

SIN CHEW JIT POH HIGHLIGHTS: TUESDAY, JAN. 27  
27 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad says the government will not subsidise any foodstuff in order to control food prices. This is because subsidy involves the use of public fund and will be of no help to the people in facing the economic downturn. Page 1. Lead story

2. KUALA LUMPUR: The government has recognised the pharmacy degree from Taiwan National University. Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng says graduates who obtained the degree after July 4 last year and meet the required regulations may register themselves. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 81 people have been killed in road accidents since Ops Statik was launched five days ago. Yesterday, 12 people died in 10 fatal accidents and 625 road accidents were recorded. Page 2

4. JAKARTA: Six people including two Malaysians were arrested for trying to bring out more than 50,000 rupiah, or equivalent to RM18, from Indonesia. The exchange rate is RM1 is equivalent to 2,761 rupiah. Page 2

5. KUALA LUMPUR: The federal government will not provide fund for the construction of low-cost houses to state governments which do not adopt the open registration system. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the government has received numerous complaints that low-cost houses have been sold to undeserving cases. Page 3

6. KOTA BARU: Kelantan UMNO Liaison Committee has decided that UMNO divisional leaders' posts will not be contested in the March party election. Party President Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad says this is to preserve party unity. Page 3

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara has given banks and financial institutions until March 31 to negotiate their merger plan. An official says the merger plan has been delayed because of the slow pace of negotiations between banks and finance companies. Page 5

8. TELUK INTAN: Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Junid says the government does not plan to ban the import of foreign goods. It practises free trade policy. Page 5

9. KUALA LUMPUR: Revenue from palm oil industry is expected to reach RM15.6 billion this year, RM3 billion more than that of last year. One tonne of palm oil now fetches RM2,500 and total yearly production is expected to be between 8.6 million and 8.7 million tonnes. Page 10

10. KUALA LUMPUR: Housing developers welcome the suggestion to convert luxury housing schemes to medium and low-cost schemes. They feel the move will not cause an over-supply of medium and low-cost houses. Page 12

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