

**1. CCCC denies cover up claims involving 1MDB**

KUALA LUMPUR: China Communications Construction Company, which owns Australian engineering group John Holland, has refuted claims of any involvement in a supposed plot to cover up a corruption scandal at 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) involving a railway contract.

According to a report by The Australian, CCCC said it had no knowledge of the claims made by London blog Sarawak Report.

"We will continue to follow those false accusations made by certain media and will take necessary steps to defend our lawful rights," the company was quoted as saying.

Sarawak Report had last week claimed that Malaysian authorities had planned to double the cost of the East Coast Rail Project from RM30 billion ringgit to RM60 billion ringgit.

It claimed that a company nominated by CCCC would then assume a portion of 1MDB's debt in return for assets held on the sovereign fund's books at the same amount.

Sarawak Report had claimed that a second company nominated by CCCC would pay US\$315m to buy 70 per cent of and 90 per cent of two separate companies.

The two Malaysian companies are linked to 1MDB as subsidiaries of conglomerate UBG when it was taken over in 2010 in a deal allegedly funded by 1MDB and benefiting business figure Jho Low.

Low is alleged by US investigators to be a key figure in the issues involving 1MDB.

**2. 1MDB to fight IPIC's US\$6.5 billion claims**

PUTRAJAYA: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) will fight and not pay the US\$6.5 billion claims made by International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC) and Aabar Investments PJS via the London Court of International Arbitration. Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, speaking to reporters after chairing the 2017 Budget focus group meeting: Cost of Living here today, said the mention date for the IPIC arbitration will be in September. "The dispute is about IPIC not acknowledging the British Virgin Islands-registered (BVI) Aabar Investments PJS Ltd, as its entity within its group," he said. It was reported that 1MDB had sent a total of \$3.5 billion to Aabar BVI. All in, the 1MDB transfers to Aabar BVI included about US\$1.4 billion from a privately placed bond that Goldman Sachs raised in 2012. The 1MDB fund also made payments of US\$855 million, US\$993 million and US\$295 million as security deposits and other guarantees for the bond to the BVI firm.

The legal agreements were negotiated with Khadem Al Qubaisi in his capacity as managing director of IPIC and chairman of Aabar, or with Mohamed Badawy Al Hussein, who was CEO of Aabar. Johari said that as far as the Finance Ministry's records are concerned, BVI-registered Aabar Investments PJS Ltd belongs to IPIC. "The directors of these companies are both senior officials of IPIC. Now, IPIC suddenly say that the company doesn't belong to them. We want to see them in court. Let the arbitrator look at our documents." "As far as 1MDB is concerned, we have never dealt with these individuals. They have never dealt with us. If these individuals have any transaction with IPIC, that's none of our business. All our investments are guaranteed by IPIC," Johari added. "This is an issue where everyone need to be very clear. We want to fight and we want to win this case. We cannot make statements that might weaken Malaysia's position. Based on the documents 1MDB had forwarded to us, I'm very confident of a positive outcome. We are taking the position that we are not paying the interest. We shouldn't pay. We must win this case," the minister said. Several weeks ago, US Attorney-General Loretta Lynch, accompanied by top US officials, told a press conference that the DOJ had filed civil complaints to seize over US\$1 billion (RM4.06 billion) in assets, which it said were the result of US\$3.5 billion misappropriated from 1MDB. Lynch said the US\$1 billion in assets were just a portion of the money that was stolen from 1MDB and laundered into American institutions in violation of US law. In response, 1MDB said its 2013 and 2014 audited financial statements should no longer be relied on by any party, pending a civil case filed by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to be determined in court. 1MDB also said it would appoint a new auditor to replace Deloitte, which announced its intention to resign on Feb 26, 2016. Asked to comment on the implications of no longer relying on 1MDB's 2013 and 2014 audited accounts, Johari maintained there is no real impact. "If you asked me before this, there were many implications and exposure with many banks. At that time, almost all the banks in town had exposure with 1MDB." "Today, 1MDB's debts are all fully paid. All those local banks do not have exposure with 1MDB anymore. There should not be any more borrowing from 1MDB. It should be a run-off company. There's no impact, 1MDB will no longer use those audited accounts to go looking for money," the minister said.

