



Human smuggler roped his son into the racket

FROM PAGE 1
 of labor for the past eight years. Foreigners who wanted to enter Singapore illegally would contact Salim personally or through their agents. The trip across the straits cost between \$2,000 and \$2,500 per person. After receiving payment, he would arrange temporary lodgings and food for them until he had hired boat operators and business to smuggle them into Singapore.

On March 14, Salim's son, P. Ramlee, died after the speedboat he was on collided with a Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) vessel.

A statement by the Singapore Police revealed that Ramlee and another accomplice, Khamsi, Mohammed, 35, were only fish-

ing and they gave chase after seeing the speedboat drop several illegal immigrants near the Singapore shore, near Jurong. The speedboat's engine fired into the sky and commands given over loudhailer for it to stop. It then collided into the PCG boat while trying to escape.

Salim was suspected of being involved in the human smuggling business even before the incident. A warrant of arrest for Salim was issued by the Singapore Subordinate Courts in February and he was arrested by the Royal Malaysian Police last year. He was then handed over to the Singapore Police.

But the Singapore Police refused the claims. P-10 said they gave chase after seeing the speedboat drop several illegal immigrants near the Singapore shore, near Jurong. The speedboat's engine fired into the sky and commands given over loudhailer for it to stop. It then collided into the PCG boat while trying to escape.

"I am very old now. I have my 20-something son. I hope you will not give me a heavy sentence," he said.

Last month, his accomplice Khamsi received a 30-month jail term and 10 strokes of the cane. Another, Mohd Adha Alan, was sentenced to two years and six weeks jail and six strokes of the cane.

Those convicted of smuggling illegal immigrants here face a maximum jail term of two years and at least three strokes of the cane.

Premium rates for the promise of a safe landing

By Tan Joo Lin
 ILLEGAL immigrants wanting to make the leap into Singapore have a choice to make: Do they reach the promised shores, or do they not?

Those who pay \$10,000 for the "premium" package are promised a safe landing at "shore spots" where they will pay \$1,000 to \$2,000 to get "asylum" may have to wait a short distance before they reach dry land.

Either way, the promise of a full sum upfront is no guarantee of safe passage after they are launched in sampans from Malaysia.

The human smuggling contractors have been known to breach their agreed sales pitch when confronted by the Police Coast Guard (PCG).

At a hearing yesterday morning to a new smuggling ring, PCG commander Teo Kim Teck said: "Two Chinese nationals were arrested last year after we saw a boat coming in. The boat was back. When we caught them, they were full of contraband that they were pushed into the water despite our warnings."

Last year, 147 illegal immigrants who had paid \$10,000 were arrested, many of them still dripping wet. The number is 10 times that of those who were not arrested.

With heightened surveillance, many not arrested have also been detected over the past two years, with 20 boats landing last year compared with four in 2007. Since 2007, 28 boats have been seized.

There were also cases where illegal immigrants found themselves locked out by metal fencing of the drop-off points.

Yesterday, smuggling mastermind Salim Awang was asked for six years for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Assistant Commissioner Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Teo said that part of the man's sentence was for taking more than 100 illegal immigrants into Singapore.

Two illegal immigrants were given food by different people. These boats were also covered with plastic when they reached the boats so they could not recognize the syndicate members.

However, the police managed to arrest Salim's assistants, who implicated him. Some also implicated him who reported him "in the early days" of his work as illegal immigrant.

Salim, who started the racket in 2001, "displayed blatant disregard for our laws by attempting to breach the sovereignty of our borders on numerous occasions", said SAC Teo.

Over time, the tactics of his human smuggling syndicate like Salim's have evolved. Lookouts use night-vision devices to spot police boats in the dark. They have launched dummy boats to distract police from their quarry, he added.



Salim was the mastermind behind the smuggling syndicate that took in 100 illegal immigrants but has been operating out of Johor for the past eight years. PHOTO: IAN HING LIM



State	Number of cases
Johor	100
Kelantan	10
Sabah	5
Total	115

'My father has done wrong and deserves to be punished'

By KIRANWATI SINGH
 SEVEN years his son was killed trying to smuggle immigrants into Singapore on March 14, convicted human smuggling kingpin Salim Awang, 57, was sentenced to 10 years in jail.

His youngest son, P. Ramlee, 28, died in a boat accident when the boat sank after colliding with a Police Coast Guard vessel while trying to escape.

Salim, a 63-year-old trader, was yesterday identified in a district court as the mastermind of the human smuggling racket and jailed for six years.

