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NEWS

WOMEN RETRENCHED FIRST

Employers are still discriminating against women when it comes to retrenchment. Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister Noriah Kasnon said the Government was concerned with the statistics as half of the workers retrenched recently were women, despite them making up only 35 per cent of the country's total workforce. "Female workers may be contributing towards their companies' productivity.

"But when an economic slowdown occurs, they are still the first to be asked to go, with the excuse that many of them tend to focus on their family or are pregnant regularly," she said.

Talks would be held with both the Human Resources and the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperative Ministries on how to create more jobs for women, she told reporters after launching a seminar on violence and sexual harassment against women at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka recently. - The Star

JARVIS IS CAMBRIDGE'S FIRST FEMALE LIBRARIAN

Book lover Anne Jarvis has written a new chapter in the 650-year history of Cambridge University by being made its first female librarian. Jarvis, 46, is in charge of more than eight million volumes at the library.

Treasures include the papers of Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin. She said: "This is one of the world's great research libraries." - Mirror



MARINA'S STORY

Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir used her blog to give a first-hand and personal account of what she and her family went through when her father, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, entered the National Heart Institute (IJN) for a heart bypass surgery.

Her blog content was published in a book recently. "Many people got to know about my blog and some people read it by the hour to see if there were updates. A lot of them were quite emotional about the whole thing so I felt responsible to their feelings.

"I had to be careful about how I put things so as not to alarm them, especially during the recovery period," she said.

In the prologue of her book, Marina said her father's progress was slow and after about two weeks, the doctors were also worried.

"I could not convey this on my blog for fear of setting off a panic. So I tried to remain cheerful and upbeat," she wrote. -The Star



CHEW RESIGNS

Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun resigned as executive chairman of Pempena Sdn Bhd. She explained that her resignation was to make way for the management of Tourism Malaysia, the holding company of Pempena, to move the company forward.

"I have completed the first phase of organisational restructuring," she wrote in her blog chewmeifun.blogspot.com.

The second phase would require a longer period, Chew said, and noted that her positions in MCA and Pempena required both time and dedication.

"With my appointment as MCA Wanita chief, I have discovered that both MCA Wanita and Pempena require my dedicated time," she said, adding that she also needed to devote time on rebuilding the party. - The Star

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

Many women living with HIV in Malaysia have been infected by their husbands and risk transmitting the virus to their babies. If Malaysia does not control the spread of HIV, the disease could undo the progress the country has made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, combating HIV and Aids. With the right support, women can say "no" to choices that put them in harm's way. They can change the course of HIV in Malaysia, and make a difference for all children affected by HIV. - Unicef