

36,000 students from 150 countries in Malaysia

THE number of foreign students studying in Malaysia has increased by 70%, from 22,824 at the end of last year to 36,466 this year – thanks to the co-operation between the private sector and Government in education development.

Nanyang Siang Pau and *Sin Chew Daily* carried reports quoting Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad saying that of the 36,466 students who came from 150 countries, 28,827 were students of private universities and colleges while 5,668 were in private schools.

Musa said Chinese students topped

the list of foreign students with 11,058, followed by Indonesia's 7,500, according to *Nanyang*.

Speaking at the *Private Education Night*, a function organised by the Department of Private Education in Kuala Lumpur, the minister said Sunway College's enrolment of 1,716 Chinese students was the highest among the private colleges, with *Inti College's* 1,362 ranking second, according to *Sin Chew*.

Musa encouraged the country's 763 private colleges to strive harder as education providers to increase the number of foreign students to 50,000

by 2010.

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● The Transport Ministry will look into the possibility of raising the speed limit for express buses from 90kph to 100kph at tolled roads.

In an interview with *Sin Chew*, Parliamentary Secretary to the Transport Ministry Datuk Donald Lim said a review of the speed limit for express buses was appropriate in view of the Government's decision to allow a speed limit of 120kph at certain expressways for cars.

Lim said the Government might allow the express buses a 100kph

speed limit on certain tolled highways and 90kph on trunk roads.

● The National Park and Wild Life Protection Department will not, at this stage, ban the import of prairie dogs, despite the pet animal being linked to the outbreak of monkeypox in the United States.

Nanyang reported that pending confirmation by the US authorities on the connection between the prairie dogs and monkeypox, the department would not stop the import of the pet animals so as not to cause unnecessary alarm among the people.