

20/09/2003

Plan to set up Chinese Studies Institute lauded

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THE Government's plan to set up a Chinese Studies Institute made headlines in major Chinese dailies yesterday.

The Oriental Daily News, in its editorial, lauded the proposal as it would help enhance understanding and co-operation between Malaysia and China.

According to the editorial, co-operation between the two countries should be expanded to cover areas other than trade. More efforts should be made to seek greater understanding of each other's culture and history.

Sin Chew Daily yesterday gave prominence to the Malaysia-China Partnership Summit.

It frontpaged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on the emergence of China and its impact on the region, particularly on Southeast Asian countries.

Its editorial stated that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's trip to China had been successful following the signing of many memoranda of understanding and co-operation during his visit.

The editorial praised him for saying that Malaysia would work pragmatically towards managing China's economic dominance in the region.

It further stated that his visionary thinking and friendliness had impressed many Chinese leaders during his five-day visit.

"With Malaysia now entering a new phase in its co-operation with China, Malaysians must be ready to respond to the challenges ahead," it said.

On the political front, DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang admitted that it was impossible for the Opposition to defeat Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

His statement was carried by the Oriental Daily yesterday. He said the DAP had accepted the political reality that BN could never be defeated by the Opposition.

The only feasible goal, he said, was for the Opposition to work towards denying BN its two-thirds majority.

In another development, China Press on Thursday reported that a random survey among 160 Chinese, aged between 18 and 60, on the lack of Chinese youths joining the police force revealed that the majority was not interested because of the low pay.

Sixty-five per cent of respondents, or 104 people, said they were not interested in joining the police force due to the low pay while the rest said it was because it would not give them career advancement opportunities.

When asked whether they would encourage their children to join the force, 50 per cent replied in the negative. Eighty-five per cent of respondents, however, said there should be more Chinese in the force.