First article on March 20, 2012



Second article on March 20, 2012

NU supports movement to counter FPI

JAKARTA: The country's largest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), says it has thrown its weight behind a new outfit set up to counter the onslaught of firebrand organizations like the Islam Defenders Front (FPI).

NU secretary-general Marsudi Suhud said that the new outfit, called the Ahlussunnah Wal Jamaah (Aswaja) militia, had a similar mission to that of the NU in promoting pluralism, moderation and justice.

"The two institutions must work together to protect the ideology of pluralism against those who threaten violence and use bullying to scare off the public," Marsudi said in a statement.

On Sunday, more than 2,500 activists joined a rally at the Declaration of Independence Monument on Jl. Proklamasi in Central Jakarta to support the establishment of the Aswaja militia.

Also present at the declaration were chairman of the National Awakening Party Muhamimin Iskandar and the leader of Aswaja militia, Marwan Jafar.

Third article on March 20, 2012

Nazaruddin to get medical treatment

JAKARTA: The panel of judges at the Jakarta Corruption Court ruled on Monday that graft defendant Muhammad Nazaruddin be detained at National Police Soekamto Hospital for a week to seek medical treatment for abdomi-

During Monday's trial session, the court was actually scheduled to examine the defendant for his alleged role in a high-profile bribery case centered on a rigged bid for last year's SEA Games' facility in Palembang, South Sumatra.

However, Nazaruddin, who since last Friday has been admitted to Abdi Waluyo Hospital for the same abdominal problem, has not yet recovered since he was brought to the court building by Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) officers and prosecutors at around 2 p.m.

KPK doctor Yohanes Hutabarat escorted Nazaruddin, who was waiting for

his trial to begin.

'Considering references from a KPK doctor, a letter and medical records from doctors at Abdi Waluyo Hospital and a request from Nazaruddin's team of lawyers, as well as the panel's own observation, we declare that Nazaruddin is indeed ill," presiding judge Sudharmawatiningsih said. "The panel has decided to impose hospital detention against him for a week starting today."



JP/Ricky Yudhistira

Sick of it all: Graft defendant Muhammad Nazaruddin is seen vomiting inside the waiting room of the Jakarta Corruption Court on Monday.

First article on March 21, 2012



Second article on March 21, 2012

House passes ASEAN antiterror pact

JAKARTA: The House of Representatives officially passed a bill on the ASEAN Convention on Counterterrorism (ACCT) into law.

The bill allows Indonesia to cooperate with ASEAN countries to share information and data from intelligence agencies, stop the flow of funds to terrorists, cooperate in investigations and trials for terror attacks and extradite terrorist suspects.

ACCT also requires ASEAN countries to facilitate rehabilitation programs for terrorists, fair legal treatment for suspected terrorists and respect territorial sovereignty and integrity.

Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita, deputy chairman of the House's Commission I overseeing defense and international affairs, said the government needed to prepare necessary infrastructures and human resources for its implementation.

The ACCT was drafted in Cebu, the Philippines, in January 2007 during the 12th ASEAN Summit, following the ASEAN Declaration on the Joint Action to Counterterrorism and the Declaration on Terrorism, adopted at the ASEAN summits in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Third article on March 21, 2012

Aburizal's mother passes away

JAKARTA: Roosniah Bakrie, the mother of tycoon and Golkar Party chairman Aburizal Bakrie, died on Tuesday. She was 85.

"Aburizal Bakrie's mother, Roosniah Bakrie, passed away today at 3:45 p.m. at Siloam Hospital in Karawaci. May she rest in peace," the Bakrie's family spokesman, Lalu Mara Satriawangsa, said in a text message sent to *The Jakarta Post* on Tuesday.

· A wake will be held on Jl. Terusan Hang Lekir IV No. 32, Simprug in South Jakarta.

