

coming from the United States: "While some airline groups object to a new US demand that foreign carriers place armed marshals on certain flights to and from the United States, undercover police from Canada have been blending in with air travellers for more than two years."<sup>7</sup>

A poignant criticism came from an interview with Indian Shambhu Dutta Sharma, Working Chairman Emeritus of Transparency International India: "The rich become richer and the poor man crushed," explained Sharma, "Corruption is not a new peril, neither is it an isolated menace...there is corruption in America and Canada and also in developing economies" pointed out Sharma, adding that it is a "by-product of progress."<sup>8</sup> *Utusan* also gave prominence to Canada's Islamic Institute of Civil Justice, formed in October 2003, that "plans to begin arbitrating family and business disputes early next year using Muslim personal law in Ontario. Eventually, operations will be expanded across Canada."<sup>9</sup>

Malaysian papers covered news of the hunger strike of Hassan Almrei who "has been held in a Toronto jail since a month after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, is dubbed a security threat by officials and a victim of post-9/11 hysteria by his friends." *Utusan* also pointed out that "Canada has issued 27 such certificates since 1991."<sup>10</sup>

Canada's e-government initiative was mentioned in financial newspapers such as *The Edge Daily*: "When we think of successful e-government initiatives, Singapore comes to mind; which also serves as a painful reminder that our own e-government is proceeding at a snail's pace. Few, however, know that Government On-Line (GOL), Canada's e-government initiative, has actually been outranking Singapore two years in a row since 2001 as the best e-government initiative in the annual e-government survey of global consulting firm Accenture."

In general, Canada was covered in a balanced way in the Malaysian online press over the 3-month period. Unlike the Filipino, Singaporean, and Bruneian newspapers, the Malaysian papers did not pay much attention to Canadian daily political news. Little emphasis was put on the departure of former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his replacement by Paul Martin. Even during the Toronto liberal leadership convention, all the *Utusan*'s coverage was almost exclusively focussed on the speech delivered by the U2 singer Bono "the Irish singer delivered a funny, moving speech Friday night to Canada's governing Liberal Party urging the leaders to take decisive action against poverty and AIDS. Bono alternated between sly one-liners and poignant pleas for Canada to be a global leader in addressing the causes he champions".

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<sup>7</sup>*The Star*, December 27, 2003

<sup>8</sup>*Utusan*, December 27, 2003

<sup>9</sup>*Utusan*, December 27, 2003

<sup>10</sup>*Utusan*, November 8, 2003