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Federal police smash lethal synthetic drug labs

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Top News

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JOHOR BARU — A potent new ecstasy pill with a Facebook "Like" logo on it, has been the focus of police following several drug busts here since Tuesday.

Police have so far arrested eight suspects, including four women, and seized drugs worth millions of ringgit and firearms from the syndicate.

Sources told *Malay Mail* the new ecstasy pills contained three to five times the normal dose and are being sold in nightclubs in Johor and Singapore.

"We are checking if the latest arrests are connected to the Bandar Dato' Onn drug bust where a Singaporean businessman was arrested in a double-storey house which had been converted into a massive drug lab," said a source.

Federal police elite anti-narcotics squad raided several condominiums and homes in the city centre to cripple the manufacturers of the potent synthetic drug.

The ongoing raids were conducted by several teams from Bukit Aman's Special Tactical and Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING).

A police source familiar with the potency of these pills, said a single pill retails on the streets for RM80.

"Each pill contains about three to five times the MDMA (the main crystalline component of ecstasy) of a normal pill," he said.

"With such a high potency of MDMA, one pill can be mixed with a jug of beverage and cater for up to six people," he said.

The source said the pill was gaining popularity among those who use it for drug-fueled parties in karaoke outlets and nightclubs.

Drug experts have said an extremely high MDMA dose for human consumption



Drug paraphernalia's found in one of the condominiums. — Picture from Twitter Khalid Abu Bakar @KBAB51

can cause heart attacks, epileptic attacks, cardiac arrhythmia, seizures and in the worst cases, death.

So far police have seized more than RM3 million in drugs, raw materials, chemicals, three semi-automatic pistols, a fake pistol, a hand grenade and 128 rounds 9mm ammunition.

The drugs seized were believed to be syabu, ketamine, ecstasy and cocaine.

In the raids, police uncovered several makeshift synthetic drug laboratories and storage areas in condominiums located in Larkin, Permas Jaya and the city centre.

The suspects, in their 20s and 40s, included China nationals, who are believed to be the "cooks" in the syndicate.

The source said more arrests are expected following the seizure of firearms and ammunition in the apartment in Larkin yesterday.

Initial investigations revealed that the syndicate worked in cells and were independent of each other.

Most of the drug seized had names like "Playboy", "Hati" and "S", together with raw materials and other synthetic drug-related paraphernalia.

"Investigators will be conducting ballistics test to check if the firearms were used in any past shooting cases.

"We are conducting profiling and background checks to determine if the suspects are linked to any Singapore illicit drug networks.

"We are glad to have crippled a drug manufacturing and distribution network for the southern region."

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, on Twitter, congratulated Bukit Aman's STING on their Johor Baru success.