated, characterised and can be further explored to be used as feed additive or directly administered to improve water quality in red tilapia freshwater aquaculture."

For more information about TAR UC Applied Science programmes, visit www.tarc.edu.my/foas or contact FOAS at 011 - 1075 8544.

Prospective students are also encouraged to apply online at www.tarc.edu.my. Applicants who submit their applications online by April 30, will have the RM60 processing fee waived. Attractive scholarships are also available at TAR UC on the basis of academic merit and sibling discount for qualified students.



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Building a successful career at MSU

THE worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has left an indelible impact on the lives of everyone, particularly those in the education field. For Jakarta Global University (JGU) lecturer Onki Alexander, the challenges he faced were manifold.

"Since Covid-19 started spreading, the education system was affected," he said.

"There were a lot of activities that were forced to go online during the pandemic. Due to this, the process of teaching and learning became limited.

"It was also hard because a lot of students were not comfortable learning online. The greatest challenge in my career as a lecturer was learning how to utilise technology in creative ways during hard times."

Fortunately, Onki was able to draw strength from his experiences as an alumnus of Management and Science University (MSU). A Yayasan MSU scholar, Onki was also a progressive student, with a Bachelor of Creative Multimedia, Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering, and a Master in Information Technology, School of Graduate Studies from MSU.

He joined JGU as a lecturer upon graduating, with the noble intention of contributing to the education system in Indonesia. Now, he holds multiple positions at JGU.

"The reason I chose to study at MSU was because of its excellent facilities with international quality and 21st century learning system.

"MSU also trains you to build a team, how to lead well, think critically and communicate well. It also provides counselling services through a mentor-mentee programme, so as a student, I could find good solutions when there were obstacles during my study.

"One unforgettable moment was when I received my bachelor's and master's degree certificates, with my



Onki Alexander credits his education at MSU for helping him succeed in his career as a lecturer in Indonesia.

mum and dad there with me at the MSU Chancellor Hall. Making them proud was made possible by MSU."

Personal Enrichment Competency (PEC) is a mandatory subject at MSU, comprising lessons focusing on hard and soft skills. These skills help students perform better in their trades. This particular subject has also helped Onki in what he does today.

Onki sees himself as a lifelong learner. He considers knowledge to be endless and feels that one lifetime is not enough to master it all.

"My tip for success is to not be afraid to try new things. If you fail, try again because real success is

succeeding in fixing past failures.

"However, there are three important things - deepening and improving spiritual intelligence, intellectual intelligence and emotional intelligence. These will help you become a successful person in future."

As a top university in Malaysia, MSU prioritises student development to enhance graduate employability. With 98.7% of its graduates successfully securing employment within six months of graduating, this has led to MSU's ranking by the Higher Education Ministry as Malaysia's #1 in graduate

employability.

Blending technical vocational education and training with traditional academic curricula, MSU enhances competencies with industry internship, community and creative entrepreneurship, as well as global exposure, empowering MSU graduates with the well-roundedness desired and sought after by employers.

Various skills enhancement programmes aimed at improving student competitiveness are available. The Graduate

Employability Skills and PEC programmes at MSU serve to improve students' soft skills.

As an applied, enterprise, holistic and international university, MSU offers foundation, undergraduate, postgraduate and flexible programmes through an entry system that facilitates admission of students from all walks of life, where it aims to transform lives and enrich futures.

For details, call 03-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my, or visit www.msu.edu.my.

Addressing global business challenges

BERJAYA University College's Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme is specially designed to prepare discerning individuals committed to personal, professional and organisational growth.

It is offered through a blend of taught subjects, workshops, seminars and supervised research. It aims to enhance trans-disciplinary professional practice in business and management by developing and applying theoretical frameworks, methods and techniques to address real-world business challenges.

Students will bring new and relevant scholarship to bear on new business and management issues - create, apply, integrate and present scholarly research on both academic and non-academic audiences, and adopt innovative solutions to business

problems and opportunities.

BERJAYA UC's MBA programme focuses on the development of the thinking skills of students and prepare them for leadership roles, such as administrators or business professionals, who will facilitate the development of business organisations and work towards enhancement of global business.

The MBA programme addresses contemporary global business challenges since it is intended for individuals willing to confront global business issues and develop solutions.

It is a one-year programme for full-time students and two years for part-time students, with three semesters comprising one year.

The key objectives of the programme are as follows:

- * provide significant contribution and enhancement of professional practice through the application of existing knowledge and abstract frameworks;

- * concentrate on existing real business issues through critical review and systematic application of theory and research knowledge to professional practices;

- * provide crucial opportunity for considerable personal development to attain higher-level effectiveness as a professional practitioner;
- * enhance top-notch executive and professional practice; and
- * enrich personal development, consultancy and research skills.

For more information about BERJAYA UC's MBA programme, please call 018-388 0681 or visit www.berjaya.edu.my.



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UTAR pivots to a growth mindset

INDIVIDUALS NEED to be well-prepared in business strategic planning and management skills to enjoy continuous career growth. Among the business programmes available in the market, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) is designed exclusively for professionals who want to advance their career.

"Historically, MBA is designed for those aspiring to achieve leadership positions. In Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), our MBA goes beyond that to inculcate the development of a growth mindset, with a hunger for learning, flexibility and can-do attitude," said Faculty of

Accountancy and Management (FAM) dean Dr Sia Bee Chuan.

"Working closely with stakeholders has also ensured the relevancy of our programmes that focus on real-time learning, application of the knowledge and even professional qualifications. The approved and duly accredited master's programmes provide learning opportunities and relevant content that are crafted in collaboration with the industry, besides being taught by successful and experienced CEOs and captains of industry, providing real-time learning and application of knowledge."

Degrees in building

management, real estate

"The MBA (Building Management) programme aims to equip candidates with much-needed skills in building and property management," said FAM MBA (Building Management) and Master of Real Estate Development head of programme Dr Chin Hon Choong.

"Graduates of FAM's MBA (Building Management) will find themselves being competent property managers, facility managers, entrepreneurs, management consultants, financial consultants and many others. Full-time students under the Management Apprenticeship course will be exposed to

From left: UTAR R&D and Commercialisation vice-president Prof Ts Dr Faizd Abd Rahman, UTAR president Ir Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat, REHDA Institute chairman Datuk Jeffrey Ng Tiong and REHDA Institute Board Of Trustee member Tan Sri Eddy Chen Lok Loi signing an agreement to offer a Master of Real Estate Development programme.



internship opportunities."

Degrees in corporate governance

The MBA (Corporate Governance) is a unique programme designed by UTAR in collaboration with the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAISCA) to provide students with a sound theoretical and practical understanding of corporate governance, particularly social accountability and reporting. Candidates qualify to hold positions such as company secretary, corporate compliance executive, corporate governance and regulatory associate, and business services professional.

In the MBA programme, students are exposed to a series of talks and seminars by industry practitioners as well as alumni, who share their experience and the latest cutting-edge development in the real world with students. Additionally, students can participate in student mobility programmes such as student exchange, research attachments and industrial training overseas.

On top of that, students can opt to undergo an internship at local companies through the Management Apprenticeship course, join overseas study tours, and work with organisations on

an actual consultancy project. UTAR also offers a dual degree with Tunghai University in Taiwan.

Testimonials from graduates and students

"UTAR's MBA is different from others because I will be awarded graduate status by MAISCA upon completing the MBA programme. Working full-time while pursuing a master's degree is not easy, but the academics in UTAR have been supportive and have provided me with guidance through their knowledge and experiences."

— Lee Zhi Cheng, an accountant at a multinational company

"After undertaking the MBA programme in UTAR, I acquired skills in communication and interpersonal, teamwork, analysis and research, critical thinking, and also entrepreneurial, which will definitely help me in my future career. I also met many people from different backgrounds and learn from them."

— MBA graduate Tee Ee Syuen

For more information, please visit www.utar.edu.my or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar campus), 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long campus).



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Time for Quad bloc to walk the talk

RECENTLY, Japan announced that it would be releasing the wastewater from the meltdown at Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean. This plan has met with strong condemnation by Japan's neighbours.

An immediate response came from South Korea, which called in the Japanese ambassador in Seoul to protest the decision.

The country's deputy foreign minister not only chastised the Japanese government for not being forthcoming with details of the plan to release the water, including how much of the contaminated fluid would be dumped and how quickly it would be released, but also expressed disappointment over the lack of talks between Japan and neighbouring countries on how to dispose of the water from Fukushima.

According to a South Korean foreign ministry official: "Our position is that a decision should not be made unless there is a clear assessment on what impact it would have on people's health and the marine environment."

Last year, Greenpeace reported that the wastewater from the plant was more dangerous than the Japanese government had suggested.

Their publication, "Stemming the tide 2020: The reality of the Fukushima radioactive water crisis", noted that the supposedly treated water still contained "dangerous levels of carbon-14", a radioactive substance that has the "potential to damage human DNA".

In its most recent press release, Greenpeace Japan stated: "The Japanese government has once again failed the people of Fukushima. The government has taken the wholly unjustified decision to deliberately contaminate the Pacific Ocean with radioactive wastes."

"It has discounted the radiation risks and turned its back on the clear evidence that sufficient storage capacity is available on the nuclear site as well as in surrounding districts."

"Rather than using the best available technology to minimise radiation hazards by storing and processing the

water over the long term, they have opted for the cheapest option, dumping the water into the Pacific Ocean."

Greenpeace also criticised the Japanese government for describing the water as "treated". More than 1.23 million tonnes of wastewater has been accumulated by the Japanese authorities since the plant's meltdown more than a decade ago.

To recall, the Fukushima nuclear plant accident on March 11, 2011 was the most severe nuclear accident since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. It was classified as Level 7 on the International Nuclear Event Scale, joining Chernobyl as the only other accident to receive such a serious classification.

It is significant that in the aftermath assessment of the radiation discharge into the atmosphere and ocean, experts including from the plant management estimated that it would take 30 to 40 years to clean up and decontaminate the areas affected by the disaster.

It is also significant that the only other country supporting the Japanese position on the planned discharge is the United States, which is on the opposite side of the Pacific Ocean and contaminated water discharge.

China's response

Besides South Korea, China has also condemned the plan by Japan to release the treated contaminated water into the surrounding waters. Labelling the plan as "extremely irresponsible", Beijing has also called for consultations with neighbouring countries and relevant parties.

More recently, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has made the novel suggestion that Washington should take Fukushima's radioactive wastewater given its insistence that the water is safe enough to be disposed into the seas around Japan.

In a recent tweet, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying noted: "Japan and the US claim that the treated nuclear waste water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant is in



The Fukushima nuclear plant accident on March 11, 2011 was the most severe nuclear accident since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.



"US, Australia, Japan and India should assist Japan by agreeing to release the supposedly 'safe' nuclear waste water in their own waters."

accordance with international safety standards and even drinkable, then why don't they keep the water for themselves, or maybe ship it to the US?"

