

CHINA PRESS HIGHLIGHTS
10 MARCH 2000

1. KUALA LUMPUR: Good news for some nine million EPF members! EPF has proposed to the Finance Ministry a slightly higher dividend rate for the year 1999, says deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy. It is widely speculated that it would be around 7 per cent. Page 1

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has dropped strong hints that he would accept nomination to contest for top post in Umno. He says if people at the grassroots feel he is not qualified or do not fulfil the criteria to lead, he is prepared to remain a "gurkha". Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: Share prices on the KLSE moved within a narrow range after taking a breather of a drastic fall in the morning and closed mixed. Gaming counter, Berjaya Toto took a tumble, losing RM1 at one time to RM8 following news that the government may reduce draws of four digits. The benchmark Composite Index shed 8.13 points to close at 922.5. Page 1

4. SEREMBAN: A 28-year-old Bangladeshi worker, who was hired as a production operator at a plastic factory in Senawang, was found brutally murdered in the workers' quarters here. His throat was slit open and the right knee almost severed besides sustaining two long deep cuts on the body. Page A2

5. JAKARTA: Indonesia's status as an important trade partner to Malaysia will remain unchange, be it now or in future. One thing for sure, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stresses, is the fact that Indonesia is an important country in this region. Malaysia holds firm to its policy on Indonesia, the Prime Minister reiterates. Page A3

6. KUALA LUMPUR: MAS Business Class flight service was rated as the best among major airlines by an Australia magazine. Commenting on this, MAS corporate service executive deputy chairman Datuk Abdul Rahmat Said says the airline will continue to strive hard to improve its service quality. Page A3

7. KUALA TERENGGANU: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik is confident BN could garner the support of Chinese community in the Sanggang by-election scheduled for April 1. A vast majority of Chinese voters there, he says, are BN's supporters. Page A4

8. SINGAPORE: Singapore has written to Indonesia expressing concern over the thick smoke that enveloped its air space resulted from massive forest fires in Riau Islands. Meanwhile, Jakarta has admitted that forest fires in West Kalimantan and Sumatera were at a critical level. Page A4

9. TAIPEI: Berjaya Group officer-in-charge Tan Kok Ping has appointed lawyers to take legal proceeding against Taiwan presidential election candidate Chen Shui-bian and his two cousin brothers Chen Tian-fu and Chen Jin-cai for fraud. Page A4

10. KUALA LUMPUR: The Housing Developers Act 1966 will be amended to plug flaws and weaknesses, so that interest of house buyers could be more effectively protected, says Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting. Page A6