

TAKAFUL IKHLAS <sup>®</sup> PRAYER TIMES	
SUBUH	5.50
ZUHUR	1.23
ASAR	4.45
MAGHRIB	7.30
ISYAK	8.44

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## Dr M to speak on major biz trends

THE business fraternity and the public alike will have the opportunity to check the local companies' business trends and their globalisation challenges at the Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF)'s CEO Lecture early next month.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver his keynote address entitled "Approaching 2020: Major Trends That Will Impact Malaysian Business" at the dinner lecture to be held on August 8 at the Sime Darby Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Guests will also be given the chance to have a dialogue with the former premier, hailed as one of the country's leading visionaries.

The lecture is the first in the foundation's CEO Lecture Series. The proceeds from the fund-raising event will go towards the foundation's operations and activities to preserve the nation's leadership history and rich intellectual heritage.

Established in the year 2003, PLF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to Malaysia's leadership history, highlighting policies and contributions of past prime ministers.

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# Kencana unit bags RM48m contract

*Kencana HL secured a contract from Murphy Sarawak Oil, which comprises piping works for the Bintulu Onshore Receiving Facilities*

KENCANA Petroleum Bhd's unit, Kencana HL Sdn Bhd, has secured a RM48 million contract from Murphy Sarawak Oil Co Ltd.

The contract comprises the provision of mechanical and piping installation works for the Bintulu Onshore Receiving Facilities (BORF), Kencana told Bursa Malaysia yesterday.

It noted that the contract also forms part of Phase 1 of the SK309/SK311 gas field development located offshore Bintulu, Sarawak.

The scope of works include project management and construction engineering activities for mechanical equipment installation/erection works including unloading and storage at BORF, electrical and instrumentation equipment installation, plant piping works, tank fabrication and erection, flare structure, onshore export gas and dry gas pipelines and safety system including equipment supply.

The contract is expected to be fully completed by March 15, 2009.

Kencana said the contract is expected to contribute positively to the earnings of Kencana Petroleum Group for the financial year ending July 31, 2009.

# Alam Maritim to expand fleet size to 35 OSVs

ALAM Maritim Resources Bhd plans to expand its fleet size to 35 offshore support vessels (OSVs) by end of 2010.

It has 25 various types of vessels currently.

The significant growth in capacity, will make the group the most prominent player in the oil and gas upstream sector, said group managing director-cum-chief executive officer Azmi Ahmad.

"This significant growth in capacity, signifies the

pace-setting achievements of Alam Maritim and its efforts to secure improved economies of scale and new customer bases in an ever growing offshore support services business," he said in a statement.

He said Alam Maritim which recently launched its 25th support vessel "Setia Sakti" was among the country's largest owner of offshore supply vessels.

"The continuous expansion of Alam Maritim fleet supported by its regional of-

ices in Kemaman, Labuan, Dubai and Jakarta will not only complement the growth and development of oil and gas industry but also provide the group with the critical mass it requires to better serve its clients and customers globally," he said.

Besides OSVs, the group also owns equipment for underwater and subsea services as saturation and air-diving systems and inspection as well as work-class remotely-operated vehicles (ROV). — *Bernama*

# Ericsson to bid for broadband project

ERICSSON Malaysia Sdn Bhd has confirmed its interest in the RM11.3 billion phase one high-speed broadband project.

It is expected to submit a tender to Telekom Malaysia Bhd in the next two to three months as the vendor to provide the technology.

"We are in the process of bidding to support Telekom Malaysia with the technology," its president and country manager Krishna Kumar told a media briefing at the Fiber-to-the-Home Council Asia-Pacific Conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He said Ericsson Malaysia was bidding for the access node, transmission equipment, switches and backbone network.

Telekom Malaysia group chief executive officer Datuk Zamzairani Mohd Isa said the company was awaiting the date to sign the agreement with the government.

"We will start rolling out six months after we sign the contract," he said.