Hua followed up by tweeting that it would be better to have an international assessment of the safety of Japan's nuclear wastewater before anyone drinks it.

Quad can help out

I have another suggestion on how the US and Japan can better deal with this problem. Recently, the US established a new alliance as the centrepiece of its Asia power play.

Under Trump and Biden, the US now leads a grouping of the US, Australia, Japan and India in an Indo-Pacific strategic bloc called the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad, which is supposed to be an Asian Nato to act as a bulwark against a rising China.

The Quad nations have claimed that they are advocates of a rules-based global order to protect democracy and that they will provide the cornerstone for peace and prosperity. However, these are empty words.

In its first meeting, the Quad, to win over public opinion in the region, reported that they have agreed to a plan for vaccine manufacturing for the four countries to produce up to one billion vaccine doses by 2022 for use in the region.

The plan envisages India ramping up its vaccine manufacturing capacity with financing from the US and Japan to

make the single-dose vaccine from US-based Johnson and Johnson, and with Australia taking charge of shipments and logistical issues.

Although cynics see this as part of the vaccine war that the US is pursuing against China and Russia, the initiative is commendable if it does in fact provide free or low-cost vaccines to the countries in the region.

There is another measure the Quad can immediately pursue. To further bolster their claim to act in the best interest of countries in the region, the Quad nations should assist Japan by agreeing to release the supposedly "safe" nuclear waste water in their own waters.

Australia, the US and India all have substantial coastlines to handle the huge volume of contaminated wastewater.

They can earn themselves much credit for focusing on Covid-19, vaccines, climate change and the various assorted generalities such as "challenges presented by new technologies" identified in their final communique as critical to Asia Pacific countries.

Otherwise the Quad will be seen as an anti-China obsessed club that is not just a tool for the preservation of US hegemony but one actively engaged in stoking a new Cold War in our part of the world.

Lim Teck Ghee's Another Take is aimed at demystifying social orthodoxy. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

LETTERS letters@thesundaily.com

Don't fall prey to Ponzi schemes

MORE Malaysians have fallen prey to yet another scam! Falsely misrepresenting themselves as Brunei Investment Agency 1983, the Ponzi scheme has destroyed families with estimated losses in millions of ringgit.

Ironically when one does a company check under Companies Commission (SSM) their business registration number is under BIA 1983 Resources. It comes to no surprise if uninformed investors would be tricked into it. The question is how could SSM allow the company to be registered closely similar to an existing foreign entity?

Sharing an acronym is enough to confuse and mislead people, although it should not serve as an excuse as investors must always request for the company prospectus beforehand. Notwithstanding that, they managed to open a bank account under a 'fraudulent' company name. Are banks more lenient now to attract businesses?

Our current economic situation has left many in dire straits and more are willing to risk

their life savings in hope for a quick change of fate.

The scammers have been active in Malaysia for years now and clearly there are no signs of them slowing down. Ripening of the situation post pandemic, people are more desperate and willing to gamble with fate.

The recent advertisement title "Judi Raya" that went viral must be condemned not only because it promotes an activity that goes against their religious belief and racial sensitivity. It encourages the culture of getting rich quickly by trying your luck.

Online gambling is no different from a get-rich-quick scheme when your effort goes as far as how much you are willing to stake?

Stern action must be taken by our authorities to aid the victims. Government agencies must look into proactive measures to protect the public during these tough times.

Yuvraj Naidu
Social Activist

Accident gone right

MANY months ago, I was involved in a fender bender while sending my grandchildren to school.

It was early in the morning and I was caught in a traffic jam. As I stopped at the traffic lights, a car hit me from the back.

Since it was still dark and traffic was heavy, I did not stop to check the damage to my car because I did not want to cause a traffic jam.

I drove about 100m and pulled over by the curb. As I alighted from my car, another car parked behind mine. A young man got out and approached me, apologising profusely. "Very sorry uncle, can I pay for the repairs?"

I was surprised that he followed me all the way to apologise and offered to pay for the repairs. Others would have just driven off. I told him that I would contact him later because I did not know how much the repairs would cost.

When I found out that the repairs would cost more than RM6,000, I phoned the young man and informed him. Since it was expensive, I suggested to him that it would be better if his insurance company paid for it, which he accepted immediately before apologising

again for the trouble caused.

I told him that I would have to make a police report and requested him to do likewise. He agreed and told me that he would make the report after 9pm as he was still in the office.

After a few weeks, my car was repaired and his insurance company bore the cost. I calculated that he would have had to pay two to three thousand more when renewing his car insurance for the next few years.

I felt bad for the young man as his insurance no claim bonus would be 0%. I contacted him and offered to "tanggung" a bit for the repairs but he declined the offer, claiming that he was the one "yang bersalah".

I told him that it was an accident and he did not do it intentionally. I told him that it was just "nasib". He still declined my offer, and again apologised for the trouble caused.

Looking at him, I feel proud to be a Malaysian. We have so many nice people in our beloved country.

Louis Foong
Dutamas
Kuala Lumpur

Honour and respect uniformed personnel

I WOULD like to offer my sympathy and condolences to the families of the crew of the *KRI Nanggala 402* submarine belonging to the Indonesian Navy. There are no words to describe the pain and sorrow the families of the crew are going through. The crew on board the submarine died for their

country and I am sure they will be given the honour and respect they deserve.

The incident, although tragic, serves as a reminder to Malaysians to value not only our Navy but also all uniformed personnel and frontliners, who are serving to keep the country safe from all threats.

Respect and honour them. They place their lives on the line, in the name of protecting and defending not only our sovereignty but also our freedom. No amount of posthumous ranks or titles will ever revive a fallen officer.

The Royal Malaysian Navy ship *MV Mega Bakti* is currently in

Indonesian waters aiding in operations related to the *KRI Nanggala 402*. My thoughts are with our sailors, who again in my opinion are risking their lives in the name of the Jalur Gemilang. It is my sincere hope that our sailors return to our shores safely and back to their respective families.

Please offer your morale support to our uniformed personnel and frontliners. Do not take them for granted. They may not be here tomorrow.

Yeap Ming Liong
Associate Captain
Malaysian Civil Defence Force

<div> <div>INTER-PACIFIC</div> <div>SECURITIES SDN. BHD.</div> <div>197201001092 (1273843)</div> <div>A Participating Organisation of Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad</div> <div>A Trading Participant of Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Berhad</div> </div>				
BURSA MALAYSIA TRADE STATISTICS - 26/04/2021				
Participation %		Bought RM m	Sold RM m	Net RM m
46.6	Institutions	2521.1	2685.8	-164.7
40.0	Retail	2243.7	2229.0	14.7
13.4	Foreign	824.2	674.2	150.0
100.0		5589.0	5589.0	0
<small>Preliminary stats (excluding trade amendments). For final data, please refer to www.bursamalaysia.com</small> <small>Source: Bursa Malaysia</small>				

KL MARKET SUMMARY		
April 26, 2021		
INDICES	CHANGE	
FBMEMAS	11,937.90	+97.45
FBMKLCI	1,623.47	+15.04
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	632.79	+2.36
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	197.66	+1.52
CONSTRUCTION	185.74	+0.93
FINANCIAL SERVICES	15,051.60	+77.38
ENERGY	886.36	-14.25
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	734.52	+4.64
HEALTH CARE	3,382.38	+101.56
TRANSPORTATION	850.30	+3.09
PROPERTY	759.08	+6.92
PLANTATION	6,884.74	+42.45
FBMSHA	13,444.30	+136.61
FBMACE	8,900.92	+214.87
TECHNOLOGY	88.13	+0.61
TURNOVER	VALUE	
8.304 BIL	RM5.588 BIL	

5 MOST ACTIVES			
April 26, 2021			
STOCK	VOL	CLSG (sen)	+/- (sen)
MINDA	653,545,800	19.0	+2.0
FOCUS	444,459,100	14.5	+2.0
AT	201,426,500	10.5	+0.5
FOCUS-WD	201,420,200	1.0	+0.5
NOVAMSC	200,565,700	15.5	+1.5

5 TOP GAINERS			
April 26, 2021			
STOCK	VOL	CLSG (RM)	+/- RM
NESTLE	47,000	136.50	1.50
TOCEAN	1,851,500	4.34	1.00
CAREPLS	170,377,200	2.76	0.51
TGL	289,100	1.89	0.43
MPI	149,700	39.98	0.42

5 TOP LOSERS			
April 26, 2021			
STOCK	VOL	CLSG (RM)	+/- RM
VITROX	166,400	15.70	0.38
PETGAS	567,300	15.90	0.30
KESM	6,100	12.10	0.28
PBB	613,800	18.50	0.18
EURO	4,088,400	3.43	0.15

EXCHANGE RATES			
APRIL 26, 2021			
Foreign currency	Bank sell TT/OD	Bank buy TT	Bank buy OD
1 US DOLLAR	4.1660	4.0410	4.0310
1 AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	3.2490	3.1200	3.1040
1 BRUNEI DOLLAR	3.1390	3.0490	3.0410
1 CANADIAN DOLLAR	3.3400	3.2500	3.2380
1 EURO	5.0480	4.8860	4.8660
1 NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR	3.0120	2.9020	2.8860
1 SINGAPORE DOLLAR	3.1390	3.0490	3.0410
1 STERLING POUND	5.7930	5.6110	5.5910
1 SWISS FRANC	4.5460	4.4410	4.4260
100 UAE DIRHAM	114.7300	108.7900	108.5900
100 BANGLADESH TAKA	4.9940	4.6890	4.4890
100 CHINESE RENMINBI	64.2000	61.7000	N/A
100 HONGKONG DOLLAR	54.2500	51.5500	51.3500
100 INDIAN RUPEE	5.6500	5.3100	5.1100
100 INDONESIAN RUPIAH	0.0297	0.0269	0.0219
100 JAPANESE YEN	3.8670	3.7470	3.7370
100 NEW TAIWAN DOLLAR	16.0000	N/A	N/A
100 PAKISTAN RUPEE	2.7600	2.5800	2.3800
100 PHILIPPINE PESO	8.7500	8.2500	8.0500
100 QATAR RIYAL	115.6500	109.7900	109.5900
100 SAUDI RIYAL	112.3000	106.6100	106.4100
100 THAI BAHT	13.8800	12.3200	11.9200

Source: Malayan Banking Berhad/Bernama

<div> <div>SunBIZ</div> <div> <div>TUESDAY</div> <div>APRIL 27, 2021</div> </div> </div>							
<div> <div>Editorial Tel.: 03-7784 6688</div> <div>Fax: 03-7785 2624/5</div> <div>Email: sunbiz@thesundaily.com</div> <div>Advertising: Tel: 03-7784 8888</div> <div>Fax: 03-7784 4424</div> <div>Email: advertise@thesundaily.com</div> </div>							
<div> <div>15.04</div> <div>KLCI</div> <div>1,623.47</div> </div>	<div> <div>10.86</div> <div>STI</div> <div>3,204.90</div> </div>	<div> <div>125.92</div> <div>HANG SENG</div> <div>28,952.83</div> </div>	<div> <div>33.00</div> <div>SCI</div> <div>3,441.17</div> </div>	<div> <div>105.60</div> <div>NIKKEI</div> <div>29,126.23</div> </div>	<div> <div>272.02</div> <div>TSEC</div> <div>17,572.29</div> </div>	<div> <div>31.43</div> <div>KOSPI</div> <div>3,217.53</div> </div>	<div> <div>15.15</div> <div>S&P/ASX200</div> <div>7,045.56</div> </div>

Tuju Setia expects to raise RM56m from listing

➤ Construction services provider to issue 80 million new shares at 70 sen apiece

■ BY **AMIR IMRAN HUSAIN SAFRI**
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Construction services company Tuju Setia Bhd aims to raise RM56 million from its listing on Bursa Malaysia's Main Market with the issuance of 80 million new shares at an offer price of 70 sen per share.

