



RM108.5 mil of drugs seized in 7 months

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KUALA LUMPUR (Aug 26, 2013): Indian and Pakistani drug syndicates hiding behind legitimate businesses here are impeding efforts by anti-narcotics police to stamp out their activities.

Federal police narcotics crimes investigations department (NCID) director commissioner Datuk Noor Rashid Ibrahim said yesterday that while police are winning on cracking down on Iranian and Nigerian drug syndicates, it was a tricky task nailing Indian and Pakistani drug kingpins.

“We have managed to control the Iranians and Nigerians and our main focus now are on Indian and Pakistani drug syndicates who are using legal businesses as a channel to smuggle drugs in and out,” he said at a press conference at Bukit Aman.

Noor Rashid said in the first seven months of this year, NCID recorded a whopping seizure of more than five tonnes of illegal drugs worth RM108.5 million nationwide.

He said between January and July, the drugs were seized with the arrest of 100,649 people of whom 8% of those nabbed were major narcotics dealers behind syndicated operations.

He said 2,348 foreigners were among those arrested and heroin topped the list of the seized drugs followed by ganja and syabu.

Noor Rashid said 22 labs processing illegal drugs in Penang, Selangor, Johor and three other states were also uncovered.

He said 169 unlicensed handguns and other firearms were seized with the arrest of 341 members of drug syndicates over the past three years.

In the latest development under the special crime prevention operation “Ops Cantas” by the NCID, he said between Friday and Sunday, 1,911 people were hauled up for various narcotics and underworld crimes.

“Among those we nabbed were members of the notorious 04,08,18 and 555 gangs. Our main aim is to go after the big kingpins and drug labs,” he said.