His daughter Rosliza Salim, 30, who runs the family used to be involved in the fishing village of Kampong Sungai Melayu in Johor, learnt the trade only when he was arrested by Malaysian police last Thursday after the police here issued a warrant of arrest.

She said she had no idea that her father would die to the village almost daily in his 10-year-old Manda Atlati.

Her parents lived there but her father would drive to the village almost daily in his 10-year-old Manda Atlati.

"I am very old now. I have my 20-something son. I hope you will not give me a heavy sentence," he said.

Last month, his accomplice Khamsi received a 30-month jail term and 10 strokes of the cane. Another, Mohd Adha Alan, was sentenced to two years and six weeks jail and six strokes of the cane.

Those convicted of smuggling illegal immigrants here face a maximum jail term of two years and at least three strokes of the cane.

Those convicted of smuggling illegal immigrants here face a maximum jail term of two years and at least three strokes of the cane.

Those convicted of smuggling illegal immigrants here face a maximum jail term of two years and at least three strokes of the cane.

Those convicted of smuggling illegal immigrants here face a maximum jail term of two years and at least three strokes of the cane.

Golkar won't support Yudhoyono's bid

It says coalition talks with Democratic Party had reached deadlock

By WAYDUS SOBRIATMADA & LEVIN LEE
 INDONESIA CORRESPONDENTS

JAKARTA Vice-president Idrus Kalla's Golkar party yesterday withdrew its support for President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's bid for a second term in the July 9 presidential election.

The announcement came as a surprise, as Golkar had previously said it would wait till after a conference of party leaders today to decide on its coalition plans.

As Golkar secretary-general Inu Kustanto told reporters yesterday morning that coalition partners will be made known at a PDI-P meeting on Saturday.

Golkar's change of plans raises the possibility that it will team up with former president Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-PS), which has a net vote of votes counted so far.

Ms Sukarnoputri has said that she intends to run for president and that her choice of coalition partner will be made known at a PDI-P meeting on Saturday.

There was some confusion in the Golkar camp last night.

Golkar member Sitomara, who attended a meeting Mr Kalla held last evening with party leaders from Indonesia's 33 provinces, suggested that the split from the Democratic Party was not final.

There will be further talks on this during the April 23 meeting and any decision made then will supersede the central board's decision.

Golkar spokesman Agus Laksono said that the party's decision to support Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Golkar member Sitomara, who attended a meeting Mr Kalla held last evening with party leaders from Indonesia's 33 provinces, suggested that the split from the Democratic Party was not final.

There will be further talks on this during the April 23 meeting and any decision made then will supersede the central board's decision.

Golkar spokesman Agus Laksono said that the party's decision to support Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Golkar member Sitomara, who attended a meeting Mr Kalla held last evening with party leaders from Indonesia's 33 provinces, suggested that the split from the Democratic Party was not final.

There will be further talks on this during the April 23 meeting and any decision made then will supersede the central board's decision.

Golkar spokesman Agus Laksono said that the party's decision to support Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Golkar member Sitomara, who attended a meeting Mr Kalla held last evening with party leaders from Indonesia's 33 provinces, suggested that the split from the Democratic Party was not final.

There will be further talks on this during the April 23 meeting and any decision made then will supersede the central board's decision.

Golkar spokesman Agus Laksono said that the party's decision to support Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Mr Kalla, the current chairman, is starting the party away from Dr Yudhoyono's camp.

Opposition threatens to boycott presidential polls

By SALIM DAHM
 INDONESIA CORRESPONDENT

JAKARTA A group of political parties accused yesterday President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has made repeated efforts of bypassing the presidential election by boycotting the presidential election.

He said that the government should respect the rights of the voters, or rather President Yudhoyono, to May 9.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

"Don't lecture me about cheating," he told reporters in Bandung.

He said that the government should respect the rights of the voters, or rather President Yudhoyono, to May 9.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

"Don't lecture me about cheating," he told reporters in Bandung.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

He said that the government should respect the rights of the voters, or rather President Yudhoyono, to May 9.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

"Don't lecture me about cheating," he told reporters in Bandung.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

He said that the government should respect the rights of the voters, or rather President Yudhoyono, to May 9.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

"Don't lecture me about cheating," he told reporters in Bandung.

"We will continue to field a presidential and vice-presidential candidate unless it is resolved," said PDI-P secretary-general Pramono Anung.

The statement, which was broadcast over television, drew a sharp rebuke from President Yudhoyono.

TURNING HEADS FROM SINGAPORE TO LONDON. ENJOY WINNING.
 Win a trip to London and bring 3 friends!
 Visit tigerbeer.com.sg now.