From the initial public offering (IPO) proceeds, it has allocated RM32 million towards capital expenditure (capex) to purchase new construction machinery and equipment, as well as building information modelling system software. The capex includes RM8 million for the purchase of land in the Klang Valley to supplement its existing storage area. Aside from that, the group has earmarked RM19 million for its working capital and the remaining RM5 million will be used to defray listing expenses.

Managing director Wee Eng Kong remarked that strong fundamentals have allowed Tuju Setia to persevere over a challenging 2020 on the back of the pandemic fuelled economic downturn, as it won new mandates from developers.

"In fact, over the past 12 months and as recently as March 2021, we secured four new contracts to build high-rise buildings, bringing our order book to RM953.1 million which would sustain our earnings till 2024,"



Applications for Tuju Setia shares close on May 5 and the company is slated to be listed on Bursa Malaysia's Main Market on May 19.

he told the media during its prospectus launch yesterday.

"This IPO will ignite our next growth chapter, as the funds raised will be focused on enhancing our core construction competencies, as well as positioning us better to undertake new projects from our tender book of RM4.0 billion."

Despite the challenging conditions, the group's profitability in 2020 was higher than in 2019.

Wee said the group's work volume this year is slated to recover to similar levels to those seen in 2019, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He expects the company to recognise RM355 million from its order book between April and the end of this year, excluding revenue recognised in the first three months, a significant improvement from the RM253 million revenue in 2020.

The prospectus stated that Tuju Setia will adopt a dividend policy which will distribute

25% of its annual net profit to its shareholders.

Out of the 80 million new shares to be issued, 15.9 million shares will be made available for application by the Malaysian public via balloting, while 6.3 million shares will be made available for application by the group's eligible directors, employees and persons who have contributed to its success.

A further 31.7 million shares will be made available by way of private placement to selected bumiputra investors approved by the International Trade and Industry Ministry. The remaining 26.1 million new shares, together with 27.0 million existing offer-for-sale shares, will be placed out to selected investors.

Applications for the IPO will close on May 5 and the listing is slated for May 19.

For the listing exercise, Alliance Investment Bank Bhd is Tuju Setia's principal adviser as well as joint underwriter and joint placement agent, together with CIMB Investment Bank Bhd.

Mission to South Korea, Japan secures RM8.9b investments

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has secured committed investments of RM8.9 billion for 2021 from the April 1-6 investment mission to South Korea and Japan, which was led by Senior Minister cum International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.

Malaysian Investment Development Authority chief executive officer Arham Abdul Rahman said Malaysia continues to welcome high-quality foreign direct investment from around the world.

South Korea and Japan will continue to be major investor countries in the country, he said in a statement yesterday.

Topping the list of the secured investments was that from South Korea's SK Nexilis Co Ltd, a subsidiary of SK Group, which recently announced a RM2.3 billion investment to establish a thin copper foil manufacturing plant in Sabah.

However, the expected investment has been revised to RM4.24 billion.

Arham said: "The manufacturing plant in Kota Kinabalu will be powered utilising 100% renewable energy, where such operation will be the first for SK Nexilis outside South Korea."

SK Nexilis is a global leader in thin-tech innovation for copper foil manufacturing, controlling 16% share of the world market for electric vehicle batteries.

Another commitment is from LG Chem Ltd, which has indicated its interest in developing a petrochemical cluster in Malaysia. Arham said the company will set up a joint venture with Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd to produce nitrile-butadiene rubber latex in Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex with a potential investment of RM600 million, with operation expected to begin in March 2023.

SPC Group, a conglomerate producing food and confectionery products in South Korea, is planning to make Malaysia a regional distribution hub for its halal dough with an investment value of about RM91.2 million to cater to the Asean market.

From Japan, Nippon Electric Glass Co. Ltd, one of the world's leading manufacturers of specialty glass, will invest at least RM1 billion for the new production of e-glass fibre which will be used to produce automotive parts and components in the production of wind turbine blades for wind power generation. – Bernama

Export deals worth RM986m in the bag

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's trade and investment mission to South Korea and Japan from April 1 to 6 has generated RM986.15 million of export deals.

About RM70 million exports of products and services to South Korea were reported as a result of meetings with buyers there. Highlights included a meeting with major retailer GS Retail which resulted in a commitment to triple sourcing of food products and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG).

South Korea's Moggozi Co Ltd, which has previously co-produced with Malaysian partners and distributed some of Malaysia's animation products, voiced interest to collaborate with Malaysian companies to produce animation films.

The mission to Japan included discussions with major general trading companies such as Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui & Co, which resulted in commitment to increase sourcing from Malaysia FMCG, palm oil, halal products and services as well as chemicals and chemical products.

On the whole, Japanese buyers have made commitments for RM916.15 million of exports from Malaysia over the next 24 months.

Petronas strengthens Malaysia's position as LNG ISO tank hub

PETALING JAYA: Petronas LNG Ltd has commenced the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to China in ISO tanks from its filling facility in Pengerang, Johor.

The maiden shipment of LNG ISO tanks was safely delivered to Shanghai from Pasir Gudang Port of Johor last Friday, following a spot contract signed between Petronas and Tiger

Gas (Hong Kong) Ltd, an affiliate of Tiger Clean Energy Ltd (TCEL).

"This inaugural LNG ISO tank export from Peninsular Malaysia is an innovative solution that enables LNG to reach off-grid customers, not only domestically, but also internationally, extending the reach of our Virtual Pipeline System offering that we have started since late

last year," said Petronas vice-president of LNG marketing and trading Shamsairi M Ibrahim.

In 2020, Petronas and TCEL signed a long-term sale and purchase agreement for the supply of LNG to TCEL's LNG ISO tank filling facility in Bintulu, Sarawak. As part of this agreement, Petronas' LNG will be distributed to China using TCEL's ISO tanks. The first

shipment sailed from Bintulu Port to the Port of Long Kou on March 25.

With the operation of Petronas' ISO tank filling facility at Pengerang, Malaysia is now poised to strengthen its position as an LNG ISO tank export hub, with filling facilities in West and East Malaysia that provide customers with an alternative and reliable LNG solution.

Identity theft a clear and present threat in Malaysia

➤ Fico survey shows majority of respondents understand why proofing is crucial for their protection

PETALING JAYA: Identity theft is a tangible threat for people in Malaysia – 7% said they know their identity has been stolen and used by a fraudster to open an account, while a further 12% believe it is likely to have happened, according to global analytics software firm Fico's identity proofing and digital banking survey.

The acknowledged level of risk from identity theft means there is a good understanding of why identity proofing is an integral part of the banking experience in Malaysia.

Just over three-quarters (76%) of respondents recognised that identity proofing happens for their protection. Most people are not cynical about the reasons their identity is confirmed. While a large number (55%) recognise there is an element of regulation driving providers to carry out more checks, only 13% think this is done to enable financial institutions to sell more.

A majority (59%) of Malaysian respondents did see identity proofing as a way for banks to protect themselves, while 46% regard it as a tool to prevent money laundering.

Most Malaysians are open to providing their bank with a biometric such as a facial scan, fingerprint, or voiceprint to secure their accounts. The survey revealed that once they understand why it's necessary, 50% are happy to provide their biometrics. Only 7% say that banks should never capture biometrics, while 14% are willing but



unhappy to provide them.

"In a lot of Asian countries, fingerprinting, identity cards and authentication apps have been commonplace for some time. There is less concern around privacy and the survey shows there is broad acceptance of the benefits that biometrics deliver when it comes to securing bank accounts and stopping money laundering," said Subhashish Bose, lead for fraud, security and compliance in Asia Pacific.

In Malaysia, 42% of consumers prefer to open bank accounts digitally and 48% prefer branches. However, over the last year, thanks to the pandemic, 57% of Malaysians are more likely to open an account digitally than a year ago; while those who attend branches often do so for social and technical reasons.

"Digital account opening has been available in Malaysia for some time, it just remained unused by some segments of the market who either hadn't discovered it yet or were not willing to trust it. This has created a belief that accessing a branch offers a more informed and secure account opening process," said Bose.

As attitudes change and more people experience the benefits of digital banking there will be further opportunity for banks who adopt multichannel strategies and can engender trust in new channels.

Malaysians who open an account digitally, prefer to carry out the process entirely in their chosen channel whether it be smartphone or website. If customers are asked to move out of channel to prove their identities, many of them will abandon the application, either giving up on opening an account completely (5-7%) or by going to a competitor (11-12%). Of those who don't immediately abandon, up to an additional 25% will delay the process.

The survey found that any disruption matters such as asking people to scan and email documents or use a separate identity portal causes almost as much application abandonment as asking them to visit branches or mail in documents.

The survey was conducted in January 2021 by an independent research company. 1,000 Malaysian adults were surveyed, along with 13,000 consumers in various countries.

Yong Tai gets approval for Phase III clinical trial of Covid vaccine

PETALING JAYA: Yong Tai Bhd's subsidiary YTB Healthcare Sdn Bhd (YTBH) has obtained approval from the Health Ministry (MoH) for its Phase III clinical trial of the inactivated Covid-19 vaccine in Malaysia.

YTB CEO and executive director Datuk Wira Boo Kuang Loon said with this approval, it will be the first private company to initiate and sponsor the Phase III clinical trial of vaccines in Malaysia.

YTBH has already formalised the Phase III

clinical trial and product procurement with its strategic partner Shenzhen Kangtai Biological Products Co Ltd (SZKT) since December last year. SZKT is one of the largest vaccine manufacturers in China.

"Over the past four months, we have been proactive in our efforts to ensure all regulatory and safety requirements are met for us to obtain this approval. This includes but not limited to the compilation and analytics of Phase I and Phase II clinical trials

for the submission with the MoH," Boo said in a statement.

The group has set an internal target to roll out the distribution of SZKT's inactivated vaccine by the third quarter this year, subject to the approval by National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority (NPRA) for emergency usage.

The group will now focus on its Phase III clinical trial, which will be carried out in Malaysia, involving total 3,000 volunteers.

