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Focus on PWTC goings-on

Balan Moses; Ramlan Said; Lim Chee Wei

THE Tamil newspapers followed the general trend among mainstream media nationwide last week in highlighting proceedings at the 54th Umno general assembly, which ended on Saturday.

Yesterday saw the Tamil Nesan leading off its front page with a story quoting Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as saying that Umno was assured of victory in the next general election if unity in the party was anything to go by.

Closing the assembly, his last as Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir was confident that Umno would be able to take on and defeat opposition parties, including Pas.

The newspaper quoted him as saying that he was leaving office, contented that the party was united and ready to meet any challenge.

Malaysia Nanban also concentrated on the same theme of a stronger Umno yesterday, running a news analysis on Page 1 that dealt with the possible outcome of the next national polls.

The writer said delegates were confident of a positive showing for the party at the hustings.

The optimism about Umno's performance in the forthcoming general election was also bolstered by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's announcement that he would only name his deputy in November, after taking over as Prime Minister.

Malaysia Nanban quoted Pak Lah as saying in his speech at the assembly that he would be announcing his deputy only after Dr Mahathir stepped down in October, a move that will ease speculation on the successful candidate.

Tamil Nesan quoted Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu as saying his ministry would not support the proposal to raise the speed limit for tour and express buses from 90kph to 100kph.