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Oil prices may soar with war

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THE Chinese Press concentrated on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that impending military action in Iraq may send oil prices soaring to as high as RM190 per barrel.

The Nanyang Siang Pau editorial on Friday expressed deep concern over the possible chain-reaction from such a price hike.

It said export items such as manufactured goods, textile and furniture along with other domestic industries would experience severe challenges if war occurred.

"The latest diesel price increase has burdened the local business community, particularly the fishing sector. It was reported that many fishermen were reluctant to perform their job due to heavy operating costs as a result of the diesel price hike."

With another price hike seemingly inevitable, the editorial appealed to the Government for a people-friendly solution to offset reaction from the price increase.

The page one headline in the Guang Ming Daily on Friday was the arrest of 38 women for alleged involvement in prostitution.

The key figure behind the sting operation was Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo, who led a VIP team on the raid.

Several Chinese newspapers applauded his action.