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## DEATH STRIKE IN 5 SECONDS

CCTV footage at klia2 reveals in startling detail the methodical and swift way two women fatally poisoned the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Police say they have reason to believe the execution is the work of foreign agents.

■ **WOMAN IDENTIFIED FROM FOOTAGE ARRESTED AT KLIA2; ONE ASSAILANT MAY, IN FACT, BE A MAN IN DISGUISE**

■ **NO PUNCTURE WOUNDS ON KIM JONG-NAM'S BODY OR FACE TO SUGGEST ASSAILANTS INJECTED HIM WITH POISON**

» MAIN REPORT BY **FARRAH NAZ KARIM & HARIZ MOHD** ON **PAGE 2**; SEE ALSO **PAGES 3, 4, 6, 7 & 17**

EXCLUSIVE



An artist's impression of the assault at the crime scene, based on CCTV footage.



## Task force on Bank Negara forex losses

The cabinet has agreed to set up a task force to probe into the losses incurred in the 1990s. The committee's proposals may include the setting up of a Royal Commission of Inquiry, says the Prime Minister's Office.

» REPORT ON **PAGE 8**



## KIM JONG-NAM MURDER

# ASSASSINATION 'MAY BE WORK OF FOREIGN AGENTS'



One distracted him, while the other held him in a chokehold before he was administered poison

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It took no more than five seconds and one fluid move to kill Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, at klia2 on the morning of Feb 13.

Jong-nam was standing idle in a small crowd in front of the airport's self check-in counter when his assailants struck.

They had been watching him... and when opportunity presented itself, they moved in.

Within that five seconds, one of them stood in front of him to distract him. This was when the other, who had been lurking behind Jong-nam, had him locked in a chokehold, to administer the poison that killed him soon after.

The assassination plan would have been flawless from start to finish, if not for the multitude of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras positioned strategically throughout the hall, which captured images of the act and the subsequent movements of the female assassins after the job was carried out.

Federal Police Special Branch director Datuk Seri Mohamad Fuzi Harun told the *New Straits Times* that his men were working on intelligence to narrow down all leads.

"We have reason to believe that this might be the work of foreign agents."

"There are definitely other individuals involved, apart from the two assailants," he said.

The NST learnt that the assailants moved separately. It is understood that one of the suspects, who was picked up from the same airport yesterday, was the one who had appar-

## Kim Jong-nam

Half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, assassinated in klia2



Aged 45

Son of former leader Kim Jong-il and Sung Hae-rim, a South Korean-born actress who died in Moscow. Educated in Russia, Switzerland

### Former heir-apparent

Former head of North Korean counterespionage, seen as likely to succeed Kim Jong-il. Disgraced after trying to visit Disneyland in Japan on a false passport in 2001.

Lived in exile, mostly in Macau, a Chinese territory.

### Previously targeted

In 2010 by a North Korean spy, according to South Korean prosecutors. Reportedly close to his uncle, Jang Song-thaek, ex-No. 2 of the regime, executed in 2013.

Sources: Media, AFP/Photo AFP © AFP

ently finished the job.

She was wearing a skirt and a top with "LOL" emblazoned across.

CCTV footage of her appeared to show that she had on her left hand a dark-coloured glove as she walked briskly down to the taxi stand for her getaway.

By the time she reached there, it was no longer on her.

Meanwhile, it is understood that Jong-nam, who appeared to be steady soon after the assault, headed to the washroom, but turned back to the information counter to seek help as pain started setting in.

## KIM JONG-NAM ASSASSINATION: HOW IT UNFOLDED

- 1 Kim Jong-nam was attacked at a self check-in counter as he stood among a crowd.
- 2 He headed to the toilet, but made a detour to the information counter.
- 3 An airport employee who attended to him, walked him to the clinic.
- 4 Kim and an airport employee left for the clinic from here.
- 5 He was given medical attention at the clinic, a floor down. As his condition worsened, he was taken to Putrajaya Hospital.
- 6 One of the assailants making her way down to the taxi stand.
- 7 She bought a taxi coupon and took her ride out of klia2.