SME Malaysia, Pikom, Huawei team up to nurture digital talent

PETALING JAYA: The SME Association of Malaysia (SME Malaysia), National Tech Association of Malaysia (Pikom) and Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd via Huawei Asean Academy have collaborated to train and future proof more than 10,000 members of the SME and tech community over the period of one year.

The training programme will include guidance on industry trends aimed at raising information and communications technology awareness, ecosystem talent

enablement via technical training and certification offerings as well as skills improvement for members of the SME and tech community.

Overall, the collaboration aims to raise and develop quality talent models for local SME's digital transformation as more SMEs are cognisant of the need to adopt technology for their survival.

It is also in line with the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, unveiled in February this year, which places the development of

digital talent as one of its key strategies.

"This tie-up is a significant step towards the digitisation of our economy and SMEs in particular and to provide entrepreneurial and employment opportunities as we grapple with the ever-changing market conditions," said SME Malaysia national president Datuk Michael Kang in a statement.

In May 2020, Huawei Asean Academy was set up as a means to train and promote talent for Malaysia's digital economy and position the country as a digital hub for the region.

ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON INDONESIAN, VIETNAMESE STEEL

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian government has imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of cold rolled stainless steel in coil, sheet or any other form (subject merchandise) originating or exported from Indonesia and Vietnam. Yesterday, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said the anti-dumping duty for Indonesia is 8.8% to 34.82% and Vietnam 7.81% to 23.84%. On July 28, 2020, the government initiated an anti-dumping investigation into the subject merchandise originating or exported from Indonesia and Vietnam in accordance with the Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Duties Act 1993 and Countervailing and Anti-Dumping Duties Regulation 1994. As a result, the government found that the subject merchandise from these countries was brought into Malaysia at a price lower than the price sold in those countries. – Bernama

KPOWER BAGS 4 EPCC JOBS

PETALING JAYA: KPower Bhd's unit KPower Engineering Sdn Bhd has secured four engineering, procurement, construction, commission and completion (EPCC) contracts valued at RM510 million. Three of the EPCC projects are located in Pahang, which are a 18.7MW mini hydro power plant in Lipis from Cabaran Hijau Sdn Bhd, a 13.9 MW and 12 MW mini hydro power plant in Cameron awarded by Selat Serasi Sdn Bhd and Denai Delima Sdn Bhd. The remaining project is for a 5.25 MW mini hydro power plant in Kampar, Perak.

NET FOREIGN SELLING ON BURSA PICKS UP TO RM490M

PETALING JAYA: Foreign selling of Malaysian equities intensified last week with a RM490.3 million outflow, which is higher than the preceding week. In its fund flow report, MIDF Research stated that last week started off with foreign investors selling RM142.17 million net of local equities on Monday, while retailers and local institutions stood as net buyers to the tune of RM48.77 million and RM93.4 million. Foreign investors were net sellers every day for the week except on Tuesday which saw an inflow of RM27.5 million. The largest foreign outflow was reported on Wednesday at RM258.17 million and the smallest net was recorded on Thursday at RM51.19 million.

MYCIF'S CROWDFUNDING BENEFITS OVER 1,000 MSMEs

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysia Co-Investment Fund (MyCIF) has co-invested RM165 million in 5,349 equity crowdfunding (ECF) and peer-to-peer financing (P2P) campaigns, benefitting 1,197 Malaysian micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by the end of 2020. It noted that the amount is larger than the given allocation of RM100 million due to continuous re-investment of P2P notes, fixed deposit interest and ECF dividends. Since its October 2019 inception, these co-investments were deployed alongside private sector investments which totalled RM431 million. MyCIF was set up as part of Budget 2019 with an initial RM50 million allocation to co-invest in MSMEs alongside private investors via ECF and P2P platforms.

MYMY GETS APPROVAL FOR ELECTRONIC MONEY LICENCE

PETALING JAYA: Fintech firm MyMy Payments Malaysia Sdn Bhd has received conditional approval for a large scheme electronic money licence from Bank Negara Malaysia. The fintech company is expected to launch its e-wallet services within the year. Through previous statements, it is seen that MyMy has ambitions to provide syariah-compliant products and services within its wallet. "Our plans to become the world's first syariah-compliant digital bank is still within our sights and will take its form with the right conditions set by our committee and our consortium partners," said chairman Tunku Datuk Ahmad Burhannudin.



BRIEFS

CHINA STEEL, IRON ORE FUTURES AT RECORD HIGHS

BEIJING: Chinese steel futures closed at all-time highs yesterday, underpinned by robust demand and concerns over production curbs, while benchmark iron ore prices hit record highs, fuelled by structural supply shortage. The most-active construction rebar on the Shanghai Futures Exchange, for October delivery, rose as much as 4.3% to 5,475 yuan (RM3,460) a tonne. It closed up 2.3% at 5,371 yuan. Hot-rolled coils, used in cars and home appliances, ended up 3.2% at 5,737 yuan per tonne. Iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, for September delivery, closed 4.3% higher at 1,145 yuan. – Reuters

STANDARD LIFE ABERDEEN TO BE RENAMED 'ABRDN'

LONDON: British asset manager Standard Life Aberdeen said yesterday it plans to change its name to "Abrdn PLC" as part of a plan to shore up and modernise its brand identity. The new name – which will be pronounced "Aberdeen" – comes after the company sold its Standard Life brand to life insurer Phoenix earlier this year. The Phoenix deal came after Edinburgh-headquartered Standard Life merged with Aberdeen-based Aberdeen Asset Management in 2017. A spokeswoman for the firm said the name change will enable the company to own digital assets such as apps and websites, without confusion with the city of Aberdeen. – Reuters

FORCE MAJEURE ON TOTAL'S MOZAMBIQUE LNG PROJECT

PARIS: French energy group Total yesterday declared force majeure on its US\$20 billion (RM43 billion) liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Mozambique and withdrew all personnel from the site after Islamic State-linked insurgent attacks last month. "Considering the evolution of the security situation ... Total confirms the withdrawal of all Mozambique LNG project personnel from the Afungi site. This situation leads Total, as operator of Mozambique LNG project, to declare force majeure," Total said. Declaring force majeure allows it to cancel contractors. – Reuters

Six Chinese state banks promoting digital yuan

► Trial shows threat to Alipay, WeChat duopoly

SHANGHAI: In China's commercial hub Shanghai, six big state banks are quietly promoting digital yuan ahead of a May 5 shopping festival, carrying out a political mandate to provide consumers with a payment alternative to Alipay and WeChat Pay.

The banks are persuading merchant and retail clients to download digital wallets so that transactions during the pilot programme can be made directly in digital yuan, bypassing the ubiquitous payment plumbing laid by tech giants Ant Group, an affiliate of Alibaba, and Tencent.

"People will realise that digital yuan payment is so convenient that I don't have to rely on Alipay or WeChat Pay anymore," said a bank official involved in the rollout of e-CNY for the Shanghai trial, under the guidance of

China's central bank. The official is not authorised to speak with media and declined to be identified.

China's development of a sovereign digital currency, which is far ahead of similar initiatives in other major economies, looks increasingly poised to erode the dominance of Ant Group's Alipay and Tencent's WeChat Pay in online payments. That turf encroachment coincides with Beijing's expanding effort to clamp down on anticompetitive behaviour in the internet sector, part of a wider reining in of the clout of sector heavyweights.

In public, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) says e-CNY won't compete with AliPay or WeChat Pay, and serves only as a "backup" or "redundancy." But in private, state banks marketing the digital fiat currency for the central bank bluntly describe Beijing's intention to undercut the duo's dominance.

"Big data is wealth. Whoever owns data thrives," said another banking official tasked with promoting the e-CNY.



A sign indicating that digital yuan, also referred to as e-CNY, is accepted is pictured at a shopping mall in Shanghai. – REUTERSPIX

"WeChat Pay and Alipay own an ocean of data," so the e-CNY rollout facilitates China's anti-trust campaign and helps the government control big data, he added.

The PBOC and Tencent declined to respond to requests for comment.

Ant declined to comment on the relationship between Alipay and e-CNY. Ant-backed MYbank said it is "one of the parties participating in the research and development" of the e-CNY, and "will steadily advance the trial pursuant to the overall arrangement of the People's Bank of China."

The e-CNY digitalises a portion of China's physical notes and coins, or currency in circulation (M0), and was launched last year in small pilot schemes in four cities.

Under a two-tier distribution system, the PBOC issues the digital currency to banks, which pass the money to individuals and companies.

The six banks in the e-CNY pilot schemes include China's biggest lenders such Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China, and China Construction Bank.

"The e-CNY's ease of use will likely be comparable to Alipay and WeChat Pay, while its security function will likely be higher, and as sophisticated as Bitcoin," HSBC wrote in a recent report, adding that it expects the digital currency to "proliferate" within China.

Digital wallets, which are still being beta tested, can be bundled with a dozen popular apps including Meituan, JD.com, Didi and Bilibili, but conspicuously can not be linked to WeChat or Alipay. That means none of the participating banks can transfer e-CNY between their digital wallets and the two established payment platforms.

The e-CNY will digitise "the last mile" of consumption, enabling banks and merchants to capture data and gain insights into spending patterns, said Wilson Chow, Global TMT Leader, PwC China.

That data is now dominated by Alipay and WeChat Pay, which control a combined 94% of China's online payment market. – Reuters

Major shareholder tells Toshiba to openly seek suitors

TOKYO: Toshiba Corp's second-biggest shareholder called on the Japanese conglomerate to undergo a strategic review and explicitly solicit suitors, saying potential acquirers were deterred by the company's comments on wanting to remain listed.

The comments by 3D Investment Partners, which owns a 7.2% stake in Toshiba, come as a US\$21 billion (RM86.1 billion) buyout offer from CVC Capital Partners earlier this month has sparked expectations for a bidding war for the Japanese company.

While Toshiba dismissed that offer citing a lack of details, CVC has not thrown in the towel and sources have said some other private equity investors are also considering making bids.

"We call upon the board to openly welcome interest from suitors who could enhance corporate value and ask the board to conduct a formal review of strategic alternatives," 3D said in a letter sent to Toshiba's board yesterday and made public.

"To conduct a fair and proper process,

Toshiba should explicitly indicate that it is open to alternative ownership structures and correct media speculation that Toshiba's management team and board have a strong preference for remaining a listed company," 3D said.

The industrial conglomerate has said it believed that being publicly traded provided a "capital structure suitable for enhancing long term value creation" but added that its board would not disregard various proposals, including those to take the company private.

In response to a request for comment on 3D's letter, Toshiba reiterated that stance yesterday.

"This letter may be the starting point of multi-party dialogue ... other shareholders certainly feel the same way, and addressing the board publicly puts them on the spot," Quiddity Advisors analyst Travis Lundy, who writes on Smartkarma, told Reuters.

"I expect more shareholders will come forward with similar letters."

Earlier this month, US hedge fund Farallon

Capital Management, Toshiba's third-largest shareholder with a stake of around 6%, also called on the Japanese conglomerate to seek other offers from potential suitors.

