

HARIAN WATAN HIGHLIGHTS

31 DEC 96

1. SHAH ALAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib has acknowledged that the equivalent of RM2.4 million in cash he was carrying when he was arrested by Australian authorities in Brisbane, was his. However, Dr Mahathir said, the public including the press should not pass judgments on Muhammad before giving him a chance to explain why he was carrying so much money. Page 1. Lead story

2. SEREMBAN: Tenaga Nasional Berhad would study all aspects including the interest of consumers before increasing the tariff for electricity, its executive chairman, Datuk Ahmad Tajuddin Ali said. Page 4

3. JAKARTA: Indonesia's Muslim-oriented party, United Development Party has voiced support for a ban on street rallies for next year's election campaign, a report said Monday. Page 21

4. SEOUL: Strikes crippling South Korean industry showed signs of easing on Monday as subway drivers returned to work and nurses prepared to end the strikes. Page 22

5. QARABAGH, Afghanistan: Four bombs were dropped on Qarabagh, north of Kabul, Monday by an anti-Taliban jet as the frontlines came under heavy artillery fire, witnesses said. Page 22

6. BEIT HANUN (Gaza Strip): An agreement between Israeli and Palestine on the handover of the West Bank city of Hebron to Palestinian rule has been finalised for signing on Tuesday. Page 23

Bernama