

Iranian drug makers entered Malaysia as `missionaries,' cops say

By Praven Suppayah

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 — Federal police have crippled a RM27 million drug syndicate with the arrest of eight men, including two Iranians, who had entered the country as “missionaries”.

The raids took place on Wednesday at five locations in Perak and Selangor. The Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) and Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING) busted drug-processing labs in Behrang and Tanjung Malim in Perak.

The 4.30am raid led to several other drug dens in Ampang, Ulu Bernam and Klang in Selangor. Bukit Aman NCID director Comm Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said the suspects, aged 22 to 46, were believed to have been operating in the country for the last six months.

“We seized 274kg of syabu worth millions in the raids. The drugs are believed to be for local addicts as well as those in western countries,” he said.

He added that the Iranian citizens are believed to be freelance chemists. They are employed by local syndicates to come into the country and produce drugs.

Five of the suspects, including the two Iranians, tested positive for drugs. Among the six locals who were nabbed, four of them had convictions for drug abuse.

“They came as ‘missionaries’ but I call them ‘rogue-chemists’. They come here to use their expertise on something very unethical,” Mokhtar said.

Police learnt the syndicates had changed their base of operations from high-end condominiums to rural areas to evade detection.

The premises used by the syndicate was a rented property. “This is to avoid detection by the authorities.

They thought they could fool us but they were mistaken.

“We had been monitoring them through reliable intelligence before making our move,” he said.

Police also found tools and dryers used to prepare the drugs, said Mokhtar.

Also seized were three cars, a motorcycle and RM42,300 cash.

The suspects have been remanded until next Tuesday.

He added that federal police were able to make such huge bust due to cooperation from the Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau