

Johari lauds Sarawak edition

Newspaper will encourage discussion and understanding, says minister

KUCHING: The State Government welcomes the entry of all national newspapers into Sarawak as this will encourage discussion and understanding, said Housing and Urban Development Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg.

"We welcome any paper that provides intellectual discourse among our people. Sarawak is in the midst of developing itself, trying to unite all Sarawakians and bring them to a level on par with our counterparts in Peninsular Malaysia," he said at the launching of *The Star* Sarawak edition at The Spring shopping mall here yesterday.

He was representing Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud at the launch.

Johari said the expansion by *The Star* showed there was a merger of thoughts between the people of Sarawak and those in the peninsula.

He noted that *The Star*, the leading English daily in the country, did not only cover political and economic issues but gave a wide coverage on many matters that kept its readers abreast with happenings locally and globally.

Johari then proposed that *The Star* consider expanding throughout

»We welcome any paper that provides intellectual discourse...«

DATUK AMAR ABANG JOHARI TUN OPENG

Asean so that Malaysia could better position itself in the region.

Star Publications (M) Bhd executive deputy chairman Datuk Clement Hii said *The Star* Sarawak edition would create a greater platform for the growth of the business community here.

He said the media group was targeting an initial circulation of 10,000 copies but was confident of further growth.

Hii revealed that the newspaper's next target would be to launch its Sabah edition at a later stage, completing the paper's intention of serving the whole of Malaysia.



Read all about it!: (From left) Star Publications (M) Berhad executive director Ng Beng Lye, group managing director and chief executive officer Datin Linda Ngiam, Hii, Kuching City South Council Mayor James Chan, Land Development Minister Datuk Seri James Masing, Johari and group chief editor Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai taking time out to scan through *The Star* Sarawak edition at its launching at The Spring shopping mall in Kuching yesterday. — ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE / THE STAR

Study USA

The AEO Tour

If you want to learn more about educational opportunities in the United States, come to the **AMERICAN EDUCATION EXHIBITION**

PENANG
E&O Hotel
Grand Ballroom
10 Lebuhr Farquhar
Wed, 10 March,
6:00pm - 8:30pm

KUALA LUMPUR
Le Meridien Hotel
The Sultan's Ballroom
2 Jalan Stesen Sentral
Sat, 13 March,
12:00noon - 4:00pm

Directors of Admissions from:
State Universities, Catholic Universities, Christian Universities,
Independent Universities & Colleges and Two Year Colleges.

Associate Degrees, Bachelor Degrees,
Master Degrees, PhDs

This will be your opportunity to discuss: Admission Requirements, Curriculum, Career Planning, Financial Assistance, Housing, Sports & Activities, Scholarships, Work Study, ESL Programs, Costs

- ✓ Direct admission to universities with SPM
- ✓ Advanced placement and credit for STPM
- ✓ Full transfer credits for ADP Programs
- ✓ USA is a world leader in business, engineering, computer and mass communications.
- ✓ Low cost - up to 50% less than UK or Australia.

Brought to you by: **American Educational Opportunities**

ADMISSION IS FREE

Anwar can remain as leader, says Karpal

GEORGE TOWN: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim can remain as Opposition Leader because he continues to command the confidence of opposition MPs, said DAP chairman Karpal Singh.

Anwar's position as Opposition Leader came into question after three PKR MPs left the party to become Independents, leaving the party with 27 seats, one fewer than the DAP.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia had previously said that according to the Standing Orders of the House, a person can be made Opposition Leader even if he or she does not belong to the opposition party with the most number of seats — as long as the MP commands majority support of opposition MPs.

Meanwhile, Karpal has challenged four former PKR MPs to stay away from the new Dewan Rakyat session beginning March 15 to disqualify themselves as

MPs, and force by-elections in their constituencies.

Karpal issued the challenge to Datuk Seri Zahrain Mohamed Hashim (MP for Bayan Baru), Tan Tee Beng (Nibong Tebal) and Mohsin Fadzil Samsuri (Bagan Serai), who resigned from PKR recently, and Zulkifli Nordin (Kulim-Bandar Baru), who was sacked from the party.

The Bukit Gelugor MP said the challenge was made in reference to Article 52(1) of the Federal Constitution which stated that a member of the Dewan Rakyat would be automatically disqualified as an MP if he or she was absent from the House without leave for one session.

The veteran DAP leader said he was convinced there would not be any more resignations of PKR members, adding the recent "departure" of the elected representatives was a clean-up process.

Seven more held for gang rape

TAPAH: Seven of the remaining nine suspects sought in connection with the gang rape of a 15-year-old girl in Sungkai last Sunday, were detained Saturday night.

The suspects, aged between 19 and 26, surrendered at the Tapah police headquarters at 11.20pm and have been remanded for seven days to facilitate investigations.

This brings to 12 the number of people nabbed for allegedly raping the teenager at the Hot

Springs Park in Felda Sungai Klah.

The other five, aged between 15 and 29, who were detained in Sungkai last Thursday, have been remanded until March 10.

Tapah police chief Supt Roslan Bek Ahmad said yesterday the remaining two suspects, aged 17 and 18, would be picked up soon.

He urged those with information on the whereabouts of the duo to contact the Tapah police headquarters at 05-4015222.