



Tunnel milestone

Tuah, the first tunnel boring machine for the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) flood diversion project, completed the first phase of drilling work along a 734m stretch of Jalan Cochrane in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. SMART workers (inset) celebrated the completion described by Drainage and Irrigation Department director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah as an important milestone. Tuah, 70m in diameter and weighing 2,500 tonnes, began work in July. A second machine, Gemilang, which started drilling work southwards in early September has drilled 350m of the tunnel. "The project, which cost more than RM1.9bil, is 37% ready and is expected to be completed by early 2006," Keizrul said. SMART is a project under the Federal Government to alleviate the flood problem as well as ease traffic congestion in the city centre. — Bernamapix

