Cops smell out drug dealer’s recipe for smuggling

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KUALA LUMPUR — A drug dealer came up with a creative idea of hiding syabu in packets of monosodium glutamate and salt and was rescued by his boon with a Lexus car and RM20,000.

However, his plan failed when the police narcotics unit busted the internationally connected drug syndicate he belonged to, recording the biggest haul so far this year with the seizure of RM18 million worth of methamphetamine (syabu) weighing 125kg.

The 21-year-old suspect was described by police as a ‘‘young’’ drug dealer who was eager to climb the ranks in a drug syndicate quickly.

He creative idea earned him the reward as an ‘‘early incentive’’ from his boss.

Bolit Aman Special Tactical Intelligence Narcotics Group (STING), which had been monitoring the syndicate for a couple of months, surprised him and two other ‘‘senior shareholders’’ of the syndicate at the basement parking lot of a mall in Subang USJ on Tuesday night.

Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Noor Rashid Ibrahim said that in the 8.30pm raid, police arrested the three suspects and seized a Toyota Fortuner, the Lexus and RM20,000.

“We also found processed and ready-to-market syabu weighing 79kg in large rusty tins inside one of the cars. Among the three arrested was a Singaporean in his 50s,” said Noor Rashid.

Hours later, STING went to Batu Berendam, Malacca, and raided a shop-house in Taman Merdeka Permai, where two more men were arrested and 50kg of syabu seized.

“All the suspects, aged between 21 and 56, had business backgrounds, and none of them had any criminal record,’’ Noor Rashid said all the suspects had been remanded for a week.

“We are looking for the remaining syndicate members. We know their whereabouts and our officers are just waiting for the right time to pounce,”

Noor Rashid said STING’S investigation team had stepped up efforts to get more intelligence on the syndicate’s top members and the masterminds.

In January last year, the Customs Department at KL International Airport seized 3.3kg of syabu worth RM600,000 hidden in four sea salt bottles.

Two men, both 26, from Iran and Kazakhstan, were arrested.

There have been many attempts by drug mules to smuggle in syabu hidden in sea salt packets and sea salt.

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="Noor Rashid"

Firefighters rescue schoolgirl trapped in toilet bowl

SERDANG — Teachers and students at a primary school in Puchong panicked when a schoolgirl slipped and got her leg stuck in a toilet bowl at noon yesterday.

The Year One pupil cried for help as she struggled to free herself.

Her friend, who was also in the toilet, ran to find a teacher and after 10 minutes of trying to free her, the school authorities called the Fire and Rescue Department.

The department’s Selangor deputy director Mohd Saai Harul said seven firemen rushed to the school and took 10 minutes to get the girl’s left leg out but they had to break the toilet bowl.

The girl suffered a sprained ankle and bruises.

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