PIX BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR



One of the suspected female assassins who killed Kim Jong-nam. PIC COURTESY OF YTN KOREA

A female employee, understood to be an AirAsia staff, accompanied him to a clinic at the airport.

The NST saw footage of Jong-nam, who was wearing a dark blue collared polo T-shirt, light blue jeans and brown shoes, slumped in an armchair. He eyes were shut and he ap-

peared to be grimacing in pain.

A source with knowledge of the arrest yesterday said the woman, who appeared dishevelled when picked up, was wearing similar clothes, except that it was without the "LOL".

The source said investigators were not discounting the possibility that this case and the perpetrators involved were not as clear-cut as they seemed.

The NST was also let in on another lead — that there is a likelihood that one of the assailants is a man who had disguised himself as a woman.

The man that they may be looking at could be a 40-year-old agent from the Reconnaissance General Bureau, the North Korean intelligence agency that manages the state's clandestine operations.

The NST spoke to those manning the taxi counter where the suspect had bought a coupon for her ride.

"She merely handed over to the counter a card showing where she had wanted to go."

"There was nothing really off about her," one of them said, adding that he could not reveal more except that they gave eight taxi numbers to investigators.

CCTV footage, particularly one showing her heading towards the escalator leading to a floor down to the taxi stand, suggested her anxiousness to get away from the crime scene.

Police have since traced the cabbie who picked her up.

The NST was made to understand that Jong-nam, who carried a diplomatic passport, had been in the country for more than a week before his planned return trip to Macau.

Meanwhile, a source close to the post-mortem process on Jong-nam at Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL) told the NST that there were no puncture wounds on his body or face. Some





## What poisons could've killed Kim?

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Authorities are looking into the possible poisons that could have been used in the murder of Kim Jong-nam, the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, at klia2 on Monday.

The substances, when ingested, can lead to poisoning in a matter of minutes, or only manifest after an hour, leading to conditions such as

loss of consciousness, dizziness, difficulty in breathing and death.

The poisons — potassium cyanide, methyl parathion and sodium monofluoroacetate — have been used in past assassinations in North Korea's clandestine operations.

Poisons have been part of the arsenal of North Korea's highly trained spies.

### TYPES OF POISONS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO KILL KIM JONG-NAM



#### POTASSIUM CYANIDE

**1. A colourless crystalline salt,** similar in appearance to sugar, highly soluble in water.

**2. Mostly used in gold mining, organic synthesis and electroplating.** Smaller applications include jewellery for chemical gilding and buffing.

**3. Highly toxic. Symptoms of poisoning usually occur within a few minutes of ingesting the substance —** the person loses consciousness, and eventually goes brain dead. During this period, the victim may suffer convulsions. Death is caused by cerebral hypoxia (reduced supply of oxygen to the brain).

#### METHYL PARATHION

**1. An insecticide and acaricide used to control boll weevils and many biting or sucking insect pests** of agricultural crops. It kills by contact, stomach and respiratory action.

**2. Exposure to high levels, even for short periods, may cause changes in the nervous system,** leading to headaches, dizziness, confusion, blurred vision, difficulty in breathing, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of consciousness and death.

#### SODIUM MONOFLUOROACETATE

**1. A highly potent and toxic rodenticide poison** used primarily for vermin control.

**2. In the United State and United Kingdom, it is used to control rodents in areas of restricted access,** such as ships, sewers and warehouses.

**3. In Australia and New Zealand, rabbits, wallabies, goats, wild pigs, deer and possums are controlled** with the use of baits based on apples, carrots or grains.

**4. In humans, poisoning symptoms normally appear between 30 minutes and three hours after exposure.** Initial symptoms include nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain; followed by sweating, confusion and agitation. In significant poisoning, cardiac abnormalities, including tachycardia or bradycardia, hypotension and ECG changes, develop. Neurological effects include muscle twitching and seizures; consciousness becomes progressively impaired after a few hours, leading to coma. Death is normally due to ventricular arrhythmias, progressive hypotension unresponsive to treatment and secondary lung infections.

reports had suggested that his assailants could have injected him with a lethal poison.

