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Focus on BN anniversary celebrations

Ramlan Said; M.K. Megan; Lim Chee Wei

THE front page of every major Chinese daily yesterday was dominated by reports on the Barisan Nasional 50th anniversary celebrations at Stadium Merdeka on Saturday.

Images of thousands of flag-waving Malaysians giving a rousing welcome to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other BN leaders were also published.

Sin Chew Daily dedicated the first seven pages of its national edition to the event. It picked Dr Mahathir's vote of confidence in his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his call to all BN members to give the Deputy Prime Minister their support as the lead item.

It was no different with Oriental Daily News and China Press.

In a commentary, Nanyang Siang Pau said the solidarity showed by the BN at the celebrations reflected the coalition's strength.

Although the 14-member grouping had to contend with a number of challenges and issues, the paper expressed confidence co-operation among BN members would continue to strengthen.

In another development, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Donald Lim said Malaysia might lease China's satellite facility to help expand the broadcast of Malaysian television programmes to other countries, Nanyang Siang Pau reported.

Lim, who will be in China this week to inspect broadcasting facilities, said Malaysia was prepared to enter into an agreement with the republic's national broadcasting station. The agreement would pave the way for the transformation of Radio Televisyen Malaysia into a 24-hour channel next year.