

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

# Syndicate manipulating labour programme busted

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Immigration Department thwarted a syndicate manipulating the Labour Recalibration Programme with the arrest of a 61-year-old woman and seizure of 79 Bangladeshi passports on Friday.

Immigration director-general Datuk Khairul Dzaimie Daud said nine Immigration officers from the Intelligence and Special Operations division raided a residential unit in Kota Damansara, Selangor, after a month of surveillance.

“This syndicate is believed to be manipulating customers into registering for the programme on behalf of their employers by charging a fee.

“We found 79 Bangladeshi passports that had expired social visit passes, and some without any pass.

“In the raid, a Malaysian woman, 61, was arrested under Section 12(1)(f) of the Passport Act 1966, for unlawful authority

of possessing a passport issued for the use of persons other than herself, and an offence under Section 56(1)(k) of the Immigration Act 1959/1963 for attempting to obtain a pass for another person by submitting false information,” he said yesterday.

Also seized were RM37,050 in cash and documents used by the suspect for the activity.

“The modus operandi of this syndicate is finding customers among illegal migrants to be registered as employees of three companies in the name of the 61-year-old suspect.”

Khairul Dzaimie said: “Each illegal immigrant is charged between RM2,000 and RM3,000 to enable them to be registered in the programme.”

He said investigations found that the three companies had never operated as registered, but were used solely for the purpose of the programme.