

CHINA PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14
14 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: The battle for car market is heating up following the move by banks and financial institutions to unfreeze loans on cars. Many car companies are understood to have offered discount and other gifts to promote sales. Page 1. Lead story

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Most Asian bourses rebounded following the surge in Hong Kong. The Composite Index of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange gained 26.32 to close at 503.89. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad urges the people to buy shares in the plantation industry to help speed up economic recovery. He says most commodities are fetching high prices. Page 1

4. KUALA LUMPUR: Most of the affected economies in Southeast Asia are expected to recover within one to three years. ISIS chairman Tan Sri Dr. Datuk Nordin Sovie says participants of the 4th Pacific Dialogue are optimistic of the region's economic recovery. Page 3

5. KUALA LUMPUR: Asian central banks have agreed to strengthen regional economic set-ups to overcome the current economic crisis. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says Japan and the United States should help investors regain confidence in the Asian economies. Page 3

6. KUALA LUMPUR: Though Malaysia has adequate measures to overcome the current economic difficulties, it will still consult foreign sources to adopt more effective measures. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says Malaysia's economic problems are not so complicated like neighbouring countries. It is capable of overcoming them. Page 3

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara is prepared to assist Proton and EON by providing loans through Bank Simpanan Nasional to eligible buyers who have booked national cars. Some 15,000 units of Proton cars have not been collected because buyers could not obtain loans. Page 4

8. KUALA LUMPUR: PLUS may encounter difficulties in repaying its loans totalling RM5.9 billion if it is not allowed to hike toll charges. Its chairman Tan Sri Raden Sunarno suggests the government could work out a win-win formula. Page 5

9. KUALA LUMPUR: Some employers are making use of the economic situation as an excuse to dismiss their workers, without paying reasonable compensation. MCA complaint bureau chief Michael Chong says he received more than 20 complaints within the first 10 days of January. Page 7

10. KLANG: Three teachers involved in the leakage of SPM examination papers have been charged under the Official Secret Act. The case will be mentioned on February 12. Page 11

Bernama

14/01/98 11-28MST

bns