

# A Malaysian scandal:

# Paintings, penthouses and pink diamonds



## Jho Low (Low Taek Jho)

### Who is he?

- The flamboyant Malaysia-born financier, now 37 years old, was educated at the elite Harrow boarding school in Britain where he met Middle Eastern royalty as well as Najib's stepson Riza Aziz. Low then went to Wharton university in the United States. He has been reported to be moving between Macau, mainland China and the United Arab Emirates.

## Low and 1MDB

- Then Prime Minister and Finance Minister Najib Razak started 1MDB, a strategic state development fund, in 2009. He was also head of its board of advisers.
- The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has alleged that US\$4.5 billion (S\$6.1 billion) of 1MDB funds were pilfered by top government officials and their associates.
- Nearly US\$700 million entered into Najib's bank accounts in 2013, allegedly from 1MDB.

## Low and Najib's family

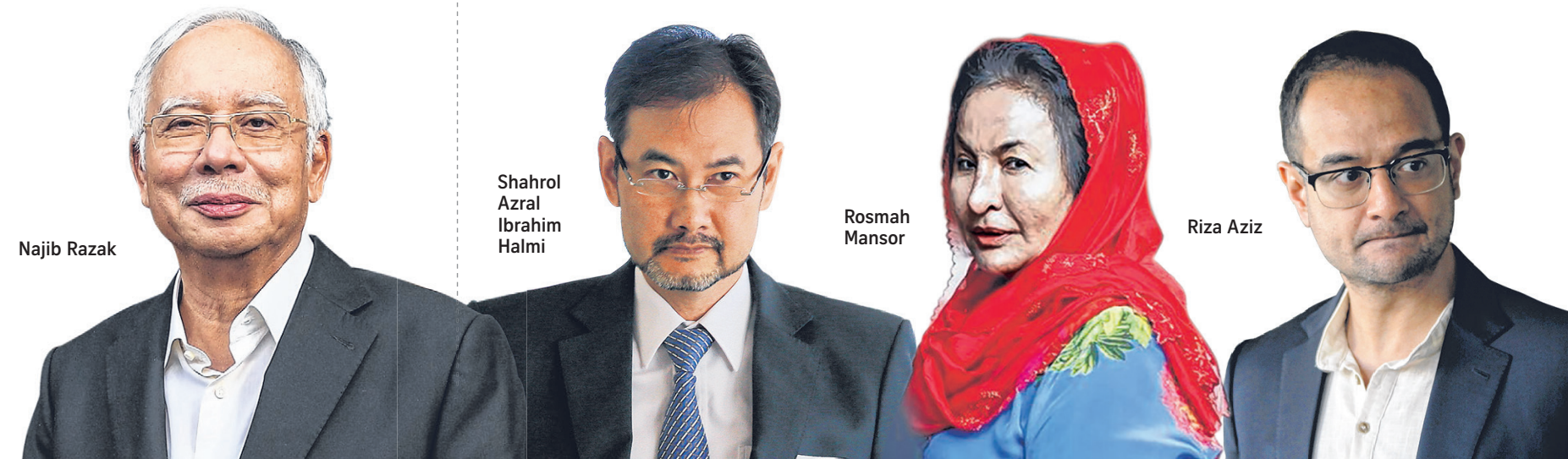
- Though Low was not officially working for 1MDB, former company CEO Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halmi has told the Malaysian High Court in Najib's ongoing 1MDB trial that the financier was involved in major decisions, with Najib's backing.
- In Sept 2013, a shell company owned by Low and several co-conspirators paid US\$27.3

million for a pink diamond necklace for Najib's wife Rosmah Mansor, the DOJ's indictment papers claimed.

- In August this year, US prosecutors sought to sell three properties they believed were bought by Rosmah's son Riza Aziz from Low, with funds diverted from 1MDB. These were a US\$27.97 million London

townhouse, a US\$17.5 million home in Beverly Hills, and a US\$35.5 million condominium in New York.

- In 2017, a movie company partly controlled by Riza agreed to settle a US civil lawsuit against it for US\$60 million, and, in May this year, the DOJ returned most of that money to Malaysia.



Najib Razak

Shahrol  
Azral  
Ibrahim  
Halmi

Rosmah  
Mansor

Riza Aziz



Painting by Monet



Superyacht

## Low's toys and assets

- Private Bombardier jet, grounded in Singapore and valued at US\$35 million
- Superyacht, seized and sold by Malaysia, at US\$126 million
- Properties previously reported to be owned by him included three in New York – Park Lane Hotel (US\$140 million), a Time Warner penthouse (US\$31 million) and Green Park apartment (US\$14 million) – an office and flat in London (US\$98 million); and a Hollywood Hills mansion (US\$39 million) in Los Angeles
- A US\$107 million stake in EMI Music
- Myla lingerie company
- He also had artworks by Picasso, Van Gogh and Monet



Park Lane Hotel  
in New York



Bombardier jet