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### **3. Immigration Dept to ensure passport supply isn't interrupted**

PUTRAJAYA: The Immigration Department has maintained that it would ensure that passport supply isn't interrupted, following various reports that the passport application process would take six months. Immigration director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said Malaysian passports are in a transition process and are being upgraded to a new version. "There have been reports in local media that the application process would take six months due to the shortage of passport supply. "Following the report, the department's offices nationwide have been flooded with people seeking to apply or renew their passports. "Although the international Malaysian passport is in a transition process to a new version and facing some delivery issues, the department assures everyone that passport supply is not interrupted. Passport applications will be processed on the same day," he said in a statement. Mustafar said the government and Immigration Department are always trying their best to improve public service. He said the production of Malaysian international passports is still

head and shoulders above other countries. "We were the first one to introduce the submission of passports within an hour after payment is made. In other developed countries, it takes two weeks to three months to get a passport," he said. "Members of the public are urged to plan their trips wisely and not apply at the last minute. "This will cause major problems if the passport cannot be processed on the same day due to the high volume of applicants at immigration offices nationwide," he added. He advised the public not to panic over the delay in processing of passports, and said the government would address the issue effectively.

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Wednesday August 3 2016

#### **4. Med students told: Don't work illegally, wait for houseman postings**

PUTRAJAYA: Medical graduates should not opt for locum while waiting for houseman postings as it could risk their career to practice with the government. Health Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam warned that criminal proceedings could be taken against those caught illegally practicing medicine as locum, and they might face problems getting certification to practice from the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC). "Instead of practising illegally, they can be attached with doctors for them to observe and learn if they fear losing knowledge and skills they had learnt during the waiting period. "They could also update themselves through reading online materials and attend relevant courses. However, it is against the law for them to practice medicine with MMC's practising certification and get paid for it," he told a press conference today. Dr Subramaniam said it I'd not only the students, but doctors who allow them to work as locum at their clinics will also face legal problems. Admitting that there is a long wait for housemen training, he gave his assurance that the ministry is currently working with Public Service Department (PSD) to find a solution to this problem by year-end. "The current waiting time is between six to nine months. We hope that by the end of the year, we will be able to shorten it to four or five months," he said. He said there are currently more graduates than available postings at the ministry's hospitals. "There are about 5,000 posts available a year and we have been receiving more than 5,000 graduates a year. "Our problem now is we have wait for the posts to be emptied or wait for new post to be created. We are also working with the Public Service Department to create new posts for doctors," he added. Dr Subramaniam said the ministry had previously caught housemen for practising medicine illegally.

**5. TIBAI leader wants AG's report on 1MDB declassified**

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Tolak Individu Bernama Anwar Ibrahim (TIBAI) spiritual leader Muhammad Zahid Md Arip seeks for the High Court to declassify the Auditor-General's (AG) report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), currently protected under the Official Secrets Act 1972. Zahid's counsel Mohamed Haniff Khatri Abdulla confirmed that the judicial review application was filed at the High Court Registry this morning. The legal bid named Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, the AG, and the government as respondents. On March 4, Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin announced that the AG classified the document to prevent leaks of its classified contents. The previous preliminary report was leaked after it was tabled to the panel in July last year. Zahid, currently a businessman, also used to be PKR Youth vice-chief.

**6. EPF allocates RM100b for Simpanan Shariah**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has allocated RM100 billion for the Simpanan Shariah for 2017, says its chief executive officer Datuk Shahril Ridza Ridzuan. The allocation, he said, was equivalent to about 15 per cent of its total investment asset of RM681.71 billion as at end March 2016 and is based on a first-come first-served basis. "Today is a momentous milestone for EPF as we commence registration for Simpanan Shariah. "We are pleased to finally be able to meet members' demand following the overwhelming response during the members consultation exercise last year for a retirement savings option to be managed according to shariah principles. "The choice to switch to Simpanan Shariah is entirely up to members and they should fully understand Shariah principles before deciding to convert their savings from the current conventional one," he said during the commencement of the new shariah fund today. The new shariah fund, which will be launched in January 2017, is now open for registration at EPF branches nationwide to all members irrespective of race, religion and nationality. Members who wish to convert their savings are required to go to any EPF branch and bring along their MyKad for thumbprint verification while foreign nationals are required to produce their passports for verification.

**7. No need to re-investigate 1MDB - PAC chairman**

KUALA LUMPUR: There is no need for another investigation into the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), says Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Datuk Hasan Arifin. He said this was because PAC had presented a comprehensive report and agreed with the consensus of all committee members before it was tabled at the Dewan Rakyat on April 7. "In fact, matters presented in the 1MDB Governance Management Control Report were also being reported by the local and international media and news portals. "PAC, in the report, has clearly asked the enforcement agencies responsible to take action against those quarters who were responsible in 1MDB's management," he said in a statement here yesterday. Some quarters have called for a re-investigation into 1MDB following civil lawsuits filed by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) last month to seize assets which it claimed were acquired from funds allegedly misappropriated from 1MDB. - Bernama