The high-speed broadband is a public-private partnership between Telekom Malaysia and the government focusing



on high-density and high-economic impact areas.

Asked when the successful bidder would be known, Krishna said: "Ericsson Malaysia is still in the bidding stage and the results are not finalised yet."

"But the company hopes when the agreement is signed, Telekom Malaysia will decide on its vendors' choice."

Asked on Ericsson Malaysia's chances of winning its share in the project, he said: "Very high. We are in a good position to supply the technology and the options that Telekom Malaysia wants." Krishna said his company had full

broadband service offering deep fiber access to both residential and enterprise applications.

Among its portfolio are end-user devices, fibre access nodes, aggregation switches, metro nodes, edge routers and management systems. Its also provides the lowest ownership cost for customers.

"We are confident as we have the capabilities. We now need to make sure Telekom Malaysia is comfortable with what we offer and we will do our best to make sure we manage to win our share in that market," he added. — *Bernama*

## LocalNews

### POLITICS

#### ▶ ACA probes maintenance costs of exco's cars



Bernama

THE Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) has recorded statements from four drivers of Terengganu state executive councillors (excos) over the alleged high cost of maintaining their official Proton Perdana V6 Executive cars. Six ACA officers were also reported to have come to Wisma Darul Iman,

the state's administration complex, Wednesday and yesterday to inspect documents related to the matter. Terengganu State Secretary Datuk Mokhtar Nong (picture) confirmed that ACA officers had come to investigate the issue but would not provide details. On Tuesday, the Terengganu Menteri Besar's Office issued a statement saying the state government was switching to Mercedes E200 Kompressor cars for its excos because the Perdanas were too costly to maintain. The switch involved 14 cars and entailed a cost of RM3.43 million. — *Bernama*

#### ▶ Suhakam begins inquiry into police abuse

FIVE witnesses, including two journalists and a photographer from *Malaysiakini*, were interviewed at a public inquiry into allegations of excessive force used by law enforcement personnel during the May 27 incident at Persiaran Bandar Mahkota Cheras 1, at the Suhakam headquarters yesterday. The inquiry chaired by Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) commissioner Datin Paduka Zaitoon Othman planned to call 14 witnesses Thursday, but only managed to record statements from five witnesses. — *Bernama*

#### ▶ Postal votes sack found in Sungai Tebobon

A BROWN sack used during postal voting was recovered from a river in Menggatal near Kota Kinabalu on Monday. Sabah Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) deputy chief Daniel John Jambu told reporters here yesterday that the brown sack bearing the words undi pos (postal votes) and 'Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya Malaysia' (Election Commission Malaysia) contained 10 blue plastic items. He said a farmer, who was cutting grass, found the sack. A police report has been lodged. — *Bernama*

### GENERAL NEWS

#### ▶ Rice noodles, milk made controlled items

BIHUN (rice noodles) and growing up milk will be made controlled items just like other basic food items like rice, refined wheat flour and cooking oil, said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad. He said this would enable their prices to be controlled by the government and also make them eligible for subsidies for targeted groups both in urban and rural areas. — *Bernama*

#### ▶ RT members get intelligence gathering training

THE Unity, Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry will obtain police assistance to train Rukun Tetangga (RT) members in intelligence and information gathering in an effort to enhance security in their respective areas. Its minister Datuk Mohd Syafie Apdal said the move was to enhance the RT members' skills and capabilities so that they would be better prepared for their task of monitoring and ensuring security in their areas. — *Bernama*

#### ▶ Ministry allocates RM400m for human capital

THE Health Ministry has allocated RM400 million annually for human capital development while encouraging medical graduates to return and serve government hospitals. Its Minister Datuk Liow Tiong Lai (picture) said the allocation include that for graduates wishing to pursue studies up to Masters, PhD and specialist level. "The ministry is also prepared to relax the three year compulsory service at government hospitals," he said. — *Bernama*

