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NARCOTICS

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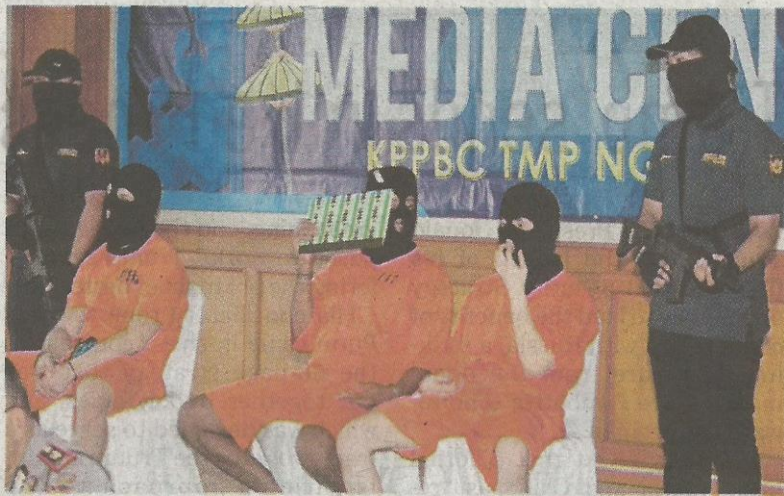
DENPASAR: Police have arrested an Australian, an American and a Malaysian on the holiday island of Bali for drug offences, the latest foreigners to run afoul of some of the world's strictest laws against narcotics.

The three men, who were arrested in separate cases, appeared before the media at a briefing, dressed in orange prison garb, their faces concealed by balaclava, with armed police officers standing guard.

It was not clear if any of the three, who were identified only by their initials, would face the death penalty if convicted.

Authorities found methamphetamine and ecstasy hidden in a plastic bottle and another container in the luggage of the Australian after he arrived on a flight from Bangkok on Monday, the Customs office said.

"Based on the results of the inspection, our officers found five packages containing clear crystals weighing 19.97g and 14 tablets weighing 6.22g," Bali Airport Customs office chief Himawan Indrajono said.



(From left) The Australian, American and Malaysian drug suspects during a press conference at a Customs office in Denpasar, Bali, yesterday. AFP PIC

The United States citizen was arrested at a local post office on Nov 30 in connection with a package sent from the US containing 336.6g of e-cigarette liquid containing THC, the active ingredient in cannabis.

The Malaysian was arrested on Nov 8 after being found with 3.03g of leaves thought to be marijuana and 0.65g of a white

powder suspected to be narcotics, Indrajono said.

Possession of small amounts of drugs could incur lengthy jail sentences and larger amounts might result in a death sentence.

The execution by firing squad of two Australians in 2015, along with six other drug convicts, had strained relations between Jakarta and Canberra. **Reuters**