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POLICE FOCUSES ON THE PILOTS

KL seeks help from more countries in MH370 search

Search area now as far north as Kazakhstan, as far south as Indian Ocean off Australia

KUALALUMPUR – The investigation into the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 entered a new phase yesterday as Malaysian authorities appealed for help from as many as 25 countries to support the hunt as they prepared to extend the search as far north as Kazakhstan and as far south as the Indian Ocean off Australia.

Meanwhile, police focused on the pilots, examining a flight simulator belonging to the captain of the plane, which went missing more than a week ago with 239 people on board a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

“The search area has been significantly expanded and the nature of the search has changed,” Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said yesterday at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is now enlisting the help of 25 nations, up from 14 in the initial operation, Mr Hishammuddin said.

Satellite transmissions that were not turned off along with other communications systems showed the plane had operated for almost seven hours after last making contact with air traffic controllers in the early hours of last Saturday.

The satellite data has appeared to show that after losing contact with air traffic controllers, the plane could

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It is our hope (that) with the new information, parties that can come forward and narrow the search to an area that is more feasible.

Mr Hishammuddin Hussein
MALAYSIAN ACTING
TRANSPORT MINISTER



PHOTO: OOI BOON KEONG

DOWN CAME THE RAIN The first heavy showers in Singapore in almost a month improved the hazy conditions experienced over the past week, with the three-hour Pollutant Standards Index falling to as low as 9 at 4pm yesterday. The rain was due to a combination of extensive rain clouds in the southern part of the South China Sea and strong, easterly winds, said the NEA. **HOTNEWS • 4**

Spit, smoke, litter illegally? Soon, a volunteer might catch you

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SINGAPORE – The authorities are looking to form a volunteer corps of individuals who will be empowered to fine offenders who litter, spit, urinate and smoke in prohibited places.

Initially envisioned as an anti-litter volunteer corps — trained and given the same warrant cards as enforcement officers from the National Environment Agency (NEA) — by Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan

last year, the scheme could now be expanded to include other public health offences.

This comes after the NEA received feedback from volunteers under a programme targeting litter, as well as from other members of the public, that they are keen to do more than just engage litterbugs.

Under the Community Volunteer Programme, the NEA currently trains and issues authority cards to members of civic groups. It empowers the volunteers to ask litterbugs to pick up after themselves, but should they

not comply, the volunteers can only take down the offenders' particulars, to be handed over to the NEA. The NEA will then investigate the cases before prosecuting the offenders.

Responding to TODAY's queries, the NEA said it is exploring the feasibility of recruiting voluntary enforcement officers, and will announce more details when the scheme is firmed up.

The NEA's move to encourage a greater ground-up movement against littering comes as the number of tickets issued for littering rose to 9,346 last year, a 14-per cent increase compared to the 8,195 cases in 2012. Since May, the agency has

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