

Some want year-end exams

Feedback on postponement split as others prefer a delay

By LIEW JIA XIAN
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GEORGE TOWN: Reactions to the postponement of major examination dates are mixed, with some questioning whether students would benefit from the move.

Parent Ari Bahmini Suppiah does not think so.

She feels that the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination could still be conducted in November or December this year, and the students may not need to be tested on the full syllabus.

"The longer the delay, the more time is wasted. With the postponement, it means the results too will

only be released in the middle of next year.

"This will hamper the students' progress by almost half a year," said the 49-year-old law lecturer.

Ari Bahmini said her son and his classmates felt that the decision was not favourable to them.

"No one expected the pandemic but at the same time, the exam can still be held this year with some adjustments.

"A compromise on the exam style and format would be better than the postponement," she added.

On Sunday, the Education Ministry announced the rescheduled dates of major examinations to the first quarter of 2021, in keeping

with the changes to the 2020 academic calendar.

Among those, the written SPM exam — originally from Nov 16 to Dec 7 — is now scheduled for Jan 6 to Feb 9 next year.

Another parent See Swee Sie said she was worried for her son, noting that lessons had just resumed and students needed time to catch up.

"It was earlier circulated among parents and students that the exam would be postponed to March (next year).

"I am now worried for the students as I am afraid they won't have enough time to prepare," the lawyer said.

Student Chen Tzi Xuen, however,

is happy to sit for the SPM next year.

"Honestly, it's a huge relief for me because I was just lazing around before school reopened.

"With the SPM being held next year, I'll have more time to catch up on my studies," she said.

Chen's mother Venise Voon said she too did not mind the postponement.

"I am fine with it as many things are already delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

After having closed since the start of the movement control order to curb the spread of Covid-19 on March 18, schools reopened last Wednesday but only for Form Five and Form Six students.

Eighth suspect held in fatal kidnap of businessman

By FARIK ZOLKEPLI
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PETALING JAYA: The man wanted by the police in connection with the fatal kidnapping of a Datuk Seri has been detained, making him the eighth suspect arrested.

The man, nicknamed EL, was arrested in Bukit Sentosa, Kuala Kubu Baru, at about 7.30pm on Sunday.

Selangor CID chief Senior Asst Comm Datuk Fadzil Ahmat said the suspect had since been remanded for seven days.

"He was detained to assist our investigation into the kidnap and death of the 55-year-old victim, and has been remanded until July 5," he said yesterday.

SAC Fadzil said police were also looking for N. Vikneswarar, nicknamed Thamy@Vinod (MyKad 920716146331, last known address 587-144 New Green Park, 48000 Rawang, Selangor) to assist in the investigation.

"We hope the public can help us track him down," SAC Fadzil added.

He urged those with information to contact investigating officer Asst Supt Farouq Fakhzan Mohd Nordin at 017-225 1403 or the nearest police station.

On Saturday, the body of the property developer was uncovered in the bushes of Jalan Rawang-Bestari Jaya at about 9am.

He was abducted while jogging in Bandar Sri Damansara here on June 10.

Police said a businessman with the title Datuk and a man claiming to be a lawyer were among seven men detained on Friday and Saturday in connection with the case.

SAC Fadzil previously said the victim knew the Datuk from past meetings and the police were not ruling out business rivalry as the motive behind the fatal kidnapping.

One of the suspects had led police to the victim's body.

Number of flood victims in Sabah on the rise

KOTA KINABALU: The number of flood victims in Sabah continued to rise after 1,210 people from 375 families were placed at 15 temporary evacuation centres in several districts as of noon yesterday.

According to a statement from the Sabah Disaster Management Committee, 323 victims from 102 families were placed at four centres in Kota Belud and 634 people from 192 families placed at eight centres in Tenom.

"In addition, 62 victims from 20 families have been placed at a centre in Papar, 19 from five families at a centre in Penampang and 49 from 12 families at a PPS in Beaufort," it said.

It also stated that 152 villages in 11 districts in Sabah were affected by heavy rains last Saturday.

In neighbouring Sarawak, Long Panai village has become one of several areas affected.

Floods had earlier been reported in the interior regions of Limbang, Marudi and Baram districts in northern Sarawak.

The state Fire and Rescue Department said water was rising in the affected areas due to heavy rain in the interior. — Bernama



Safety first: State Fire and Rescue Department personnel surveying the situation at Long Panai village, one of the areas affected by floods in northern Sarawak. — Photo courtesy of the state Fire and Rescue Department

Drop in remaining flood victims in Johor

JOHOR BARU: The number of flood victims still in temporary evacuation centres in the state has dropped to 129 people from 35 families, compared to 145 from 40 families earlier at noon yesterday.

State Health and Environment Committee chairman R. Vidyantathan said all the victims had been placed in two evacuation centres in Muar — SK Seri Menanti and SK Orang Kaya Ali.

"SK Seri Menanti has 80 people from 22 families from Kampung Seri Menanti while SK Orang Kaya Ali has 49 victims from 13 families from Kampung Sungai Sarang Buaya," he said yesterday. — Bernama

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