



SHARIL AMIN/SUNPIX

Women showing the white gloves they sent state assemblymen at the Brickfields post office yesterday.

Women's Day inspiration

> Guiding girls along their dream path and fighting corruption

BY **ELLY FAZANIZA**
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KUALA LUMPUR: In conjunction with the International Women's Day celebrations, a campaign was launched yesterday aimed at inspiring young girls to be like the women they look up to.

The campaign, launched by social activist Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir, features personalities such as fashion designer Melinda Looi, radio host Asha Gill, NurSalam Children Nursery Home managing director Dr Hartini Zainudin, Helping Angels founder Poesy Liang and Women's Aid Organisation executive director Ivy Josiah.

WOMEN:girls founder Low Ngai Yuen, 36, described the programme as providing an opportunity for them to explore their future professions.

According to Low, the programme was designed to coincide with this year's global theme "Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures."

"The mentor-mentee programme is open to those above 15 years. Those interested can apply via internet on <http://mentor.dosomething.gd/> and describe their reasons for wanting to join the programme in less than 80 words," said Low.

She added that there will also be outreach activities throughout the 10-day campaign

period.

"A mentor for young girls is an excellent way to start opening their mindset to the future," said Low.

Five girls will be chosen and paired with a well-known personalities as their mentors.

Once chosen, the mentors will personally guide them for a duration of 10 hours within a month.

The journey undertaken by the mentors will be documented and publicised at the end of the programme.

"During the programme, the young girls are able to ask their mentors questions and find out if it's something that they want to do too," Low said.

Applicants may also suggest an alternative candidate to be their mentors instead of those suggested to them.

The results of the pairings will be announced on March 16.

In addition, Low said there will be activities such as inspiring dialogue sessions by notable speakers and visits to schools in Klang Valley – these will be updated daily on the internet and www.facebook.com/WomenGirlsinspire.

Meanwhile, in Brickfields, a coalition of women non-governmental organisations celebrated the day by calling upon all women to choose a clean government free from corruption and dirty politics.

New house help programme

BY **AZIZUL RAHMAN ISMAIL**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The government is in the midst of drafting a new version of the Home Managers Programme as reception to the existing one has not been encouraging, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Maznah Mazlan said.

In doing so, care would be taken to identify the various needs of households and the pay rates of the trainees, she said.

"In the studies we have conducted, we found out that Malaysians want house assistants, not managers.

"Most households prefer assistants who

would work only on weekends or for certain hours. Others need specific assistance, for example in elderly care or someone to do the laundry," said Maznah at a press conference. Speaking after launching the Public Agency Integrated Monitoring System (ISPAAA) at Menara Perkeso here, she said the new version was still in its preliminary stages.

The programme, initiated by Women, Family and Community Development Ministry in 2008, aims to train local workers to be able to not only cook and clean, but also manage household needs.

Its goal is to create more job opportunities and reduce Malaysia's dependency on foreign maids.

Police have lead on missing girl

JOHOR BARU: Police believe they have obtained a lead which will enable them to solve the case of a girl who went missing in Bandar Sri Alam here.

Johor police chief Datuk Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said a team led by Johor CID chief Datuk Amer Awal was investigating the disappearance of five-year-old Nurul Nadirah Abdullah.

"Based on solid evidence, we know the girl is still alive. Police have searched 23 locations in Johor and Kuala Lumpur including several drug dens so far," he said yesterday.

"With the new lead, we believe the case will be solved very soon," Mokhtar told reporters after presenting a token of RM3,000 each to former police personnel who had served during the emergency.

Nadirah was reported to have gone missing after her parents had asked her to get a few items from a grocery shop near their house in Seri Delima Flat, Bandar Seri Alam at about 11am last Thursday.

Two men and a woman, aged between 36 and 40, had been remanded until today to facilitate the investigation. – Bernama

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