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FRIDAY



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Fresh, young faces

BN list underlines plan to nurture future leaders

PETALING JAYA: Barisan Nasional has unveiled an impressive list of young and fresh faces as candidates for the coming elections, underpinning Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's plan to nurture Malaysian leaders for *Vision 2020* and beyond.

With just Pahang and Johor yet to make public their lists, the Barisan has named over 240 candidates who have never been fielded before.

Many of them are less than 40 years old and are professionals. Some are doctors, lawyers, engineers, lecturers and there is even a motivational speaker.

An example of massive changes is in Terengganu, where 60% of the candidates are new. The Barisan is fielding 17 new faces for state seats and five for parliamentary constituencies in its attempt to wrest back the state from PAS.

Terengganu Barisan chief Datuk Idris Jusoh was upbeat when he announced his list, declaring that the coalition's candidates were of "much better" calibre than PAS candidates as among them were religious leaders, academicians and professionals.

"Sixty per cent of them are new faces and their average age is 42," he said.

Another state that sees massive changes in the line-up is Selangor, where 40% of the candidates for the state seats are new, the bulk from Umno. Nine of the 22 parliamentary seats are to be contested by new candidates.

However, not all the new faces are greenhorns. Deputy Education Minister Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin, for example, is slotted to contest

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Blast horror

Bodies of victims are evacuated after a train exploded near Madrid's Atocha train station yesterday. At least 190 people were killed in simultaneous explosions on packed rush-hour trains in pre-election attacks that could be the worst ever by a separatist group, officials said.

See Pages 47 & 48. — Reuterspic

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