

NANYANG HIGHLIGHTS
22 MAY 1998

1. JAKARTA: Indonesian President Suharto handed power over to his protegee, vice president Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie ending his 32 years of rules. He appealed for forgiveness. The 61-year-old Habibie immediately sworn in to take over the helm. Lead story.

2. KUALA LUMPUR: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad sent congratulatory messages to Habibie over his appointment as Indonesia's new president. Malaysia hopes Indonesia under the leadership of Habibie will attain greater economic growth and prosperity. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: The sluggish Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange got a strong boost following news that president Suharto had resigned as well as the announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the setting up of a property management company to take over bad-debts and mortgage assets in financial institutions. The benchmark Composite Index surged 24.43 points to close at 593.62. Page 1.

4. KUCHING: Sarawak has stepped up checks at entry points at border areas to prevent illegal Indonesian immigrants from sneaking into the state through Kalimantan. In view of the precarious situation in Indonesia, security personnel at the Sarawak-Kalimantan international border have been placed on high alert to curb the influx of illegal immigrants, said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr George Chan. Page A2.

5. KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmand Badawi said Malaysia would continue to maintain a good relationship with the new Indonesian administration under Habibie. He hoped good bilateral ties established under Suharto's leadership would continue to prosper following Habibie's appointment. Page A3

6. KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth said people should not put all the blame on Suharto for what Indonesia was facing now. Suharto's willingness to step down showed that he was willing to sacrifice to save the nation and the people. MCA said Suharto's resignation would help to stabilise the chaotic situation in Indonesia and speed up economic recovery in the region. Parti Rakyat Malaysia welcomed Suharto's resignation and said the party was united with people in Indonesia to struggle for reforms. DAP's secretary general Lim Kit Siang said Suharto's resignation was a first step towards establishing a foundation of democracy in Indonesia. Page A3

7. HONG KONG: President Bill Clinton led other nations in praising Suharto's decision to step down. Suharto's resignation, he said had opened up a way for democracy in the riot-torn country. Page A4

8. KUALA LUMPUR: Equipment costing about RM3 million at an indoor stadium in Bukit Jalil Sports Complex were destroyed as a result of vandalism. Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Loke Yuen Yow did not rule out the possibility of ill intention by quarters trying to sabotage the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. Page A15

9. BRISBANE: Former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib told the Australian police that it was the first time he personally handled custom documents while travelling here on which he failed to declare A\$1.26 million to the custom authorities, unlike in the past where all documents pertaining immigration and custom procedures were normally handled by an officer who accompanied him. Page A15

10. KUALA LUMPUR: Sabah Tourism and Environment Development Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok has been appointed as the state new chief minister taking over from Datuk Yong Teck Lee. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim made the announcement on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Page A17

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