

THE STAR NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS  
23 APRIL 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: The privatisation of garbage collection and disposal has been postponed to avoid a repeat of the problems faced by Indah Water Konsortium. Lead story
2. SHAH ALAM: A factory in Selangor has been caught stealing 450,000 litres of water a day for the past two years, said Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar. Page 1
3. SONGKHLA: Countries with disputes over territorial claims can solve them through joint development of such areas, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday. Page 2
4. KUALA LUMPUR: Director-General of Education Datuk Matnor Daim announced Wednesday that he will go on optional retirement with effect from Monday, two days before he is scheduled to be succeeded by Deputy Director-General Datuk Dr Shukor Abdullah. Page 2
5. KUALA LUMPUR: Two ministries may cease to exist with the tabling of the proposed Multimedia Convergence Bill soon, paving the way for the setting up of a multimedia ministry. Page 2
6. KUALA LUMPUR: The Cabinet has directed the Works Ministry to investigate the possibility of drawing water from underground sources to solve the water woes in Selangor. Page 3
7. KUALA LUMPUR: The Dewan Rakyat has approved RM40 million to the Finance Ministry for the deferred Bakun hydroelectric project. Page 8
8. PETALING JAYA: Retrenched employees with large amounts in unpaid taxes will have to obtain clearance from the Inland Revenue Board before receiving their termination benefits. Page 10
9. PETALING JAYA: The country's residential property value has dropped by 20.03 per cent between January and March, compared with the corresponding period last year. Page 12
10. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia welcomed the idea of having some kind of security arrangement between Asean countries and China, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said. Page 14
11. KUALA LUMPUR: RHB Bank Bhd Wednesday night sealed a financing deal with Phileo Allied Bhd, paving the way for Rashid Hussain Bhd to take over the financially troubled Sime Bank Bhd. Page 1 (Business)
12. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's moderate external debt burden has enable the government to take a flexible approach in stabilising the economy, says international rating agency Standard & Poor's. Page 1
13. KUALA LUMPUR: Financial services firm Commerce Asset-Holding Bhd said its acquisition of other institutions is still a possibility, but it is not in any takeover talks at the moment. Page 3
14. SYDNEY: Malaysian tycoon Robert Kuok's biggest property venture in Australia -- the upmarket The Horizon tower - has become very much the talk of Sydney as workers race ahead to complete the landmark. Page 3
15. KUALA LUMPUR: The Commerce International Merchant Bankers Bhd group has reported a 66.7 per cent drop in pre-tax profit to RM59.4 million for the financial year to Dec 31, 1997, from RM178.4 million in 1996. Page 3 --