

## Driver killed in container lorry crash

**KLANG:** A man, 36, was killed when two container lorries collided at Km38.6 of the South Klang Valley Expressway on Friday. Selangor Fire and Rescue director Norzam Khamis said the incident took place at 11.34pm. "The vehicles collided after the first lorry's container tilted and fell in the opposite direction of the road. The second container lorry then crashed into it. The driver of the second lorry was pinned in the wreck and confirmed dead by the Health Ministry." He said rescuers took 30 minutes to extricate the body, which was sent to Banting Hospital. "The driver of the first lorry, 34, was injured."

## Car reported missing in KL found in Langkawi

**LANGKAWI:** A Toyota Vios reported missing in Salak Selatan Baru, Kuala Lumpur, has been found here, 500km away from where it was stolen. Langkawi district police chief Assistant Commissioner Shariman Ashari said the discovery was made by policemen during an operation at a house in Kampung Ulu Melaka here about 7am on Wednesday. "Police arrested three men aged between 16 and 32. They are believed to be involved in the theft. Checks revealed that the car was stolen in Salak Selatan Baru," he said yesterday. He said the car was handed over to the Cheras police headquarters for investigation. "The suspects tested negative for drugs." The case is being investigated under Section 379A of the Penal Code."

## PLUS gives RM2.3m in zakat to the needy

**KUALA LUMPUR:** PLUS Malaysia Bhd (PLUS) has channelled zakat of RM2.3 million to the needy living along its 1,130km highway stretch in conjunction with Ramadan. PLUS on Friday said the tithes would be distributed to 1,997 *asnaf* (the needy), 17 *maahad tahfiz* centres and PLUS staff affected by the floods last year. It said PLUS managing director Datuk Azman Ismail, at a breaking-of-fast event in Bertam, Penang, recently, handed over RM50,000 in tithes to Madrasah Tahfizul Quran Penanti, Maahad Tahfiz Al-Quran Wal-Qiraat, Pusat Tahfiz Bukit Gantang, Maahad Tahfiz An-Nahdhoh and Maahad Darul Furqan. The five *maahad tahfiz* centres each received RM10,000. Azman said the distribution of the tithes was in line with PLUS's goal of improving the wellbeing and prosperity of the community. **Bername**

# Penang to conduct cloud seeding to refill Air Itam dam

GEORGE TOWN

A SERIES of 15 cloud-seeding operations will be carried out from this month to August to induce rainfall in the water-catchment area (WCA) of the Air Itam dam.

These operations are endorsed by the Penang government and will be carried out by the State Water Regulatory Body (BKSA) with assistance from the Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP).

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa yesterday said PBAPP had written to state Transport and Infrastructure Committee chairman Zairil Khir Johari on Tuesday, requesting cloud seeding.

He said Zairil informed PBAPP on Friday that BKSA would carry out cloud seeding as requested.

"Cloud seeding is necessary to prevent a water supply crisis in Air Itam and its surrounding areas between April and August, if there is insufficient rainfall in the dam's WCA and persistent high water demand.

"We also want to refill the dam with as much raw water as possible before the September rainy season.

"The Air Itam dam may be refilled by rainfall only in its WCA.

"Finally, we want to achieve a 90 per cent

effective capacity (or higher) for the Air Itam dam by December, in preparation for the next dry season that should commence from Jan 1.

"This is an essential measure in support of PBAPP's commitment to sustain good water supply services in Air Itam and its surrounding areas this year and next year, for the benefit of the people and businesses."

The Air Itam dam WCA encompasses 5.75 sq km of protected forest land.

Up to Friday, the effective capacity of the dam was 39 per cent compared with 89.3 per cent on Jan 1, Teluk Bahang dam at 69.5 per cent compared with 87.8 per cent, and Mengkuang dam at 90.9 per cent compared with 93.2 per cent.

Jaseni said recently, there was rainfall in Air Itam.

