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**BANGKOK:** Thai police scored a major success in its battle against an international drug syndicate with the arrest of a Malaysian man, whom they believed played a key role in smuggling hundreds of kilogrammes of "ice", a type of methamphetamine, into Malaysia.

The man, dubbed "Mr T" from Johor, was nabbed at Hatyai airport on Wednesday, upon his arrival from Chiang Rai.

Thai police said he revealed that authorities were also responsible for a failed attempt by his two accomplices to smuggle 282kg of "ice" worth millions of ringgit into Malaysia via the Sadao border in March last year.

"The two Malaysian men, who were arrested last year, told authorities that the drugs belonged to Mr T," deputy commander of Thailand's Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) Major-Gen Supakit Srijantaranon told a press conference yesterday.

The two men, he said, had also informed the authorities that Mr T had successfully smuggled drugs into Malaysia four or five times before, carrying about 100kg of "ice" on each occasion to undisclosed locations.

Supakit said in follow-up operations, Thai police also nabbed a Thai woman and a Taiwanese man in Chiang Rai as

well as a Thai woman in Chiang Mai on Wednesday, all believed to be members of the international drug syndicate.

NSB chief Lt-Gen Sommai Kongvisaisuk, who was also present at the conference, said the police believed Mr T went to Chiang Rai to place an order for another shipment of drugs.

"The Malaysian man and his Thai wife ran many businesses," he said.

Supakit said following the arrest of four people, the authorities confiscated about 30 million Baht (about RM3.8 million) in cash in various currencies and 20 million Baht in other assets.

Meanwhile in MEDAN, a Malaysian actor was caught trying to bring drugs into the city two days ago.

Indonesian online media quoted a Customs official from Medan's Kualanamu International Airport as saying that following checks made on him, Customs officers found two tubes containing metamphetamine weighing 14g that had been inserted into his rectum.

He said the actor had come to Medan to meet a friend who works as a deejay.

He said the 38-year-old actor, who has had run-ins with the law in Malaysia for drugs, was being held by Medan police for further investigations.

- Bernama