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MALAY MAIL

HIGHLIGHTS

ON THIS DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

2003 – The government releases 15 men held for 26 months under the Internal Security Act for their alleged involvement in the Al-Maunah militant group. The group was blamed for the infamous arms heist at the Territorial Army armoury in Grik, Perak, on July 2, 2000, and the ensuing hostage siege at Bukit Jenalik Sauk, Perak, three days later. Its leader Mohamed Amin Mohamed Razali and two of his lieutenants were found guilty for “waging war against the King” and hanged in 2006.

2005 – The controversial video footage of a woman, initially believed to be a Chinese national, performing “ear squats” in the nude on the orders of a uniformed woman, is made public after Seputeh MP Teresa Kok uses her laptop to show the clip to ministers and MPs at Parliament. The nude woman was later identified as a Malay, Hemy Hamisa Abu Hassan Saari, 23, who was arrested by police in an anti-narcotics operation in June 2005. Hemy subsequently filed an RM10 million suit against the police and the government.

EVENT

- 1859** ▶ British naturalist Charles Darwin publishes his *Origin of Species* in which he sets out the theory of evolution.
- 1989** ▶ Elias Hrawi is elected president of Lebanon following the assassination two days earlier of Rene Muawad.
- 1993** ▶ Two 11-year-old British boys are found guilty of the murder of two-year-old Liverpool toddler James Bulger and sentenced to be detained indefinitely.
- 2003** ▶ At least 32 people, mainly Asian and African students, are killed when fire sweeps through a hostel at the People’s Friendship University in Moscow.
- 2008** ▶ British Prime Minister Gordon Brown outlines plans to raise the income tax rate for the first time since 1975.

BIRTH

- 1868** ▶ Scott Joplin, American pianist and composer. He was best known for his ragtime pieces *Maple Leaf Rag* and *The Entertainer*.

DEATH



1991 ▶ Freddie Mercury, flamboyant lead singer of rock group Queen, from AIDS.