He, however, said the dam remained under "alert status" due to a low effective capacity of 39 per cent.

"The primary cause is low rainfall in its WCA since Jan 1.

"The secondary cause is high daily water demand in the Air Itam township and surrounding areas since the start of the year."

In 2020, the state government funded a cloud-seeding campaign to prevent a water crisis in Penang, when Teluk Bahang dam's effective capacity was at its lowest at 16 per cent.



A prototype of the snake robot created by International Islamic University Malaysia lecturers. The snakebot can be used in impenetrable spaces, like a collapsed tunnel or to slither over earthquake rubble. **Bername** PIC

## IUM snakebot for commercialisation

**KLANG:** A commercial-ready snake robot created by four International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) lecturers is a display of the country's ingenuity and progress in science and technology.

Professor Dr Amir Akramin Shafie, Professor Dr Raisuddin Khan, Dr Abd Halim Embong and Associate Professor Dr Siti Fauziah Toha @ Tohara, from the Mechatronics Department under the Kulliyah of Engineering, have been involved in its creation since 2010.

Amir said the snakebot, which proved effective in a laboratory setting, was developed to be used in impenetrable spaces, like a collapsed tunnel or to slither over earthquake rubble.

He said it could help to check ground stability, survey surroundings and scan for radiation after a disaster.

Its commercialisation was aimed at industries involved in excavation, building tunnels, laying pipes as well as for use by the police and fire department for rescue operations.

"The advantage of the snakebot is its modular design. You can attach a camera, radar, thermal or radiation sensor to it and it can also turn its head," said Amir.

The snakebot moves in a unique way that allowed it to go where machinery on wheels could not, he added.

"This robot can be modified according to need, such as to snake through the human body for healthcare purposes."

He said the robot was created thanks to the eScienceFund under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, and now they were looking for a commercial partner. **Bername**

## 13 beggars rounded up in Kelantan

**KOTA BARU:** Thirteen beggars were rounded up by Kelantan authorities in a joint operation — Op Bersepadu — here yesterday. The 13, including five foreigners, were nabbed here and in Kubang Kerian. The four-hour operation, which began at 8.30am, involved officers from the state health and immigration departments as well as the Kota Baru Municipal Council. Kelantan Immigration Department enforcement division senior assistant director Mohamad Md Nor said the operation covered Taman Hijau, banks and Dataran Muhammadi. "These beggars do not belong to any syndicate. A majority of them are senior citizens and some are those with disabilities," he said after joining the operation.

## PiNCER to woo investors in creative industry

**IPOH:** The reactivation of the Perak Innovation and Creative Resources Centre (PiNCER) in Meru Raya here, worth RM20 million, is expected to attract foreign investors in the creative industry, including from Indonesia and China. Ipoh Mayor Datuk Rumaizi Baharin said the studio, scheduled to be operational in the middle of this year, would become one of the country's advanced creative industry hubs after Cyberjaya, Selangor and Johor Baru. "PiNCER is part of Ipoh City Council's (MBI) plan to boost urban tourism through the Art City element." He said this under presenting donations to 31 underprivileged MBI staff here yesterday.

**Bername**

## Foetus found at sewage treatment plant

**TANJUNG MALIM:** A foetus with the umbilical cord attached was found by a worker who was cleaning a sewage treatment plant in Kota Malim Prima on Friday. Perak police chief Datuk Mior Faridalathrash Wahid said they were alerted to the discovery about 11am. "The foetus is believed to have been dumped into a toilet hole and entered through a sewage channel linked to residential areas and the Kota Malim Prima industrial area. "The foetus, measuring 9cm, weighing 130g and not fully formed, is believed to have died over 24 hours," he said at a breaking-of-fast event at the Tanjung Malim police station here on Friday. Mior said the foetus had been sent to Slim River Hospital for post-mortem and the case was being investigated under Section 318 of the Penal Code. **Bername**