It is understood that Jong-nam had high blood pressure when he died.

The source added that Jong-nam's tissue, urine and blood samples had been sent to the Chemistry Department as well as Universiti Sains Malaysia's laboratory in Penang for analysis. It may take up to a week for the results to come back.

The post-mortem began just after noon and ended just before 7pm.

Meanwhile, a top-ranking source said Pyongyang, through its officials at the North Korean embassy here, had insisted against the post-mortem and wanted Jong-nam's remains to be released to them.

"But there are clearly criminal elements involved, so one has to be carried out," the source said.

As at press time, Jong-nam's body was still at the HKL mortuary.

## Police detain woman, cabbie who drove her

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Police have detained a woman in connection with the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's half-brother, Kim Jong-nam.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar yesterday said the woman, who was in possession of a Vietnamese passport, was arrested at klia2 at 8.20am.

The passport was under the name of one Doan Thi Huong, 28, from Nam Dinh.

"The suspect was positively identified from CCTV footage at the airport. She was alone at the time of arrest," said Khalid.

He said the investigation would continue and further action against suspects would "be taken in accordance with the law".

Sources said a cabbie, believed to have driven at least one of the alleged female assassins, had been held. A source said the man was identified through CCTV footage.

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NEWS » PAGE 10

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NEWS » PAGE 13

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BUSINESS » PAGE B4

## ASSASSINATION OF KIM JONG-NAM

# COPS ZOOM IN ON FOUR N. KOREAN AGENTS



An image of Kim Jong-nam at the klia2 clinic moments after his assailants struck.

POLICE are working to identify four North Korean operatives who, they believe, may have engineered the assassination of Kim Jong-nam at klia2 last Monday.

■ INVESTIGATORS HAVE CCTV IMAGES OF THREE OF THEM AT AN EATERY FROM 7.30AM, RIGHT UP TO THE POINT THE ATTACKERS STRUCK.

■ THE FOURTH OPERATIVE HAD BEEN TRAILING THE VICTIM CLOSELY AS THE HIT WAS EXECUTED.

■ THE NORTH KOREAN OPERATIVES HAD BEEN TRACKING JONG-NAM'S MOVEMENTS FOR ABOUT A YEAR TO ESTABLISH HIS TRAVEL PATTERN.



» REPORTS BY FARRAH NAZ KARIM AND HARIZ MOHD ON PAGES, 2, 3, 4 & 6; PICTURES ON PAGE 8





## KIM JONG-NAM'S ASSASSINATION

# POLICE IDENTIFYING 4 N. KOREA OPERATIVES

They were believed to have masterminded hit while observing from close distance

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**P**OLICE are zooming in on the identities of four operatives from North Korea who they have reason to believe to have orchestrated the assassination of Kim Jong-nam.

A high-ranking government source said they could have been watching from a close distance as their hitmen — two foreign women — carried out the murder of the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, at klia2 on Monday morning.

Their front-row view — an eatery, Bibik Heritage, located about 50m away from the crime scene.

The *New Straits Times* was alerted late last night to the latest development in the investigations into this case. It is understood that police had picked up closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera footage of three of them at the eatery from 7.30am right up until the attack was carried out.

It is understood that the fourth had been trailing Jong-nam closely as the attack unfolded.

It is also understood that the masterminds had been tracking his movements for about a year to establish his travel pattern, which included flying between Macau, Singapore and Malaysia.

It was also established that Jong-nam was in Singapore recently.

As at press time, Jong-nam's body is still at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital's mortuary. The NST learnt that officials from the North Korean embassy, who were there on Wednesday, did not officially identify him as Jong-nam.

It is also understood that while Jong-nam's DNA samples had been set aside, there had been no samples to work with to match them to him.

"Their contact with the two women

was only established not too long ago," the source said.

The women had since been identified as Siti Aisyah, 25, an Indonesian, and Doan Thi Huong, 29. Thi Huong had in her possession a Vietnamese passport.

