Sumatra forest fires to blame

HAZE COVERS WHOLE ISLAND

Aussies to vote on Dec 10

By CORINNE THAM

SINGAPOREANS YESTERDAY woke to find the whole island shrouded in a smoky haze and visibility was so poor in some areas that even familiar towering skyscrapers could hardly be seen from short distances.

The haze was probably the result of smoke blown over to Singapore from forest fires raging in Sumatra.

The smoky mist was carried over to this region with an overnight change in wind direction.

The haze was 366 metres high, a Meteorological Department spokesman said yesterday, and covered Sumatra, the western and southern parts of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore.

Thick smoke has been reported over Sumatra, to the south and south-west of Singapore for more than a week.

According to him, the haze was caused by forest fires which occurred in Sumatra but Singapore was not affected until yesterday as the winds were originally from east to south-east.

The haze was reported over to Sumatra and the surrounding region only when wind direction was changed.

Hailstones

When the heavy rain fell yesterday morning, more than a dozen hailstones were reported at the island's largest airport.

The airport had to shut down all flights for about 20 minutes until the rain stopped and more than 1000 passengers were stranded.

Nabbed: 2 S'pooreans in drug ring

A KOREAN national, Park, 26, and his Singaporean partner, 25, were nabbed at the airport with almost $30,000 worth of drugs in a secret compartment.

They were found with 1500 capsules of Ecstasy, 500 tablets of LSD and 200 tablets of Erowid, a drug used to induce hallucinations.

At around 11am yesterday, the pair was caught trying to board a flight to Japan.

They were to have left for the country to stock up on more drugs, which they planned to sell in Singapore.

They were arrested and are now in police custody.

Cash on tap, 24 hours a day

Our Cash Dispensers at government locations around Singapore are now in operation.

Yesterday, the first such dispenser was introduced at the Duxton Road Police Station.

The dispenser, which accepts all Singapore bank notes, can dispense up to $1000 per day, 24 hours a day.

Overseas Union Bank

The bank has introduced a new service to its customers.

The bank is now offering a free account for students and working professionals.

The account has a minimum balance of $1000, and the bank will pay a 2% interest rate on the first $1000.

For more information, contact Overseas Union Bank's customer service.