Fourth article on March 21, 2012

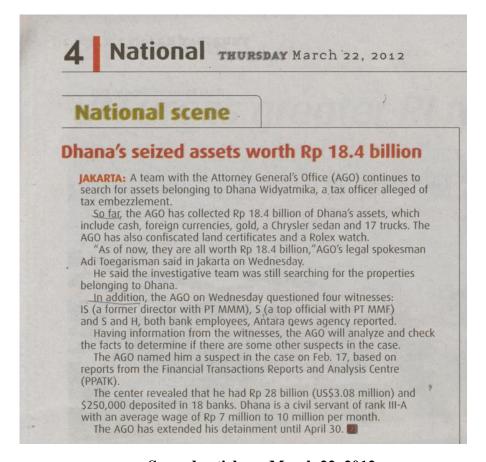
Teachers get together for 'Sie Jin Kwie'

JAKARTA: About 500 teachers — from elementary to senior high school levels — in Greater Jakarta got together on Tuesday to enjoy the *Sie Jin Kwie di Negeri Sihir* (Sie Jin Kwie in the Land of Magic) performance by the noted Teater Koma group at Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM) in Central Jakarta.

Henny Supolo Sitepu, chairwoman of the Cahaya Guru Foundation, expressed her concern as 70 percent of the teachers attending the show — specially organized during a day for teachers — claimed it was their first time to visit TIM and watch a theater performance.

"It shows how alienated our teachers are to arts shows. I really hope by having this special show, the teachers can broaden their horizons," she said. The performance, the last episode of a trilogy, is staged to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Teater Koma from March 1 to 31.

First article on March 22, 2012



Second article on March 22, 2012

Bill to empower defense industry

JAKARTA: The defense industry bill, currently being deliberated at the House of Representatives, is expected to provide a legal basis to empower the domestic defense industry.

"We are pushing for an affirmative policy that will help empower domestic defense industry firms, whether they are state-run or privately owned," said Mahfudz Siddiq, chairman of the House Commission I overseeing security and defense affairs, in Jakarta on Wednesday.

He said that the bill dictated which institution would become "patrons" for the domestic defense industry. So far, many institutions have connections with the industry, but they have their own interests.

"We hope the committee for defense industry policies and the Defense Ministry will become the stakeholders," he said as quoted by Antara news agency.

<u>Earlier</u>, some players in the defense industry expressed concern that they were finding it difficult to find local raw materials for the industry. They had to import the materials to run the industry.

The defense industry bill require "end users" (the Indonesian Military, the National Police and the National Counterterrorism Agency) to use domestic products.

Third article on March 22, 2012

Organizations to take over MPR job

JAKARTA: The People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) will in 2014 focus on the inauguration of the president-elect. Therefore, it won't fulfill its normal duty of advocating the nation's four pillars.

This so-called socialization program will be delegated to other state institutions and mass organizations. The Assembly has since 2010 regularly advocated the importance of four pillars — the state ideology Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (unity in diversity) and the Unitary State of Indonesia (NKRI).

"The Assembly will focus on the inauguration of the president-elect.

Thus, the socialization program will be conducted by a third party," Assembly Speaker Taufiq Kiemas said at a meeting with executive members of the Indonesian Muslim Intellectual Association (ICMI) on Wednesday.

ICMI, along with Muslim mass organizations Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) and Muhammadiyah, will take on the socialization job, Antara news agency reported.

The National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas) will also play the same role in 2014.

Taufiq said he had spoken with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who had later expressed agreement.

First article on March 24, 2012



Second article on March 24, 2012

Patek rigged 2002 Bali bombs: Ali Imron

JAKARTA: Convicted terrorist Ali "Alik" Imron has testified that Umar Patek was involved in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people. Alik told the West Jakarta District Court on Thursday that Patek, thought to be the mastermind of the attack, was ordered to rig the bombs at a meeting in Surakarta, Central Java and was tasked with dealing with the explosives.