**8. 1MDB denies offering business loans**

KUALA LUMPUR: 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) has denied offering business loans or authorising any party to collect payment or charge fees for processing any application relating to the company. In a statement here today, 1MDB said it had been informed that certain individuals were posing as the company officials to offer business loans and collect processing fees. "1MDB wishes to advise the public that the company had never offered business loans, nor has 1MDB ever authorised any party to collect payment or charge fees for processing any application relating to 1MDB," it said. 1MDB has lodged a police report on this matter and requested those who had been approached in relation to this matter to immediately lodge a police report.—Bernama

**9. Azmin files legal bid to declassify 1MDB final report**

KUALA LUMPUR: Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali today filed a lawsuit to declassify the Auditor-General's (AG) final report on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), currently under the Official Secrets Act 1972(OSA). He became the second person to file such judicial review application at the High Court Registry here. On Aug 5, former Tolak Individu Bernama Anwar

Ibrahim (TIBAI) spiritual leader Muhammad Zahid Md Arip filed a legal bid to make the document available to the public. During a press conference at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex lobby here this afternoon, Azmin said law firm Messrs counsel Tommy Thomas filed the legal action on his behalf. The judicial review application named Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Auditor-General Tan Sri Ambrin Buang, and the Malaysian government as respondents. Azmin, who is also PKR deputy president, said that he seeks a court declaration that Najib had acted in conflict of interest when he directed Ambrin to classify the report under the OSA. Azmin, who is also Gombak Member of Parliament, seeks a court declaration that the OSA classification of the report was unlawful and violated the Federal Constitution. He also seeks a court order to compel the three respondents to declassify the 1MDB final report and release it to the public. Also present at court were PKR vice-president Tian Chua, Subang MP R. Sivarasa, Tumpat MP Datuk Kamarudin Jaffar and former Batu Kawan Umno vice-chief Datuk Seri Khairuddin Abu Hassan.

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Monday August 15 2016

#### **10. Government department director remanded over graft probe**

MALACCA: A 56-year-old senior civil servant was remanded for seven days beginning today to facilitate a Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) probe into corruption, abuse of power and money-laundering. Malacca Magistrate's Court deputy registrar Syarina Shaarani issued the remand order against the suspect, who is a director of a government department here. The suspect was among three senior government officers who were nabbed by the MACC yesterday in simultaneous raids in Kuala Lumpur, Kelantan and here.

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Wednesday August 17 2016

#### **11. Zaid files suit for the return of cash allegedly from 1MDB**

KUALA LUMPUR: Former minister in the prime minister's department Datuk Zaid Ibrahim has filed a lawsuit against Datuk Seri Najib Razak and three others to recover the US\$731 million (RM2.6 billion) and RM42 million allegedly banked into the prime minister's accounts. Zaid, through law firm Messrs Americk Sidhu, filed the Writ of Summons at the High Court Registry here yesterday. The legal action named Najib, sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), the Malaysian government, and his stepson Riza Shariz Abdul Aziz as defendants. According to a copy of the Statement of Claim made available today, Zaid claimed that Najib had breached his fiduciary duties when he allegedly received the funds. Zaid claimed that the RM2.6 billion had originated from 1MDB, and that the RM42 million came from the Malaysian government via SRC International Sdn Bhd. Zaid also claimed that Najib had breached his fiduciary duties when he (Najib) allegedly conferred pecuniary benefit on Riza. He seeks for the court to order Najib to pay back the RM2.6



billion to 1MDB and the RM42 million to the Malaysian government, as well as two per cent interest on the said monies. Zaid seeks a court order to compel Riza to pay back all alleged sums he received, directly or indirectly, from 1MDB, and for him (Riza) to transfer to the sovereign wealth fund all purported properties he acquired. However, the court papers did not specify how much money Riza allegedly received from 1MDB nor the value and other details of purported properties he possessed. When contacted today, Zaid's counsel Americk confirmed the filing of the lawsuit yesterday. The matter is set for case management at the High Court here on Sept 21.

