



DISTRIBUTORSHIP DEAL: Sharifah Mazlina (second from left) sealing the agreement with Hishamuddin with a handshake. With them are Dr Mahathir and Peniagawati president Hazimah Zainuddin.

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Exploits of Sharifah Mazlina in pictorial diary

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The exploits of the first Malaysian and first Asian woman to cross Antarctica on a solo ski-sailing expedition have been documented in a pictorial diary narrating the joy and sorrow she experienced on the 1,100km journey.

Into the Ice gives an almost day-by-day account of the challenges faced by Datin Paduka Sharifah Mazlina Syed Abdul Kadir during the 22-day odyssey, a new world record.

The book, retailing at RM200 a copy, was launched by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Hotel Istana today. Also present was his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The launch was organised by the Association of Bumiputera Women in

Business and the Professions, Peniagawati, of which Sharifah Mazlina, 40, is a committee member.

Dr Mahathir, who said he was proud of Sharifah Mazlina's success, also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Sharifah Mazlina and the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd as the distributor of the book in Malaysia.

NSTP was represented by its deputy group editor-in-chief, Datuk Hishamuddin Aun.

At a Press conference later, Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the Government's decision to increase the prices of diesel and petrol yesterday.

Voicing his support for the move, the former Prime Minister noted that world oil prices had continued to

increase and had now reached US\$55 (RM209) per barrel.

"Obviously, this will have some effect on other things," he said. "But even with the increase, the price is much lower than in other countries in the region, which is the reason for the smuggling of the fuel."

Dr Mahathir said to combat smuggling, diesel prices must be comparable to other countries. He added that action should be taken against those abusing the subsidy system.

On the ringgit peg, Dr Mahathir said it should not be removed, but the value of the ringgit against the dollar could be reviewed.

He said factors such as the country's competitiveness needed to be considered before such a review.