

# Star Nation

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### StarTwo



### Face-to-face

Multi-platinum artiste and award-winning producer Babyface will be in Kuala Lumpur for a one-night performance.

### StarBiz

**Lai to resign from Alliance Bank**  
Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd group CEO Datuk Bridget Lai has decided to resign from the bank with effect from April 1, thus resolving the ongoing dispute between her and the bank.

### Starfootball

**Cracking the Red nut**  
Even if it's a second tier competition, Aston Villa's Martin O' Neill would still like to prise the League Cup trophy from Man United.

### Metro

**Walking the beat**  
In an effort to further reduce crime, policemen in Petaling Jaya are taking to the streets to meet and greet the people.

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#### PRAYER TIMES

	Subuh	Zohor	Asar	Maghrib	Isyak
Alor Setar	6:14	1:34	4:50	7:31	8:41
Penang	6:15	1:34	4:51	7:33	8:42
Kuala Lumpur	6:09	1:29	4:45	7:29	8:39
Johor Baru	5:59	1:21	4:35	7:21	8:31
Kuantan	6:03	1:23	4:39	7:24	8:33
Kota Baru	6:12	1:27	4:44	7:25	8:31

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  2. Fuzura's controversial background not accepted
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# Mingguan mStar unfolds



**Launched!:** Sultan Sharafuddin signing a virtual plaque at the launch of Mingguan MStar at the Concorde Hotel as Ngiam and Star Publications executive deputy chairman Datuk Clement Hii look on.

## Bahasa Malaysia weekly to be offered with Sunday Star

By **NURBAITI HAMDAN** and **SARAH ABDULLAH**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** *Mingguan mStar*, Malaysia's latest Bahasa Malaysia weekly newspaper, will make its debut on Sunday.

This new kid in the print block is an offering from *The Star's mStar Online*, which has come up with its own weekly newspaper after successfully garnering a huge readership on the Internet for five years.

*Mingguan mStar* will be available as a pull-out inside *Sunday Star*. It will initially be distributed in Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam and Putrajaya.

The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah launched the newspaper in a glitzy event at the Concorde Hotel yesterday.

The Sultan welcomed the launching of *Mingguan mStar*, saying: "I hope the weekly will give more options to readers with interesting news and columns."

Media bigwigs and A-list celebrities attended the event.

Among them were Bernama Editor-In-Chief Datuk Yong Soo Heong; Bernama TV editorial adviser Datuk Seri Azman Ujang, Malaysian Press Institute chief executive officer Datuk Chamil Wariya, Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd editor-in-chief Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, Utusan assistant group chief editor Ahmad Abdul Hamid and Kumpulan Karangkraf group chief editor Abdul Jalil Ali.

Star Publications (M) Bhd group managing director and chief executive officer Datin Linda Ngiam said there had never been an English daily offering a pullout in Bahasa Malaysia.

"It will not be a carbon copy of its sister newspaper. The weekly thrives on its 16-member team of editor and reporters, pulling out all the stops to produce original content and news," she said.

Azman said as the latest player, the weekly newspaper was proof of a healthy and positive development in the media industry.

Artistes such as Adibah Noor, Noryn Aziz and stand-up comedian Harith Iskandar entertained the celebrities and corporate figures who attended the launch.

Dance choreographer Linda Jasmine Hashim, who attended the event with her actor husband Que Haidar, said the weekly could attract more readers to buy the newspaper.

Actress Irma Hasmie said the two-in-one concept was different and could benefit readers who wanted to read news in both languages.

## STPM pass rate sees a rise of 47.7%

By **TAN SHIOW CHIN**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The percentage of students who passed all their subjects in the 2009 STPM examination increased to 47.7% from 44.1% in 2008.

Malaysian Examinations Council (MEC) chairman Tan Sri Prof Dzulkifli Abdul Razak said the number of students who obtained a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.0 and above also increased to 35.9%, compared with 31.5% the previous year.

Just under 1%, or 331 students, scored the perfect CGPA of 4.0, said Prof Dzulkifli, who is also Universiti Sains Malaysia vice-chancellor. He announced the results at the MEC headquarters in Selayang near here yesterday.

The number of top achievers — students who scored 5As — also increased by two to 15 students.

Of the 15, two science and three arts stu-

dents obtained As in all their papers, making them the top scorers in the nation

The trend of students answering in English for Science and Mathematics papers also continued, with 97.5% of candidates answering fully in English, compared with 92.7% in 2008.

The Mathematics papers in particular — Mathematics S, Mathematics T and Further Mathematics T — had more than 98% of candidates answering fully in English.

Asked if the reversal of the teaching of Science and Mathematics to Bahasa Malaysia would affect the STPM, Prof Dzulkifli said: "We haven't made a decision yet. As long as there is a need, we will continue (what we are doing now)."

Meanwhile, urban students continued to outperform their rural counterparts.

Around 12.1% obtained three to five As, compared with 7.1% of rural candidates.

The difference was especially obvious in the science stream, where 15.6% of urban students

scored three to five As versus 4.5% of rural students.

Ten subjects — General Paper, Arabic Language, Literature in English, Malay Literature, History, Geography, Economics, Accounting, Mathematics T and Biology — saw an improvement in their overall pass rates by 2% to 6.5%.

In the meantime, Computing and Sports Science declined by 5.7% and 5.6% respectively, while Further Mathematics T saw only two out of 16 candidates obtaining full passes.

The remaining 10 subjects showed no significant change (less than 2%) in their pass rate.

A total of 52,348 candidates sat for the exam last year at 758 centres across the country. Of this, only 8,776 (16.8%) were science students, while 13,205 (25.2%) sat for five subjects.

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