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PHOTO: STAR

Bir Shrestha Matiur Rahman Foundation stages a demonstration at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday protesting the attack on a freedom fighter by the Shibir cadres.

Cooperate with law enforcers to make society drug-free

IGP tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad yesterday said police are ready to cooperate in holding a free, fair and credible election.

Police have been maintaining verbal communication with different countries for bringing back those criminals who are hiding abroad, he added.

The IGP was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'The role of the law enforcement agencies in preventing drug abuse' organised by Bangladesh Youth First Concern (BYFC) at Rajarbagh Police Line Telecom auditorium.

He said at present drug peddling, human trafficking and illegal arms business are the most profitable and less risky jobs in the world, adding that once cannabis was the only drug, but at present there is variety in drugs and new items are used as drugs.

"The expansion of drugs has reached a level of serious condition. Therefore, it needs cooperation of everybody to fight drug and it is impossible to prevent the society from the clutch of the drugs without joint efforts," IGP Nur Mohammad said.

Presided over by BYFC Chairman Col (retd) Joseph A Rozario, the seminar was also addressed by former adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed, Director General (DG) of the Directorate of Narcotics Control (DNC) Humayun Kabir as the special guests.

While presenting a keynote paper, Prof Azizur Rahman Chowdhury of Law Department at Dhaka University said over 25 lakh people are drug addicted and at least Tk 8,000 crore is spent every year for drug purposes, which is one-twelfth of a national budget.

He said DNC, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police, Bangladesh Rifles and Coast Guard personnel recovered a huge quantity of drugs. But the quantity of recovery is very less than it is smuggled in the country and used by the abusers.

DNC DG Humayun Kabir said despite the lack of manpower and modern equipment, the DNC forces had been carrying out their duties but there are over 30,000 cases pending due to inadequate number of prosecutors.

Dhiraj Kumar Nath said besides killing valuable human lives, drugs are closely linked to money laundering and social degradation.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed said illicit drug contributes to mugging and other criminal activities as the drug addicts become engaged in snatching to manage the money for drugs.

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Pvt varsities oppose new ordn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) yesterday protested the proposed Private University Ordinance-2008, saying some of the rules in the ordinance will change the basic structure of private universities.

The country's private universities are run based on Private University Act-1992 and its Amendment 1998, but there is no need to enact a new act, they added.

"We welcome the caretaker government if they make the move to amend the Private University Act 1992 and Amendment 1998. There is no need to formulate a new act for operating the private universities," said acting President of APUB Abul Quasem Haider at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Abul Quasem, also founder chairman of Eastern University, said expansion of higher education will be hampered if the government does not withdraw the proposed ordinance.

Denying the allegations that some private universities are involved in unholy practices like selling certificates and offering sub-standard education, IUBAT Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof M Alimullah Miyan said most of the private universities provide quality education and for this reason the number of student at these universities are increasing every year.

"We strongly protest the government move to enact the new ordinance as some of the points will change the basic structure of a private university," he said while addressing the press conference.

World University VC Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury said private university representatives should be incorporated into the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Correction

The caption of a photo published on Page 5 in the July 15 issue of The Daily Star should read: "Winners of Rai Foundation Scholarship pose for photograph with Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed in the city yesterday." We regret the inadvertent error.

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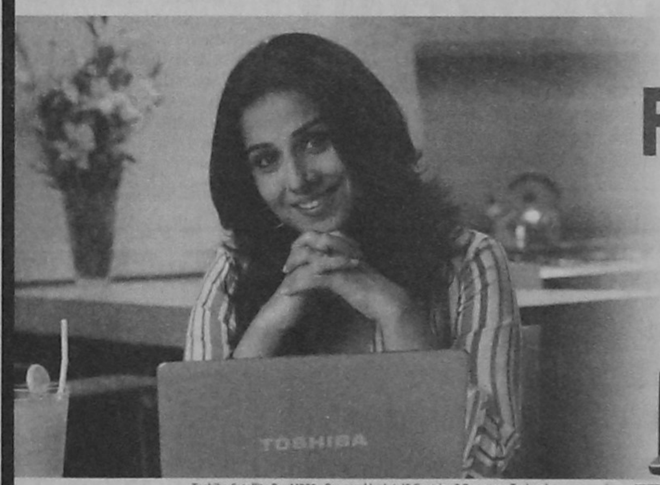

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