

SIN CHEW JIT POH HIGHLIGHTS: FRIDAY, JAN. 9
09 JANUARY 1998

1. PULAU PINANG: Six members of a family perished when fire gutted their double-storey building which housed a mini-market on the ground floor at Teluk Kumbar here. The owner of the mini-market and his two-year-old son, however, survived the mishap. Page 1. Lead story

2. KUALA LUMPUR: DPM Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says Bank Negara will continue to support the ringgit to an acceptable level. He, however, refuses to disclose at what level it would be considered as acceptable. Page 1

3. KUALA LUMPUR: Massive operation would be launched nation-wide from January 22 to February 8 to nab traffic offenders in conjunction with the forthcoming double festivals. The move is aimed at curbing road accidents during this period. Page 2

4. KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 117 students were involved in drug activities from January to September last year. This was indicated in statistics released by the National Drug Council. Schools have been instructed to beef-up their drug prevention programmes to inculcate drug awareness among students. Page 2

5. SANDAKAN: One died and four seriously injured when a man, in his 30's, ran amok and attacked them with a parang at a village near here. The mad man was later shot dead by police. Page 2

6. KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara's gold, forex and other reserves have dropped from RM59.81 billion from December 15 to RM59.13 billion on December 31. The figure, however, does not include the gain of RM24.61 billion from re-evaluation of foreign exchange. Page 3

7. KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Mahathir says corruption among leaders and administrators is a form of social oppression, if left unchecked may create resentment against the establishment and eventually jeopardise the stability of the nation. Page 4

8. KUALA LUMPUR: Dr Mahathir blames the media for the rush on sugar. He says reports of sugar shortage with pictures showing empty shelves in some shops has resulted in panic buying of the product by consumers. Page 4

9. KUALA LUMPUR: The government has decided not to extend the work permits of some 150,000 foreign workers currently attached to the service sectors. They would either be repatriated or transferred to the plantation or manufacturing sectors, says Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli. Page 6

10. KUALA LUMPUR: US is willing to provide military equipment and training for Malaysia under the International Military Education and Training Programme. Washington has allocated US\$700,000 for that purpose under the programme, says Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar. page 19

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