

Negotiate for settlement, associations urge candidates

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CHINESE Assembly Halls from three states, concerned over the tussle for the presidency of the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia, or *Hua Zong*, have proposed that the three candidates negotiate for a settlement rather than fight for the post.

Pointing to the energy-sapping contest, which *Hua Zong* could ill afford, Chinese Assembly Hall leaders from Kedah, Terengganu and Perlis appealed to the three candidates to negotiate for a compromise instead of heading for a do-or-die battle among themselves, according to *Sin Chew Daily*.

Three assembly halls leaders Datuk Pheng Yin Huah (Pahang), Ting Chee Seng (Selangor) and Datuk Seri Lim

Gait Tong (Penang) – have announced their candidacy for the *Hua Zong* president's post.

The president is elected from among the heads of the 13 Chinese assembly halls in the country. The elections, scheduled for Sept 2, will be held in Ipoh.

According to the daily, leaders of the three Chinese assembly halls have urged the leadership of other assembly halls not to declare their stand in order to help bring about a compromise among the contestants.

On the mahjong issue, *Sin Chew Daily* reported Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin as saying that the game was considered a form a gambling when it ends with money changing hands among

the players.

Zainal Abidin, however, said that playing mahjong as a past time and social activity without involving money was not an offence.

Nanyang Siang Pau reported that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would visit Kuala Lumpur Chinatown and address a gathering in Jalan Petaling on the eve of National Day, his second visit to the area in 11 years.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Donald Lim said RTM was making arrangements to telecast live the Prime Minister's visit as well as his address at the "Malaysians love Malaysia" gathering, which was expected to attract 50,000 people.