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Thursday August 18 2016

#### **12. Malaysia will take action if proven that 1MDB funds embezzled - minister**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will take legal action against individuals named in civil lawsuits filed by US prosecutors last month if there is proof that they defrauded a Malaysian state-owned fund, a government minister said on Thursday. More than US\$3.5 billion was allegedly misappropriated from 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), founded by Prime Minister Najib Razak, according to civil lawsuits filed by the US Justice Department. Minister Senator Paul Low, whose portfolio covers governance and integrity, said criminal prosecution "must be instituted" against all involved if funds were "stolen from us." "Our enforcement agencies and the attorney-general must cooperate fully with all international agencies to deal with the matter in an appropriate manner in order to allay negative perception and restore the trust and confidence of the people for the government," he said, according to the official text of a speech at a function on Thursday. The US lawsuits named several individuals, including Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, popularly referred to as Jho Low. The civil suits also seek to seize US\$1 billion in assets believed to have been bought using money stolen from 1MDB, the largest case to date in the US Justice Department's Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative. Prime Minister Najib has weathered persistent calls for him to step down over his handling of the 1MDB scandal, which is also being investigated by at least five other countries. Najib has denied any wrongdoing and has said the US Department of Justice lawsuit does not involve him. - Reuters

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Friday August 26 2016

#### **13. Timber-theft syndicate using new tactic: MACC**

PASIR PUTEH: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has uncovered a new tactic used by timber-theft syndicate to prevent from being detected by the authorities. MACC deputy chief commissioner (Management and Professionalism) Datuk Mohamad Jamidan Abdullah said instead of building a special camp as a timber collection centre like they used to do, the syndicate would now

cut the trees and take the timber out of the forest on the very same day to prevent from being detected. "Prior to this, they would cut and gather all the timber in one place. When they heard that the authorities were mounting an operation, they would bury the timber to prevent it from being seized. "Now, they have changed their modus operandi by cutting the trees and taking out the timber from the forest on the very same day before sending it to timber factory for processing," he told reporters after officiating the closing of the seminar on deforestation here today. The two-day seminar was also attended by Kelantan MACC director Datuk Moh Samsuddin Yusof and Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) director Cynthia Gabriel. Mohamad Jamidan said the syndicate was also detected to have operated in different states to confuse the authorities. "For example, timber stolen in Bentong, Pahang, will be sent directly to a factory in Serdang, Selangor," he said. Such a crime, he said should be curbed as it had not only cause revenue loss for the state and country, but could also lead to the theft of other natural resources, such as gold and bauxite. -BERNAMA

**NEW STRAITS TIMES** Saturday August 27 2016

#### **14. MMEA collects RM300m from encroachment, illegal fishing**

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) has collected more than RM300 million in revenue between 2006 and Aug 24, this year. Its director-general, Maritime Admiral Datuk Seri Ahmad Puzi Ab Kahar said the sum was derived from fish auctions, compounds and fines imposed on foreign fishermen who encroached and fish illegally in the country's waters. He said 925 foreign trawlers and 7,368 crew, among them, Vietnamese, Thais and Indonesians were intercepted by MMEA during the period. "Vietnam recorded the highest number of detained boats, that is, 502, followed by Indonesia and Thailand with 303 and 100, respectively. The rest were Philippines (7), China (6), Singapore (6) and one from Brunei," he told Bernama at his office recently. He said MMEA has no intention of using the detonation approach as practised by a neighboring country to destroy confiscated foreign boats. Rather, the boats would be submerged to become fish habitats. Ahmad Puzi said 264 confiscated boats had been turned into artificial reefs mainly off the east and west coast of Malaysia. "This way, we can contribute to fish productivity while preventing activities of illegal trawling," he said. Meanwhile, he said more than 40,000 fishermen had participated in the 'Sahabat Maritim' programme launched in 2007. The programme is a cooperation between MMEA and fishermen associations, shipping associations and private companies to combat maritime crimes. "The local fishermen are human mobile radars for MMEA because they can spot suspicious activities and report to us for action to be taken right away," he said. BERNAMA



**15. Passports can be renewed online beginning Sept 1**

JOHOR BAHRU: The Immigration Department has chosen four states and two Urban Transformation Centres (UTC) as part of a pilot programme to issue passports renewed via the 'MyOnline Passport' system, beginning Sept 1. Its director-general Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said the service would be made available at the Immigration offices in Pahang, Sarawak, Penang and Putrajaya, as well as two UTCs, namely in Pudu Sentral, Kuala Lumpur, and Galleria@Kotaraya, Johor. "The application for passport renewal online can be done from anywhere, including via mobile phone, regardless of the time or day. "The applicants are allowed to choose any of the passport issuing counters in the four states involved, for example, the online application is made in Johor, but (the applicant) may want to collect it (passport) at the Immigration Department counter in Penang." He told this to reporters after visiting the Johor Immigration Department at the Setia Tropika Home Ministry Complex, here, today. Mustafar said hopefully, the online renewal system would help overcome the congestion at Immigration offices, adding that if the pilot programme went well, it would be extended to other states in the near future. The 'MyOnline Passport' system was introduced to enable people to have the option to renew their passport online by updating their details, uploading the required photo, and making payment via a debit or credit card, before collecting the passport at any of the designated counters. - Bernama