

## Heart patient to hang for drugs

ALOR STAR: A Thai woman was sentenced to death by the High Court yesterday for trafficking in 18.63kg of cannabis two years ago.

Judicial commissioner Mohd Zaki Abdul Wahab convicted Natcha Babkaew, 32, after the defence failed to cast reasonable doubt over the prosecution's case.

Natcha, who was a hawker, was found guilty of trafficking the drug at a lane near the Bukit Kayu Hitam Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) Complex near here at 1.35pm on Nov 19, 2010.

Natcha, who suffers from a ventricular septal defect or hole in the heart, appeared calm when the court interpreter read the verdict.

Zaki, in his judgment, said the court could not accept the defence by the accused that she was unaware of the contents of the bags.

"The accused's defence that she had no knowledge of the contents of the bags has failed to create reasonable doubt over the case.

"She did not deny that she was carrying the two bags, which she had received from two African men in Bangkok," he said.

Customs Department deputy public prosecutor Mohd Radzi Shah Ab Razak appeared for the prosecution while counsel Ai Cha Ran represented the accused.