

SIN CHEW HIGHLIGHTS JAN 23, 1998, FRIDAY
23 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia does not face any shortage of liquidity. Misconception by certain quarters has resulted some people facing difficulties in getting loans, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad page 1. lead story.

2. JAKARTA: Regional bourses suffered major setback as rupiah tumbled to a record low of 16,000 against the greenback at one point. The contagion effect took a great toll on currencies in South East Asia. page 1.

3. KUALA LUMPUR: The KLSE was not spared either. Prices in the local stock market drifted lower as a result of the weakening ringgit and selling pressure. The downtrend of the rupiah triggered fear of worsening economic turbulence ahead. The benchmark Composite Index lost 15.34 points or 2.6 per cent to close at 575.21. page 1.

4. PETALING JAYA: The 18-year-old suspect allegedly responsible for the death of his own mother, admitted to the police that he strangled the latter to death by using a nylon cord. The victim, 51 year-old, was found dead in a bathroom at their house in SS17/2J, Subang by her husband. page 2.

5. PETALING JAYA: Meanwhile, the suspected was said to have attempted to kill his own father after the latter learned of his heinous crime. He tried to strangle his own father twice by using a nylon cord but the latter managed to escape. An uncle of the suspect related this to Sin Chew. page 2..more

6. KUALA LUMPUR: Local suppliers were taken to task for insisting payment be made in US dollar in business transactions. All transactions, stresses the Prime Minister, must be carried out in ringgit because the currency is a legal tender of the country. page 3.

7. JOHOR BAHRU: Employers were warned not to simply retrench their workers using the current economic downturn as an excuse. Such action by employers would not do any good to the current situation. The warning comes from Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek. page 4.

8. KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 7,249 people died of cardio-vascular diseases in 1996. Some 101,985 people were admitted to government hospitals for treatment of such diseases, discloses Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng. page 5.

9. KANGAR: A spot check by Datuk Tan Chai Ho at the Padang Besar custom check point at the M'sian-Thai border ended with the "an unexpected fruitful outcome" when three attempts to smuggle diesel were crippled. The parliamentary secretary to the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry wants enforcement unit of his ministry to step up cooperation with the border task force to curb smuggling at the border areas. page 6. --
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