

21 April 2017

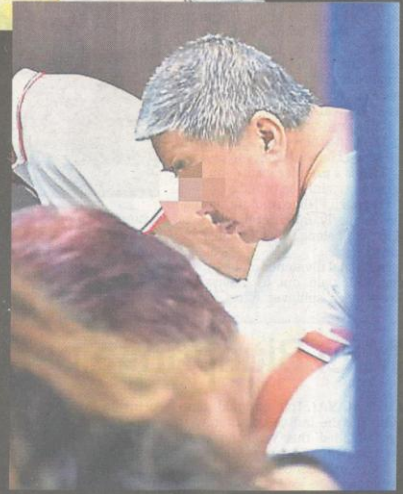
Thai cops nab Mr T – the M'sian 'Iceman'



Impressive haul: Thai police displaying various foreign currencies totalling more than 30 million baht (RM3.8mil) and other equipment seized from the Malaysian drug kingpin known as 'Mr T' (inset). — Bernama

Malaysian 'Iceman' nabbed

Two major international drug syndicates have been smashed with several arrests in Malaysia and Thailand. In the Klang Valley, a Bukit Aman team, working with its Taiwanese counterpart, crippled a syndicate bringing in designer drugs from China. In Haadyai, a Malaysian drug kingpin known as 'Mr T' was nabbed after a failed attempt by two accomplices to smuggle 282kg of methamphetamine or 'ice' into Malaysia. > **See reports on Pages 4 and 22**



Thai cops nab Mr T – the M'sian 'Iceman'

Johorean believed to have been placing an order for new consignment in Chiang Rai

BANGKOK: Thai police scored a major success in their 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" or methamphetamine drugs into Malaysia.

The authorities said the Malaysian man, dubbed "Mr T" from Johor, was 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.

"Mr T" was nabbed at the Haadyai airport yesterday upon his arrival from Chiang Rai.

"The two Malaysian men who were arrested with 282kg of 'ice' last year told the author-

ities that the drugs (282kg) belonged to him," deputy commander of Thailand's Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB) Major-Gen Supakit Srijantaranon said at a media conference yesterday.

The two men, he said, had also informed the authorities that the Johor man had been facilitating between four and five successful drug smuggling attempts into Malaysia, each time carrying about 100kg of "ice" to undisclosed locations in Malaysia.

According to him, Thai police also nabbed a Thai woman and a Taiwanese man in Chiang Rai as well as a Thai woman in Chiang Mai yesterday – all believed to be members of the international drug syndicate

– in follow-up operations.

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

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

"Meanwhile, Supakit said following the arrest of the four, the authorities confiscated about 30 million baht (RM3.8mil) in several currencies and 20 million baht (RM2.5mil) in other assets.

Another 20 million baht in assets was also seized from the same syndicate months ago, bringing the total cash and assets seized from

this international syndicate to 70 million baht (RM8.9mil), he said.

Head of Office of Narcotics Control Board Sirinya Sitdichai said the authorities managed to get into the inner-workings of the international syndicate following the arrest of the two Malaysian men.

"The authorities found out that the syndicate not only trafficked drugs but also operates other businesses using money gained from the drug activities," he said. — Bernama



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Designer drug ring crippled

Bukit Aman nabs nine with help from Taiwanese counterpart

By FARIK ZOLKEPLI
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KUALA LUMPUR: For the past six months, a syndicate has been supplying designer drugs from China to entertainment outlets in Malaysia, especially in the Klang Valley. Then Bukit Aman came knocking.

Collaborating with Taiwan's Criminal Investigation Bureau, the Bukit Aman Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) and Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (Sting) uncovered the drug-trafficking ring and raided four of their strongholds here.

Among the premises raided were a snooker centre along Jalan Tun Razak and an apartment in Taman Desa.

Police seized drugs worth RM2.5mil, which included 19,661 ecstasy pills, 21,396 Erimin 5 pills and 2,283 capsules of ecstasy.

They also arrested nine syndicate members aged between 22 and 46.

"If the pills were not seized, it would have catered to 140,000



Big haul: Comm Mohd Mokhtar (left) showing some of the seized items while NCID deputy director DCP Datuk Kang Chez Chiang (second from left) and other officers look on during the press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

addicts. We also seized 30.5kg Ephedrine, a vital chemical in producing syabu. That amount would have produced 20kg syabu, catering

to 100,000 addicts," NCID director Comm Datuk Seri Mohd Mokhtar Mohd Shariff said at a press conference yesterday.

Some RM830,000 of the syndicate's assets – eight vehicles, including luxury models, currencies of various denominations and luxury watches – were also seized, added Comm Mohd Mokhtar.

"The success would not have been possible without the cooperation of our Taiwanese counterparts. "This war against drugs is not just a domestic problem. It is borderless."

Between January and April 17, the NCID and Sting have seized drugs worth RM81.9mil and seized RM49.16mil of assets belonging to syndicates.

"The top four drugs seized during this period are 336.25kg of syabu, 21.92kg of ketamin, 47,334 ecstasy pills and 2.5 million Erimin 5 pills.

"We have also arrested 57,872 people for various drug-related offences, including 2,385 foreigners," he said.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

