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Fomca chief's call to rename KLIA after Dr M highlighted

KUALA Lumpur International Airport should be renamed after Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, reports in Tamil Nesan and Malaysia Nanban said yesterday.

The reports quoted Fomca president Prof Datuk Hamdan Adnan as saying that Dr Mahathir had put Malaysia on the world stage and as such deserved the recognition.

Tamil Nesan highlighted an accident in Singapore where four people were killed. It said the accident was one of the worst in the republic.

The paper also carried an article in which People's Progressive Party president Datuk M. Kayveas urged all Barisan Nasional component party members to put aside their differences and work together to ensure a landslide victory in the general election.

He was quoted as saying that constructive criticism among component party members should not be misconstrued. "Constructive criticism will benefit all members," he was quoted as saying after chairing a supreme council meeting at the party's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

In a report in Malaysia Nanban, Indian Progressive Party president Datuk M.G. Pandithan called on MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu to step down.

Pandithan compared Samy Vellu to past MIC president Tun V.T. Sambanthan who was said to have served for too long when he helmed the party for 16 years. Samy Vellu has served as president for 24 years.

The paper also asked why there were two full MIC ministers during Tengku Abdul Rahman's time although the Indian population was less than one million then. It pointed out that there was now almost two million Indians but only one full minister.

Both the papers carried an announcement of the MIC's Election Machinery Convention at Komplek Belia and Kebudayaan in Shah Alam on Nov 9.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will address the convention to be attended by MIC branch and division leaders.

Tamil Nesan featured a watermelon farmer in its focus issue. Kalianan Brothers from Taman Orchid Jaya in Sungkai started a watermelon farm on a small scale 25 years ago. Today, Kalianan, who is called the "Watermelon King", is one of the main suppliers of the fruit in the country. He is also the first in Malaysian to produce square shaped melons. This earned him a place in the Malaysia Book of Records.

Malaysia Nanban carried a story on an inaugural moustache and beard competition which will be held in the United States. It reported that some 80 people from all over the world had gathered to participate in the competition.