Thi Huong was the one who was wearing a white sweater with "LOL" emblazoned across and seen on CCTV pouncing on Jong-nam from behind. They have since been arrested.

Police yesterday took them to the crime scene to reenact the attack. The area was cordoned off with some 100 police personnel manning the departure hall.

Reacting to news reports that the female assassins carried out the mission thinking it was an innocent prank, the source said police were investigating all angles, including the CCTV footage showing Thi Huong fleeing the scene looking panicky after the attack, which took less than five seconds.

The recording, which suggested that the attack was carried out at 8.59am, showed one of them distracting Jong-nam, allowing the Vietnamese woman to move into a perfect striking position to pounce on, grab the target in a chokehold position and administer the poison.

They then went their separate ways.

The airport's CCTV footage showed that Thi Huong was ready to board her getaway taxi at 9.26am.

If the women were indeed hired by the men suspected to be from North Korea, it cannot be established how much their fee was. However, the NST spoke to a source who saw Thi Huong with a stack of fresh ringgit bills.

## THE MESSY YET SUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION PLAN

The CCTV footage of Thi Huong's movements showed that she reached Sky Star Hotel here about 10 minutes after she hopped into the taxi. She was wearing the same outfit when she committed the murder.

She had been staying at two different hotels before that.

On Feb 11, Thi Huong had checked into Room 306 at the nearby Qlassic Hotel. She had wanted to extend her stay there, but there were

## THE ELABORATE PLAN TO ASSASSINATE KIM JONG-NAM



no vacancies.

She then moved to the one on the adjacent block — City View Hotel. It was also pointed out that when she checked into City View Hotel about 2pm, she had with her a sizeable number of heavy bags. She only took with her a small carry-on and a sling bag. It had not been established who they belonged to or what happened to them.

It was at this hotel's Room 209 on Feb 12 that she might have been asked to alter her look to prepare

herself for the job. She borrowed a pair of scissors from the hotel.

When she left her room about 6am the next day to head for klia2 for the job — sporting the new mid-length bob haircut — she left her chopped locks strewn on the floor in the room.

She arrived in Bandar Salak Tinggi, where the hotels were located, and headed straight to Sky Star Hotel. She tried out the WiFi connection and when she was happy with it, she walked over to City View Hotel to

bring over her belongings.

Sky Star Hotel supervisor F. Jagen, 41, told the NST that he recalled seeing her anxious and was constantly wiping her left hand as he attended to her at the counter. The NST had published a CCTV footage of Thi Huong making her escape from the airport with her left hand covered in what appeared to be a brown rubber glove. She had the hand extended away from her.

This employee also noticed that she had taken out several RM50



Left klia2 in a taxi.

Sent to klia2 in a Myvi.

**10am, Feb 13**

**4**

She checked in about 10am on Feb 13 for an 11-day stay while still in the same clothes she was during the attack just minutes earlier. She left for dinner on Feb 14 wearing a surgical mask.

**6.30am, Feb 15**

**5**

She left for klia2 at 6.30am on Feb 15. She was arrested there about 8.20am. Neither her passport nor flight ticket was found on her.

**2am, Feb 16**

**6**

Siti Aisyah was arrested at Flamingo Hotel in Ampang at 2am on Thursday.

**Bibik Heritage**

She teamed up with Indonesian suspect Siti Aisyah to assassinate Kim Jong-nam at 8.59 am. They went their separate ways. Thi Huong was caught on CCTV making her getaway in a taxi. It appeared that she was wearing a brown rubber glove on her left hand. A high-ranking source says three men, believed to have orchestrated the assassination, were observing the mission from this eatery — Bibik Heritage. From here, they could clearly see the attack. They probably saw him as he was grimacing in pain, seeking help at the information counter about 50m away.

**A mysterious teddy bear**

Employees from all three hotels say she was always hugging this teddy bear tightly. It has not been established whether there is suspicious reason for this.

she was supposed to stay at the hotel until Feb 23. Police caught her on the morning of Feb 15 in klia2.