Singapore-based Effissimo Capital Management, Toshiba's top shareholder with a stake of around 10%, has not commented since CVC's offer was made public.

Bain Capital, KKR & Co Inc and Canada's Brookfield Asset Management are also looking at potential bids for Toshiba, Reuters has reported.

A senior executive at one of Toshiba's main lenders said that several private equity funds have contacted his bank for potential financing, but no talks are in progress.

In the letter, Singapore-based 3D suggested it would take further action if the Toshiba board fails to consider its request, saying shareholders "will have no choice but to seek a more significant and ongoing role in governance."

It estimated Toshiba's fair stock value in excess of ¥6,500 (RM247). Toshiba shares closed 1.3% higher yesterday at 4,465.

FDI into Indonesia in first quarter rises 14% on-year

JAKARTA: Foreign direct investment (FDI) into Indonesia rose 14% in rupiah terms in the first three months of 2021 on the year, data from investment board BKPM showed yesterday.

FDI stood at 111.7 trillion rupiah (RM31.6 billion) for the period from January to March, it added.

Including domestic investment, total direct investment in the first quarter amounted to 219.7 trillion rupiah, up 4.3% from the year-earlier period.

"This shows things have begun to stabilise," the board's chief, Bahlil Lahadalia, told an online news conference.

"This shows the trust the world has for Indonesia and foreign investors' activities have begun to normalise and have begun to adapt with the development of the Covid-19 pandemic."

South Korea was the third top source of FDI after automaker Hyundai Motor started building a factory to make electric vehicles, he added.

Singapore and China remained the first and second biggest sources, respectively.

Switzerland surged up the ranks to fifth place from the previous quarter's position of 23, fuelled by growing investment in the food and beverages industry, Bahlil said, but did not identify the companies involved.

The base metal industry was the biggest beneficiary of FDI. – Reuters

Philips expects hit of up to €250m from product safety issue

THE HAGUE: Dutch firm Philips said yesterday it anticipates a hit of up to €250 million (RM1.24 billion) from a possible safety risk in some sleep and respiratory care products, even as first quarter profits edged higher.

The company, which has diversified into healthcare and last month sold off its domestic appliance business, said net profit was €40 million in the three months to March 31, a 2.6% rise on a year earlier.

Philips had sales of €3.8 billion in the first quarter, up 3.6% from the same period last year.

It said core earnings surged 74% in the first quarter to €362 million compared with the year earlier period, on a 9% rise in comparable sales.

"Revenue growth was a bit stronger than we originally expected," chief executive Frans van Houten told reporters.

"On that basis and expecting a strong second quarter, we are raising our guidance."

Philips said it now expects "low-to-mid-single-digit comparable sales growth" for 2021, up from earlier guidance for low growth.

In a statement, van Houten said: "Regretfully, we have identified a quality issue in a component that is used in certain sleep and respiratory care products, and are initiating all precautionary actions to address this issue, for which we have taken a €250 million provision." – AFP, Reuters

Barty savours ‘phenomenal’ week

WORLD NO. 1 Ash Barty said her tennis had reached a new level during a “phenomenal” week in Stuttgart where she pulled off three successive comeback wins to claim her second title on clay.

The Australian, who turned 25 on Saturday, defeated fifth seed Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-0, 6-3 in the final to hoist her third WTA trophy this season and cement her place at the top of the rankings.

The Sabalenka win followed victories over fourth seed Elina Svitolina and sixth seed Karolina Pliskova after conceding the first set in each.

“This week has been phenomenal for me,”

Barty said in her post-match media conference.

“We’ve played a lot of tennis, a lot of matches.

“And I’ve certainly felt like I’m taking my tennis to kind of a new level, in a sense of

being able to be calm and play with freedom and play without consequence in a way, just going out there and try to bring my best every single point.”

Sabalenka was Barty’s 10th successive win over top-10 opponents dating back to her 2019 WTA finals title in Shenzhen.

Barty capped a stellar week at the WTA 500 event in Stuttgart by teaming up with American Brady to win the doubles, beating top seeds Desirae Krawczyk and Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

“Tennis is a strange sport at times,” Barty said. “Even though you can be a set down, I didn’t feel I was very far off.

“I think it’s important to just continue to work in the right direction, try to do right things... And if you don’t (get the result), you just keep going for the next time.

“I think that’s a massively important attitude to have.” – Reuters

Perfect tune up

WORLD NO. 2 Rafa Nadal said his gruelling 6-4, 6-7(6), 7-5 win over Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Barcelona Open final yesterday could prepare him for long battles ahead in the European claycourt season.

The 34-year-old, who claimed a record-extending 12th Barcelona title, suffered a back injury in Melbourne earlier this year before he was beaten by Tsitsipas in the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Following a spell out on the sidelines, the 20-times Grand Slam champion returned to action at Monte Carlo this month, going out in the quarters.

But the Spaniard, who will be looking for a 14th French Open crown when the claycourt Grand Slam begins on May 30, showed he was returning to his battling best yesterday, saving a match point before going on to winning his first title of 2021.

At three hours and 38 minutes, it was the longest best-of-three-set ATP Tour final since statistics started being tracked in 1991, the governing body of men’s tennis said.

“I haven’t been able to play a lot of competitive matches for the past couple of months. It’s true that matches like today make me feel

Barcelona test can be platform to successful claycourt season: Nadal

better physically and more ready for long battles,” Nadal told reporters.

“I think I’ve been able to play better and better during the whole week in every single match and today was a bit better than yesterday. I have room to keep improving. I wasn’t perfect.

“I really believe I can play better than what I’m doing on clay and I hope that the victory is going to help me to raise a little bit my level that I need to fight for the next couple of events that I’m going to play.

“It means a lot for me to play the final here and win,” said Nadal. “I improved my level during the week and this trophy means a lot.”

No man has won more matches this year than Tsitsipas (26) but the 22-year-old has lost all seven finals at the ATP 500 level.

“Rafa, bravo. How many is that, 28? 28 Barcelona titles is not bad,” joked Tsitsipas. “I’m really jealous. But you’ve earned it. You’re one of the biggest competitors in our sport, I’m sure you know that.” – Reuters/AFP

Rafael Nadal celebrates with the trophy after winning the ATP Barcelona Open yesterday.

– AFPPIX



Jadeja make RCB pay

RAVINDRA JADEJA smashed 37 runs in a seven-ball over for Chennai Super Kings yesterday to equal the Indian Premier League (IPL) record.

The India all-rounder, who was dropped on nought earlier, smashed five sixes off Royal Challengers Bangalore pace bowler Harshal Patel as Chennai made 191-4 in their 20 overs at Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium.

Jadeja’s sequence went: six, six, six (off a no ball), six (free hit), two, six, four to cap Chennai’s innings, while Bangalore could manage only 122-9 in their innings.

“I was a bit tired before the last over after running a lot of twos... I was looking to hit the ball hard but didn’t expect it to connect five times, so I’m

happy,” said Jadeja, who finished with an unbeaten 62 runs off 28 balls.

Jadeja equalled the IPL record set by West Indies batsman Chris Gayle in 2011.

After his heroics with the bat, Jadeja, 32, then picked up three wickets and effected a run-out as Bangalore suffered their first defeat of the campaign. Chennai climbed to the top of the standings with four wins from five games.

Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli said Jadeja had been the difference between the two sides.

“It’s good to get a performance like this out of the way early in the season,” he said. “You can probably say one guy beat us.” – Reuters

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF MARCOCO FURNITURE MANUFACTURER SDN. BHD. (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up) [Company No. 199701002615 (418111-T)]

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016 that a Final Meeting of Members of the Company will be held at 184A, Jalan Raja Uda, 12300 Butterworth, Penang on the 28th day of May, 2021 at 11.00a.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive an account from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and property of the Company disposed of and to hear any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.
2. To resolve that under Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016, the books, accounts and documents of the Company and the Liquidator be destroyed three (3) months after the Company has been dissolved.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2021

TANG YIN KHAM
Liquidator

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 and IN THE MATTER OF COMMERCE MASTER (M) SDN. BHD. Registration No. 200001005900 (508505-T) (In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)

At a General Meeting of the Company duly convened and held at Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor, 60, 62 & 64 Jalan SS 22/21, Damansara Jaya, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan on Tuesday, 20th day of April 2021, the following Special Resolutions were duly passed:

1. That the Company will be liquidated by way of members' voluntary winding up.
2. That Mr. Tan Kee Huat and Ms. Lam Lee San both of Norvic Corporate Services Sdn. Bhd., Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor, 60, 62 & 64 Jalan SS 22/21, Damansara Jaya, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan be appointed as Joint and Several Liquidators to act for the purpose of winding-up the company's affairs and distributing its assets.
3. That the said Liquidators be authorised to divide amongst the members in specie or kind, the whole or any part of the assets of the Company and may, for such purpose, set such value as they deem fair upon any property to be divided as aforesaid and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between the members.

Yap Koon Chai (f)
Director

Dated this 27th day of April 2021

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 and IN THE MATTER OF COMMERCE MASTER (M) SDN. BHD. Registration No. 200001005900 (508505-T) (In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above Company are required to send in their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned (the Liquidators of the said Company) at the below mentioned address by 5.00 p.m. on 28th May 2021 :-

c/o Norvic Corporate Services Sdn. Bhd., Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor 60, 62 & 64 Jalan SS 22/21 Damansara Jaya 47400 Petaling Jaya Selangor Darul Ehsan

The creditors (either through their solicitors or personally) who do not file their debts and claims on or before the specified date and time above will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made.

Tan Kee Huat
Lam Lee San (f)
Liquidators

Dated this 27th day of April 2021

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322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF LANDSCAPE RETAINING WALL SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NUMBER : 199601013798 (386148-W)

[IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP]

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at No. 53 Jalan Meranti, Taman Air Putih, Bagan Ajam, 13000 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang on 28 May 2021 at 10.00 am for the following purposes :-

1. To receive an account from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to hear any explanations that may be given by the Liquidator.
2. To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution :-

“That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator, shall be kept by the Liquidator at O-26-A1 Gurney Tower Office, 18 Persiaran Gurney, 10250 George Town, Pulau Pinang, for a period of three (3) months from the date of Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator.”

Dated this 27th day of April, 2021.

LEE KEE HOE
Liquidator

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF PENTA GLOBE SDN. BHD. (In Members' Voluntary Liquidation) (Company Registration No. 199501018692 (347895-T))

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016 that a Final Meeting of the Members of the Company will be held at Level 2, 33B Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang on Friday, 28th May 2021 at 11.00 a.m. for the following purposes:-

1. To receive an account from the Liquidators showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon;
2. To determine pursuant to Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidators thereof shall be disposed of.

NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that an account of the receipts and payments of the Company have been made up to 27th April 2021 and is opened for inspection by any creditor or contributory of the Company at the Liquidator's Office, Level 6, 33B Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang between the hours of 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday except public holiday.

