

UTUSAN MALAYSIA HIGHLIGHT
08 MARCH 2000

1. KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Wednesday the whole process of coming up with a national strategic plan on Knowledge-economy (K-economy) will take about 18 months from now. The process would include national consultations, brainstorming, and drafting, the Prime Minister said. Page 1

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Nomination for the Sanggang state by-election in Pahang will be on March 21 and in the event of a contest polling will be on April 1, the Election Commission said Wednesday. The electoral roll confirmed on Feb 24 would be used in the by-election, commission Chairman Datuk Omar Hashim said in a statement. The seat fell vacant following the death of the assemblyman Datuk Abdullah Kia on Feb 26. Page 1

3. KUCHING: A former bank officer has been remanded for 10 days in connection with the theft of RM1.6 million from a client's account about three years ago. A magistrate's court here granted the remand order Wednesday following an application by Chief Inspector Suffian Sulaiman. Page 1

4. KUALA LUMPUR: The Transport Ministry will study the feasibility of creating a special lane for high occupancy vehicle (HOV) to facilitate inter-state travel. Its minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the proposal was presented at the Cabinet meeting Wednesday. Page 2

5. JAKARTA: The political and security situation in Indonesia has improved tremendously compared to a year ago and now may be a good time for Malaysian entrepreneurs to invest in the country. Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Rastam Mohamed Isa said Indonesia, with one per cent growth registered last year and on the road to economic recovery, offered a lot of opportunities for Malaysian businessmen. Page 2

6. KUALA LUMPUR: The implementation of the Knowledge-Economy (K-economy) is not limited to the fields of technology and communications only but will also include all economic sectors including social and spiritual, national Science Advisor Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman said. Page 3

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah denied that he had scheduled a press conference today to announce his decision to contest a top post in the Umno election in May. Tengku Razaleigh's aide Ahmad Shabery Chik said no such press conference as reported in The Sun newspaper Wednesday was planned. Page 3

8. SHAH ALAM: The world's first combustion engine toxic gas absorption system invented by a Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) scientist will be displayed at the 28th International Invention Exhibition in Geneva next month. The Kubang Pasu-born inventor Dr Ku Halim Ku Hamid won a second prize at the exhibition last year for his invention of a gadget that could test the durability of fragile goods. Page 3

9. KUALA LUMPUR: Two Mitsui and Co officials will arrive from Japan in three days to help the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) probe on the RM10.64 million kickbacks allegedly given to Telekom Malaysia Bhd to win a contract to supply switchboards. ACA director-general Datuk Ahmad Zaki Husin said this would be a follow-up to the agency's questioning of Mitsui officials in Malaysia recently. Page 4

10. KUALA LUMPUR: Lawyer Karpal Singh, who is charged with uttering seditious words during the sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, will have his case rementioned Thursday before another judge. Justice Datuk Abdul Wahab Patail decided to assign the case to another judge after Karpal

told the High Court today that senior deputy public prosecutor Datuk Abdul Gani Patail, who is Abdul Wahab's younger brother, might be called to testify either as a prosecution or defence witness. Page 4

BERNAMA