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Capturing its past glory

IN MANY ways, Sime Darby Bhd epitomises the Malaysian economy with its array of diversified businesses. It has its finger in most sectors of the corporate pie.

So, analysts used to comment that if you wanted to gauge how the Malaysian economy was performing, you would just have to look at Sime's financial performance.

But in recent times, the Permodalan Nasional Bhd-controlled company has been experiencing some challenging times. From its failed bid to wrest control of Palmco Holdings Bhd to losing its exclusive BMW distribution franchise, the conglomerate is consolidating and struggling to keep ahead.

Analysts say it is time Sime revitalised itself by seeking new growth areas. Writer Seelen Sakran got Chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji to comment on what lies ahead for the company.

A Kadir Jasin, in his 'Other Thots' column, talks about the likely political scenario in the post-Mahathir era. More interestingly, he comments on whom Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will appoint as his deputy when he takes over as Prime Minister.

The current hoo-ha in the Press over taxi permits is the subject of our 'Probe' column. We talk to the various parties to get their side of the story.

Ingress Corporation Bhd has some big plans in Indonesia. Its Executive Vice Chairman Rameli Musa reveals these plans in an interview.

Initial public offerings (IPOs) have, of late, been seeing good premiums upon listing. Our columnist analyses the situation to see if the good times will last.

Ex-television personality Wan Zaleha Radzi is making a comeback. We managed to track her down to get an insight into her plans.

mb-e's lead story is on spamming. Can this irritating phenomenon be totally eradicated?

Our Housing & Property pullout, meanwhile, guides you on property auctions. Hopefully, you will be able to sniff out a good bargain after reading our article.

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