KHOR YONG YONG
As Liquidator

Dated this 27th April 2021

Note:-

A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy in his or her stead. A proxy must be a member or a Director of the Company or an approved Company Auditor or a qualified legal practitioner or a person approved by the Registrar of Companies in a particular case. The instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at the Liquidator's Office, Level 6, 33B Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time set for the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF SIM HIN REALTY SDN. BHD. REGISTRATION NUMBER : 196501000348 (6150-V)

[IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP]

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at O-26-A1 Gurney Tower Office, 18 Persiaran Gurney, 10250 George Town, Pulau Pinang on 28 May 2021 at 10.00 am for the following purposes :-

1. To receive an account from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and to hear any explanations that may be given by the Liquidator.
2. To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution :-

“That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator, shall be kept by the Liquidator at O-26-A1 Gurney Tower Office, 18 Persiaran Gurney, 10250 George Town, Pulau Pinang, for a period of three (3) months from the date of Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator.”

Dated this 27th day of April, 2021.

GOOI SOON LEE
Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) PETITION NO. WA-26NCC-11-03/2021

In the matter of Unico Technology Sdn Bhd (Registration No. 198901012434 [189742-K]);

And

In the matter of Section 116 of the Companies Act 2016.

The Unico Technology Sdn Bhd (Registration No.: 198901012434 [189742-K])

...Petitioner

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 30th day of March 2021 presented to the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the abovenamed Company from RM50,000,000.00 to RM10,000,000.00 by cancelling the paid-up share capital which is lost or unrepresented by available assets.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Judge, YA Tuan Wan Muhammad Amin Bin Wan Yahya at the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur on the **21st day of May 2021 at 9.30am.**

ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 27th day of April 2021.

sgd

Messrs Kee Sern, Siu & Huey
Solicitors for the Petitioner

No. 468-11E(2), 2nd Floor, Block C, Rivercity, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah (formerly Jalan Ipoh), 51200 Kuala Lumpur.

Note:
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed solicitors, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or her solicitors (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed solicitors not later than 12 o'clock noon on the 18th day of May 2021 (2 clear days before the day appointed for the hearing of the said Petition).

Tel No: 03-92122688
Faks No: 03-40440448
Email: general@kssshlegal.com
[Ref: CLTF/LKS/GL07/UTB/200234]

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) PETITION NO: WA-28NCC-264-04/2021

In the matter of Sections 466(1)(A) of the Companies Act 2016;

And

In the matter of GETINAS SDN BHD [Company Registration No. 199901022630]

BETWEEN

LAVENDA BUILDING SYSTEMS SDN BHD (Company No.: 199901010869) ...PETITIONER

AND

GETINAS SDN BHD (Company No.: 199901022630) ... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for winding-up of the abovenamed company by the High Court was, on the 15 April 2021, presented by Lavenda Building Systems Sdn Bhd having its address at No. 2, Jalan Mandolin 33/5, Premier Industrial Park, Seksyen 33, 40400 Shah Alam Selangor Darul Ehsan. And that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Kuala Lumpur at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, on the 3rd day of August 2021; and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at No. 2, Jalan Mandolin 33/5, Premier Industrial Park, Seksyen 33, 40400 Shah Alam Selangor Darul Ehsan.

The Petitioner's solicitors is **WONG LU PEEN & TUNKU ALINA**, 21-6, Block B, The Boulevard, Mid Valley City, Lingkaran Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur.

sign

WONG LU PEEN & TUNKU ALINA

NOTE:
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed solicitors, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than twelve o'clock noon on the 2nd day of August 2021 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the Petition).

This Advertisement of Petition is taken out by **WONG LU PEEN & TUNKU ALINA**, 21-6, Block B, The Boulevard, Mid Valley City, Lingkaran Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, solicitors for the petitioner abovenamed whose address is at No. 2, Jalan Mandolin 33/5, Premier Industrial Park, Seksyen 33, 40400 Shah Alam Selangor Darul Ehsan

[Petitioner's solicitors' telephone no.: 03-29388833 Facsimile : 03-29388811] [File reference : L3 15717]

322 Notices

DALAM PERKARA AKTA SYARIKAT 2016 DAN DALAM PERKARA PENTA GLOBE SDN. BHD. (Penggulungan Syarikat Sukarela Oleh Anggota) (No. Pendaftaran Syarikat 199501018692 (347895-T))

NOTIS MESYUARAT TERAKHIR

NOTIS ADALAH DENGAN INI DIBERIKAN menurut Seksyen 459 Akta Syarikat 2016 bahawa Mesyuarat Terakhir Anggota Anggota Syarikat tersebut akan diadakan di Tingkat 2, 33B Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang pada hari Jumaat, 28hb. Mei 2021 pada pukul 11.00 pagi bagi tujuan berikut:-

1. Untuk menerima akaun dari Pelikudasi yang menunjukkan cara bagaimana pengumpulan tersebut telah dijalankan dan menerima sebarang penjelasan mengenainya;
2. Untuk menentukan menurut Seksyen 518(3)(b) Akta Syarikat 2016 cara bagaimana buku-buku, akaun dan dokumen Syarikat dan Pelikudasi sepatutnya dilupuskan.

NOTIS JUGA ADALAH DENGAN INI DIBERIKAN bahawa akaun penerimaan dan pembayaran Syarikat telah dibuat sehingga 27hb. April 2021 dan dibuka untuk pemeriksaan oleh Pemiliutang atau Anggota Syarikat di pejabat Pelikudasi di Tingkat 6, 33B Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang dari pukul 9.00 pagi hingga pukul 12.30 petang dan pukul 2.30 petang hingga pukul 4.30 petang, hari Isnin hingga hari Jumaat kecuali cuti umum.

KHOR YONG YONG
Pelikudasi

Tarikh: 27hb. April 2021

Nota:-

Seorang Anggota Syarikat yang berhak untuk menghadiri dan mengundi di Mesyuarat tersebut di atas adalah berhak melantik seorang proksi untuk menghadiri dan mengundi bagi pihak dirinya. Seorang proksi mesti adalah seorang Anggota atau seorang Pengarah Syarikat atau seorang Juruaudit Syarikat yang diluluskan atau seorang pengamal undang-undang yang berkelayakan atau seseorang yang diluluskan oleh Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia dalam kes tertentu. Instrumen pelantikan proksi hendaklah diserahkan di pejabat Pelikudasi di Tingkat 6, 33B Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang, tidak kurang daripada empat puluh lapan (48) jam sebelum masa yang ditetapkan bagi mesyuarat tersebut.

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF KLINIK YEOH OON THEAM SDN BHD Registration No. 198001003730 (57514-X)) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016, the Final Meeting of Members of the Company will be held at 51-21-A Menara BHL Bank, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050 George Town, Penang on Thursday, 27th May 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts showing the manner in which the winding-up has been conducted and the property disposed of and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.
2. To determine by ordinary resolution the manner and period in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be destroyed.

Dated this 27th April 2021

LEE PENG LOON
Liquidator

“I’LL TRY” said Eden Hazard when asked in his first press conference at Real Madrid if he could now become the best player in the world.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were the immovable duo but still, the suggestion was not that Hazard settle for third, a position he had already come to hover around following seven brilliant years for Chelsea.

Hazard had been the Premier League’s outstanding attacking talent and at Real Madrid, where the demands would be higher and the supporting cast more prestigious, it was not out of the question there could be more to come.

He could replace Ronaldo, fill Madrid’s creativity gap, launch a new era and perhaps even win the *Ballon d’Or*.

“If everything goes well, why not?” said Hazard. “It’s in my head but I’m not thinking of it every day.”

Almost two years later, Hazard counts it as a blessing to make it through a single match without another muscle creaking let alone an entire season worthy of international acclaim.

Real Madrid face Chelsea in the first leg of the Champions League semifinals tomorrow (3am Malaysian time) and it would be a huge surprise if he were to start against his former team.

Hazard came off the bench against Real Betis on Sunday to play his first 15 minutes in almost

Real garden not so green for Eden

Hazard’s injury makes Madrid wistful of Galacticos era

three months.

“He played with spark, with energy,” said Zidane. “We’re going to need him.”

When asked about the merits of Real Madrid’s *Galactico* signings such as Hazard, the club’s president Florentino Perez said they are as much a projection of power as a way of bringing in a better striker or rightback.

“It creates a very special type of glamour,” said Perez. “It lets the whole world know you have a world class player in every position.”

But the time when Real Madrid could afford to poach the world’s best players every summer are now long gone, the spate of superstar signings in the first decade of the century dwindling to just two or three in the second.

Gareth Bale came in 2013 and a year later James Rodriguez, the break-out player of the 2014 World Cup, followed.

And then the emphasis shifted, a change in approach directing Madrid’s attention to younger talents, not always cheap to buy, but always with potential and the possibility of sell-on value.

Hazard seemed the perfect fit and even though, at 28, Madrid were signing him a couple of years later, they were confident he would deliver.

That he is still to do so is not only a great shame for him and La Liga but also for fans all over the world, who have been denied seeing one of the most enchanting footballers of his generation shine for the world’s most successful club. – AFP

Another twist in La Liga title race

ATLETICO MADRID’S title hopes suffered a setback yesterday as a shock 2-1 defeat at Athletic Bilbao handed Barcelona the upper hand in a thrilling race at the top of La Liga.

Real Madrid’s draw with Real Betis on Sunday gave Atletico the chance to pull further clear but instead they ended the weekend with their lead reduced, a loss at San Mames the latest twist in Europe’s most unpredictable domestic chase.

Barca had earlier beaten Villarreal by the same scoreline, with Antoine Griezmann’s quick-fire double becoming all the more valuable after another Atletico slip.

Sevilla have largely been overlooked as possible champions in Spain but they are right in the mix as well now after a 2-1 win over Granada puts them just three points off the top and one behind Real Madrid.

Yet Barcelona were the biggest winners, with Ronald Koeman’s team able to go top of the table if they win their game in hand at home to Granada on Friday, even if Atletico might have a way back given they are still to play at Camp Nou on May 8.

Real Madrid host Sevilla a day later. “There are four of us in that race and now emotionally, those who have the mental strength will be closer to winning,” said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. “We still know that we depend on ourselves.”

Atletico have first place, for now at least, but they might be the least convincing of all the contenders.

Losing to Athletic Bilbao means they have won only six of their last 14 league games, with the momentum gained from consecutive wins over Eibar and Huesca proving short-lived.

The way some of Simeone’s players dropped to their knees at the final whistle suggested this result, psychologically, could be difficult to recover from.

Alex Berenguer had already nodded in Ander Capa’s cross in the eighth minute and Athletic should have doubled their advantage in the second half but Oihan Sancet fired over.

Luis Suarez, Joao Felix and Thomas Lemar all came on and Atletico grabbed a lifeline when Stefan Savic’s flicked header found its way inside the back post with 13 minutes left.

