

NEW STRAITS TIMES NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS
23 APRIL 1998

1. SONGKHLA: The joint effort by Malaysian and Thai companies in gas production and distribution along the two countries' borders is proof that co-operation is an effective means of resolving territorial disputes, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said. Lead story

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Listed Phileo Allied Bhd emerged as the major financier of Rashid Hussain group's acquisition of Sime Bank Bhd for a merger with RHB Bank Bhd by providing RM1 billion. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: The Cabinet Wednesday requested Bank Negara to relax guidelines on the purchase of vehicles to allow the automobile industry to increase sales. Page 1

4. KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 133 incidents of open burning have been detected by the Department of Environment and the police air wing since the aerial surveillance was started on April 8. Page 2

5. HAADYAI: Malaysia and Thailand have agreed to establish the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Development Area human resource development fund to prepare youths of both countries to tap opportunities from the development of the area. Page 2

6. PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's first Cancer Institute will set up its headquarters at the Multimedia Super Corridor to enable patients to benefit from the latest information technology, former Deputy Health Minister and National Cancer Council president Datuk Mohd Farid Ariffin said Wednesday. Page 3

7. KUALA LUMPUR: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry will seek the assistance of other agencies to act against traders selling water containers at exorbitant prices, its parliamentary secretary Datuk Tan Chai Ho said. Page 5

8. KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar said banks and finance institutions had disbursed RM66.9 billion in loans between September last year and February this year. Page 6

9. JOHOR BARU: The Johor Bar Committee plans to take action against 49 lawyers for practising law in the State without valid practising certificates. Page 8

10. KUALA LUMPUR: Greater regional interdependence will enhance prospects for regional peace and international security, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Wednesday. Page 13

11. KUALA LUMPUR: SCK Group Bhd's chief executive officer Yeoh Lam Jit and directors Cheong Ho Kuan, Wisun Soon and Sydney Lim Tau Chin have made an attempt to stop the receivers and managers of the company from reconvening the postponed seventh annual general meeting. Page 17

12. WASHINGTON: Transparency in the financial system, although a necessary condition, is not a cure-all for the region's financial crises, Assistant Governor of Bank Negara, Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, told a conference organised by the International Monetary Fund here on Tuesday. Page 17

13. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia can expect a huge increase in mergers and acquisitions over the next coming months, according to Nicholas Bloy, vice-president and director of the Boston Consulting Group Sdn Bhd. Page 18

14. KUALA LUMPUR: Commerce Asset-Holding Bhd said on Tuesday it was not worried by the poor asset quality of its banking unit's proposed strategic equity partner, MBf Finance Bhd. Page 18

15. KUALA LUMPUR: The property sector experienced a decrease in the total number and value of units transacted for the first quarter of this year which clearly showed a slowdown in the market, Deputy Finance Minister

Datuk Wong See Wah said Wednesday. Page 19

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