"That night was the only time she was seen wearing a mask (surgical)... she was headed for dinner."

It remains unclear why she was there as she neither had her ticket out of the country nor her passport with her.

When police took her back to Room 401 where she had been staying, they found a powdered substance, which

they suspect could be the poison used to kill Jong-nam.

There was one common thing that employees of all three hotels the NST spoke to noticed.

This assassin, who is around 165cm tall, was, at all times, seen holding on tightly to a teddy bear that was about half her height. The NST secured a picture of the actual teddy with the promise that it was to be reproduced.

They also said, not once did she ask for the reception to assist her with

her transportation arrangements.

They claimed that she looked more Korean than Vietnamese.

Meanwhile, another source said while the two women knew each other, they were only seen together at the crime scene as they mounted the deadly strike on Jong-nam.

The Indonesian assassin had stayed at the Flamingo Hotel in Ampang, where she was also arrested at 2am on Thursday. **Additional reporting by Faisal Asyraf**



FEBRUARY 19, 2017

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## MURDER SOLVED?

THE police are expected to announce today that they have determined the people behind the assassination of Kim Jong-nam. But the type of poison used is unlikely to be made known as the toxicology report is not finalised. This comes as intelligence suggests that two of the four North Korean operatives involved in the murder may have fled the country.

» REPORTS BY **FARRAH NAZ KARIM, SHARANJIT SINGH AND HARIZ MOHD** ON **PAGES 6 & 7**



Kim Jong-nam slumped in a chair at the klia2 clinic.



Mohammad Azrie  
Danish Zulkefli



Muhammad Harith  
Iskandar Abdullah

## Parents' worst nightmare

*'He kissed my cheek  
before he left the  
house, and that was  
the last I saw of him.'*

JAMILAH SULAIMAN, mother of Haizad Kasrin, who was killed along with seven other teenagers in a horrific accident involving 'mosquito bicycles' and a car on Saturday morning



Haizad Kasrin



Muhamad Shahrul  
Izzwan Azzuraimiee



Muhammad Firdaus  
Danish M. Azahar



Mohamad Azhar Amir



Muhammad Shahrul  
Nizam Maruddin



Fauzan Halmijah

» REPORTS ON **PAGES 2, 3 & 4**



MURDER OF KIM JONG-NAM

# POLICE CONCLUDE INVESTIGATION

Press conference today by deputy IGP to shed light on case

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INVESTIGATORS probing into the high-profile assassination of Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, believe that they have made their case.

Less than a week after the Feb 13, murder at klia2, police who had been working round the clock to solve the mystery, yesterday tied up the loose ends to conclude their investigations.

It is understood that a press conference today by Deputy Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Noor Rashid, which the media was alerted to last night, will shed light on the case, which has grabbed global attention.

It is understood that those attending today's session will not be able to learn yet, what was used to kill Jong-nam, as at press time, the toxicologist report has yet to be finalised. Whatever the potent poison was, it took about half an hour to kill him.

The New Straits Times Press group of newspapers yesterday front-paged an exclusive picture of Jong-nam slumped on an armchair

at the airport's clinic, moments before he was taken into an ambulance, where he died.

Highly-placed sources told the *New Sunday Times* that the investigators had solid evidence to draw links between the suspects in custody and the publicly executed murder of the 46-year-old.

The police have to date, picked up five individuals but have since crossed out the involvement of two.

They believe that there are three more complicit in the crime.

"Two of them may have flown the coop," the source said, suggesting that they would have fled the country while all attention was on the two frontline female operatives, caught on camera poisoning Jong-nam.

It has not been established if the other male suspect unaccounted for is still in hiding here or had left the country.

Police believe that the three are also North Koreans.

The duo, identified as Indonesian, Siti Aisyah, 25 and a woman who holds a Vietnamese passport identified as Doan Thi Huong, 29, is in police custody.