Simeone pumped his fists, urging his players to seek a winner, but instead there was a sucker-punch from Athletic, Inigo Martinez darting free in the box and powering a superb header past Jan Oblak with four minutes remaining. – AFP



Inter Milan coach Antonio Conte (top) celebrate with his players after Matteo Darmian (bottom) scored against Hellas Verona yesterday. – REUTERSPIX

Serie A crown within Inter Milan’s grasp

MATTEO DARMIAN scored the only goal to push Inter Milan to the brink of the Serie A title with a 1-0 win over Hellas Verona yesterday with coach Antonio Conte hailing the victory as worth “nine points”.

Achraf Hakimi set up Darmian to grab the winner on 76 minutes at the San Siro.

Inter are 11 points ahead of Atalanta, who moved second with a 5-0 rout of 10-man Bologna, with five games remaining.

AC Milan are a further two points behind in third before they travel to fellow top four hopefuls

Lazio overnight.

“Today’s victory is not worth only three points, not even six. It is worth nine,” said Conte.

“We’re 95% of the way towards the Scudetto. We haven’t won it yet but we are close.”

Juventus are level on points with AC Milan but drop to fourth place after being held 1-1 at Fiorentina.

With five games left to play, last season’s runners-up Inter could claim their first Serie A title since 2010 as early as next weekend.

Conte’s side had been held 1-1 in their previous two games

against Napoli and Spezia.

Yesterday, Lautaro Martinez sent over the bar after connecting with a Romelu Lukaku header, with Hakimi missing chances in either half.

But the Moroccan fullback teed up fellow defender Darmian for the winner to rescue the three points, as he had against Cagliari two weeks ago.

Verona captain Davide Faraoni thought he had scored a late equaliser from close range but the goal was ruled out for a foul on Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic. – AFP

SIDENETTING

Leipzig keep Bayern waiting

SECOND-PLACED RB Leipzig made Bayern Munich wait to be crowned Bundesliga champions as Emil Forsberg netted a second half penalty in a 2-0 home win yesterday against 10-man Stuttgart. Defeat for Leipzig would have confirmed Bayern as German champions for the ninth straight season despite Hansi Flick’s side losing 2-1 at Mainz on Saturday. “It was an important win for us,” said Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann. “A defeat would have put too much pressure on the fight for the Champions League and second place. It’s not 100% safe, but it looks very good.”

Smalling returns but Roma crash

CHRIS SMALLING’S return after over a month out injured could not prevent Roma suffering their third straight Serie A loss with a 3-2 defeat at Cagliari ahead of this week’s Europa League semifinal, first leg at Manchester United. Ex-Man United defender Smalling’s return from a knee injury, albeit for only an hour, was the only positive note for Paulo Fonseca’s side whose European ambitions next season have been dented. Charalampos Lykogiannis put Cagliari ahead after just four minutes but Carles Perez pulled Roma level before the half hour mark. Razvan Marin and a Joao Pedro header either side of the hour to restore the hosts’ advantage before Federico Fazio cut the deficit 20 minutes before fulltime. “Smalling played a very good game, the team is a lot more secure with him and it was important to let him play at least for a while so as to have him for Manchester,” said Fonseca.

Bayern in talks with Nagelsmann

BAYERN MUNICH are in talks with RB Leipzig to tempt Julian Nagelsmann to take over as coach from Hansi Flick next season, but German media claimed yesterday it could cost them €30m (RM149m). According to *Bild*, Leipzig will demand such a sum to release the highly regarded Nagelsmann as his current contract still runs until 2023. *Sport 1* also reported that negotiations have started and said the financial deal will be “significantly greater than €15m (RM74m)”. Flick is considered to be the favourite to replace Jochim Loew as German national coach after this summer’s European Championship. “If we are to agree to Hansi’s wish then all parties must jointly find a solution which also satisfies Bayern,” Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told *Bild* yesterday.

Yilmaz inspires Lille fight back

BURAK YILMAZ scored twice and set up another as Lille staged a brilliant comeback to claim a thrilling 3-2 victory at title rivals Lyon yesterday and reclaim top spot in Ligue 1 from reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain. The away side trailed by two goals shortly before halftime, but Yilmaz inspired an unlikely fightback to send Lille one point clear of PSG with four matches remaining. “Scoring just before halftime gave us a lot of confidence, we knew we could go all the way,” Lille’s other goalscorer Jonathan David told *Canal Plus*. “We will celebrate, then focus for the next match. These are victories which prove to us that we can go to the end.”

RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP FINAL: Manchester City 1
(Laporte 82) **Tottenham 0.**

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Wolves 0 Burnley 4
(Wood 15, 21, 44, Westwood 85), **Leeds 0 Manchester United 0, Aston Villa 2** (El Ghazi 9-pen, Davis 90+2) **West Brom 2** (Pereira 23-pen, Mings 47-og).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	33	24	5	4	69	24	77
Man Utd	33	19	10	4	64	35	67
Leicester	32	18	5	9	58	37	59
Chelsea	33	16	10	7	51	31	58
West Ham	33	16	7	10	53	43	55
Liverpool	33	15	9	9	55	39	54
Tottenham	33	15	8	10	56	38	53
Everton	32	15	7	10	44	40	52
Leeds	33	14	5	14	50	50	47
Arsenal	33	13	7	13	44	37	46
Aston Villa	32	13	6	13	46	37	45
Wolves	33	11	8	14	32	45	41
Crystal Palace	31	10	8	13	32	52	38
Burnley	33	9	9	15	30	45	36
Southampton	32	10	7	15	40	58	36
Newcastle	33	9	9	15	36	54	36
Brighton	33	7	13	13	33	39	34
Fulham	33	5	12	16	25	43	27
West Brom	33	5	10	18	30	64	25
Sheff Utd	33	5	2	26	18	56	17

CHAMPIONSHIP: Bristol City 2 Luton 3, Reading 2
Swansea 2.

TOP 10	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	44	28	9	7	69	33	93
Watford	44	26	10	8	61	28	88
Brentford	43	21	15	7	73	41	78
Bournemouth	44	22	11	11	73	43	77
Swansea	44	22	11	11	54	36	77
Barnsley	44	23	8	13	56	46	77
Reading	44	19	12	13	59	48	69
Cardiff	44	17	13	14	61	48	64
Mid'boro	44	18	9	17	54	49	63
QPR	44	17	11	16	52	54	62

LA LIGA: SD Huesca 0 Getafe 2 (Unal 20, 52),
Villarreal 1 (Chukwueze 26) **Barcelona 2** (Griezmann 28, 35), **Celta Vigo 2** (Aspas 42, Murillo 64) **Osasuna 1**
(Torres 77-pen), **Sevilla 2** (Rakitic 16-pen, Ocampos 53)
Granada 1 (Soldado 90-pen), **Athletic Bilbao 2**
(Berenguer 8, Martinez Berridi 86) **Atletico Madrid 1**
(Savic 77).

TOP 10	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico	33	22	7	4	60	22	73
Real Madrid	33	21	8	4	56	24	71
Barcelona	32	22	5	5	76	29	71
Sevilla	33	22	4	7	49	26	70
Sociedad	32	13	11	8	50	34	50
Real Betis	33	14	8	11	42	45	50
Villarreal	33	12	13	8	50	38	49
Granada	32	12	6	14	41	53	42
Celta Vigo	33	10	11	12	44	51	41
Bilbao	32	10	11	11	41	34	41

SERIE A: Benevento 2 (Viola 34-pen, Lapadula 83)
Udinese 4 (Molina Lucero 4, Arslan 31, Jens Stryger Larsen 49, Braaf 73), **Fiorentina 1** (Vlahovic 29-pen)
Juventus 1 (Morata 46), **Inter Milan 1** (Darmian 76)
Hellas Verona 0, Cagliari 3 (Lykogiannis 4, Marin 57, Joao Pedro 64) **Roma 2** (Perez 27, Fazio 69), **Atalanta 5** (Malinovskyi 22, Muriel 44-pen, Freuler 57, Zapata 59, Miranchuk 73) **Bologna 0.**

TOP 10	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	33	24	7	2	72	29	79
Atalanta	33	20	8	5	78	39	68
AC Milan	32	20	6	6	60	38	66
Juventus	33	19	9	5	65	30	66
Napoli	32	20	3	9	71	37	63
Lazio	31	18	4	9	53	46	58
Roma	33	16	7	10	58	51	55
Sassuolo	33	14	10	9	55	50	52
Sampdoria	33	12	6	15	43	47	42
Hellas Verona	33	11	8	14	40	41	41

BUNDESLIGA: RB Leipzig 2 VfB Stuttgart 0, Borussia
Moenchengladbach 5 Arminia Bielefeld 0.

TOP 10	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	31	22	5	4	86	40	71
RB Leipzig	31	19	7	5	55	25	64
Wolfsburg	31	16	9	6	54	32	57
E. Frankfurt	31	15	11	5	62	47	56
Dortmund	31	17	4	10	66	42	55
Leverkusen	31	14	8	9	51	35	50
Union Berlin	31	11	13	7	47	38	46
M'gladbach	31	12	10	9	59	46	46
Freiburg	30	11	8	11	45	43	41
Stuttgart	31	10	9	12	52	51	39

LIGUE 1: Nice 3 Montpellier 1, Lens 2 Nimes 1,
Lorient 4 Bordeaux 1, Strasbourg 1 Nantes 2,
Rennes 5 Dijon 1, Angers 0 Monaco 1, Lyon 2 Lille 3.

PROMOTED PLAYOFFS RELEGATED

Big decision looming

Cup final defeat could push Kane toward Tottenham departure

■ MIGUEL DELANEY

AFTER a decision about whether to play, Harry Kane now faces an even bigger decision over where to play next.

It may well end up linked to Julian Nagelsmann's own decision to eschew Tottenham Hotspur and go to Bayern Munich.

The harsh reality for Spurs is that this latest final defeat won't make Kane's conversations with Daniel Levy any easier, after earlier this season telling the club chairman he is considering his future.

An irony is that Kane's performance this time didn't really add much to the team. As with the 2019 Champions League final, there might even be a debate over whether they would have been better served with the striker coming off the bench.

His fitness was only confirmed in the 24 hours before the game, but he never looked his best.

In that, Kane is becoming a bit like Wayne Rooney with World Cups. He is unlucky to find himself either injured or recovering when they

come around.

It is why his ineffective performance, as much as the defeat, could actually strengthen the argument for leaving.

A player of his talent might well feel he should be at a team where

finals come around much more regularly. Like, well, Manchester City.

Pep Guardiola's side are Kane's top choice if he leaves, along with Manchester United.

Everyone says Levy just will not countenance the sale of Kane especially with three years left on his contract.

Can he afford to be so obstructive about it when Spurs have suffered such a loss of income, and that just a year after the stadium was opened?

There are big financial holes to fill, as well as roles to fill.

That is just another new problem for Levy, as Spurs were supposed to be moving into a new era.

The choice of manager could well be influential in Kane's future.

