

SIN CHEW HIGHLIGHTS

22 JAN 97

1. PULAU PINANG: A wanted robbery suspect who is also a drug trafficker, was shot dead in a shootout with the police. Two policemen were also slightly wounded in the shootout. Lead story. page 1.

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Police have smashed three dadah refinery centres with the arrest of six people. They also seized drugs with a street value of RM30 million. Anti-narcotics director Datuk Salleh Mat Som says the drugs, believed to have been smuggled into the country from south Thailand, are sufficient to supply 50,000 addicts. page 2.

3. TOKYO: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad says the building of the proposed Multimedia Super Corridor will benefit the people tremendously. It will further upgrade their living standard. page 3.

4. SEREMBAN: Action will be taken against hawkers who leased their licences to foreigners. Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr. Ting Chew Peh says 200,000 licences have been issued to hawkers in the country. page 4.

5. KUALA LUMPUR: The Director General of Education Tan Sri Wan Zahid Noordin has issued directive to all state Education Departments to retain the words "Chinese" and "Tamil" in their respective schools. However, the word "primary" in Bahasa Malaysia "rendah", is to be dropped because it is considered not suitable. page 4. --more

6. JOHORE BAHRU: The government is considering measures to control the super grade rice as more than 90 per cent of the people prefer the rice. Deputy Agriculture Minister Tengku Mahmud says between five to 10 percent of the people buy standard grade rice which costs between RM1.10 to RM1.40 per kg compare to more than RM1.70 per kg. for super grade rice. page 5.

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Hike for bus fares - normally it costs RM28 from Ipoh to Singapore by express buses, but now tickets are being sold at between RM70 to RM80 per ticket due to coming festive seasons. The Perak Consumers' Association says that some bus companies raise the fares without approval. page 5.

8. KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah government has decided to seek the assistance of a neighbouring country to check log smuggling activities. Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee says a multi-national syndicate might be involved in such activities. page 8.

9. PULAU PINANG: Police have crippled an oil-stealing gang with the arrest three men at Bukit Tengah, Bukit Mertajam. The gang siphoned petrol off oil tankers for adulteration. page 9.

10. SEOUL: President Kim Young-sam has softened his stand against union leaders. He has also agreed to amend the controversial labour law. page 24. Bernama