On Friday, police picked up a North Korean identified as Ri Jong Chol, 47. Police said the man was believed to be an operative of the North Korean Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB). He was picked up from the Dynasty Garden Condominium in Jalan Kuchai Lama about 9.50pm.

Unverified information suggested

that the condominium had been used as a "safehouse" for North Korean agents here since 2011.

Ri is believed to be one of the four identified "handlers" of the two women.

The four men were captured on klia2 closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera observing the assassination from the nearby Bibik Heritage restaurant.

Police also recovered from Jong Chol a Malaysian Immigration-issued i-Kad, used to identify foreign workers.

A source from the Immigration Department said they were trying to ascertain the authenticity of the document as the i-Kad has low security features and could be easily forged.

Police had in the wee hours of Friday brought the two women to the crime scene to reenact the crime.

It is understood that the first arrest made on Doan two days after the murder, was enough for the police to make a major breakthrough in their investigation.

Doan is believed to have spilled the beans on the elaborate plot to assassinate Kim.

Police picked up Siti Aisyah on Thursday.

Those isolated as suspects were the unfortunate taxi driver, who was entangled in the web of intrigue after he drove up in line to pick up Doan at the airport's taxi stand at 9.30am, soon after the murder.



The other suspect released was Aisyah's Malaysian boyfriend.

Today's press conference will likely put an end to speculation on how Jong-nam was poisoned.

Reports have suggested that it could have been injected into him. Another suggested that one of the women sprayed a lethal concoction onto Jong-nam when they accosted him in the middle of the airport's departure hall.

CCTV clippings also drew many to conclude that the Vietnamese wom-

en had a glove on her left hand, suggesting that it was laced with poison that killed Kim when she placed her hand over his face.

It remains unclear why Jong-nam was killed, although some international press have speculated that he was planning to set up a government in exile.

Police, however, have strong grounds to believe that North Korean secret agents were behind the murder. **Additional reporting by Hariz Mohd**

## Ri a 'friendly family man', says neighbour

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Ri Jong Chol, the North Korean arrested in connection with the assassination of Kim Jong-nam, was a "friendly family man" who always had a warm smile.

Neighbours of Ri's at the Dynasty Garden Condominium in Kuchai Entrepreneurs Park said they were shocked when they learned that he was linked to the murder of Jong-nam, the outcast half-brother of North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-un.

A neighbour said he was stunned to learn that the 47-year-old was one of four alleged North Korean agents who had masterminded the murder.

He said Ri always greeted him whenever they bumped into each other.

"He is a friendly guy. He moved into this place with his wife and daughter, who is in her twenties, a year and a half ago.

"He would always have lunch at a cafe in the condominium with his family on weekdays. None of us suspected anything amiss with the family," he said.

The neighbour said the family had never caused problems and seldom had guests at their unit.

He said he knew the family came from Korea, but was not sure

whether they were from the North or South.

At 11pm on Friday, he heard a commotion coming from Ri's unit. When he opened the front door, at least a dozen men were standing outside the doorway to Ri's unit.

From what he heard, he surmised that these were plainclothes policemen.

"These men broke the door down as Ri didn't want to open the door. They barged in and I heard Ri arguing with them. I didn't know why the policemen were here. I thought maybe Ri and his family had stayed in the country illegally.

"Police told me to stay in the house and close the door. They also told other residents on the fourth floor (where he and Ri stay) to do the same."

He said police stayed in Ri's unit for an hour.

"And then, all was quiet. I didn't know what happened until I saw the news today (yesterday)."

Another neighbour said he had just returned home when he passed by Ri's unit, packed with policemen. In fact, he said, there were even policemen in the corridor outside the unit.

"His door was left opened. The po-

lice were screaming at him in the living room. He looked nervous. His wife was there beside him and his daughter was crying outside the house.

"The daughter was talking to someone on the phone.

"The wife and daughter seemed clueless as to what was transpiring," he said, adding that he quickly got into his unit as he was afraid.

A resident, who only wanted to be known as Ivan, 36, said he saw at least eight police cars, all with tinted windows, in the compound of the condominium, as well as outside. **Faisal Asyraf**