Nagelsmann has been the dream, and the No. 1 target. He would instantly solve so many problems, in that he'd immediately give the club an energy, but also an ideology.

While Nagelsmann had previously indicated a willingness to join Spurs, it was seen by those in Germany as a tactic to flush out interest elsewhere.

He was always going to have bigger jobs available to him, and the job he wants most is now available. Nagelsmann wants Bayern Munich. That is likely to leave Levy needing a solution.

Brendan Rodgers would now be the preferred option, but there are complications. The relationship isn't brilliant from Spurs' approaches in the past, and sources say he is now greatly enjoying Leicester City as he has near-total control at the club.

Levy has a big decision of his own. It is only one he has rarely got right, as the Mourinho appointment shows.

In fact, it could even be argued the majority of his managerial hires have been poor, with Pochettino the grand exception alongside Martin Jol and Harry Redknapp.

Kane will be watching all this carefully. - The Independent

Laporte hails 'superb' City

MATCH-WINNER Aymeric Laporte was delighted to make the decisive contribution as Manchester City clinched a fourth successive League Cup win.

The Frenchman, whom Tottenham felt could have been sent off earlier in the game, nodded in from a corner 10 minutes from time at Wembley as City beat Spurs 1-0 to claim a Carabao Cup final victory their superiority fully deserved.

Laporte told *Sky Sports*: "We are so happy to win this title again. We lost in the FA Cup, so it is something good for us to get confidence and to keep going like we have done in the last few months.

"We have been so, so good and we have to keep this rhythm, this way to win more titles."

Laporte added: "It was difficult because they (Tottenham) are a good team. It's never easy to play against a team like that. Today, we were superb.

"We did very well, so we are very happy to win today and to win this trophy as well."

Man of the match Riyad Mahrez praised City's focus in a tight contest.

He said: "It was a tough game - we knew it was going to be tough. We stayed focused, we kept dominating, we kept passing the ball and then

scored. I think we deserved to win today.

"Obviously you are always scared because they are a good team, but we were very confident in our game and it's a very good win. We get the trophy again and we are very happy."

Asked why the club were so dominant in the competition, Mahrez added: "I don't know. Like the manager said, we just focus in every competition we play.

"Today was a final - in finals, you have to win. Whether you play good or not, you have to win, and today we played good and we won."

Spurs interim head coach Ryan Mason admitted they are four or five years behind City after his hopes of ending the club's trophy drought were ruined on the Wembley turf yesterday.

"I think City are probably four or five years ahead of us," he said.

"In terms of they have had a manager for such a long time and they have worked a certain way for such a long time.

"Going forward, my idea and I am sure everyone's idea at Tottenham, is to be brave and try to dominate games like they do. It is a process. It takes time." - The Independent/Reuters

SIDENETTING

Swansea secure playoff place

SWANSEA secured a Championship playoff place yesterday with a hard-earned 2-2 draw at Reading, whose own top-six aspirations were ended by the result. The Welsh side join Brentford, Bournemouth and Barnsley in the end-of-season shoot-out in the English second tier. Norwich and Watford have already secured automatic promotion to the Premier League after both were relegated last year. Top-scorer Andre Ayew said he was delighted to reach the playoffs as Swansea target a return to the Premier League following three seasons in the Championship. "Job done," he told *Sky Sports*.

"We're in the mix now."

Leeds chief slams 'Big Six' betrayal

LEEDS UNITED Chief Executive Angus Kinnear said the six Premier League clubs involved in the failed breakaway European Super League were "playground bullies" and that they had betrayed "every true football supporter". "The timing of the plan combined with the turmoil of a global pandemic was not coincidental it was deeply cynical," Kinnear said. "Whether collective intent was a genuine move to breakaway or the act of playground bullies seeking negotiating leverage by threatening to take their ball home is irrelevant. The result was a betrayal of every true football supporter."

Baggies facing the drop

WEST BROM'S faint hopes of avoiding relegation suffered a significant setback after substitute Keinan Davis scored a 92nd-minute equaliser for Aston Villa.

The Baggies fell behind when Anwar El Ghazi marked his return to the side by firing Villa ahead from the penalty spot after Semi Ajayi had clipped Ross Barkley.

They were then awarded a penalty of their own, Matheus Pereira beating Emiliano Martinez to equalise after Ezri Konsa caught Ainsley Maitland-Niles.

Brazilian forward Pereira then hit the bar from a freekick after creating chances for Okay Yokuslu and Maitland-Niles before Mbaye Diagne's deflected finish off Tyrone Mings looked to have sealed a third win in four games.

But Davis pounced in the closing moments for his first Premier League goal after a defensive mix-up to deny the Baggies, who are now nine points from safety with five games remaining.

"But for their goalkeeper and the woodwork we would have got the third which would have seen it off," West Brom boss Sam Allardyce told *BBC Sport*.

"It was our mistake for the equaliser but I can't be too critical of the players. I'm really pleased with the response to the Leicester disappointment.

"The lads showed real spirit after a dodgy start. Apart from the last seconds it all worked extremely well." - Agencies

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Manchester City players and coaching staff pose with the trophy as they celebrate after winning the Carabao Cup final against Tottenham at Wembley Stadium yesterday. – **REUTERSPIX**

Paris calling

Guardiola fires PSG warning as Man City eye incredible treble after Carabao Cup win

MANCHESTER CITY boss Pep Guardiola warned Paris Saint-Germain he has them in his sights after landing his fourth consecutive Carabao Cup at Wembley yesterday. Aymeric Laporte's 82nd-minute header saw City defeat Tottenham 1-0 and land their first trophy of a possible treble this season.

The dominant performance – and an impressive return from injury for Kevin De Bruyne – teed City up perfectly for the first leg of their Champions League semifinal in Paris on Thursday (3am Malaysian time).

"We're really happy to win the first title and four in a row in this competition," said Guardiola.

"We are in the (Champions League) semifinal for only the second time, we always had one eye on that but we take every game seriously – otherwise you can't win four in a row.

"We won the first one, we are close to a second one (Premier League title) and now we

go to Paris for another one.

"The way we played today was fantastic. We were incredible and I'm happy to win the first title (of the season) but especially to win 30 of the last 33 matches," Guardiola later told *Sky Sports*.

"This is amazing, and in this period where we have lockdowns, suffering, a different way of life. We played with incredible personality from the first minute to try and win the game.

"They had a few minutes and some counter-attacks, but in general we played a really good final.

"We had a lot of corners and we are not the strongest (at set pieces)," Guardiola added. "The freekick (from De Bruyne) was good and (Laporte) did incredible.

"We don't have time to work (on set-pieces). Just the principles from the beginning so we know what to do and we just try to recover.

"It is tough but it is what it is – the schedule is this way."

Guardiola admitted the emotions were

heightened because the win came in front of fans for the first time since last March.

"It's much better. It was a good noise and the celebration with them was much better," he said.

"Wembley was not full but they represent everyone, so it's great to share it with them. There was some good noise. The reason why we do it is for them."

City match-winner Laporte branded it the ideal response to the FA Cup semifinal defeat to Chelsea.

"It's very special for us after we lost in the FA Cup to get confidence and keep going. In the last two months we have been so good. We have to keep this rhythm, to win more titles," he said.

Tottenham caretaker manager Ryan Mason meanwhile revealed the Spurs dressing room was desolate after his side's Carabao Cup final heartache.

Mason, 29, had targeted Spurs' first trophy in 13 years in just his second game in charge but they left Wembley empty handed again after

Laporte's late winner.

However he was proud of his outgunned team after a stressful build-up that started with the sacking of Jose Mourinho.

"It hurts and it is normal they are hurting because it shows they care. They gave everything, absolutely 100%," said Mason.

"Manchester City are a great side, an incredible team, but I think our group of players gave everything considering what they have had to deal with in seven days. That is something to be proud of.

"We tried but it wasn't enough and that is tough to take."

Spurs must now turn their attention to securing Champions League qualification via the Premier League.

"We now have to pick ourselves up because we still have some huge games left to play," said Mason, who has been put in charge for the rest of the season. – Express Newspapers/The Independent

Solskjaer laments bad luck in bore draw against Leeds

OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER suggested that his Manchester United side were simply unlucky after they dropped two points against Leeds United, who held on to secure a goalless draw at Elland Road.

The two traditional rivals played out a 6-2 thriller in the reverse fixture at Old Trafford earlier in the campaign, but Sunday's match failed to live up to its predecessor with neither side able to break the deadlock.

Solskjaer made one change for the trip to Yorkshire, with Paul Pogba dropping out of the side that faced Burnley to be replaced by Daniel James, who scored in the previous meeting with Leeds back in December.

The Red Devils were dominant for the majority of proceedings but were troubled on a few occasions by Marcelo Bielsa's side and their high-tempo style

of play.

It was a game of few chances, with Marcus Rashford and Bruno Fernandes going closest for the visitors either side of halftime.

The result leaves Carabao Cup winners Manchester City able to claim the Premier League title with just two more wins, with their lead at the summit now standing at 10 points.

Speaking after the full-time whistle, Solskjaer claimed that he was proud of his side's efforts despite their inability to land the decisive blow over the course of the 90 minutes.

"There's no guarantees in football, that's for sure," the United boss told *Sky Sports*.

"I thought we played well, dominated the second half, just didn't have the ball to fall correctly for us in the moments we had.

"When two teams meet you create problems, you solve problems, they give you things to think about and we made them adjust to us.

"We put a really big shift in. I have seen Leeds run over teams in the second half and it was the opposite.

"You don't lose momentum, we are disappointed not to win but the boys have a lot of respect for Leeds. This is not going to be something we look back on as derailing our season."

Asked to comment about the protest against United's owners, the Glazer family, after their aborted attempt to start the Super League, Solskjaer insists it won't wreck their season.

The ill-fated League reignited hatred among fans and led to a huge protest at Old Trafford on Saturday while a plane flew over Elland Road on

Sunday that read "£2bn stolen. Glazers out."

There could be more shows of disdain before Friday's (3am Malaysian time) Europa League semifinal against Roma and the weekend's Premier League clash with fellow breakaway outfit Liverpool.

But the United boss insists they are motivated to put right after last season's heartache against Seville.

"We are very, very focused to do well against Roma and, of course, we have Liverpool in between. I'm not worried about that at all.

"Of course it was a difficult week, but the focus to prepare for this game has been really good."

Leeds boss Bielsa admitted that he was more than happy with a point from Sunday's encounter, revealing that his side faced difficulty in utilising their

counter-attacking style against the 20-time Premier League champions.

"We defended more or less well but it didn't permit us to dominate, it was difficult for us to attack," said Bielsa, running the rule over the action.

"Even if the game didn't favour us, we managed to have chances at goal and we didn't receive too many chances at our goal.

"We have been playing against teams like Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City, and in games like this we have to concede some things.

"We wanted to improve our press when they were building from the back, and after we recovered the ball to keep it to allow us to attack.

"How the game went doesn't allow us to think we should have won the game. As a result, the draw is important." – Express Newspapers