

CHINA PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

31 DEC 96

1. KUALA LUMPUR: A bus with 29 passengers plunged into a ravine in Genting Highlands last night. Eight of the victims were believed to have suffered serious injuries. No one was killed. Page 1. Lead story

2. SHAH ALAM: Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhamad Muhamad Taib said a large portion of the RM2.4 million he was carrying in Australia, belonged to his brothers who wanted to buy property in the Gold Coast. He claimed he was not aware that he had to declare when bringing large amount of money out from Australia. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: An alleged rapist-cum-killer of an 18-year old student has been charged under Section 302 of the Penal Code which carries the death sentence upon conviction. Atila Azhar is alleged to have raped and murdered Yap Lee Kuan in a storeroom on the fourth floor of Maybank in Jalan Pudu. Page 2

4. KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohd. has urged Mitsubishi Motor Corporation to help Proton cut production cost so that the national cars can be more competitive. He points out that most of the spare parts come from Japan and hopefully, the prices can be lowered. Page 3

5. SHAH ALAM: Selangor Sultan says only the Prime Minister and the people can determine the position of Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhamad Muhamad Taib who had explained that the money he was carrying was to purchase property in Australia. Muhamad Taid did not disclose where the money came from. Page 3

6. KUALA LUMPUR: The death toll in Sabah's tropical storm tragedy has risen to 167 with 105 people still missing. The search and rescue operations have been extended from Keningau, the worst hit district, to Tenom. page 4.

7. KUALA LUMPUR: The Dutch and Swiss embassies have not decided what action to take against the eight people from Acheh who entered the embassies' compounds. The embassies are still awaiting instruction from their governments over the matter. Page 5

8. KUALA LUMPUR: About 50 to 60 percent of lorry drivers have yet to change their driving licences. The Pan Malaysian Lorry Operators' Association President Chang Ah Chai urges the government to extend the grace period for another six months. He explains many lorry drivers have to earn a living. Page 7

9. PETALING JAYA: Police have detained three suspects of a five-men gang which robbed 17 Bangladeshi workers of cash and valuables worth about RM10,000. All the three suspects are from Sabah. Page 7

10. KUALA LUMPUR: Taxi drivers demand sexual favour - a Filipina maid claimed that a taxi driver charged her RM20 which normally cost RM3.60. When she refused to pay, the man demanded sexual favour instead. Another Filipina maid had also experienced a similar incident. Page 11

Bernama