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Shake-up in the offing

ROGUE POLICEMEN

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Police force's clean-up will be extensive, says deputy IGP

HARIZ MOHD
AND FARAH SUHAIDAH OTHMAN
IPOH
news@nst.com.my

DEPUTY Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Noor Rashid Ibrahim said there will be no mercy for police personnel found protecting or befriending drug syndicates.

In the wake of the arrests of 16 policemen linked to drug syndicates, Noor Rashid said a major shake-up could be expected.

"The officers were believed to have connections with the syndicates and had tipped them off about police raids," he said, but did not reveal details of the internal probe.

He said this after closing the 19th national-level police cadet corp camp at the Police General Operations Force base in Ulu Kinta here.

The *New Straits Times* had reported that rogue policemen, in-



A flashback of our report on Saturday.

cluding one with the rank of deputy superintendent and an inspector, were arrested under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar had also revealed that some of those nabbed were attached to the Narcotics Criminal Investigation Department.

Sources yesterday revealed that among those held were officers who tried to usurp power in the Narcotics Department to keep their paymasters safe.

The police officers also tried to play "kingmakers" to boost control of anti-narcotics operations and had even recommended promotion and transfer of men under their command.

"The officers had, over the past few years, tried to plant their men in strategic positions.

"For those whom they do not trust, the officers would find excuses and give them negative performance reviews and try to get them transferred out," the source said.

Those who are in the officers' inner circle would then be rec-

ommended to fill the vacant positions.

The source also revealed that the clean-up would be extensive and might cover the department at federal and state levels.

Another source said the rogue officers had, by virtue of having high-level clearance to attend classified briefings, used this privilege to keep an eye on police operations on behalf of syndicates.

"It had happened many times where raids carried out based on solid information were 'blown'."

"Blown" is a codeword used by the force for failed operations when their "tango", or target, managed to smell police getting on their tail.

The source said during such cases, either the main suspect gave the raiding parties the slip, or the targeted premises were cleared in advance leaving vague evidence.

Meanwhile, the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission chairman Datuk Yaacob Md Sam said he reserved his comments as the case was under investigations.

It was reported that the federal police had, early this month, carried out a swoop against some of their own men.