

CHINA PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: FRIDAY, JAN. 16
16 JANUARY 1998

1. PULAU PINANG: A triad member of the notorious Siew Sam Wong or the Three Little Emperors was killed during a shoot-out with the police in a house at Sungai Ara here. An automatic pistol and 20.7 gram of heroin were seized. Ten other suspects were arrested during the raid. Page 1. Lead story

2. KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminds business operators, particularly small and medium-size industries to find an early solution for the Millennium Bug or risk facing more complicated problems later. Page A3

3. KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Mahathir says Mircrosoft Corp chairman Bill Gates is still a member of the MSC international advisory panel. Nevertheless, Gates would not be able to attend the international advisory panel meeting scheduled for next month. Page A3

4. KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth calls on commercial banks in this region to merge to consolidate their strength and increase their competitiveness to counter impinges from giant foreign finance companies. Youth wing chief Datuk Zahid Hamidi says he proposed this to economic adviser to the government Tun Daim Zainuddin in the National Economic Action Plan report tabled two days ago. Page A3

5. KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Simpanan National is holding talks with three finance companies to discuss a possible merger, discloses its chairman Datuk Zahid Hamidi. He, however, refuses to reveal the names of the finance companies involved. Page A3

6. KUALA LUMPUR: Lion and dragon dances are allowed from the first till the 15th day of Chinese New Year in conjunction with the auspicious occasion. Approval from the police is required for performance in public places, says deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting. Page A3

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Crackdown operation to flush out illegal immigrants continued as the festive season draws closer. A factory in Segambut became the latest target when enforcement unit of the National Registration Department and Immigration Department carried out a joint raid there. Eight hundred and fifty four foreign workers were checked, nevertheless, all were found to have legal documents. Page A4

8. KUALA LUMPUR: The waiting time for cancer patients to undergo radiotherapy treatment at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital would be reduced from two months to 30 days following the acquisition of a new equipment costing RM5.5 million, says Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng. Page A4

9. SINGAPORE: Perodua Kancil has made its debut in Singapore with overwhelming response. Sixty orders have been received so far when the second national car was launched unofficially through advertisements put up in newspapers on December 27. Page A6

10. KUALA LUMPUR: The Immigration Department did not make any arrangements like it did in the past to facilitate foreign workers to return to their home country to celebrate Hari Raya Puasa. Foreign workers were told to be vigilant not to be cheated. Page A7

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