

Raja of Perlis is new King

STAR 23 APR 2002

Apr 21
to
Apr 27

THE WEEK

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NEW KING (April 26): The Raja of Perlis, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, 58, was installed as the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong with full pomp and pageantry at the Balai Rong Seri, or Throne Room, of Istana Negara. Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin was elected at a special meeting of the Conference of Rulers on Dec 12 and sworn in on Dec 13 following the demise of Tuanku Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah on Nov 21 last year. His Majesty will reign for a five-year period.

LESS TRAUMA (April 21): At the Third Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Week 2002, the government announced plans to end the long process that sexually-abused children have to go through when they report the crime. At present, victims have to repeatedly recount their ordeals to various authorities.

KILLER TO HANG (April 27): Bus driver Hanafi Mat Hussain, 34, who raped and murdered 24-year-old

“We have never had public whipping before but if the people want it and give the government the mandate to carry it out, we may do it because there are too many shameless people in our society.”

- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad commenting on the call for stiffer penalties for those convicted of incest

CLOSED (April 25): Eight pre-school centres in Penang were closed temporarily following a rise in children warded for hand, foot and mouth disease. Since late March to April 20, 126 cases were reported.

computer engineer Noor Suzaily Mukhtar two years ago, was sentenced to the gallows.

FOWL GLUT (April 22): Following a nationwide glut in the supply of chicken and eggs, Federation of Livestock and Farmers Association president Lee Ah Fatt appealed to the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry to intervene to control prices and promote the sale of these food commodities.

VIDEO EVIDENCE (April 23): Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the Legal Affairs Division is working on amendments to the Evidence Act to allow for video recording of evidence of child victims and witnesses.

WHIPPING FOR INCEST CRIMINALS (April 23): Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government would consider public whipping for those convicted of incest if it receives full mandate from the people.

TAPPER'S WAGES (April 23): Rubber tappers and other field workers in the plantation sector still have to wait for changes in their wages as protracted negotiations between the National Union of Plantation Workers and the Malaysian Agricultural Producers Association ended in deadlock.

JPJ LET-OFF (April 24): The Road Transport Department (JPJ) has lifted restrictions on about 140,000 motorists who were facing problems renewing their driving licences. From April 6, the department has allowed these drivers to renew their licences without relevant records.

NIGHT FOR M. NASIR (April 21): Flamboyant singer M. Nasir won three awards at the Anugerah Industri Muzik 2002 held in Kuala Lumpur.

FOREIGN

SCHOOL MASSACRE (April 27): Germans were left in shock when a 19-year-old who was recently expelled from top-notch Johann Gutenberg Gymnasium school sneaked into the school building and shot dead 14 teachers, two girl pupils and a cop before finally shooting himself.

CONDEMNED (April 22): China and South Korea angrily condemned Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's surprise visit to Yasukuni Shrine, which honours Japanese war dead.

PHILIPPINE-US WAR GAMES (April 23): Some 5,600 US and Philippine troops began a three-week joint exercise focusing on war games and civil projects.

PAPAL CENSURE (April 24): Pope John Paul, in his first words about child abuse in the United States Church, said it was "rightly considered a crime" by society and that there was no place in the Church for it.

BID TO FREE SUU KYI (April 25): UN Special Envoy and Malaysian diplomat Razali Ismail met powerful Myanmar military intelligence chief Khin Nyunt and two junior ministers in a bid to secure opposition leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release from house arrest.