Alik is serving a life sentence and his brothers Amrozi Nurhasyim and Ali Ghufron were executed in 2008 for their roles in the bombing

According to Alik, Patek was seen in a rented house in Bali before the bombing."However, I did not know exactly what he was doing there. But, I once saw him with [bomb-making] material," he said.

Patek, nicknamed the "Demolition Man", was also accused of assembling the bombs that were detonated at churches in nine cities on Christmas Eve in 2000. Officials have identified him as a key figure in Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian terrorist network linked to al-Qaeda.

He was captured on Jan. 25, 2011, in Abbottabad, Pakistan and extradited to Indonesia on Aug. 11, 2011.

Third article on March 24, 2012

Dahlan Iskan in a good shape

JAKARTA: State-Owned Enterprises Minister Dahlan Iskan, who made headlines and received heaps of praise from users of social microblogging site. Twitter for his toll-road outburst, said that his liver transplant was still in good

working order.

"Thank God, I received the results of my medical check-up at the Transplant Center Hospital in Tianjin last night and the results are absolutely fine," Dahlan said in a statement released to media. "Other health indicators also show that I am in the best shape of my life now," he said as quoted by tribunnews.com on Thursday. Dahlan had a liver transplant five years ago.

Only hours before his departure to Tianjin, China for a medical check-up, Dahlan became "furious" and took matters into his own hands at the Senayan tollgate early on Tuesday, after he found himself stuck in a severe traffic jam:

Dahlan exited his vehicle to inspect the booths, discovering that only two of the four booths at the gate were in operation, with one manned and one automated. The minister entered the vacant booths and threw the operators' chairs onto the road.

Fourth article on March 24, 2012

KPK leaders remain unified: House

JAKARTA: House of Representatives Deputy Speaker Priyo Budi Santoso says that the alleged split within the leadership of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), reported in recent weeks, is nothing but nonsense.

The Golkar politician remains confident that the five deputies within the antigraft body are still working hand-in-hand in tackling corruption cases in

the country.

"I think that the split is just a rumor. In reality, they are still unified," Priyo said as quoted by kompas.com on Thursday.

He added that the antigraft body is currently led by the best people who

complete each other, both the young guns and veterans.

The efforts of the KPK were thought to have been hindered by alleged conflicts within the agency. Rumors circulated that the Commission's leadership was split into two camps, between KPK chairman Abraham Samad and Zulkarnain on one hand, and Bambang Widjojanto and Busyro Muqoddas on the other hand. Another KPK leader, Adnan Pandu Pradja, is reportedly undergoing treatment for cancer.

First article on March 26, 2012

MONDAY March 26, 2012

National 3

National scene

No such thing as free education: Minister

JAKARTA: Administrative Reforms Minister Azwar Abubakar says he wants regional governments to stop making misleading comments about providing people with a socalled free education.

'We should stop using the term 'free education'. In reality there is actually no such thing," Azwar said as quoted by tribunnews.com on Saturday.



JP/Ricky Yudhist

Azwar Abubakar Some citizen tax money went to

the regional budget. It's normal if they don't need to pay anything for education services funded by the budget."

The law mandates that the central and regional governments allocate 20 percent of their annual budgets for education.

Earlier, Azwar was caught by reporters signing an agreement with the Singaporean government without knowing the content of the documents he had just signed.

Azwar, who oversees bureaucratic reform and has the mandate to improve the performance of the country's bureaucracy, admitted that he had no time to study the document before signing it. "I will return to you with the answer in two or three days. I have to study it first because I did not go through [the MoU] article by article," Azwar said.

Second article on March 26, 2012

No more paperwork for Indonesians

JAKARTA: The government says that Indonesian citizens will no longer need to complete arrival and departure cards when passing through immigration

Immigration Directorate General spokesman Maryoto Sumadi said it implemented the regulation effective Thursday evening.

"The regulation's implementation was made possible because the identity of traveling citizens will be automatically recorded at all 44 immigration checkpoints," he said in a press statement sent to The Jakarta Post on Friday night. [(hwa)