

## **Malaysian gets 21 years jail and caning for drug trafficking**

A 28-year-old Malaysian drug trafficker was jailed 21 years and ordered to be caned 15 strokes.

Devanatan Naggan, who worked at a cement factory here, was stopped at the Woodlands Checkpoint while riding his motorcycle into Singapore on the evening of May 12, 2010.

A search by Central Narcotics Bureau officers found two plastic packets of heroin stashed between the styrofoam cushion and hard casing of his motorcycle helmet.

The two packets were analysed to contain not less than 51.41gm of heroin. But the prosecution decided to reduce the charge against Devanatan to a non-capital one, which stated that he had trafficked in not less than 14.99gm of heroin.

It is an established practice for the prosecution to specify the quantity of drugs as not less than a certain quantity – just below the threshold for the death penalty – when it decides to bring a less serious trafficking charge against an offender.

The prosecution does not have to give reasons for its decision to reduce the charge. — The Straits Times / Asia News Network