

Shopowner wins appeal against conviction

KUALA LUMPUR: A medicine shopowner has won his appeal in the High Court against conviction of illegal book-making during the 1990 World Cup football games.

Judicial Commissioner Zaleha Zahari set aside the sentence and conviction of Tham Loong, 38, who was jailed a day and fined RM100,000 in default a year's jail by the magistrate's court on June 11 last year.

The lower court had found Tham guilty of committing the offence on June 30, 1990. Tham was said to have been found in possession of 32 sheets of paper allegedly containing records of bets totalling RM1,158,332 for the game.

Tham's counsel, Kitson Foong, submitted that the magistrate erred in law when he failed to take note that Tham's exclusive possession of the exhibits was not established.

Foong also said Tham was denied of his fundamental right to cross-examine several witnesses regarding four of the seized papers.